

PARISH MAGAZINE ONLINE

St Chad's



Issue 7 - September 2020

www.bishopstachbrook.com

Your magazine featuring news and views from within Bishop's Tachbrook Parish. A gentle mix of the chatty and Church.

What's in this month's magazine

Start here Precise of what you'll find in the magazine are shown on this page. Click on the title (underlined) to go to the article.



Small Acts Revd. Elaine reflects on a red beetle and other small things. Thought provoking writing.

Bishop's Tachbrook Climate Action Group The take off of a group who want to help all of us respond to the climate emergency.



The bicycle bus

An inspiring idea for children who attend St Joseph's Catholic primary school, Briar Hill infant school or St Margaret's C of E junior school



Parish Council News

An update on what has been going on in the Parish and moves for the future.



Nature Page Steve Harvey's trickle through the life that surrounds him

Road closure 6th September closure of old Warwick by-pass

Warwick in Domesday Peter Lister continues his scholarly description of the impact of the Norman invasion. Fascinating stuff.

BT Primary School It's all change at BT Primary School with Covid actions and a new headmistress



Scarecrow trail Wonderful pictures from the excellent scarecrow trail

The business interview

George Carter of Pasta Brothers

WI even under lock down there's no holding the WI back!

Lockdown moments Great pictures by Fiona Brown

Parish Working Party working for us all

Adverts Many of our loyal advertisers will be going through a hard time at present, please use them in preference to those who don't advertise with us. Click on the links below to see who can provide you with a service: [List of all advertisers](#); [Food & Drink](#); [Financial Services](#); [Funeral Services](#); [Garden Services](#); [Health & Beauty](#); [Home Improvements](#); [Trades](#); [Miscellaneous](#)

Small acts

By Revd. Elaine Scrivens

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin.... Zechariah 4:10

Little things matter and for me today was all about little things: things to see and things to do.

Such a beautiful morning deserved to be appreciated so I went for a walk with the dog to Oakley Woods and that's where I met my beetle, busy on a tree trunk. I think it may have been a cardinal beetle, because it was red with black legs. It didn't seem to mind me watching it.

As I watched (also a good chance for a rest!) "my" beetle busied itself, presumably hunting for smaller insects in the bark. It was totally engrossed in what it was doing and I, obviously posing no threat, was totally ignored! I cannot begin to count the number of insects I saw today from beautiful butterflies to annoying midges, nor could I count the number of tiny flowers and seeds. All little things and all very important in the circle of life in which they exist.

For almost 20 years I have been involved with "little" things that mattered to many people. Weddings, the arrival and baptisms of children, triumphs and struggles at work or in families. Not many of the people I have worked with will count as hugely

significant in the world's eyes: but as far as God is concerned, they matter so much!

I heard this week that a friend has recently died. He was quiet, kind, and hard-working; a wonderful husband, dad and granddad. He was a great guy. His "little" life made a huge impact on many. I know my life was better for having known him.

Encouragingly, God takes great interest in "us ordinary folk" and is delighted when we go that "extra mile" for our friends and families. It doesn't have to cost a lot of money, it doesn't have to take a great deal of time but when you carry out an act of kindness for someone then it matters. I know, during this period of lockdown, when I've been on my own, small acts of kindness have meant so much; the hand made card, fairy cakes, flowers, even a Sunday dinner. Things people didn't have to do but because they stopped and thought of me, it meant so much.

In a world that often seems celebrity-crazy, I find great comfort in knowing that value isn't calculated according to our fame. There is a verse from the "minor prophet" Zechariah, who told an ancient generation that God loves small beginnings, little things that lead to great outcomes.

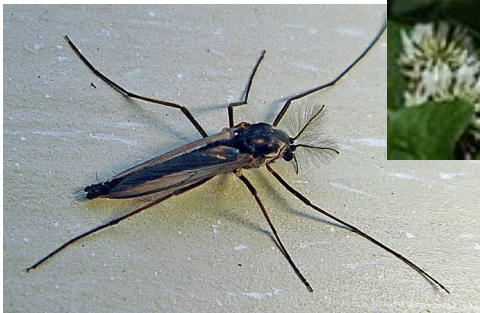
*Do not despise these small beginnings,
for the LORD rejoices to see the work
begin,*

Perhaps you could reflect on this
verse, and connect it to your own life
and activity. What small things are you
doing that please God and if God isn't
important in your life, what are you
doing to make the world a better
place?

Perhaps these little things count for a
lot more than we realised. Who would
have thought I'd be taught something
by a small red beetle!

God bless
Elaine

God Bless
Elaine



Obituary - Shirley Brown 1947-2020

Shirley Brown was a familiar face in Bishop's Tachbrook, along with her late husband, Ron. Having moved to the village in 1971, they were often to be seen out walking with their guide dogs, in Ron's case going to his allotment and in Shirley's waiting for the bus to Leamington.

