

PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 2. March 2023

www.bishopstachbrook.com

Your magazine featuring news and views from Bishop's Tachbrook Parish.

A gentle mix of the saintly and the secular



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What's in this month's magazine

A goodly mix this month ranging from classic poems to tales of what local women did to help gain the right to vote.

Revd. Jonathan reflects on Lent and shares a link to this year's Church of England's, Dust and Glory campaign.

Matt Greene shares Parish Council news which reflects many of the issues that people talk about. Essential reading if you want to stay up to date with parish 'politics'.

Poems by William Blake and William Wordsworth share images of spring which hopefully will arrive sometime soon! Steve Harvey's Nature page certainly adds to the spring like feeling everyone seems to be looking forward to.

The article on the Women's suffrage movement is fascinating. It's hard to imagine that 100 years ago women didn't have the vote. The women that fought for their rights were inspirational.

The piece by Martin Drew of TRACC has pictures of community minded local people creating our first new orchard, 5 apple trees, 2 pears and a plum.

If you're interested in gardening for wildlife there's news of a talk on the subject at the Friends of Oakley Wood's AGM on 14th March, should be interesting!

If you wish to be able to vote in May's local elections you're going to need to show some I/D. Please look at the information on page 8 and act if you have any doubts about your I/D

So, lots to read and enjoy written by local people, if you want to contribute just send me your ideas by emailing: btparishmagazine@hotmail.com.

A Message from the vicar

Revd. Jonathan



New Year can mean different things to different people.

The academic year starts in September, the financial year starts in April, and for the Church the new year begins around the start of February with the feast day of Candlemas (remembered with the delicate snowdrop). Then follows swiftly the season known as Lent.

Lent is the period which leads up to Easter and was a time we remember Jesus, who after being filled with the Holy Spirit was led to spend 40 days and nights in the Judean wilderness. Imagine the cold and hunger?!

Lent provides a precious season when we can pay particular attention to the way we are living, perhaps by giving up a favourite treat. All this aims to create space for reflection about our lives and draw close to God. It's perhaps a chance to say sorry for the times we have failed others and ourselves, but then being reminded that God is a good, loving, and merciful God who forgives us and sends us his blessings by the joy of the Easter resurrection.

This year however, Lent has started slightly differently at St Chads. We have been having to meet in St Chads centre for our services over the winter because the heating system has packed up! We will be starting a long journey of applying, fundraising, and eventually installing something new and hopefully greener! Being away from church has given us time to give thanks for what we've had previously and to reflect on what we'll continue to bring to the village and parish.

St Chad's goes back centuries and has been 'Holy Ground' for all of it. During that time, it has been a village church serving the community, and while the shape of the village is changing around us, the purpose and foundation of this church remains the same.

We are to be a church for the community, that's for young and old, richer, and poorer and in tradition terms higher and lower.

"Village ministry is for everyone".

St Chad's community reflects this by trying to bring together the best elements of different modes of worship both on Sundays and in our various weekly groups. A strong liturgical tradition with vibrant children's work. A more relaxed liturgy with fantastic organ led music at holy communion but also time given to the best of contemporary music as well.

There will be so much to remember and celebrate this year at our Annual Church meeting on 26th March, so come along and hear about everything we do. This year as the last, we will meet in community, meet God in the diversity of the Anglican Church, celebrating our breadth and our commonality – following Jesus, loving the Lord, and living in that truth to show God's love to others.

My hope and prayer for our worshipping community this year is that whether we have warmth installed or not we will still feel welcoming to friend and stranger. May people experience that welcome deeply and know something of the Lord's love for them.

If you want to know more about our journey through Lent, we are following the Church of England's current campaign. There are some available resources at:

CofE.io/DustAndGlory



www.stchadsbt.org

St Chad's Church

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

Just when you think it's getting warmer, February has a way of reminding you that it is very much still a winter month! Still the brighter sunnier days do lift my spirits! The pregnant ewes in the fields and the yearly emergence of the daffodils, planted six years ago now, signal that spring is not forever away.

At our February meeting the Parish Council considered a request for funding from the Parent and Teachers Association at Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School for solar panels to be installed. This will significantly reduce the schools energy costs and help to combat climate change. Councillors agreed to grant this funding, which will be offset against a 'green energy grant', to be received from the company installing solar panels at Chesterton Field's Farm. It is hoped that the work can take place when the contractors are on-site building a new classroom ready for the September 2023 cohort. This should mean minimum disruption for the school.

