

St Chad's



# PARISH MAGAZINE ONLINE

Issue 2 March 2021

[www.bishopstachbrook.com](http://www.bishopstachbrook.com)

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

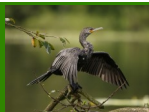
# What's in this month's magazine

**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.



## **Goodbye to all that!**

Revd. Elaine's last piece for the magazine. We'll miss her and her family!



**Nature Page** Tales of Cormorants and Muntjacs



**Heathcote Primary School** Virtual trips to London, Chinese New Year and distance learning all feature



**Green fingers** Vegetable growing in March—tips and hints

## **Parish Council News**

All the news from your council covering a range of important issues for our parish



**Fairy door trail** a March must for our children



## **Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change—TRACC**

From repair workshops to cycle buses ideas to help our planet at a local



**WI** Tales of pantos past and current WI activities



## **Leamington's lost stations**

The second instalment of Peter Lister's history of the birth and subsequent death of some of Leamington's lost railway stations.



**Poetry please** A jolly piece by Edward Leer titled the table and the chair



## **Skating on thin ice**

Pictures from around the parish



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# Goodbye and good cheer

By Revd. Elaine Scivens



It seems quite fitting really that as today is my final service, that we should be in Lent, a time when we think of Jesus' journey to the cross. Today is the end of our journey together as we have shared experiences, shared our gifts, celebrated our joys, comforted one another in the sorrows and generally have grown together over the last 10 and a half years, It is the end of one journey but also the start of another,

for me and Jim as we start retired life together. for you as you face a period of vacancy and then a new journey with a new priest, a journey that will be very different but that I am confident that God will bless you as St Chad's continues to grow and develop.

I our reading today Jesus tells us that we must take up our cross and follow him. I must admit Being here at St Chad's, sharing ministry with you has

never felt like a cross to bare. Yes, there have been difficult times, building the centre, dealing with the theft of lead from the roof, on more than one occasion have brought their challenges but together we have worked hard, prayed together and achieved our objectives.

For me that is the most important thing about ministry, working together for the good of our congregation and our community and I think we have done that successfully.

The connection with our church school continues to go from strength to strength. With Andy Brettel as the head and Vera Leeke and then Jane Everett as Foundation Governors we developed an excellent working partnership. Now we have Mrs Kilby and Sharron working together to ensure the link between church and school goes from strength to strength. Working with this wonderful, gifted and talented individuals has been a joy and one that I will miss dreadfully.

Not long after I arrived I met with Bishop Christopher to discuss how my previous experience as a teacher and school chaplain could be best utilised in the diocese. He suggested that I might like to join the Diocesan Board of Education and it was the beginning of a wonderful collaboration with the board and the staff of the DBE which ended in September when I stepped down as Chair of the Board. It was such a privilege to work with Canon Linda Wainscott, who sung for us at

the beginning of the service the Diocesan board of education and latterly as its chair. I worked with a wonderful team, led by Canon Linda Wainscott and through the DBE I met some inspirational teachers and head teachers. I'm grateful to Bishop Christopher, Linda and April for putting their trust in me.

We have also worked hard to keep the building in relatively good order and have hopefully finally sorted out the roofing problems! Most of the work from the previous quinquennial has been done and I'm sorry to leave you with the list from this quinquennial. That's the joy of having a 12th century church. The work on the building never ends but please remember that the church is so much more than this beautiful building. I think that is something we have all learned from having our lead stolen and how we have continued as a community during lockdown. This parish and community is something to treasure. Look how people came together to make sure we had our own Tommy back in 2018 and then in 2019 how people from all walks of our community dug deep to help raise money for the roof. I'm so pleased that the work on the roof has been completed before I left. I have been humbled by the love and generosity of so many people.

As a congregation you have been open to new things and for that I am not only grateful but confident that you will be open to new possibilities and

opportunities for mission and ministry when your new priest arrives. We have tried different types of worship with in church and in the St Chad's Centre. Our breakfast Church was wonderful and the couple of Big Breakfasts for Christian Aid were well supported. Thanks to Carl and Fiona for the catering!

Festivals have always been well supported in St Chad's and thanks must go to Tachbrook Brownies and their leaders for help over the years. They always turned out in force for Harvest, Remembrance, Christingle and Mothering Sunday and were always willing to join in. Carols on the Green and Carols in the Leopard were always fun. Thanks to Jo and Jim for the musical accompaniment.

As a priest one of the real privileges of ministry is being able to take baptisms, weddings and funerals. In terms of baptisms it has been wonderful for me to be able to baptise so many children from the village. Some of this children have then been admitted to communion before confirmation and boy were those lessons fun. Confirmations have also been wonderful, with the last group designing their own Altar Frontal showing their journey of faith.

However, I think one of the highlights of my ministry here was the confirmation of Mac, Ken and Jean, all octogenarians. I know Bishop Christopher also remembers it well.