Shirley was very independent, despite being blind since birth, and had a wonderful "can do" attitude to life. She loved music and attended many concerts at the Spa Centre and further afield.

Her life changed overnight in March 2015 after an accident left her with a spinal injury and completely reliant on others for her care. Her inner strength and stoic nature enabled her to still retain a love of life, despite all that she had been through.

Shirley passed away in Warwick Hospital in July, after a short illness. She is survived by her daughter (Dawn), son-in-law and two grandsons. Her family would like to express their thanks for the many kind words and support they received and also to all who donated so generously to the charities nominated in Shirley's memory.

Worship Online

Videos and reflections from Revd. Elaine Scrivens and St Chad's Church are available online on YouTube.

Go to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_jljCELLJaV7M6bn4MDYBA

CYCLE OF PRAYER

Praying for our Community

We are praying in June for those living in

Othello Avenue
Overberry Orchard
Parker Drive
Parsonage Close
Penfold Close

If there is something or someone you would like us to pray for please let Elaine, our Vicar, or a member of the congregation know.



Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

The Autumnal Equinox approaches us quickly now; the nights are drawing in, the weather has become more unpredictable and the plants and trees turned wild. Soon the vibrant colours of the next season will be upon us. Whilst the easing of some restrictions has made life a little more enjoyable for many, it does feel like 2020 is destined to be remembered negatively. Life, as we've come to expect it, still seems for many to be on hold, and the uncertainty of the winter ahead of us makes the remainder of the year a rather daunting prospect.

It is important, in such times, to take solace from the small yet significant positives that we have experienced over the past few months. In July, the joy brought to many people via the wonderfully thought-out Scarecrows (and one Giant Potato) was fantastic to behold. We're very grateful to everyone involved but particularly to Sue White and Susan Watt for all their hard work in making the event a success. Congratulations to the Lankfer Family for winning 1st place.

The reopening of both the Leopard and the Sports and Social Club has provided considerable amenity to the Parish and beyond - the regulations and procedures to which they are adhering in order to keep us safe are onerous and we are very grateful that they worked so hard to get back to

providing an enjoyable experience to so many within our local community.

Finally, for our community's younger members, phase 1 of the Parish Council's new play equipment area is now open and already receiving considerable use. This would not have been possible without the hard work of the Play Area Working Party who have really done our community proud by researching what the community wanted, finding the supplier and supporting the delivery of the project; thank you to all members of the committee. Special mention should go to Jenny Bevan who has been a real driving force within the committee. We hope you enjoy the new area; please do be careful and read the Covid-19 guidance which is displayed by the gates. Just to let you know that we are aware of the gate that requires a new spring and the moles that are trying to move in. A litter bin will be relocated to the grass area within the play area to encourage users to keep the area tidy. These issues will be dealt with soon.

We have received several designs for providing additional parking for the Meadow, play equipment and Sports and Social Club. These designs have been discussed, by the Council and with the Club and we are presently requesting some design changes before seeking quotes.

Our accounts have been audited by our internal auditor and you can view details on our website. If you have any questions please do email or call the clerk; next up is the external audit (for accountants like me, it doesn't get much more exciting than this!!)

The new bus shelter on Harbury Lane will be installed mid September. The County and District Councils are aware of the need for the hedge from the sewage works on Oakley Wood Road to Harbury Lane to be cut back. We understand the landowner has been made aware.

Could we please ask residents to ensure that vegetation encroaching on the footway or highway from your property is cut back to ensure safety for pedestrians and road users?

Our new website is up and running. Your comments on the design and content are very welcome.

Work has started on the new allotments on Oakley Meadows but we don't believe the work has been finished in accordance with the plans they provided. The transfer of the allotments to the Parish Council will not take place until this work has been finished.

Concern has been expressed about Ragwort spreading on Oakley Meadows development. The District Council has made the developer aware of the issue.
We have received several concerns

regarding the lighting of fires. Please do be mindful of your neighbours when lighting fires. If it is a hot day please be considerate - understand that people will have washing on lines, windows open and may be enjoying their outdoor space - be community minded.

The Seven Acre Close development will be starting shortly and we have been liaising with the District Council and AC Lloyd to ensure that there is adequate parking for contractors, lorries will be jet washed before leaving the site, signage will be erected to stop lorries travelling through the village.

We approved work to remove the paving slabs on the village green over 18 months ago and instructed a contractor immediately. Since this work still hasn't been started councillors have reviewed the situation. Councillors have decided that the slabs do require lifting for health and safety reasons. The area will be seeded but the path that feeds into the paving area will be continued and there will be an additional path from the parking bays to the path that goes past the Church Lees houses. The narrow area to the first tree will be tarmacked. The working party has agreed to prune some of the vegetation on this part of the green.

Our next virtual meeting is on Thursday 10 September at 6.30pm. If you wish to join please contact the clerk.