We have finally received a quote for 'off-grid' power in the Bullen Building. This will give us lighting and the ability to charge small power tool batteries used by the working party, . Solar panels will be installed and there will be a battery storage facility.

At our March meeting we expect to have two representatives from the County Highways team in attendance. One will be answering questions on highway concerns raised regarding the closure of Oakley Wood Road and more general queries and the second will be talking us through parking issues and the process for installing additional parking bays. Issues have been raised with parking on Farm Walk, Millway Drive, Kingsley Road, Wychwood Close, St. Chad's Road and Mallory Road.

The Housing Needs Survey draft Report has been received from WRCC. Councillors noted the high level findings in February and will be reviewing this document in further detail at the March meeting.

When you read this it is hoped that the Working Party has planted fruit trees

behind the Bullen Building in the allotments. We are trying to source 2 Oak Trees to be planted on St. Chad's Green on the same weekend.

The large potholes on the Sports and Social Club driveway have been filled. Vegetation from the tree which blocked the driveway was removed and the old fencing panels should be removed shortly. A new noticeboard will be installed in the coming months and the Meadow entrance will be strimmed on a regular basis.

We have instructed our contractor to tidy the Oakley Meadows allotments ready for letting out to residents. The Parish Council is going to revisit how all allotments within the community are managed and determine an appropriate way forward that will endure.

The Council is keen to keep residents updated and we are looking for places on the new developments to install noticeboards. If you could identify a verge or play area where we could easily erect a noticeboard please let the clerk know and we can follow up with the relevant management company or County Highways.

Looking ahead to after Easter and it will be time for King Charles III's Coronation; this is a chance for us to celebrate as a community and also to give something back. If you are holding a street party or wish to become involved in the volunteering day or a parish event please do contact the clerk.... or if you just have ideas we would love to hear from you.

A planning application has been submitted for tree work on the Village Green. The maintenance work was highlighted following a parish tree inspection last year. Several trees have been highlighted as needing to be felled due to disease but we will be replanting.

Cllr. Rick Hunt has recently resigned from the Parish Council; we thank him and wish him well.

Elections for the Parish and District councils are in May. If you are interested in learning about council work please contact the clerk, attend a meeting or stand in the May election. It's rewarding and you can help to look after and even shape our community; we're keen for residents to come forward to fill these vital roles.

Election notices will appear at the end of March with an early April deadline for nominations.

Finally, if you are interested in becoming a trustee for the St. Chad's Centre please come to a parish meeting or contact the clerk. The Parish Council is entitled to have three representatives on the board and we would love to introduce new people to help with this important part of our community.

The next meeting is on 9th March at 7.30pm at St. Chad's Centre. Reminders will be posted on Facebook so please do attend.

The
Electoral
Commission

You now need
Photo ID to
vote at a
Polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



St Chad's Centre Schedule

Monday	Activity	Contact
10-11.30am	<p>St Chads' Tinies</p> <p>We are a friendly playgroup for children aged 0-4 years and their carers.</p> <p>Hot drinks and snacks, toys, craft activities and singing.</p> <p>All welcome.</p> <p>Term time only</p>	Contact on facebook
17.00-19.00	<p>Martial Arts Class. Over 12 years and adults</p>	<p>Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk</p>
19.30-20.30	<p>Kettle Bell Class</p> <p>The classes provide a friendly & encouraging high intensity interval training session.</p> <p>50 minutes exercise and 10 minutes recovery & stretching.</p> <p>It's a great way to improve one's general fitness.</p> <p>Classes run by Tony Foster a qualified KB Instructor</p> <p>Cost £6 per session</p> <p>Please bring KB (some are kept in stock please ask) exercise mat, towel and water.</p>	<p>Contact Bridget</p> <p>07795226047</p>

Tuesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	<p>ADVENTURE BABIES</p> <p>Take your little ones on a Sensory Story-telling Adventure every Tuesday at St Chad's Centre, as we bring brilliant books to life with puppets, props, bubbles and sensory activities.</p> <p>Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 9.15am - 10.00am</p> <p>Diddy Adventurers (0-12 months) 10.30am - 11.15am</p> <p>Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 11.45am - 12.30am</p> <p>Booking essential please visit www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry to secure your place or contact lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p>	<p>lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> <p>or visit:</p> <p>www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</p>
14.30 –16.00 Tuesday 14th march	<p>HISTORY GROUP</p>	<p>John Fletcher on 01926 426001 or johnfletcher@sky.com</p>

