

# PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 7. September 2023 [www.bishopstachbrook.com](http://www.bishopstachbrook.com)

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



Open Day: 17th September

12:00 – 4.00pm

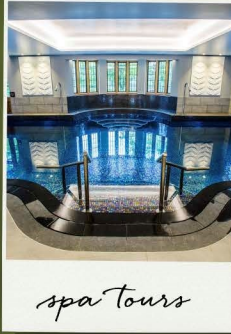
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# What's in this month's magazine

Hello and welcome to the September issue of the Parish Magazine as usual featuring some really interesting articles, great poems from our Poet Laurette and updates on what's been going on around our great parish.

On pages 20 - 22 there's a fascinating article from the History Group on popular music from the 1860s to the 1960s. If you want to know what a 'macaronic' song is it's a must read.

Warwickshire County Council is currently asking local people to give feedback on the proposals for improved walking and cycling routes along Harbury Lane. As part of this local engagement, they are organising an 'Active Travel' event at the Lower Heathcote Co-Op on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September between 2.30pm and 4.30pm, where people can drop in and talk to council staff about the plans. We'll also have a bike mechanic who can do 'Dr Bike' free safety checks and staff who can security mark bikes, see page 11.

If you want to know what your Parish Councillors have been up to, click through to page 8 where you can catch up with issues ranging from speed limits to local policing.

There's a thought provoking piece from Martin Drew titled, 'Power of the Sun' which, amongst other things, looks at how to make our houses more energy efficient.

The poems from our Poet Laurette, Simon Armitage, are entitled The Vision and Give, well worth a read if you're into thoughtful poetry.

Reverend Jonathan's piece concentrates on harvest and there's dates for harvest celebrations. If you fancy growing your own food there are allotments available. For both see pages 4 to 7.

I hope you have a very good read.



# A message from the vicar

Revd. Jonathan Smith



**But the fruits of the Spirit produce love, joy, peace, patience kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. Galatians 5. 22-23.**

After such a wet summer it has been lovely to have a few brighter days just recently to collect some garden produce. We've had a '*veg-off*' amongst us at home and at St Chad's recently - I wonder how any of you gardeners have done? Interestingly, the apples don't seem to have done so well this year so those with apple juice and cider ambitions will have to wait!

Drink it all in as soon the nights draw in, and the crisper air will turn leaves golden and flame red. It all means only one thing: Harvest Festival will soon be upon us! A cherished tradition of the Church that has stood the test of time, Harvest Festival is a time for communities to come together, reflect on the abundance of nature, and give thanks for the gifts of the earth.

The Harvest Festival, also known as the Harvest Home or the Autumn Festival, is a time when farmers and gardeners reap the rewards of their hard work throughout

the year. Crops have been sown, nurtured, and finally gathered in preparation for the winter ahead. This season of the year sees the culmination of nature's cycle, a reflection of the interconnectedness between the earth, its seasons, and humanity.

At the heart of the Harvest Festival is an attitude of gratitude to God. Gratitude for the rich soil that supports growth, for the sun that warms the earth, and for the rain that nourishes the plants. Yes, we recognise the farmers' graft that goes into producing the food that sustains us, but this sense of thankfulness is not limited to the agriculture alone; it extends to all the blessings and abundance that life brings. Life given to us by a generous and bounteous God. Harvest in Church can be summed up with two themes.

### **Community and Togetherness**

Harvest Festival is not merely a celebration of nature's bounty, but also a celebration of community. It's a time when people come together to share their gifts and to support one another. From the youngest members of the community presenting their handcrafted decorations to the elders sharing stories of harvests past, the festival strengthens the bonds that tie us all together.

### **Traditions and Customs**

Everywhere communities seem to add their unique touch to the Harvest Festival. From colourful parades to lively fairs, from feasts showcasing local produce to parties of communal singing and dancing, each tradition reflects the spirit and culture of the people. One constant, however, is the act of bringing a "Harvest Supper" or a collection of goods to the local church or community centre. Donations that can then be distributed to those less fortunate, to local foodbanks and night shelters reminding us of the importance of sharing the blessings we have with others.

A recent tradition at St Chad's has been to welcome the school children during term-time to enjoy experiences inside our church on the hill. This Autumn our kind volunteers will be helping them to understand the significance of nature's cycles and how the Spirit of God produces growth in character within us, revealed in what the Bibles calls the '**Fruits of the Spirit**'. Qualities that are evidence of the human flourishing made possible through co-operating with God. Our 'Harvest Experience' will explore some of those themes that St Paul identified in his letter to the Galatians. Patience, Peace, Joy, Humility, Generosity and Faithfulness. Against these there is no law.