BT Climate Action Group—Take Off

By Martin Drew

Tuesday 11th August saw the inaugural meeting via Zoom of Bishop Tachbrook's Climate Change Action Group. Understandably getting it up and running has been a long haul as lockdown and Covid 19 have, understandably, taken centre stage for everyone. Life changing as this has been, the effects of climate change have not gone away. The clock is ticking, achieving zero carbon by 2050 means a radical transformation of the way we live. If we don't there won't be a viable planet for future generations.

The aim of the BT Climate action steering group is to raise awareness in our community about the urgency that we must do our bit to build a sustainable future.

Owing to the constraints caused by the Covid pandemic, face-to-face Parish meetings are not practicable for the foreseeable future. Group member, Kay Haycock suggested that we could make a start by talking to children as she had experience of the work being done at the school with their eco ranger programme. Various projects they have undertaken include recycling plastics, spectacles and other things. Kay also said that there was a drawing competition based on plastic waste and recycling. The meeting agreed that at this stage concentrating on children at school, brownies cubs and perhaps other

Parish Groups such as the WI was a good way to build the awareness about actions to reduce climate change.

Another idea was to set up a Junior Climate action Zoom Group that will encourage children to extend the range of their activities such as tree planting sessions, growing our own food, encouraging healthy lifestyles, cycling and walking and perhaps devise a play or musical based on need for climate action (children teaching parents as it will affect their lives the most). To start with, the steering group agreed that there should be a children's competition to think up a name for the new Bishop's Tachbrook Climate Emergency Action Group (adult & children). As the children get involved with more projects, they will convince parents to become adult eco rangers.

There's a lot to do from decarbonizing our homes to repairing appliances instead of buying new ones, recycling grey water to improving air quality. We will soon be setting up a BT Climate Action Group website which will provide an information exchange and an events noticeboard for all our activities.

If you would like to get involved in reducing your carbon footprint, contact Martin Drew:
martin@bishopstachbrook.com





the bicycle bus

for better health, environment, community

Does your child attend St Joseph's Catholic primary school, Briar Hill infant school or St Margaret's C of E junior school

Do you remember when you used to cycle to school?

Do you want your child to be more active?

Do you drive your child less than 3 miles to school?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions then read on....

My name is Simon Storey, I have a Daughter who attends St Margaret's school, I am also a British Cycling accredited coach at Stratford juniors cycling club and I believe cycling to school should be an option open to everyone. So I am creating a (free) bicycle bus that will start from Heathcote Park, with pick up points through Warwick Gates continuing into Whitnash servicing the 3 schools mentioned above.

What is a bicycle bus? A bicycle bus is when a lead cyclist picks up children and parents along a planned route at predetermined points and the group cycles to school together.

The government have very recently announced plans to improve cycling infrastructure as part of the 'active travel scheme' to help boost the nation's health and I am currently in discussions with local and county councillors about accessing these funds to improve the route that the bicycle bus will be taking. Hopefully this will help build on the current statistic of nationally just 3% of children who cycle to school.

There are a number of benefits of cycling to school, some of these include:

Cycling to school can help to increase the way a child performs. As a morning exercise, it gives a quick boost of energy and the subsequent release of endorphins will leave your child feeling great, energised and ready to learn.

- It is recommended that children get a total of 1 hours exercise a day. Currently only 60% of boys and 40% of girls are achieving this. By cycling to school your child will increase their daily exercise by an incredible amount.
- Cycling to school helps improve fitness and mental well-being.
- Cycling to school is good for the environment. The more children that cycle to school means there are less traffic on the roads, this will help improve air quality for everyone. It will also help to reduce congestion around schools improving safety and that everlasting problem of parking which can be dangerous and inconsiderate.

Interest levels will determine how regular the bicycle bus will run. Interested? Find out more at www.thebicyclebus.co.uk or search for the bicycle bus on Facebook and come along to an information meeting at the Othello Avenue play area in Warwick Gates on Sunday 20th September at 2pm. Bring a chair if you wish.

We are also looking for volunteers and businesses to join the bicycle bus, if this is of interest to you please contact me via the website and Facebook page.

I would like to thank a number of local businesses who are supporting this community initiative these include

- Modern Homes Ltd
- BPS building merchants
- John Atkins Cycles
- Überdoodle design

Let this new school year be the start of something great that brings the community together to improve, health, fitness and the environment. Anything is possible, it just needs a little change, you can make that change.

Simon Storey



ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF OLD WARWICK BYPASS, BARFORD (WESTWARD ONLY).

Warwickshire County Council **proposes to make** a Temporary Traffic Order details as indicated below:

Description of road to be closed	Old Warwick Bypass closed to vehicle traffic in a westward from Greys Mallory Island to M40 J14 west-bound entry slip.
Reason for Order	To safely facilitate works for signage and street lighting replacement, 08.00 -17.00hrs.
Order Effective from: 6 September 2020 for up to 18 months or until works are completed	
Anticipated Completion Date: In one day on 6 September 2020.	
Access & Diversion: An alternative route will be signed and is available via Banbury Road, Gaydon Road, M40 westbound. Vehicular access & egress will be maintained where possible.	
Contractor: Balfour Beatty Tel: 07837 319 237.	