<p>16.45-18.30</p>	<p>ATOMIC DANCE</p> <p>Acrobatic Arts 1</p> <p>4.45pm-5.30pm - Ages 5+</p> <p>Learn the foundations of dance technique and acro movement. In this beginner class, students will develop skills such as forwards and backward rolls, cartwheels and bridges in a fun, friendly environment.</p> <p>£18 per month.</p> <p>Acrobatic Arts 2</p> <p>5.30pm-6.30pm - Ages 7+</p> <p>A more challenging acro class for children who have previous acro or dance experience. Learn how to safely execute skills such as handstands, backbends and walkovers alongside improving dance technique.</p> <p>£21.50 per month</p>	<p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or ellie@atomicdance.co.uk</p>
<p>19.00-20.00</p>	<p>YOGA</p> <p>Supporting Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>£5.00 per person</p> <p>Classes are limited to 11 people</p> <p>Please bring your own mat / block I ask that attendees wear masks when not on</p>	<p>www.lifewithaman.daj.com</p>

Wednesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	<p>ADVENTURE BABIES</p> <p>Take your little ones on a Sensory Story-telling Adventure every Tuesday at St Chad's Centre, as we bring brilliant books to life with puppets, props, bubbles and sensory activities.</p> <p>Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 9.15am - 10.00am</p> <p>Diddy Adventurers (0-12 months) 10.30am - 11.15am</p> <p>Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 11.45am - 12.30am</p> <p>Booking essential please visit www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry to secure your place or contact lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p>	<p>lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</p> <p>or visit:</p> <p>www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</p>
18.00-19.00	<p>YOGA CLASS</p> <p>As for Tuesday class</p>	<p>www.lifewithamanraj.com</p>
19.30-21.30	<p>Salsa @ St Chads</p> <p>Learn and practice Salsa</p> <p>Cross Body / Cuban / Rueda</p> <p>Every Wednesday, New and experienced dancers welcome.</p> <p>New Dancers Come early. Rueda from 8.30</p>	<p>Enquiries – stchadssalsa@outlook.com</p>

Thursday	Activity	Contact
10.15-11.45	<p>ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY CAFE</p> <p>Serving Drinks and Cake for you to enjoy</p> <p>If you would like to volunteer for one or two weeks per month please contact: Chadstreasures@outlook.com</p>	<p>Kate Wellsted</p> <p>Chadstreasures@outlook.com</p> <p>or ring 07713113464</p>
Friday	Activity	Contact
10.00-12.00	<p>Tai Chi - All Classes are for beginners but are suitable for anyone. Classes have a maximum of 10 Students to ensure social distancing and are COVID Compliant. First class is free, so no reason not to find if Tai Chi is right for "you"</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher 07487 685679</p>
<p>Sundays</p> <p>18.15-20.00</p>	<p>St Chad's Youth Club</p>	<p>www.stchadsbt.org</p>

Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

The Snowdrop asks for very little as it pushes through the cold earth, soon to be joined by Aconite and Primrose; each one hoping for a little warmth from the sun to bring the Bees out. Many people think of the Snowdrop as a native flower however, depending on which historical story you believe, the gorgeous little flower was either introduced by the Romans or a bit later by the Monks from Normandy. (I think that's my favourite) or in the 1600's. Well, whoever dug them up and transplanted them over the Channel from Europe and Asia I'm very glad they did.

Now there's an old country tale that says the birds do their courting and get married around Valentine's Day. Very romantic, although there are a few species, like the Jackdaws, that have been married for a good few years now and have a few anniversaries behind them. Back in mid-January a pair of Blue Tits were actively going in and out of the nest box exploring the possibilities. They're still visiting now but no decision has been made yet as there may be other properties to view.

Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been drumming loudly on favourite dead parts of trees to get the best acoustics; their equivalent to a song, serving exactly the same purpose. Not much melody but plenty of drum and bass. One male hammers to the left of the cottage then stops to hear its rival drumming to the right of the cottage both proclaiming their territories and knowing exactly where they stand.