Sadly Mac and Ken died within days of one another. Jean is now in a nursing home and very poorly so your prayers for her and her family will be appreciated.

Taking funerals, whether of members of the congregation or wonderful people of our community has always been a privilege, each different and each as unique as the person being commended to God. Some have been more difficult than others but each one very special. I have also been privileged to celebrate the lives of those who have been cremated at Oakley Wood. Until recent events have curtailed this, every 4 months a memorial service was held at the crematorium where people's names were read out and wild flowers given to the bereaved. It was always an ecumenical service and I stood alongside, Roman Catholic, Methodist and humanist colleagues. They were always memorable occasions.

And so to weddings, wow, have we had some amazing weddings. Can you all remember the beautiful flowers that adorned the church after Gemma and Andrew's wedding, we've had a couple of wonderful international weddings with prayers in German and granddad's flying in from the Punjab in full Sikh dress. Of course there was the Biker wedding and the wedding of two wonderful cub leaders but all were a joy and it's been great when those couples have then brought their children to be baptised. That is something I'm going to miss.

One of the biggest encouragements to me though over the last 10 years has been the way in which I have seen people grow in their faith and use the gifts and skills which God has given them. I know that some of you have been able to do things that you never thought were possible and that has been great to see. There are so many gifts that God has given to you all as a congregation and as a community and seeing you grow and develop in those gifts gives me a huge sense of excitement.

Journeys are not always easy and many of you have been on a journey with this Church for a very long time. You have seen priests come and go, you have seen people come and go, you have seen births, marriages and deaths, you have seen young people grow up, you have seen older people move away but your faith has remained strong and grown. You are a Church that welcomes people in as you have welcomed Jim, Adam Owen Luke and I and many others who are watching today but most importantly I believe you are a Church that seeks the kingdom of God and that you are people who will take up your cross to ensure that God's kingdom will continue to grow in this place at this time. Our journey together has come to an end but an exciting new journey awaits you as a Church, you as an individual, us as a family and whatever God has called us to. May God richly bless each of us as we take one more step along the way.

I will miss you all, I will miss this parish, I'll miss Bobby and the wonderful job he does, I will miss Annette for the wonderful job she had done on my nails, Louise for taming my hair and Kerry for the most amazing massages. I'll miss flowers arriving on my doorhandle from Di, I'll miss Rod and Linda's wise council, the ladies at the Tuesday club who always made me so welcome, those who came to the community coffee morning and of course the WI who have been a wonderful support not just to me but to St Chad's. I could name so many people who have inspired me, offered me love and friendship and who I will miss so much. This isn't the way I wanted to leave, I wanted to give you all a big hug but that's not to be.

Of course the biggest thanks has to go to God for bringing me here and my amazing family for their love and support.

God bless you all and thank you.

Elaine, Jim, Adam, Owen, Sophy and Luke xxx



# And now for the future

By Maralyn Brown, St Chad's PCC

Following Reverend Elaine's retirement at the end of February we are without a vicar until a new one is appointed by the Coventry Diocese. Maybe it is appropriate we are in Lent as the parish is now in the "wilderness" being asked by the Diocese to reflect on what we hope for and expect of a new incumbent.

To this end the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was asked to put together a Parish Profile describing the parish, the church building, church life and community and what we were looking for in a vicar, to build on the work already achieved. The PCC see the expansion of the village by way of new housing and new schools as an opportunity to develop community links and the influence of the church.

We have put together a Parish Profile and this has been sent to the Diocese to become part of the material they put together to recruit candidates. We anticipate this process will take some months but are hopeful of having someone in post by the end of the year.

In the meantime the church is still alive in the village albeit bound by covid restrictions. It has been a tough time for everyone over the last year and not being able to meet for worship or socialising in any way is difficult. The on-line services started by Reverend

Elaine have been appreciated and reached people beyond the usual congregation. These will continue until restrictions are lifted and it is deemed safe for services to resume. During the interregnum relief clergy will conduct services.

In the lockdown period extensive work has been carried out on the Grade 1 listed church. The theft of the lead roof cladding in June 2019 presented huge problems both financial and in the practical running of the church. However due to a mix of generous community fundraising, personal donations, other churches support and an insurance claim the job has been done. Not only is there a new roof covering of turned steel but an alarm system. Whilst doing the work the contractors found the coping stones on the North Aisle had disintegrated so these have also been replaced. The work was completed at the end of January. So we are ready to open once circumstances permit.

Please hold the future of the church in the village in your mind and prayers. We hope to welcome someone who will grow the ministry of the church and enjoy being part of our changing parish working with the all the community and the school.

On behalf of the St. Chad's PCC I wish you well and hope you can hang on a

few more weeks through these restrictions to better times. It might

just coincide with nature's awakening and Easter – who knows?