To report any problems with these works or for further details of our current & planned roadworks visit our website

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/roadworksmap or call us 01926 412515.

Ready for a new 'COVID-19 SAFE' normal with 'all change' at BT C of E School .

Getting ready for the new term at school has been a challenge for everyone, but the staff have worked incredibly hard and everything has been made ready in good time to welcome all our pupils back to school following the COVID-19 lockdown.

Pupils will certainly have noticed some changes which we have implemented to keep everybody as safe as possible. Pupils are now working in secure 'bubbles', eating their lunch in the classroom, taking turns each week on the play equipment and having the daily collective worship remotely via zoom in each classroom.

Mrs Kilbey and I were busy during the summer holidays working hard to handover everything smoothly. Mr Hanson was also hard at work repainting the school office and entrance way, and teachers and teaching assistants, as ever, were busy preparing for our "new normal" to keep everyone as safe as possible all the time.

It certainly wasn't the traditional send off for a retiring Head Teacher, but I was truly overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of the parents, the community and the staff who managed to give me a lockdown send off



which I will treasure forever. You can see here how the staff said goodbye; they told me I needed to fix the dishwasher but when I stepped into the building there was a covid safe farewell party! The words people wrote were humbling and really appreciated. Thank you everyone for your thoughtful words and very generous gifts. I will be building my own geodesic greenhouse very soon. I'm actually so excited to be handing over the school to somebody who truly shares my passion and vision for Bishop's Tachbrook as a place where every single person matters and where everyone can succeed. But before I finally left the building, I asked Mrs Kilbey to tell me about her first impressions, her hopes for the future and a little bit about herself.

Q1: What was the very first impression you had on your initial visit here?

"As soon as I walked into the school I was blown away by the vibrant and exciting work on every wall as well as the enthusiasm of the pupils when they spoke to me about their learning. I was struck by how incredibly keen the children were to tell me all about their school and its values. They certainly do feel proud of their school and happy in it. I know that children work well and learn best when they are safe and happy and this was so evident as I toured the school. You simply can't hide genuine enthusiasm and it was bursting out as I looked around in every class. That was six months ago shortly before lockdown and I'm truly excited and humbled to have been chosen by the governors and the diocese as the new headteacher of this flourishing school."

Q2 What are your hopes and ambitions for the future?

"I hope that the pupils at this wonderful school will thrive in every aspect of their learning here, that all the staff will join me in continuing to create new and special opportunities together. But most of all I hope that the school will always be fully involved in the flourishing life of this very special village in close partnership with the church. I have already felt a warm welcome at BT school, at The Leopard and also at St Chad's where I am excited at being offered the opportunity when time permits- to join the bell ringers!"

Q3: Can you tell everyone a little bit about yourself ?

"Well, I'm a mum with two teenage children so I certainly understand the pressure of home education during lockdown, I'm a musician (or at least I enjoy playing musical

instruments in my church worship band in Coventry), and I'm also a very keen sportsperson so having the opportunity to lead the education in a church school where music and sport are already firmly embedded is like a dream come true."

Mrs Kilbey, is certainly not one to blow her own trumpet (actually she plays piano, saxophone and oboe). I happen to have found out although she is far too modest to say so that not only is she a black belt in karate but that both her husband and children have this award too.



I wish Mrs Kilbey and the children, staff, governors and parents of this amazing school all the very best as they begin their 'new normal'. I'll certainly be popping back to see how everyone is getting on.



Scarecrow trail

By Sue White

The Bishop's Tachbrook scarecrow trail has been hailed a success. Residents took part in a 'heroes and heroines scarecrow trial'. The local talent was amazing. What should have been a week long event was left up due to popular demand.

The event, which was organised as an alternative to the usual parish summer fundraisers and community events, proved a success with both

Tachbrook residents and those from outside of the parish.

Winners of the vote for best Scarecrow were:

First prize: The Lankfers with Super Tato. A Voucher for Stratford Farm

Second prize: The Websters with ET. A Voucher

Third prize: Lisa O'Callaghan with Freddie Mercury. A Hamper.



1st Place the Lankfers with Super Tato

The prizes for the quiz went to:

1. Rachael Hall Hamper
2. Howe family Wine and sweets
3. Penny Payne Wine

contact BTscarecrows@gmail.com

More than £2,600 was raised And shared between St Chad's Church, the village school and the Parish events group.

Sue White, one of the organisers said: "The Scarecrow makers are the real heroes because without their hard work, we wouldn't have raised such a

fantastic sum of money for our community and given so many people, both young and old, a fun activity to share.