As we gather again to celebrate Harvest Festival, let us take a moment to pause and reflect. In a world that moves at such a frantic pace, it's an opportunity to reconnect with nature, with each other, and with the rhythm of the seasons. It's a time to count our blessings, express gratitude, and extend a helping hand to those in need.

So whatever Harvest means to you, I encourage you to remember the essence: a time of abundance, gratitude, and community. Let us come together with open hearts and joyful spirits, celebrating the cycle of life and to a God who through every fruit of the earth that is within us, and that which sustains us.

Reverend Jonathan



# Dates for a harvest dairy

**1<sup>st</sup> October – Harvest Service** 10am all-age service with school children taking part.

**15<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Lunch** in the centre after the communion service in church.

## 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.



## Allotments

If you fancy harvesting your own home grown produce there are allotments in the village available please contact Corinne Hill Parish Clerk at:

[clerk@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:clerk@bishopstachbrook.com)



# Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

One thing I learned whilst travelling around the UK a bit over the summer holiday is that it's not just Bishop's Tachbrook that suffers from traffic and roadworks issues - the situation is country wide! I'm sure there's a grand plan somewhere, I just hope it includes solar powered hover-cars!

Our last Parish Council meeting was in July and it was busy as usual. Cllr. Carter has been trying to liaise with the developer responsible for the Garrett Drive/Vickers Way development, to work towards a solution to the road safety concerns expressed by residents and the school. He has drawn up a scheme which incorporates a mini roundabout, give way signs and road markings. These roads are due to be adopted by the County Council but until that happens they are owned by the developer. We will continue to pursue this issue with the developer and the County Council and we will keep you updated.

County Cllr. Jan Matecki has said he will be arranging a meeting for Cllr. Carter with County Council highway officers to look at reducing the speed limit on Harbury Lane and Oakley Wood Road. With 3 schools and 2 nurseries to be sited in close proximity the Parish Council believes the speed limit should be reduced; the rationale we are given by the Highways team for maintaining the speed limit as it is e.g. rural setting, police enforcement issues etc. don't make sense.

Cllr. Carter is also looking at a vehicle activated junction warning system for the Banbury Road/Mallory Road junction. This warning system senses if there are cars waiting to turn out of Mallory Road. The sign lights up to let cars travelling along Banbury Road know that cars are turning (there's a good example of this on the Fosse Way towards Moreton on Marsh). County Cllr. Matecki is aware of this idea and it will be on the agenda when Cllr. Carter meets with officers. If this system is successful it could be looked at for the Oakley Wood Road/Banbury Road junction as well. We are aware of a recent petition by residents in respect of making these junctions safer - the Parish Council strongly supports improvements here!

The Memorandum of Understanding with Warwick District Council for transferring the Freehold of the Country Park to the Parish Council has been signed. Once the



Parish Council has ownership they will then enter into a lease agreement with the District Council who will maintain it. The value of this agreement should not be underestimated; the best way to protect green space within our Parish is to ensure that we have the absolute title to it.

Cllr. Deely has met with Severn Trent to discuss their forthcoming planning application for works to improve pumping stations and widen pipes to ensure that the village doesn't flood. They aren't in a position yet to show the parish the plans but hope to be able to later this year with work planned for the middle of 2024.

Cllr. Guest has been busy working with our consultants on finalising the tender document for the car park on the Meadow. This is now out for tender, if any company is interested it can be found on the contract finders website. This is the site the Parish Council must now use for contracts over £25,000. Deadline for tenders is 5pm on Wednesday, 13th September.

The height restrictor to the Meadow is now closed and will remain closed for the foreseeable future. The Police have requested this; if you see it open (and an authorised vehicle is not in the process of using it) please contact the Parish Clerk immediately.

Warwickshire County Council have now adopted the roads and verges on the Oakley Meadows Development. The District Council will be maintaining them on the County's behalf. The rest of the green spaces (apart from the allotments) are still in the ownership of the management company. The County Council, District Council and management company have been made aware of the Ragwort growing on this land. The District Council has confirmed that in the next growing season (April-October) the verges will receive 10 cuts. The District Council have informed us that they will not remove the cuttings from the verges.