This picture was a present from an anonymous benefactor to Revd. Elaine on her retirement. Thank you for the kind thought.

### **NEW CONTACT DETAILS**

For Marriages, Baptisms and Funerals and general enquiries please :

e-mail [stchadsbt@gmail.com](mailto:stchadsbt@gmail.com)

Phone: **07999127260**

Our Church Warden: Rod Smith can be reached on 612242

### **CYCLE OF PRAYER**

#### **Praying for our Community**

In February we are praying for those living in

Calpurnia Avenue  
Church Hill  
Church Lees  
Cicero Approach

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

# Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

As the number of daily cases and therefore macro-risk of COVID-19 in our region falls, we must remain vigilant, not just of a resurgence of the virus itself but also of the other consequences of Lockdown particularly to our health and mental wellbeing. This means taking all steps possible to avoid further spread of the virus (so we don't end up back here again) but also looking out for each other and reinvigorating that community spirit that we saw a year ago - our lives are all intertwined, let's ensure we reach the end of this crisis together.

County Councillor Les Caborn provided the February meeting with good news on the rollout of the vaccine and the opening of a new centre in Stoneleigh Park which is busy. The County has set a 2021/22 budget with an annual tax rise of 2.99% of which 1% is hypothecated for adult social care and Les was at the forefront of ensuring that an additional £1m was set aside for mental health support and child suicide prevention in the county.

Les has also confirmed that the design for the cycleway on Harbury Lane is with officers and he hopes to move this forward before he retires in May. We are hoping for an update shortly on when the 3 drop kerbs are going to be installed; one on Farm Walk, Church Hill and Othello Avenue (along with some street and path repairs that have

been raised).

The County Council has announced a £1 million green shoots climate change fund. Cllrs. Martin Drew and Keith Wellsted are investigating to see if we can apply and move our climate agenda forward. If you are interested in getting involved with TRACC (Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change) please do contact Martin.

County officers have been made aware of the amount of mud on our roads. We have been assured that they will follow up with developers to ensure that wheel washing facilities are working on-site.

We are pleased to see the new fencing on the green area on Mallory Road, this work was funded by the Parish and undertaken by WDC under the oversight of District Councillor Jan Matecki. Whilst we appreciate that some residents have been using this area for parking, it should never have been used for this purpose and other residents have requested it be fenced. The District Council is looking at whether there are sufficient disabled parking bays and they will be arranging for the paths near the bungalows to be tarmacked and a handrail fitted to assist the residents in these properties. Please note that there are twelve empty garages so if you are interested

please contact the District Council. The County Council will be looking at the parking on Mallory Road as we have received notice of concerns. If everyone parks responsibly and efficiently there should be enough parking for all.

Cllr. Leigh Carter was very disappointed to learn that the "Oakley Wood Road 2" traffic scheme has been delayed. He praised the Highways Officer who found the necessary funding for this scheme but unfortunately it has been delayed because this road has been designated a Covid vaccination route and can't be closed for a couple of days to allow this work to take place. We are working with the County Council to try and secure this funding for later in the year when work will be able to take place.

The traffic scheme for Mallory Road has been designed by the County Council and has been passed to the developer for his comments and funding. Thanks to Leigh for all of the hard work he has put into both of these projects.

The Oakley Meadows Management Company has confirmed that they will be responsible for the land between the Oakley Meadows allotments and the gardens on Holt Avenue and The Lees. They have asked the developer to clear the debris from around the mast and will then be taking on responsibility for managing this area.

Thank you to the residents who have contacted us regarding the BMX track. We are in the process of getting quotes for the necessary work.

We are awaiting a third quote for installing surfacing under the adult gym equipment and then we will move forward. Please note that, due to national Covid restrictions this equipment should not be used. We did tape around it but the tape has been removed. This is Government regulations not Parish Council so please show some restraint and decency by complying with national regulations and not using it.

Thanks to the hard work from Cllrs. Cathy Herbert and Sean Deely we have approved a design for the Sports and Social Club driveway and car park. A consultant has been appointed for the tendering process and to manage the project. We now need grant funding from the District Council to move this project forward. This work is much needed with the temporary patching of the potholes over the last few years. This grant will be in lieu of the incorrect precept we received over several years and will allow us to carry out this vital work. Fingers crossed we will receive a response shortly.

We thank District Cllr. Day for pursuing the sewage issue on Oakley Wood Road with Severn Trent. Please do be careful on this path as the manhole cover is still lifting which will mean raw sewage on the path. If you

report this incident to Severn Trent could you please note the date, time and the incident number and drop an email to the clerk so we have a central record.

The Parish Council has written to the District Council asking them to address the issue of bylaws for Oakley Wood and the future Country Park. Concern has been expressed by the Friends of Oakley Wood on the effect horse riding, cycling, fires are having on the flora and fauna. They are seeking regulations to inform people what can and can't take place in this area.