"A huge thanks also goes to everyone who donated on our justgiving page." Also a mention for Bobbie and Serg in the village shop who collected over £300 and distributed maps to those without.

We hope you enjoyed it and will repeat it next year. If you are interested in helping organise or take part please contact BTscarecrows@gmail.com



2nd place the Webster family with ET
3rd place Lisa O'Callaghan with Freddie Mercury



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WI

By Anne Allen

Yet another month has passed and what has WI been up to? Quite a lot actually. As you know we hold an annual Pimms and Croquet evening and we have a knitting group. So I, in my wisdom, thought lets combine the two. Pimms and lemonade were bought but what about refreshments? Instead of the usual ploughman's supper, everyone had a choice of

crisps so nothing was touched by human hand, or at least my hand . 7 turned up which was lovely. The garden is big enough to accommodate. 4 sat knitting and the others managed a round of croquet. Lots of chatting took place and a little drinking or should I say a lot of drinking.

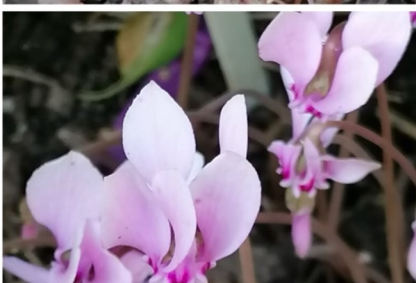
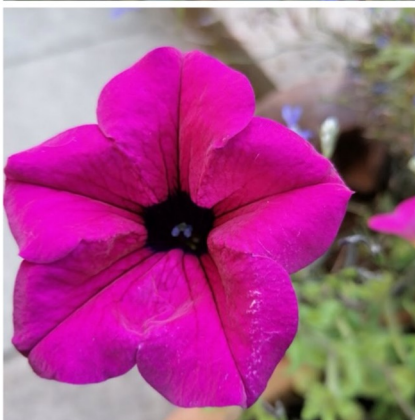


I ran a second night a couple of weeks later which again proved popular.

I have had a few zoom meetings, first was an officers' zoom, sounds like we were all standing to attention, this was to discuss what we are up to and when we might be considering starting meetings again. This was followed by an evening with John Johnson, for someone who likes to throw himself about the stage, sitting still was very difficult. He told us about how his firm was trying to cope with the present situation. I also heard Clare Pooley, author, talk about her life and

overcoming various problems.

Our monthly meeting should have been a games evening. Emma came to our rescue again with a zoom bingo and games that made you think evening. As I'm brain dead at the moment these proved difficult. I know not all our members are on zoom but it's so easy, download the app and when the host gives you the time and codes you log in. If I can do it anyone can. So not only do I do WI talks and meetings but I also do Pilates and Community Cafe coffee mornings.



Every month all our members get a "goodie bag" . This contains teabags, biscuits, sweets, a quiz, a craft, recipes and anything else I find to include. It's a way of keeping everyone in touch and I hope they are enjoying them.

This was last months craft. It's called a Chinese Wrap. Something I learnt about 25 years ago and recently found the instructions to. Everyone had a cut piece of card and embroidery thread to create their own. Very easy once you get started and apart from cramp in my hand holding the thread taut there was no problems. I'm hoping everyone else was successful in making theirs too.

We also hold a monthly flower competition to raise funds for the charity ACWW. Members have been emailing me photos of their flowers each month. I know the weather is horrible at the moment but not one

flower so far this month.

I went around my own garden to find a few flowers. The cyclamen are so sweet, hiding under other plants and my agapanthus were outstanding - really pleased with them. I had planted lots of different seeds this year, put them in the greenhouse to get going only to have mice tap dancing over them and jumble them up. Not impressed fortunately I could distinguish most of them but had a few surprises appear.

I'm still accepting used postage stamps and bras for different charities. Just give me a shout if you need us to collect.

Don't forget about the WI we are alive and kicking, maybe not as visible as we once were but we will be again.

Anne Allen 424135



Domesday—Life in Warwickshire in the 1080s

By Peter Lister

When trying to gain an overall picture of life in Warwickshire in the 1080s there is a problem. Certainly the Domesday Survey goes into immense detail about who were the named lords of the 368 manors, their field sizes, numbers of ploughs, the numbers of families and individuals who were tied to working the lands, and the taxable value of every place. Because the lords of the manors were named, we can get some information on the 44 tenants-in-chief (plus King William) and the 117 sub-tenants under them - although as only Christian names were used, there can be some confusion as to just who some of them were. Other than these 152 'great and the good' (though there will have been a proportion of the 'not so good' among them), no one else is actually named. One significant gap in the information in Domesday is that there is no information about those who must have constituted the commercial and merchant 'classes'.

This article will try to give some picture of what life must have been like for the population in our county some twenty years after William of Normandy conquered England and began to impose a Norman system on what had been a highly organised and effective system that had developed within the Anglo-Saxon culture. What had changed and were there aspects of life that just continued?