Once the Oakley Meadows allotments have been strimmed they will be ready to be rented. If you wish to rent a plot please email the clerk. A new Allotment Tenancy Agreement will be sent to existing allotment holders later this year; we need to standardise the agreements across all allotments within the control of the Parish Council.

The cutting of the vegetation on the Oakley Wood Road cycleway/footway seems to have been a challenge this year; it has finally been done (I'm not massively impressed with the quality if I'm being honest); we are liaising with the County Council to try to ensure that it is cut back at least three times a year, before it gets overgrown and to a reasonable standard.

Parking continues to be an issue within the parish. We understand the County Council will be writing to residents on Millway Drive who currently park in numbered spaces.

Once the new term commences (and the building works are complete), we hope that parents who drive their children to and from Bishop's Tachbrook Primary School will use the Oakley Meadows entrance. This entrance has parking spaces that were built to accommodate parents who are unable to walk their children to and from school.

The clerk and one councillor met with the Warwick Rural West neighbourhood police to meet officers and to raise any concerns. We hope a similar meeting will be arranged by the Warwick Central Area. Our parish is covered by two safer neighbourhood policing units; Warwick Rural West and Warwick Central. We all need to work together to keep our community safe and crime free; please contact the Parish Council if you have any issues you wish to be brought up or you wish us to be made aware of.

The Parish Council financial accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 have been closed by the external auditor. Copies of the accounts and reports are on the website.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 14th September at 7.30pm at St. Chad's Centre. Residents are welcome to attend.

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14:30 - 16:30



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Warwickshire  
County Council



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## Power of the Sun

Since time immemorial, people all over the world have been in awe of the sun. Worshipped and venerated, the sun bestows light and life to the totality of the cosmos. Plants need sunlight to grow. Animals, including humans, need plants for food and the oxygen they produce. Without heat from the sun, Earth would freeze.

Yet humans are doing their best to destroy the delicate balance that has evolved to make our existence possible. Destruction caused by pollution from burning fossil fuels, manufacturing processes and methane from livestock rearing is happening so fast the point of no return is ominously close. Every day there are reports of flash floods, unbearable record-breaking temperatures and rampaging fires around the world. Unless everyone takes drastic action now, the world is going to miss the totemic target of limiting global warming to 1.5c and zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

Although most western countries have reduced emissions, China and India continue to build more and more coal-fired power stations. Their argument is that the West was the first to develop industrially and contributed the most pollution





that traps the sun's heat. Now China has become the world's manufacturer of goods consumed by the West, we have simply exported our pollution.

Nevertheless we individually can mitigate our carbon footprint by changing our lifestyles, insulating homes and by installing sustainable energy generation. After many months deliberating we took the decision to install solar panels together with battery storage. As well as providing free power for the house, it fuels our electric vehicle via a programmable charger. Best of all it helps reduce carbon emissions.

Admittedly the system is costly to set up and it will take a number of years to recover the outlay. At present we will receive 15 pence per Kwh for excess electricity exported back to the grid. Hopefully the Government will launch a new version of the Green Homes Grant scheme to help those on lower incomes install energy saving improvements.

Back in 2008 the government directed that all new homes built after 2016 should be as carbon zero as possible. However this was rescinded and removed from the building regulations in 2016. Take a look at all the new homes built in the Parish since then and you will see very few solar panels. This is a tremendous lost opportunity, as all these new homes will need energy efficient retro-fitment in the coming years.

On a more cheerful note, here in Bishop's Tachbrook, thanks to a substantial grant of £56000 from a company installing 2 solar farms near the Fosse Way, our Primary School will have a significant installation of solar panels. In addition the Bullen Building next to the allotments is about to be fitted with solar panels, interior lighting and a power point for charging electric hand tools. This is great news, as it will provide an excellent venue for running the proposed BT repair shop.

And it's all down to power from the sun.

Please contact me if you are interested in help run a BT repair shop.  
[martin@bishopstachbrook.com](mailto:martin@bishopstachbrook.com)

## Poetry please

**A vision** by Simon Armitage

*This 2006 poem depicts the contrast between our idealistic hopes and plans for the future and the somewhat less perfect reality, which often falls short of our expectations. Specifically, Simon Armitage uses the example of town planning and the ways in which the reality of the town, once built, failed to live up to the perfection embodied by the miniature model of the new town.*

The future was a beautiful place, once.  
Remember the full-blown balsa-wood town  
on public display in the Civic Hall.  
The ring-bound sketches, artists' impressions,

blueprints of smoked glass and tubular steel,  
board-game suburbs, modes of transportation  
like fairground rides or executive toys.  
Cities like dreams, cantilevered by light.