I was driving along the narrow road to Moreton Morrell as the light began to fade and was joined on my right by a Barn Owl. It skimmed the top of the hedgerow then low over the grass verge. We were both doing

about 15 miles an hour (have no idea what that is in kilometres). Luckily there was no-one behind us. Twice it swooped and landed but caught nothing. The second time it settled on the grass. It looked at me realising I was there. Beautiful white and cream plumage and that long Barn Owl face. It decided I was up to no good stalking along behind it so flew across the lane and into the next field like a big white moth. This hedgerow trawling is obviously an Owl specialty as I saw a Tawny doing the same thing not far from there last year. Just happened to be in the right place at the right time. I reckon the Owl would have disagreed though.

Had a couple of close encounters in the garden back in late January as a Muntjac crossed once in front of me then behind me. Always nice to see them up close, head down and tail up. Around the same time I drove past a female Muntjac on the verge with its fawn near Oakley Wood. They can breed throughout the year. They both stood feeding near the edge of the road. Hair raising Green Cross Code lesson going on there as cars drove past them.

By mid-February I heard my first Chaffinch with its happy bouncing song right on cue. Then within days, my favourite, the Blackbird, definitely the Ella Fitzgerald of birdsong. This means the door to Spring is creeping open. Roll on the first of March!





Tuesday 14th March 7:30pm

**Please join the Friends of Oakley Wood and the
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust at the**

**Barford Memorial Hall
Church Street, CV35 8EN**

**for a glass of wine and a catch-up on the
latest news from the woods**

including a presentation by Karl Curtis
Director of Nature Reserves Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

“Wildlife Gardening”

All welcome oakleywood.org.uk

A short AGM will be incorporated into the evening

Poetry please

Spring by William Blake

Sound the flute!
Now it's mute!
Birds delight,
Day and night,
Nightingale,
In the dale,
Lark in sky, -
Merrily,
Merrily, merrily to welcome in the
year.

Little boy,
Full of joy;
Little girl,
Sweet and small;
Cock does crow,
So do you;
Merry voice,
Infant noise;
Merrily, merrily to welcome in the
year.

Little lamb,
Here I am;
Come and lick
My white neck;
Let me pull
Your soft wool;
Let me kiss
Your soft face;
Merrily, merrily we welcome in the
year.

St Chad's Cafe

The café will open to
lovers of tea and cakes
every Thursday from
10.15 to 11.45 a.m.

£2 for a drink and
cake.



**Please note the café won't open on
Thursday 9th March.**

As a youngster I always looked forward to Sunday lunchtimes. As well as the mouth-watering wafts of roasting and the simple pleasure of podding freshly picked peas from the garden, I loved listening to the radio programme, Beyond our Ken. The highlight was the character, Arthur Fallowfield, the resident gardening expert, played by Kenneth Williams. Whatever the question put to him, the answer was always, “the answer lies in the soil”. The Bishop’s Tachbrook Working Party has recently put this to the test.

Early on a cold February Saturday morning, the doughty team comprising, Paul, two Paters, Chris, Keith and Martin met behind the storage shed next to the entrance to the allotment. This was the start of the big mission to plant lots of trees on green spaces around the village. Apart from looking great, trees are wonderful at taking polluting carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Tree planting is part of Tachbrook Residents Action on Climate Change whose recent activity also includes rewilding around the perimeter of the Meadow.

Unlike seeing an important dignitary such as the Mayor or more exalted personage like a member of the royal family go through the motions with a silver spade lifting a sod of earth to plant a tree, our team of workers dug painstakingly and got on their knees to remove all the weeds to prepare each plot for planting nine fruit trees. It will be the first public orchard in BT with two more planned for ground at Beale Close and the other on an area off Mallory Road. In addition there will be a range of deciduous trees selected by type to suit specific green spaces around the Village. The first two oaks have been planted on St Chad’s Green, one of which is to commemorate the upcoming coronation of King Charles. Mrs J Finch a committee member of BT Women’s Institute has kindly offered on behalf of the WI to look after the Coronation oak.