What did change? Whole swathes of the Anglo-Saxon elite who held the manors in freehold up to the invasion in 1066 simply disappeared into obscurity. Whatever did happen to Leofgeat of Mappleborough or Wulfin of Frankton? William, on becoming king of England, gained the spoils of conquest. The manorial system, with its huge agricultural base, provided some very rich pickings for those who had taken their chance and followed William in his invasion attempt. They had to be rewarded and the Anglo-Saxon thanes who had fought with

King Harold and had survived the battle had to be dispossessed. Manors were allocated in what might seem a rather strange piecemeal fashion. There were to be no great geographical clusters, instead the

barons got a scattering of settlements,



some comparatively rich, others rather small. At the same time the new barons were allocated manors in other shires across the country. There was method on King William's part in farming out the manors in this way. Being a shrewd man and having experienced the turmoil in Normandy in his younger days caused by powerful and fractious families who could draw on the resources of their large estates, he made certain that even his staunchest supporters could not have large geographic bases.

Some of the Anglo-Saxon elite did survive, particularly those who did not support Harold in the battle at Hastings and who very quickly came to terms with William. One such was Thorkil of Warwick. He did not respond to the call from Harold for fighting men as he moved to face William and, after the battle at Hastings, immediately submitted to the Conqueror. He did very well as a result. He was granted the largest number of the Warwickshire manors, 70, beating the Norman magnate Robert de Beaumont who managed 66. Largely because of the number of Thorkil's holdings, just over a fifth of the manors were in Anglo-Saxon hands in 1086. Various ecclesiastical bishops and abbeys continued to hold much the same number of manors twenty years after the conquest and this meant that about a third of all manors had some sort of Anglo-Saxon continuity. Whilst the church institutions continued as before as a significant part of the establishment,

William systematically began introducing Normans as bishops and heads of the abbeys. The Anglo-Saxon Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester, who held six manors in the shire, was an exception. His abilities and acceptance of the new regime meant that he continued in post until his death in 1095. Looking at the overall picture, it can be seen that the impact of the new regime in creating a largely new elite was considerable.

The Norman conquest was, of course, an important threshold in our English history. After all, the date 1066 has probably been the one historical date that has sunk into the national psyche. However, if we try to dig a bit deeper into its impact on the life of the great majority of ordinary people, eking out an existence in the 368 manors of our shire, we might get a somewhat different picture of the impact of the conquest. Strangely, a hint of this came in a recent newspaper article I came across. It was a report on the analysis of the teeth of a number of skeletons found in Oxford. They were shown to have died variously from before the conquest to the beginning of the next century. The teeth provided information about the diet 'enjoyed' by their owners. What did it consist of? Throughout that time it seems that the basic diet remained much the same, indicating no great social turmoil in that period. It appears that they liked to eat soggy vegetables and boiled

mutton, though cereals and beef also had their place.

The conquest itself seems to have provided only a small and brief disruption to the diet of people at the time. A rather strange piece of evidence, perhaps, to deduce that, as far as ordinary people were concerned, life after 1066 continued much as it had before that date. But the picture that Domesday gives us of the structures of social life I think bears this out. Not only did life continue as before, but it actually had to if people were to survive. Farming was vital to sustain life and the wider society and this had been preserved largely intact under the new Norman dispensation. After all, King William was too astute to kill the golden goose that had fallen into his lap (to mix metaphors!)



Agriculture was central to each community. Whatever changes there were in the lordships of the manors, the 'peasants' just had to get on with the cycle of ploughing, sowing and harvesting, as well as raising livestock, most of which was slaughtered and salted in the autumn to provide food over the

winter. There will have been the inevitable grumbles about how much of the harvest the lord was taking and this will not have changed whether it was 1066 or 1086, though there will have been the inevitable resentment that the new elite they had to support were largely foreigners who had come to lord it over them.

The Domesday records show that a proportion of the arable land of each manor was allocated to its lord. Overall in the county, this amounted to a third. The workers on the ground were required to give so much of their time to work their lord's land as well as tending their own patch. Those who worked the land fell into three categories: there were the better off group I shall

refer to as *Villagers*; below them were *Smallholders*, who were poorer and had less land; and on the bottom rung were a number of *Slaves*, who totalled 852 with 32 of

them identified as women. Slavery was endemic in Anglo-Saxon society and made up of those who might have been captured in battle or raids, or who got on the wrong side of the law, or who fell into poverty and had to become slaves to survive. When I looked at the different categories of these peasants, there were twice as



many villager householders as smallholder householders. In other shires the proportion could be reversed. Whatever category of peasant they might be, they were tied to their manor and could not move elsewhere without permission from their lord. Agriculture in the shire was sustained by a total of 5,327 households and those 852 slaves. It is impossible to work out what was the average size of a household, but they will certainly have been much larger than today's 'nuclear' family, consisting then of several generations and fraternal groups living together.