And people like us at the bottle-bank  
next to the cycle-path, or dog-walking  
over tended strips of fuzzy-felt grass,  
or model drivers, motoring home in

electric cars, or after the late show -  
strolling the boulevard. They were the plans,  
all underwritten in the neat left-hand  
of architects – a true, legible script.

I pulled that future out of the north wind  
at the landfill site, stamped with today's date,  
riding the air with other such futures,  
all unlived in and now fully extinct.

## Poetry please

**Give** by Simon Armitage

This is a remarkably simple poem, spoken by a homeless person sleeping in a doorway and asking for some compassion from a stranger. Armitage exploits the potential of the simple word, 'change' – to carry multiple connotations, suggesting not only loose money but also social change.

Of all the public places, dear  
to make a scene, I've chosen here.

Of all the doorways in the world  
to choose to sleep, I've chosen yours.  
I'm on the street, under the stars.

For coppers I can dance or sing.  
For silver-swallow swords, eat fire.  
For gold-escape from locks and chains.

It's not as if I'm holding out  
for frankincense or myrrh, just change.

You give me tea. That's big of you.  
I'm on my knees. I beg of you.

# WI

By Anne Allen

Two months in the life of a WI member is packed full of fun and laughter. We've had speakers, meals out, attended county events, supported a members Tea and Cake for Breast Cancer, drunk an awful lot of Pimms, kicked off the County Chairman's Challenge and planned the Christmas meeting .

Our speakers in July were Sarah and Tracy from W.G.Rathbone who are undertakers in Leamington. The girls told us about their work and the respect that is shown to all families. We were then given a brief questionnaire to fill in, which we then discussed point by point. I don't think I have ever heard so many questions and comments. An odd subject but I think a lot of worries were dispelled.

In August Rebecca, a former Bishops Tachbrook pupil, came to tell us about her journey from pupil to paramedic via university. She explained about her job with the average call outs being 6 in a 12 hour shift but possibly travelling 200 miles to do this. Also included is the waiting time outside A&E with patients. Rebecca then showed us some basic first aid and told us we would never be told off for doing first aid, better to try than not. We were told should we ever need to use a defibrillator the machine would tell us what to do ( as I saw in a tv program recently) When you ring the emergency services they will tell you where your nearest one is. The biggest problem being a female paramedic is the uniform. It is designed for a man and the women have to manage! Rebecca created lots of chatter through and after the meeting so enjoyed by all.

On a very wet night, five of us attended the Annual Federation Meeting at the Spa Centre. It was an excellent evening meeting but sadly the hall wasn't full. The first guest speaker was James Squire from Warwickshire Police talking about cybersecurity. Frightening as to how skilled the criminals are. What stuck in my mind was if you see a hair on your screen always be careful dusting it away because it may be false and you end up connected to those who will steal your information. The second speaker was Nick Bailey advising us on how to get colour in the garden all year round. For me it was great, a chance to catch up with old friends from around the county. We unfortunately didn't win the Lane Cup with



our postbox topper. We had 24 out of 25 points but as 4 WIs had 25 points they were then re judged. We were there and listening to conversations our topper was much admired. A party also went on the enjoyable Big Day Out to Cambridge .

The July meal was to the Giggling Squid in Leamington. I was away but understand the food was good but service and seating was not too great. Perhaps a party of 15+ terrified them. Next month could be Indian again it's yet to be decided.

I eventually managed to find a dry evening for what was supposed to be a Pimms and Pull a Weed evening . I relented and set the croquet out instead. 14 of us managed to drink over 2 litre bottles of Pimms. Crisps and snacks of various types were available but I made a snap decision and started the Chairman's Challenge by supplying hot dogs at a small extra charge. This challenge saw all Warwickshire WIs being given £10 to make it grow and monies being split between us and county.

Before Christmas gets here we are hosting the Group Meeting in September. The speaker is Paulus the Cabaret Geek with his own take on Victoria Wood. Do Google him, he's brilliant. If you would like to come and join us please contact me for tickets. £5.