The tree planting programme is quite extensive and all the saplings will require aftercare in the form of watering in the early months to ensure they get properly established. This is by way of an appeal for residents to help look after a newly planted tree near where they live. You will be contributing to a very worthwhile project. Trees make a special difference, softening streetscapes and help us connect



with the majestic beauty of the natural world. Trees lift the spirit, keep us healthy

with each other and provide a lasting legacy for generations to come.

As with all gardening, the answer lies in the soil but it takes elbow grease to help make things grow and ensure everyone will enjoy the fruits of our labour, quite literally when it comes to the orchard.

If you are interested in adopting a new tree near you to look after or want to join Bishops Tachbrook Action on Climate Change (TRACC), contact Martin Drew at: martin@bishopstachbrook.com



Thanks to Paul, the wondrous Petes, Chris and Martin for helping out on Saturday 25th February.

Poetry please

Lines Written in Early Spring by William Wordsworth

I heard a thousand blended
notes,
While in a grove I sate re-
clined,
In that sweet mood when
pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the
mind.



To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure:-
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

History Group

By Ian Morley

Suffrage Stories: Warwickshire Women and the Fight to Gain the Vote ***Professor Sarah Richardson, Department of History, University of Warwick***

Professor Richardson stated that she intended to highlight the role of Warwickshire women in the suffrage movement and to place their contribution in a national context. Two aspects of the national context were particularly important.

The first concerned the attitudes of the political party in power and those of their main opposition. We are talking, I think, about a period from about 1897 until about 1928, the date of the Equal Franchise Act. Professor Richardson pointed out that there was essentially a two-party system, with the Liberal Party in power and the Conservative Party in opposition. The Labour Party was formed in 1900 and had limited influence until after the first world war. Most Liberals were in favour of female suffrage, except for the Cabinet, and most Conservatives were against it. Herbert Asquith, the Prime Minister, was against women's suffrage because he thought if women were given the vote most of them would vote Conservative. Certainly, most held very anti-Liberal sentiments.

The second was that there were many organised movements in favour of votes for women not just one - led by Emmeline Pankhurst - as I, and many others, had supposed. In reality there were four main organisations, each with their own ideas of how best to promote the cause. Their ends were very similar but the means chosen were very different. They were, in descending order of size (defined by numbers of Branches):

- NUWSS: The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (note the plural), founded in London in 1897, and led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett. It brought together people who were committed to operate within the law, by presenting petitions, lobbying influential people, displaying posters, mounting peaceful demonstrations, and the like. The Secretary of the Coventry Branch lived in Leam Terrace in Leamington Spa.

- WSPU: The Women's Social and Political Union founded in Manchester in 1903, by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters. Not only was the WSPU more vocal than the NUWSS but they began a campaign of violent action designed to shock and thereby gain publicity. Members would 'throw stones, light fires, use bombs, and chain themselves to railings'. There is now a blue plaque erected by the Birmingham Civic Society commemorating Bertha Ryland who slashed a painting at the Birmingham Art Gallery in support of votes for women.
- WFL: The Women's Freedom League was founded in 1907 by members of the WSPU who rejected Emmeline Pankhurst's use of violence and rebelled against her increasingly autocratic leadership.
- CUWFA: The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, founded in 1908 and an offshoot of the NUWSS. As its name suggests, members had to belong to the Conservative and Unionist Party, Lady Willoughby de Broke, who lived at Compton Verney, became President of the Birmingham Branch in 1911. Frances Donisthorpe, a near neighbour, was Secretary of the Wellesbourne Branch of the CUWFA and there were Sub-Branches at Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth and Rugby. Lady Willoughby and Frances Donisthorpe were very active arranging garden parties, and peaceful protest very much as advocated by the NUWSS. The CUWFA was much the most influential suffrage organisation in South Warwickshire.

Professor Richardson took pains to point out that the women who joined these organisations came from diverse backgrounds, spanning a wide range of occupations, social classes, ethnic groups, and drawing members into Branches formed across the whole of the UK. However, the leaders of the organisations seemed very much upper or upper middle class, at least to me.

Until 1832 if you did not own land you could not vote in Parliamentary elections, and if you were a woman you could not vote at all. The Reform Act of 1832 extended the franchise for men, but gave no franchise to women. The first organised campaign to give women the vote began in Sheffield, resulting in a petition presented to Parliament in 1866 by the philosopher John Stuart Mill. The petition was signed by about 1500 people, including 10 women from Coventry. Like many petitions that followed it had little or no effect.