Outside the town of Warwick, the largest community was **Brailes** in the south-east of the shire. Spread over nearly 6,000 acres, it was home to 130 households and 15 slaves. Its value was set at £55. It is interesting to note that towards the other end of the spectrum was a manor in the north-west of the county with 520 acres and nine households called **Birmingham**, its value £1. Oh, how fortunes have changed over time!

A record of the water mills is contained in the Domesday survey

(wind mills only began to develop in the next century). 121 mills are identified in 100 of the manors. The most commercially successful were in **Myton**, which was split into two manors on the river Avon, each having two mills. According to the value of their business, together they accounted for 16% of the milling trade in the county. Mills were controlled by the lords of the manor, who would take their cut from the grain brought to them for milling.

The nature of the husbandry of the county has changed significantly since then. Outside the towns and villages today the impression is of a great

expanse of fields. In 1086 it would seem that it was a rather different picture. Farming land then amounted to some 177 thousand acres, while woodland took up some 915 thousand acres. So the shire was largely wooded at that time: travelling

between communities was to travel through woodland. Wood was a vital commodity in an age when it provided the basic building material, as well as the one source of heat for cooking and combating the cold. The woodlands also provided such things as acorns to feed to pigs as well as large tracts of land for hunting - largely and officially the prerogative of the elites, though 'unofficial' hunting inevitably went on.

The spiritual needs of the population were met by the church's priests. No

information is given in Domesday as to the number of clergy serving the population of the town of Warwick, though elsewhere in the shire there were 68 priests serving in 63 of the communities. We can assume that there were, therefore, at least 63 churches. By today's standards this may seem rather meagre, especially when the county then was significantly larger, including at that time Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham. However, it must be remembered that the population was only a fraction of what it is today. These priests would have been allocated some land each to be farmed alongside the other households in their community.

Some interesting and rather strange facts can be gleaned from the survey. 18 Men-of-arms had land to farm in 12 of the manors. There will have been significantly more soldiers about, mostly retained in their lord's households, but these 18 men had been granted land, either as rewards for their service or because they had been pensioned off. Some immigrants were recorded: 12 Frenchmen with their families had settled in seven different manors, while **Aston Cantlow** was home to nine Flemish families. One ploughman is recorded in **Chesterton**, which is very odd indeed when you consider that every manor had its supply of ploughs, used by its various households. Even stranger, is the information that only one manor, **Wilnecote**, is recorded as having a forge with two smiths who

were entitled to a measure of land each. There cannot have been only one forge in the whole of the county, as smithing services would be required and indeed carried out at much more local levels. Perhaps, the smiths at Wilnecote served a more niche market?

As I commented at the beginning of this article, the rather limited picture provided by the Domesday survey leaves out information in whole areas of life in that post conquest society that it would have been fascinating to have. However, enough information is available to draw some conclusions about the effects of the conquest on English society of the time, and these I have set out. In conclusion I quote from Dr. Elizabeth Craig-Atkins of the University of Sheffield, who was involved in the research that I referred to earlier of diet of the later 11th century, "We have preconceived ideas about the impact of the conquest, and while there was a shakeup of the elite, 'undercurrents of normality' continued. Around them, the tectonic plates of geopolitics were shifting and Britain was set on a different trajectory - but for most people life went on. It was business as usual during huge events."

Lock down moments

Pictures by Fiona Brown



Evening walks



Sunny walks



Rainy Days



Lock down evening

Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

As I write this scribble the heavens open with a thunderous downpour and a frog jumps past the back door. It's been a strange old year in many ways. Not just because of - you know what- the weather's been weird too. We had Summer in Spring with record temperatures, then unusual late frosts. Now we have Summer Part Two with tropical heat. Cereal crops had no rain when they needed it to grow then it was too late when the rains came. Field Mice and Voles had less grass to eat so Owls had less of them to eat.

The young Tawnys grew stronger, their calls changing from a squeaky sneeze to a more recognisable owl call. They began to follow their parents into the park, hopefully finding enough food.

The Swallows that arrived in small numbers must have done alright catching insects to feed their young because we had chattering groups of over 30 over the cottages; probably several family groups. House Martins had mixed fortunes with many old nests unused around the villages.

Lots of Frogs found our small pond to escape the scorching weather. I don't reckon any breeding happened there but we are now firmly on the map. As dusk approaches Frogs hop all over the lawn heading for the flower beds

in search of insects and slugs. In the morning they all head back to submerge beneath the duckweed.

Of the three Pheasant visitors only the silverback occasionally returns for food. I do miss the one that fed from my hand. Hopefully they are helping to rear families and not been grabbed by the Fox.

Talking of Foxes, we've seen no cubs this year but do have what appears to be a dominant male and two younger Foxes, often heard squabbling around the cottage after dark.