Yes Christmas is somewhere on the horizon. We are again using the Village Chippy but hopefully will have in-house entertainment. Again you will need to call me if you want to come along.

One of our ladies took on the challenge of organising tea and cakes for Breast Cancer Awareness. A big thank you to all who supported her by either baking or coming along on the afternoon and an amazing £380 has been raised so far. I even took the bra box for old bras for recycling and came home with it over half full. I'll be taking a trip to deposit them at Bravissimo for recycling soon.

In September we are having another games evening after the success of last year's. Indoor curling, giant jenga and connect 4, plus card games etc. Promises to be a noisy night. You are most welcome to come along and meet us all at what

will be a very informal meeting.

It's been lovely to welcome so many more new faces and young ones too. Please think about joining us. WI is for everyone not just old fuddy duddies who wear twinset and pearls and make jam all day ( don't get me on making jam) We have a very mixed crowd of ladies who as I said before know how to have fun and laugh. Please give me a ring or text if you want to know more about the WI and what is involved.

Anne Allen. 424135. or 07929356701







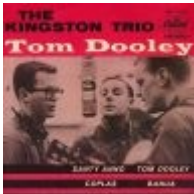
# History Group

By Ian Morley

## **'A Century of Popular Songs: 1860s - 1960s.'**

The History Group welcomed Dr. Richard Churchley to the St. Chad's Centre (2.30 pm 11th July 2023) to hear him introduce and sing seventeen popular songs, providing his own accompaniment on piano accordion and harmonica. The songs will be very familiar to those of you of a certain age (as they were to all of the members of the History Group). They each have lyrics that are well known (especially the chorus). They are easy to remember and, if you are a musician, to play by ear, with melodies and lyrics chosen to remind us of the joys of community singing. The audience joined in with gusto and enjoyed the experience immensely. They also enjoyed the comments Dr. Churchley made by way of introduction to each song. Many of the songs appear regularly in lists of 'Songs of the Century'.

1. The first song was the ballad of 'Tom Dooley'. As sung by the Kingston Trio it is often credited with kick-starting the 'boom' run folk music in the late nineteen fifties and early sixties. According to Dr. Churchley the song was written in 1868, perhaps by Tom Dula after he confessed to a murder in North Carolina. Versions of the song circulated locally for ninety years, and the name 'Dula' morphed into 'Dooley'. The song is written from his point of view so Tom Dooley is really Tom Dula singing a song about himself.



2. In contrast, the second song 'My Grandfather's Clock', written in 1876, was an instant hit. Because of it longcase clocks became known informally as 'grandfather' clocks. The song was written by Henry Clay Work, who also wrote 'Marching Through Georgia.'
3. 'Two lovely black eyes' was written in 1886. The chorus goes: 'Two lovely black eyes, two lovely black eyes; All for telling a man he was wrong; Two lovely black eyes.' Most of us know the chorus very well. Fewer of us know that the singer had his eyes blacked twice, once by a supporter of the Conservative Party and once by a Liberal. No doubt similar things happened in the debates about Brexit!



4. 'Daisy Bell (A Bicycle Built for Two)', was written in 1892, and is well known as a Music Hall song. Apparently, the name 'Daisy' was chosen because the song was inspired by Daisy Greville, Countess of Warwick, one of the (many) mistresses of Edward VII. Part of the full lyrics read:

*When the road's dark we can both despise Policeman and 'lamps' as well;  
There are 'bright lights' in the dazzling eyes of beautiful Daisy Bell.*

It seems that a concern with Health and Safety started as early as 1892 (hence the reference to lamps), and has been with us ever since, still sometimes 'despised' .

5. According to Dr. Churchley 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' was written by a team from Tin Pan Alley, a collection of songwriters and music publishers based in New York. The ensemble included Irving Berlin and most people assume that he alone wrote the song. Personally, I remember the song for mangling the English language with the phrase 'the bestest band that am,' but as we know, America and England are divided by a common language!
6. 'Hanging on the Old Barbed Wire' is a protest song written during World War I, and a version of it appeared in the film 'Oh What A Lovely War'.
7. 'Dinah' was one of the first songs recorded by Louis Armstrong, and was also a big hit for Bing Crosby. Apparently, Dinah Shore took her stage name from the song.
8. 'You are my Sunshine' was written and recorded in 1939 and it has been named as one of the Songs of the Century by the Recording Industry Association of America.
9. 'Narcissus' was a very well known piece of piano music in World War II, and many kinds of lyrics have been put to it, including some by RAF pilots. Dr. Churchley conducted the audience in a three part version of 'She died, she did, she died of a broken leg, she did', which the audience enjoyed greatly. Joyce Grenfell and Norman Wisdom released a version known as 'Narcissus (The Laughing Song)' in 1952.