Apparently, 'nothing much happened' between 1868 and 1903, but 1911 seems to have been a pivotal year for the suffrage movement, both locally and nationally.

- Members of the CUFWA took part in a march through Stratford, led by a marching band, in support of a Conciliation Bill, designed to extend the franchise to some women who were wealthy and owned property. The Royal Shakespeare Company put on a performance of 'The Taming of the Shrew' in support.
- Laura Ainsworth, a member of the WSPU was the first suffragette to be imprisoned and force fed, following a demonstration in which she, and two others, threw tiles from the roof of Bingley Hall in Birmingham, where the Prime Minister (Herbert Asquith) was giving a speech (to an audience that excluded women). The details of the force feeding are horrific, and she subsequently took legal action against the Governor of Winston Green Prison and against the Prison Doctor. She claimed that she had been assaulted, and the judge agreed, but ruled that the assault was legal, because its intention was to save life.
- Emmeline Pankhurst called on women to boycott the 1911 Census, either by refusing to complete the return, or by not being at home on the crucial date. There were many creative responses, which Professor Richardson illustrated. Some women gave their occupation as suffragette, and some spoiled the form by entering suffragette slogans.

Mary Leigh was also on the roof at Bingley Hall, and was also imprisoned and force-fed. Perhaps, because of this she threw a hatchet at Herbert Asquith when he was attending a performance at The Theatre Royal, Dublin. She missed and hit someone else. She also helped to set fire to the building.

Most suffrage movements stopped their activities on the outbreak of the first world war, although the NUWSS continued some peaceful protest. In 1918 Parliament voted by a very small majority to give the franchise to women over 30 which meant that 'the vast majority of women who contributed during the war would still not be able to vote' (Sarah Richardson, Five things about Women and the Vote, <http://Warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/knowledgecentre/arts/history/women-vote/>). In the same year an Act was passed allowing women to be elected to Parliament.



CUWFA marching through Stratford in 1911

Many women thought that they had achieved 'broadly what they wanted' and 'mostly the movement faded' after the war. Nevertheless, whenever women had the chance most of them voted against the Liberal Party who 'held them at arm's length for so many years'. Their votes allowed the Labour Party to form a minority Government in 1924, and the Conservative Party who replaced them brought in The Equal Franchise Act in 1928, giving the vote to men and women over the age of 21.

Professor Richardson's talk was thought provoking and was an education for us all. We are grateful. If you would like to see something of what you missed you may like to log on to the following YouTube videos presented by Sarah Richardson. The first is 'Film 32: Amazing Women: Mapping Suffrage'. The second is 'Mapping Women's Suffrage and Me: Researching Your Suffrage History'. Otherwise, type 'Warwickshire Women and the Fight for the Vote' into the search engine of your choice. Personally, I found Professor Richardson's 'Five things about Women and the Vote' particularly easy to read and very informative.

WI

By Anne Allen

Great fun was had at the start of last month's meeting. All our ladies had been asked to arrive a little early to welcome our special guest Mrs Doreen Lowe who was greeted with cheers and applause when she arrived. Doreen has been a member for approximately 73 years joining WI at 17. (and she's only 21 now). She is now unable to come along to meetings but is still a very supportive member. We had organised a certificate, or as I called it her " long service "award celebrating this and Mrs Jeryl Stone, the National Honorary Treasurer, agreed to come along and present this.

Over the years Doreen has been President, Secretary and Treasurer, appeared in countless pantomimes, been an unloved fairy at 40 and generally WI through and through. To finish her visit Doreen sang us " Me and My Girl " . This was the first song she had sung solo for a WI event. It was lovely to see her and everyone enjoyed chatting to her.

Our speaker for the evening was Ms Sue Moore who took us Behind the Scenes at the Loft Theatre. Sue was an excellent speaker helping us to understand the work involved in putting on a performance. She is now Artistic Director having directed 12 productions herself. The Loft does a monthly production with a 10 day run. Each production starts with a meeting of the directors who decide on a play, then after checking that performing rights are available auditions take place and 6 weeks of rehearsals begin. All of this has resulted in a party of us going behind the scenes and then to see production of The Winterling. Next month we're off to see "Our House " at the Spa Centre.