Now when you think you've seen it all think again! Not long ago in the porch light we could see a Fox eating some food put out for the Hedgehogs. A Hedgehog appeared and moved towards the Fox. It stopped as if to assess the situation. I thought "OK, just leave it, don't go any nearer". No chance! The Hedgehog moved towards the Fox and butted it on the hind leg! The Fox, one of the younger ones jumped, taken by surprise. Now Hedgehogs have clusters of muscles that enable them to move groups of spines in an effective defence. The Hedgehog moved towards the Fox again giving it another butt on the leg. The Fox looked at the prickly bundle and moved off. A brave little Hedgehog! It was soon after that I

found out why. It was mother to the first baby Hedgehog to be born around the cottages in over 50 years. I saw the little one one evening, fully spined, and it would easily sit in the palm of your hand. The mother came to eat alongside it. So 19 Hedgehogs released and at least one hoglet. Its a start!



Parish Working Party

Keith Wellsted

The Parish Working Party had its first outing since lock down was eased. Paul, Michael, Pete, Chris, Eirian Rob and I maintained our social distance and cleared paths around the Meadow and the back of the allotments. A big thanks to all.



The Business Interview

George Carter of Pasta Brothers

What is your name and what is your business called?

George Carter – The name of my business is Pasta Brothers Ltd

How long has your company been in business?

Around 3 months

In which industry is your business?

Food Production – we create and deliver pasta and pizza kits for you to cook at home.

What is your title at your company?

Chef / Managing Director

How long have you been in your current position?

Since the beginning!

What motivates you?

I love cooking and have been for years now. During the lockdown I wanted to create something that could mean I could cook for people so I created Pasta Brothers which I could use to make pizza and pasta kits for friends and family. I love everything about Italy: the culture, the food, the scenery, and I am motivated by putting out a great plate of food for anyone to enjoy!

How many people are employed at your company?

2 people – one for cooking, one for delivery!

Does your company have more than one location?

No, we operate out of just one location!

Does your company do business online?

Yes. We use social media and our website to take orders and promote.

Does your company serve consumers, businesses or both?

Our company serves mostly consumers, who order our pasta and pizza kits for quick and easy meals at home.

Why do people use your business, what do you offer they want or need?

Our business offers great quality, fresh and homemade pasta and pizza kits for fast delivery! Our dishes take no longer than 10 minutes to cook, so it's a super convenient way of eating fresh, tasty food!

What makes your business unique?

What makes my business unique is the quality and freshness of our dishes. Our pasta and sauces are made either the day before or on the day of delivery to ensure that our meal kits are as fresh as possible. We also have a menu of filled pasta kits that changes every two weeks, so you can have a different taste of Italy every time you order! Finally, we offer amazing Italian snacks for you to enjoy with a drink before you tuck into your meal! Bellissimo!

What impact has the Covid19 pandemic had on you and your business?

The impact on our business due to Covid19 of course has been significant, We ensure that we follow the correct guidelines when delivering and take care to wear the correct equipment when creating and delivering your orders. However, due to the free time given by the lockdown, we have had plenty of spare time to test out new pastas to bring to our menu so you can get the best experience possible!

[Click here to see the Pasta Brothers advert](#)



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Hello and welcome back to Bishops Tachbrook Sports and Social Club.
We are now open again and just starting to steadily introduce entertainment back to the Club while we continue to follow Government guidance on Covid-19 and social distancing.

September

12th September – Family Bingo

Great prizes to be won at our Family Bingo Eyes down at 8.00pm for a fun family night out.

26th September – Quiz Night

Pit your wits against the Judge and his mind boggling Quiz designed to outsmart even the best quiz specialist's prizes for every team.

It's great to see that some people have brought their Doggies to the Club to try out the New dog area and enjoy a refreshing drink while out on their walkies.

Also Our New Bouncy Castle is up and running in the Children's play area.

**Please can you help us to maintain our Covid-19 requirements
When you are on the club premises.**

Use the hand sanitisers provided and observe social distancing.

**Thank you to all our Members from the Staff and Committee of
Bishops Tachbrook Sports & Social Club**

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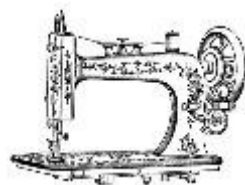
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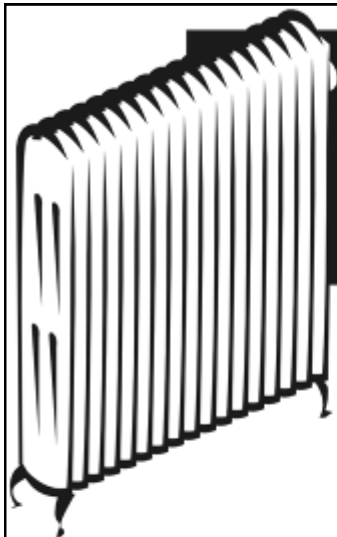
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