10. 'Oh What a Beautiful Morning' (1943) was one of the many hit songs from 'Oklahoma', the first collaboration between Richard Rogers (who wrote the music) and Oscar Hammerstein (who wrote the lyrics).
11. 1956 seems to have been a seminal year for popular music. 'Uncle Mac' introduced the radio programme 'Children's Favourites' on Saturday mornings, and often included 'Nellie the Elephant' who 'packed her trunk...' a one-hit wonder for Mandy Miller.
12. Also in 1956, Doris Day sang 'Que Sera' in the Alfred Hitchcock film 'The Man Who Knew Too Much'. Dr. Churchley described it as a 'macaronic' song because it contained lyrics from two different languages.
13. 1956 was notable also for two versions of 'Singing the Blues', both reaching Number One in the Hit Parade, for Guy Mitchell in America and for Tommy Steele in the UK.
14. In 1957 'All Shook Up' was a US hit for Elvis Presley in 1957.

Each of these songs (12-14) remind me that many of the songs I thought were of the sixties actually appeared in the late fifties. The sixties were represented by the following three songs.

15. Lonnie Donegan's 1960 hit 'My Old Man's a Dustman' made its first appearance in the charts at number 1, and was the first recording to have this distinction.
16. 'Bachelor Boy' was a hit for Cliff Richard and the Shadows in 1963, and was written by one of the Shadows, Bruce Welch.
17. 'Yellow Submarine' was a 1966 hit for the Beatles, and featured Ringo Starr as lead vocalist. Dr. Churchley told us that at one of his own performances at an old people's home he had said the song must have been written when the Beatles were all on drugs. The response from one old lady was "That's all right, we're all on drugs too'.



We hope to welcome Dr. Churchley again. The next meeting is an outing to Bosworth Heritage and Country Park, including a guided walk for those who wish it. The outing will take place on Wednesday 13th September instead of Tuesday 12th.

### Could you give a home to a guide dog mum?

Sight Loss charity Guide Dogs has launched an appeal for volunteers who could give a loving home to one of their guide dog mums.

Volunteer 'Breeding Dog Holders' support the charity by providing homes for their guide dog mums and helping them when they have their litters of life-changing pups.

These special mums need regular walks, care, and company, like any other pet dog. Guide Dogs provide all the training and equipment required and covers all food and veterinary costs.

As long as the environment is right for them, guide dog mums can live with other animals and children too.

Guide dog litters are born in volunteers' homes, with 24-hour support from Guide Dogs' staff. At 6-8 weeks of age, puppies move to the charity's Centre, just outside Leamington Spa for health and temperament checks, before starting on their journey to become service dogs.

Breeding Dog Holders look after guide dog mums until they retire, at around six years of age. After this, they are given the option to keep the mum they have cared for as a pet dog.

Volunteers must be aged 18 or over and live within an hour's drive of the Guide Dogs National Centre, near Leamington Spa (CV33 9QJ).

**To find out more, contact Volunteering Coordinator Verity O'Donnell via [volunteermidlands@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:volunteermidlands@guidedogs.org.uk) or call 0800 781 1444. Find out more about Guide Dogs at [guidedogs.org.uk](http://guidedogs.org.uk)**