The deterioration of the perimeter path has been brought to the District Council's attention. We hope work can take place shortly.

Under the fine stewardship of Cllr. Keith Wellsted, the neighbourhood plan is moving forward slowly and we hope that this will be subject to a May referendum to coincide with the May elections.

Cllr. Deely reported that the Country

Park masterplan has been given the 'green light' by the District Council Executive Committee. A planning application will follow before the summer.

If any resident or local group wishes to display a notice on the notice boards could they please contact the clerk. Recently someone (potentially not from this parish) placed a notice on the outside of the Warwick Gates noticeboard. This has resulted in a significant amount of residue left on the board and the clerk will have to ask our voluntary working party if they can help remove this or the parish will have to pay for this work to take place.

Finally, I understand that this will be the last magazine to which Rev. Elaine contributes; therefore on the behalf of the whole Parish Council and community I'd like to wish her all the best in her next chapter!!

Our next virtual meeting is on Thursday 11 March at 7pm. If you wish to join please contact the clerk.

## **BISHOP'S TACHBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk to the Council: Mrs Corinne Hill**

Gaydon Fields Farm, Gaydon CV35 0HF

Tel: 01926 641220 email: [clerk@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:clerk@bishopstachbrook.com)

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1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021.

### ***IS YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTARY VILLAGE GROUP SHORT OF FUNDS?***

Each year the Parish Council sets aside funds to support and enable community development within the Parish of Bishop's Tachbrook. The 2020/21 funding round will start in February with all applications having to be filed with the Clerk by 4<sup>th</sup> March. Incomplete documentation and late submissions will not be considered. Applications are invited from:

- Organisations with a long term commitment to a sporting, educational or cultural activity
- Organisations with a commitment to activities which benefit the local community
- Events for such organisations which demand substantial costs

Applications are welcome from local organisations, a local group of a national organisation or a new group whose purpose is to provide activities for the benefit of the group and local community.

If you are interested in applying, you will be required to provide the following details:

- A written application outlining the aims/purpose of the organisation
- A detailed proposal of the project/programme for which funding is required and the benefits it will bring to the parish
- A copy of the organisation's accounts for the previous year
- Agreement to publicise the activity in the Parish Magazine

Subsequent details of how the grant has been spent

Written applications (by letter or form) should be submitted to Mrs Corinne Hill, Parish Clerk, Gaydon Fields Farm, Gaydon CV35 0HF or via email to [clerk@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:clerk@bishopstachbrook.com). Application forms are available from the Clerk on 01926 641220 or by email.



# Bishops Tachbrook Fairy Door Trail March 2021

Would you like to join in with our village Fairy Door Trail?



Make your own Fairy Door, place it at the bottom of a tree/fence/gate/wall in your front garden so it is visible from the pavement (**by 20th March**) for people to see on their walks around the village. You can make it as simple or as complicated as you like, just a door or a whole fairy house or garden. If you don't have a tree, you can use a plant pot, tree stump or anything else! Leave it there for as long as possible so the trail lasts a while. Have a look around the village and see if you can spot any other Fairy Doors (**from 20th March onwards**).

Ask your friends and neighbours to join in too and help us bring some magic to our lovely village this Spring.

Find us on Facebook and join the group "Bishops Tachbrook 🌸 Fairy Door Trail 🌸 20th March 2021".

# Tachbrook Residents' Action on Climate Change - TRACC

By Martin Drew

## **BT needs all the help it can get to save the planet**

As vaccination heralds hope for life returning to normal, global warming continues to present the biggest threat of all to life on earth. We need to act now. At the last TRACC meeting, climate action projects were proposed for 2021 that will help residents reduce household carbon footprints and benefit the community as a whole. Getting involved, working together we can combat climate change.

## **Don't chuck it, mend it**

The new shed by the allotments is the ideal venue for a repair and recycle hub (similar to Action 21 and Barford's BAR Zero Repair shop). Residents bring along all manner of things: electrical, mechanical, bicycles, toys, you name it, let the repair team get to work giving them a new lease of life and not add to landfill.

The repair shed could also be an exchange centre to give away or donate items to charity. Experts can give

talks on how to carry out restoration/repair, or DIY home energy saving. As well as the practical, the repair shed will be a great social meeting place.

Naturally the Repair Shop will have to wait until we can all meet, but preparations can start now. To make it happen we need people with a practical skill to come on board. **(See contact details below).**

## **Trusted workers**

When it comes to carrying out home energy improvements, you need installers you can rely on to do a good job at a fair price. We want to compile a list of approved and recommended local companies you can call on to fit renewable heating energy systems, insulation, fit double or triple glazing, stop drafts, carry out home energy



surveys. Most importantly will be contact information for grants available to help pay for the installation work

**Let us know about local people & companies you can recommend**

### **Junior TRACC**

We will continue to develop projects liaising with BT C of E and Heathcote Primary schools. In the pipeline are wildlife diversity initiatives throughout the Parish and setting up an educational facility for the Country Park.