Bishop's Tachbrook is known for its love of food and drink. Whilst I appreciate the wine group needs to pull its socks up our supper club seems to be thriving. Alternate months we find somewhere different to go and eat . Seems like a good idea to me.

We are hoping to hold our annual cake stall on 20th May. Unfortunately someone decided to hold his coronation on the day we had planned! Most inconsiderate. Do pencil the date in your diaries and there is plenty of time to practice your

baking find a FEW books and jigsaws.

The Federation are putting on numerous events for us to enjoy. These include Serious Science lectures on Bats, A Unique Evolution, Vicious Vegetables and Ferocious Fruits and Artefacts of Invention, Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace. The craft classes include Willow Weaving, English Paper Piece Patchwork, Cold Mosaic Workshop. There are numerous poetry events a Campaign Roadshow on Autism and ADHD in Women and Girls and an Evening with the Women's Land Army. As you can see there is plenty to keep us occupied and all these events are open to members and occasionally friends.

In March our speaker is going to help us shake off the winter blues with an evening of line dancing so come along and give it a try. Hats and embroidered boots are optional. In April we are being visited by House of Colour who will be giving us advice on what colours to wear or not to wear. The May meeting is just before the Coronation so apart from being visited by Napton Cider I'm sure the meeting will have a party feel.

You are welcome to join us at any meeting just come along or give me a ring if you want to know a bit more about WI.

Anne Allen 424135. or 07929356701





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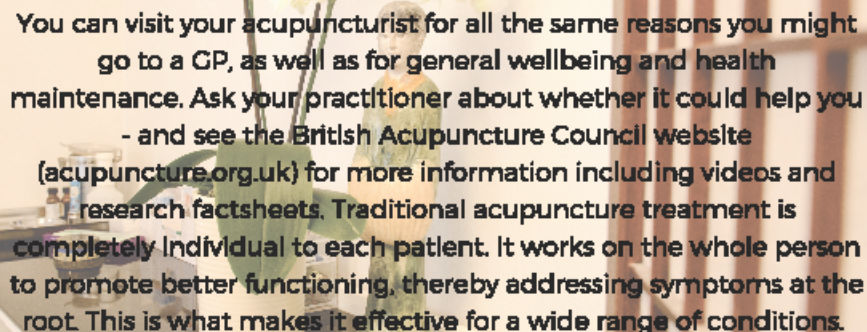
**Contact our intern
practitioner for more
information, costs and
booking:**

Our pre-qualifying intern practitioners are in the last six months of the third year of their honours degree level training and have received permission to practice under indirect supervision. This means their treatment records are subject to scrutiny by supervisors who are fully qualified members of the British Acupuncture Council. They are fully insured, and their course is accredited by the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB.co.uk), covering acupuncture theory, clinical skills, point location, conventional medical sciences, research and professional development.

Appointments on Tuesdays at the Acupuncture Academy, central Leamington Spa.
Email (preferred): acupuncturestudent17@gmail.com for bookings, prices or just to find out more.

If you are not online, leave a message on 07811 872911 and I will call you back.

What can acupuncture do for me?



You can visit your acupuncturist for all the same reasons you might go to a GP, as well as for general wellbeing and health maintenance. Ask your practitioner about whether it could help you - and see the British Acupuncture Council website (acupuncture.org.uk) for more information including videos and research factsheets. Traditional acupuncture treatment is completely individual to each patient. It works on the whole person to promote better functioning, thereby addressing symptoms at the root. This is what makes it effective for a wide range of conditions.

Data gathered from over 260 previous patients of our Intern practitioners shows that they attended for diverse reasons, from emotional or mental health symptoms to digestive symptoms, musculoskeletal pain, menopause, reproductive health and skin conditions. Half of the patients had been suffering with their main complaint for over five years. 91% of patients reported a meaningful improvement after just five treatments, and over 20% had reduced or stopped medication (in conjunction with GP advice).

What happens when I go for treatment?

During your treatment, your practitioner will use a range of diagnostic methods (including taking a full medical history and reading your pulses) to design your individual treatment plan.

How does it feel? Is it safe?

Acupuncture is safe for all ages. The risk of adverse events is extremely low. Acupuncture needles are very fine - about the width of two human hairs, and sensations can range from a mild tingling to a dull ache on insertion.

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CONTACTS

For editorial issues contact Keith on: BTparishmagazine@hotmail.com

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