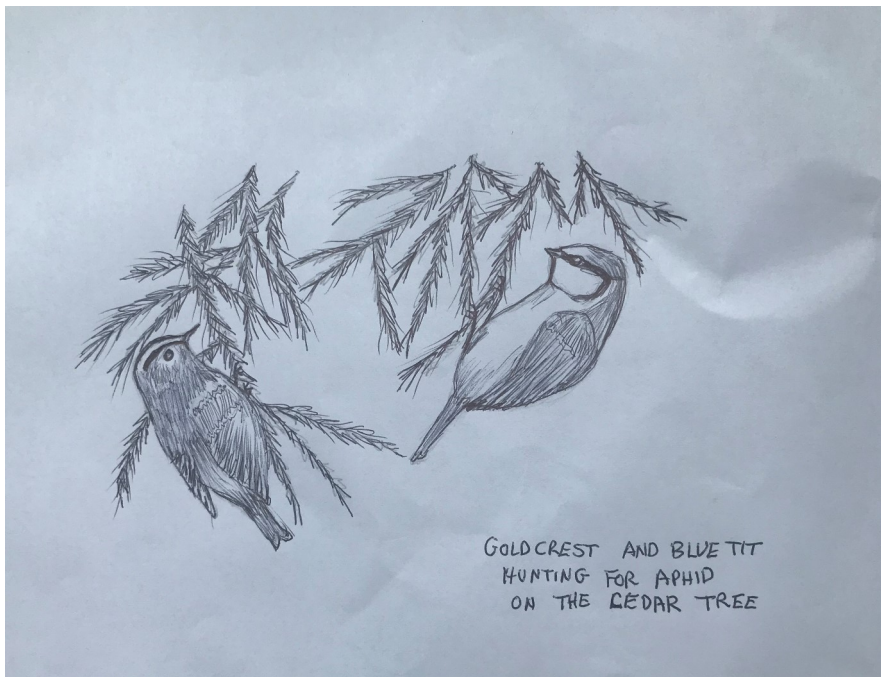
# Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

Whilst still having to spend a few hours a day laying on my back with my leg raised to help fluid drain at least I've been able to watch the activity in the magnificent Cedar tree up close. Being still for any length of time is against my nature. The pelvis is fine, by the way, the problem lay with a never-ending swollen foot and a damaged nerve due to surgery. That's what's hampering my recovery - frustrating isn't the word!

Meanwhile, the Cedar tree stands twice as high as the cottages and is wider than two of them. I wish I knew an expert who could give me an estimate of its age. This year its branch tips have put on at least six inches of lush green needles that, in turn, must have attracted aphid because they have attracted so many small birds to feast on them. Blue Tits, Great Tits, Coal Tits, Long-tailed Tits and Gold Crests have done their bit to rid the great tree of tiny pests.

Hope you noticed and enjoyed the July Butterfly bonanza. At least I managed to get outside in the garden for a hobble. The Buddleia drew in many a Red Admiral



or Red Admirables as they were once called, which I reckon fits them much better.. Peacock butterflies joined them. The large shrub daisies attracted Gate Keepers and Whites, while the masses of Lavender brought in tiny little Skipper butterflies; very pretty too. There were masses of Bumbles from early hours until dusk. Short lives and long hours. Up above the small wings the much larger wings of two Red Kites gave a fly passed - such agility in the air.

The two nests of the Blue Tits that fledged seem to be thriving. The parents quickly showing them the bird table hidden under the massive Magnolia tree. That must have been like taking the kids to the sweet aisle in ASDA (other Supermarkets are available). Soon after the youngsters were shown easily available food they were on their own. Having said that natural instincts are strong and tribes of young Blue Tits, in their pale pastel colours, were scouring that Cedar tree for Aphid so its not just the sweet shop. The bird table is heaving at the moment with uncountable numbers of young Blue Tit, Great Tit, the odd Coal Tit and Nuthatch. A small group of Greenfinch and later than the other fledglings, the young Goldfinches are here. Its a bit of a noisy flying circus outside the kitchen window. Interesting, outside the bedroom window, that an adult Blue Tit visited the nest box a couple of days after the big fledging and looked inside. Was that old habit die hard or just checking to see if anyone had been left behind?

During most of July the male Raven took up one of its lookout and proclaiming posts, this time in the blue Cedar near the end of the lane. Its hardly stopped proclaiming since using its catalogue of calls. I'm guessing its youngsters are pretty much self contained now, being looked after by Mum. They do hang around with their parents for a long time so Dad's securing his territory for the coming season. Best to plan ahead!

Back to the Cedar tree outside the cottage and its dusk. The young Owlets are calling to establish contact with each other and their parents. I missed them earlier in the year and worried they didn't breed this time. Not to worry, it sounds like two youngsters are already mobile enough to follow their parents into the parkland to hunt. I love the way they spend the day time, just like the previous generation, sleeping very close to the cottage.