Let us know if you have any ideas for exciting projects for children and families. Thought starters: such as themed recycling, adventure nature discovery clubs, children's home energy survey check. **Above all we need residents to take charge of or help with running the projects.**

### **Go Green talks**

It's planned to organise regular talks by experts and residents on a whole range of topics from zero waste shopping to electric car ownership, recycling to grow your own vegetables, community renewable energy to zero carbon homes. Residents can choose topics, share their experiences and learn from guest speakers. Again, due to the Pandemic, initial meetings will have to be via Zoom then, as and when, live Parish meetings are the best way to inform to and share experiences.



### **Leave the car at home**

Let's start using our legs more. The Cycle Bus and the Oakley Mile are activities that can be developed with such ideas as mini marathons, competitions, leisure walking groups based in the Country Park and Oakley Woods and cycling to shop. It will mean more foot and cycle paths and connecting routes. So we can leave the car at home and get fit.

**Get in touch to tell us your ideas and join TRACC to help BT combat Climate Change.**

**Email: [BishopsTRACC@outlook.com](mailto:BishopsTRACC@outlook.com)**



## Growing tips

By greenfingers

If you really feel you have to dig, I don't, finish all digging, unless you have a light, sandy soil. Light soils can usually be dug just before cultivation. Do not apply rich compost or manure to land that is intended for root vegetables as this will encourage the roots to 'fang', producing two or more growing points per root. With drier soil conditions, warmer weather and increased light, many more vegetables can be got under way.

### What to Sow in March

The following can be sown outdoors in a sheltered spot or under cloches. Once



the seedlings are emerging strongly, remove the covering to prevent them becoming weak and drawn; Carrots, Turnips, Cabbage, Summer Cauliflower, Early Peas, Summer Spinach, Lettuce/ salad leaves and Radishes.

There is still time to plant out Jerusalem artichokes shallots and garlic. Autumn-sown onions can be planting out now - space them 15cm (6 in) apart. Frame raised summer cabbages sown last month and autumn sown cauliflowers can also be plant out onto their final positions. All should be planted firmly. Use a dibber to plant cabbage, allowing 30-40 cm (12-16 in) between rows.

Onion sets should be planted with the tops only just showing above the soil surface so that starlings, etc., are less likely to pull them out of the ground. Keep an eye on onion sets, replanting any that the birds pull out of the ground.

Early potatoes that were chitted indoors can be planted out during the latter half of the month, provided the soil isn't too cold or wet. Plant them 30 cm (1 ft.) apart with 60 cm (2 ft.) between rows. Be ready to protect from frosts once they have developed shoots above ground.

You can also plant rhubarb, ensuring it has plenty of room and a rich and heavily manured soil at the time of planting.

### Sowing Under Glass

Continue sowing tomatoes, aubergines and peppers, as well as French beans for early forcing, either in a heated propagator, greenhouse or indoors on a warm windowsill. Peppers (capsicum) for example will need an even temperature of between 18-21°C (65-70°F) to germinate successfully (depending on the variety). It is also time to start sowing, cucumber, celery and celeriac under cover.





### News from Heathcote Primary School

Oh happy day from Heathcote. The rest of our children are returning to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. We cannot wait to have our school full again and continue our plans for our outdoor learning and exciting curriculum. We have of course been open throughout for our critical worker children and vulnerable children and they have been having a great time learning. Our remote learning has been just as successful. *'Live class meetings online are a great benefit to assure the children they are 'in this together' and thinking about each other.'* Parent quote.

Year One started their Spring term 2 topic off a virtual day out in London. How exciting. They went on the tube with their oyster cards and visited lots of different landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar square and more. The children came skipping out of school with their London tags on (so they didn't get lost!) They haven't stopped talking about it since.



Before we broke up for half term holiday the whole school spent time learning about Chinese New Year and Online Safety. Reception had fun learning how to be a bee linked to their Bumblebear text and are always exploring. Whilst our Foxes class in Year 2 have been reading the text 'When the ocean meets the sky' and have researched boat building and created their own to go off on adventures in puddles, bathtubs and virtual oceans.

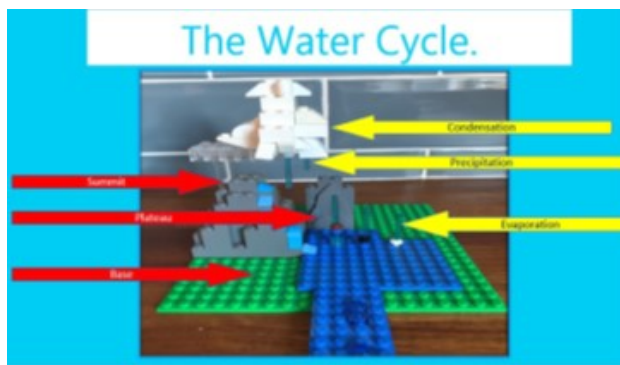
In Year 4 water has certainly dominated their thoughts and the rainy week we had for half term will have helped. They have explored the water cycle and different mountains. They have studied clouds and tried out experiments galore. Year 3 decided they wanted to be out in the snow as much as they could and built dens for shelter really focussing on survival techniques. Whilst Year 5 went really high up into space. They wrote news reports on Tim Peake's achievements, understood how the Earth, Sun and Moon interact and explored the solar system.



I bet they are loving the images being sent back from Mars.

To celebrate all our children returning we have asked them to make us hearts and butterflies to hang in our trees. We are also planning to write a book based on our

experiences of the past year during the pandemic. We are asking our community to write poems, prayers, diary entries, snapshots of zoom chats, comic strips... anything to capture what has been an extraordinary time for our generation of children. If you would like to contribute please send us your thoughts



to be published in our book. 'A year like no other!'

Happy Spring time. Our daffodils are beginning to blossom planted by the parish council. Please visit our website to see our curriculum and things the children get up to. [www.heathcoteprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.heathcoteprimaryschool.co.uk).

Mrs Humphriss – Executive Head Teacher.

# Skating on Ice

Pictures by Graham Leeke



## Poetry please

The table and the chair—Edward  
Lear

I

Said the Table to the Chair,  
'You can hardly be aware,  
'How I suffer from the heat,  
'And from chilblains on my feet!  
'If we took a little walk,  
'We might have a little talk!  
'Pray let us take the air!'  
Said the Table to the Chair.

II

Said the Chair to the table,  
'Now you know we are not able!  
'How foolishly you talk,  
'When you know we *cannot* walk!' *Said the Table with a sigh,*  
'It can do no harm to try,  
'I've as many legs as you,  
'Why can't we walk on two?'

III

So they both went slowly down,  
And walked about the town  
With a cheerful bumpy sound,  
As they toddled round and round.  
And everybody cried,  
As they hastened to the side,  
'See! the Table and the Chair  
'Have come out to take the air!'



IV

But in going down an alley,  
To a castle in a valley,  
They completely lost their way,  
And wandered all the day,  
Till, to see them safely back,  
They paid a Ducky-quack,  
And a Beetle, and a Mouse,  
Who took them to their house.

V

Then they whispered to each  
other,  
'O delightful little brother!  
'What a lovely walk we've taken!  
'Let us dine on Beans and Bacon!' *So the Ducky and the leetle*  
*Brownny-Mousy and the Beetle*  
*Dined and danced upon their*  
*heads*  
Till they toddled to their beds.



# The Railway Stations of Leamington Spa

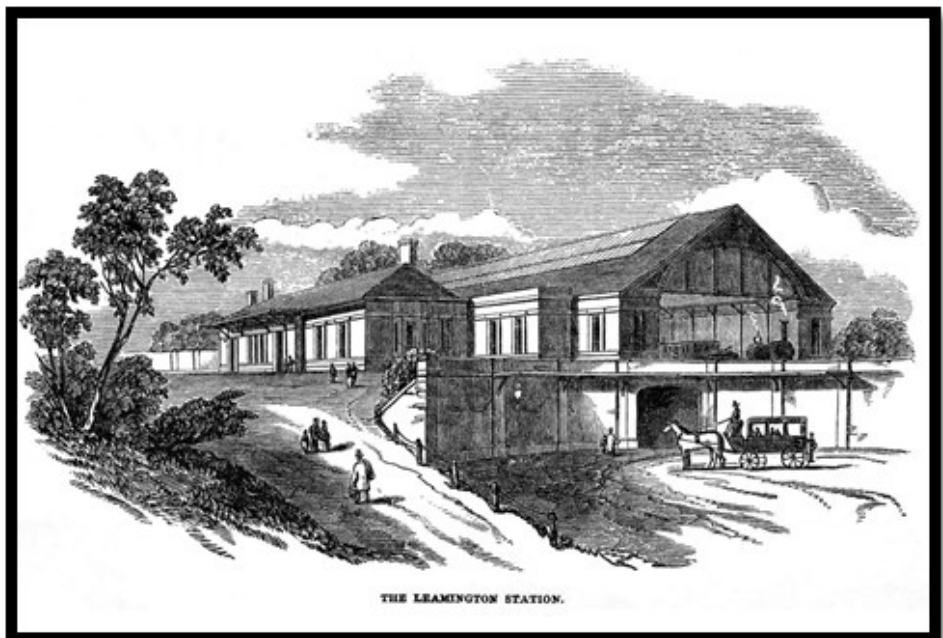
By Peter Lister

## Part 2 - The Coming of God's Wonderful Railway

Where the London & Birmingham Railway failed in 1844 to provide Leamington Spa and Warwick with a station each, the Great Western Railway (GWR) succeeded eight years later in 1852 by bringing its line from London Paddington Station to Birmingham Snow Hill Station through both towns and providing a station for each. Wags used to interpret GWR as either 'God's Wonderful Railway' or 'Great Way Round'.