## St Chad's Centre Schedule

Monday	Activity	Contact
10-11.30am	<p><b>St Chad's' Tinies</b></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><b>Martial Arts</b> Class. Over 12 years and adults</p>	Andy Shaw – <a href="mailto:andy@linkcube.co.uk">andy@linkcube.co.uk</a>
19.30-20.30	<p><b>Kettle Bell Class</b></p> <p>The classes provide a friendly &amp; encouraging high intensity interval training session.</p> <p>50 mins exercise and 10 mins recovery &amp; stretching.</p> <p>It's a great way to improve one's general fitness. 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>	Contact Bridget 07795226047



Tuesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	<p><b>ADVENTURE BABIES</b></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 <a href="http://www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry">www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</a> to secure your place or contact <a href="mailto:lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk">lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk">lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</a></p> <p>or visit:</p> <p><a href="http://www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry">www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</a></p>
Wednesday 13th September instead of Tuesday 12th.	<p><b>HISTORY GROUP</b></p> <p>Outing to Bosworth Heritage and Country Park, including a guided walk for those who wish it.</p>	<p>John Fletcher on 01926 426001 or <a href="mailto:johnfletcher@sky.com">johnfletcher@sky.com</a></p>

<p>16.30-19.00</p>	<p><b>ATOMIC DANCE</b></p> <p>Mini Freestyle and Acrobatic Arts</p> <p>4.30pm-5.15pm – Ages 4-7</p> <p>A combination of Freestyle Dance and Acrobatic Arts</p> <p>Junior Freestyle &amp; Acrobatic Arts 2</p> <p>5.15pm-6.15pm - Ages 7-12</p> <p>A combination of Freestyle Dance and Acrobatic Arts</p> <p>Junior – Lyrical/Street/Jazz</p> <p>6.15pm-7.00pm Ages 7-12</p> <p>A combination of Street and Jazz Techniques</p> <p>Please see website for more details</p>	<p>Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or <a href="mailto:ellie@atomicdance.co.uk">ellie@atomicdance.co.uk</a></p>
<p>19.00-20.00</p>	<p><b>YOGA</b></p> <p>Supporting Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>Please bring your own mat / block</p>	<p><a href="http://www.lifewithaman.daj.com">www.lifewithaman.daj.com</a></p>

Wednesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	<p><b>ADVENTURE BABIES</b></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 <a href="http://www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry">www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</a> to secure your place or contact <a href="mailto:lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk">lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk">lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk</a></p> <p>or visit:</p> <p><a href="http://www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry">www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry</a></p>
18.00-19.00	<p><b>YOGA</b></p> <p>Supporting Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> <p>Yoga classes with Amanda</p> <p>Specialising in yoga for beginners. Sedentary workers, and mums.</p> <p>Please bring your own mat / block</p>	<p><a href="http://www.lifewithamandaj.com">www.lifewithamandaj.com</a></p>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
19.15-20.00	<p><b>*New Class* - Zumba Glow with Beth</b></p> <p>We turn the lights down and the music and disco lights UP!                      Beginners welcome                      £7 cash or card                      Have fun getting fit with us.                      It's exercise in disguise</p>	<p>07966320536</p> <p>Facebook: dance yourself fit with Beth</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
10.15-11.45	<p><b>ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ</b></p> <p>Serving Drinks and Cake for you to enjoy</p>	<p>kateatkaribu22@outlook.com</p> <p>07713113464</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
10.00-12.00	<p><b>Tai Chi</b> - All Classes are for beginners but are suitable for anyone. First class is free, so no reason not to find if Tai Chi is right for "you"</p>	<p>Peter Fletcher                      07487 685679</p>
16.00-17.15	<p><b>Cook Stars</b></p> <p>Fun cooking classes, all ingredients included plus a craft activity &amp; recipe card to keep.</p> <p>Suitable for 2-11 year olds (under 5's will need to be accompanied by an adult)</p>	<p>Angela</p> <p>Call/text                      07477083778  <a href="mailto:angela@cookstars.co.uk">angela@cookstars.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Sundays</b></p> <p>18.15-20.00</p>	<p><b>St Chad's Youth Club</b></p>	<p>www.stChad'sbt.org</p>

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A warm, inviting scene featuring a large, speckled ceramic mug and a small black bowl, both filled with steaming liquid. Wisps of white steam rise from the surfaces, suggesting a hot beverage or soup. The items are set on a rustic, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or a woven placemat. In the background, a blurred arrangement of red flowers adds a touch of color and warmth to the composition. The overall atmosphere is cozy and comforting.

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#### CONTACTS

For **editorial** issues contact Keith on: [BTparishmagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:BTparishmagazine@hotmail.com)

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