This station on Old Warwick Road was placed next to the LNWR line. Typical

of the GWR, the line was broad gauge as favoured by its chief engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. As can be seen from an early print, the entrance to the booking hall and waiting rooms was on the same level as the platforms and there was a canopy that covered both platforms and the track way. Over the following years a number of changes were made to the building: a canopy put over the entrance; other buildings added; the platforms extended; and the original overarching canopy removed and replaced by cantilevered platform canopies. In the late 1920s the Government began to give assistance to major utilities to carry out capital



improvement works. The GWR took advantage of this and one of its projects was to totally rebuild the station at Leamington Spa. The project cost something like £3.85m at today's pricing, involving as it did the removal of some 18,000 cubic yards of excavation to lower the approach and provide parking, as well as new platforms and the creation of the present handsome Art Deco styled listed building that we know today (Grade 2 Listed!). Electric lighting was provided in the buildings while gas lighting sufficed for the platforms and the station approach. The work was carried out in stages over a two-year period and was completed in 1939. As this date leads us into the Second World War, it was interesting to come across a reference to the underpass

from the forecourt as being a regular place of assignation for American GIs who used to come by train from Oxfordshire to meet up with some of Leamington's 'good time girls'. The station's garden, which the Friends of Leamington Station help to maintain, has received a number of awards and gained the title of Best British Station Garden in 2009. This group has also contributed items to the recent refurbishments that Chiltern Railways have carried out at the station. Further information about the group and its work can be found by putting the link below into your browser:

<https://leamingtonstationfriends.org/the-station/>

Peter Lister



# Parish Picture Gallery

Pictures by Kay





Views from Heathcote back towards the village



February brought us some weird and wonderful weather didn't it?

Those of you who are slightly older will remember that February half term was taken up with the WI pantomime put on by members, family, friends and anyone else who stood still long enough. This was the culmination of months of rehearsals, making and painting scenery and props and creating costumes. It was the highlight of the year.

On the first Saturday of half term at 8:00am, a merry band including myself, I use the word merry in a rather tongue in cheek way, would collect the stage and scenery from the barn at the Grove, bringing the proscenium arch through the little window, out into the road to load it onto a truck. ( It's the big bit that holds the curtains. ) We would then arrive at the school and start to build a theatre. This took a couple of days.

What I didn't mention was that it was usually snowing or heavy frost and ice. Wednesday was dress rehearsal with shows for the next 3 nights. After Saturday's production it would take the crew about 30 minutes to take the stage down flat for removal on Sunday. We managed it in 18 minutes one year. This was then followed by a party.

Pantos included Babes in the Wood, Aladdin, Hickory Dickory Dock, Robinson Crusoe Jack and the

Beanstalk , in this I was to lie behind a garden fence making sure the beanstalk didn't knot as it grew as a bucket of glitter was thrown onto the seeds. Yes you are ahead of me, it was actually water on the last night !! Thank you Mrs Bamford

One year Miss Ena Burton played principle boy . Apart from opening the show atop battlements ( on a six foot ladder) she was overjoyed to have done it in her 90th year.

Unfortunately as people got older and no new ones came along it was decided enough was enough.

Members received their monthly meeting bags this time the craft had been provided and prepared by Kath Reason. It was a tortoise pincushion to make fully prepared. Many thanks Kath.

There is a craft, quiz, recipes, teabags biscuits and sweets county





information and anything else I can think of included each month. A small way to keep the WI in members minds. We are even starting our garden flower photos again just a couple for you to enjoy.

I think everyone will be sick of emails from either me or Sam. The National Federation is making changes to our Constitution should, heaven forbid, anything like this ever happen again.

Every member has the right to be consulted and vote. There are 8 resolutions for discussion at the Companies Act Meeting and pages and pages of paperwork to read. We are part of a group of 8 institutes for voting purposes and fortunately someone else is attending on our behalf. We are part of a very large organisation I think everyone thinks of WI as just being in the village.

Our speaker last month was Helen Tudge who apart from being a qualified physiotherapist is also a Pilates teacher here in the village. Our Wednesday morning classes continued via zoom so when Helen agreed to speak to us I was thrilled. She told us about Pilates and then encouraged us to have a go at some simple seated but beneficial exercises. If you want to know more please give me a ring. The evening finished with a quick burst of Bingo.

In March, Gillian Crisp is going to tell us about ACWW , Associated Country Women of the World, a charity supported by WI nationally, Each year we support a different project usually in a pyramid system providing maybe water pumps or livestock together with education , to allow development projects so that the lives of rural women and their children are changed for the better. Gillian is an excellent speaker and if you would like to join us on zoom please contact me.

Zoom really is a wonderful thing. It might not be for everyone but it's allowed us to enjoy just seeing other people. I'm looking forward to the Do's and Don'ts of Afternoon Tea with Baroness Bolsover and the Cocktail Shaker Boys. There are also serious science lectures available on archaeology or discovering new antibiotics from historical medicine. Spring flower arrangements, cyber safety, listening to the wonderful Leslie Smith talking as Mrs Thatcher, learning about health and well being or chatting with Sunny Ormonde from the Archers. Something for everyone.

Just because we are not actually meeting doesn't mean you can't come and join us. Please give me a ring and I can let you have the links for the zoom or even talk you through joining zoom. We really would love to meet you.

Anne Allen 424135

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# Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

Just when you thought it couldn't get much colder another Beastie from the Eastie swept in. Not long before that, in early Feb, a Honey Bee landed on a door frame right in front of me and I saw a Bat flitting around the cottages. I bet they soon whizzed back home as the weather changed. Apparently the smaller Winter colony of Bees gather around their Queen and fan their wings in a shiver. This generates warmth for them all. Bet they are desperate for Spring and worn out!

Ravens are now active in the air, calling and doing their trademark flip over in flight. The other day four of them, possibly two pairs, flew low and fast over the village, the first pair being pursued and shouted at by the second. Maybe an older pair seeing their children off.

The dawn chorus is gradually swelling in numbers. Robins have hardly stopped. Wood Pigeons are at it and, my favourite, the Blackbird began in mid-January which is brilliant because

it's contract doesn't usually start until mid-Feb.

The Wrens are beginning singing fast and furious and in early Feb the Chaffinch started with its bouncy song. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were drumming a touch early. I know we have at least two pairs here because as one pair of Woodpeckers were feeding on the bird table the drumming of another male continued nearby.

I really like the female Woodpecker that comes to feed. Usually if a pecker lands on the bird table the smaller birds scatter. Not this one though. She must be giving off calm vibes because they stay and feed around her.

This year's male Pheasant still visits. Not a hand feeder yet but he'll come close to feed. We have four ladies for him, all appearing at the top of the garden each morning. Three of them are nervous and often fly off only to return later for the food I put down. This one female is brown and very hungry. One morning I called the Jackdaws down and as I began to throw their food down on the lawn a cloud of Jackdaws descended. At that moment the female Pheasant forgot all her inhibitions, threw caution to the wind, and ran towards me like a very





Once in a while I'll get an encounter worth capturing on film. As I moved into the long garden a male Muntjac slowly walked across from the left and up onto a higher part at the top. It turned to face me as I stood still and began to nibble a few bare branches. When it did see me the deer slowly turned round and slipped through the hedge at the top. No panic - all very relaxed. Nice surprise to see that although if it comes back and eats half the garden I may change my tune.

large chicken. She flicked her wings at the Jackdaws who totally ignored her. She's around most mornings now. I like her style.

The Brambling still visits and I've got to say its a bumptious bird looking a bit like a Chaffinch with a grey balaclava on. It pushes all similar sized birds off the bird table and I thought the Greenfinches were stropky! Now the gorgeous little green Siskins are such beautiful songsters bearing in mind they are in a foreign country and their singing is not yet about starting a family. They must be singing for pleasure. It's lovely to hear them up close. They have little fear of people.

As I got back to the cottage I looked up to see a Cormorant flying over and on towards Ashorne, its black shape and white throat clear against the pale blue sky. Another three followed close behind and all within 5 minutes of the deer. If only the film crew had been there.



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## **Membership Renewal**

Hello & happy new year to you all hope you are all well and keeping safe!

We'd just like to give all our members an update regarding memberships that are due to be paid & updated by the end of this month (January 2021).

Due to the club being closed for over six months, working at a reduced capacity when we could open in 2020 and now this continuing into 2021, potentially for some months to come, the following has been decided by BTSSC team.

Anyone who was a paid member on 31st December 2020 and is due to have their membership expire at the end of this month (January 2021) will not need to pay for the coming year and your membership will now not need to be renewed until January 2022.

Anyone who didn't renew back in January 2020 (lapsed members) or anyone who wishes to become a new member once we reopen, will need to pay membership fees.

We will update you as much as we can on upcoming information as soon as we can give you it.

All we can say is stay safe and hope to see you soon.

Many thanks for your patience.

BTSSC team.

**Wash Hands Cover Face Make Space**

## **Contact Us**



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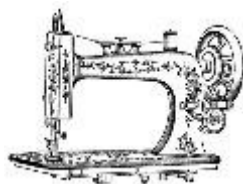
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