


# PARISH MAGAZINE

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







A big thank you to all of this year's contributors from our talented photographers to our monthly stalwarts you make the magazine.

And of course thanks to the readers especially those who post nice things about the content, that is heartening.

Have a lovely Christmas and a successful 2024. The next magazine will be in February.

# What's in this month's magazine

Hello and welcome to the December Parish Magazine. It's packed with interesting ideas, essential local knowledge

Here's the list of content.

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# A message from the vicar

Revd. Jonathan Smith



***'The Shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen...'***

As the words of the first Christmas lend the lyrics to our favourite Christmas Carols, it's particularly in '*While Shepherds watched*' that we see that group of sheep herders astonished to find the night sky filled with angels singing Gods praise. And it wasn't long before they were singing as well, sharing their joy at what they had just witnessed.

Centuries later, singing is still central to how many of us celebrate Christmas. Around the country – and the world – young and old will shortly gather in churches, schools, and concert halls, on high streets, hospital wards and village greens, to hear and sing carols.

Singing with others does something incredibly special. Carols particularly foster a sense of community and connection and feeling of togetherness that we have missed so much over the last few years.

## A Physical Christmas workout!

The **Science** proves it is worthwhile.

Firstly, the mental engagement required of singing together with others stimulates mind and memory. Secondly, it provides a break from everyday worries and brings us into mindful reflective moments. Thirdly, it allows an expression of emotion, an outlet of self-expression and creativity and then slow rhythmic tunes can also trigger a relaxation of the body - feel the muscle tension reduce and sense calm. Did you know Carols could do all that?

## A Cultural Christmas workout!

Carols are a sheer joyful experience, but it doesn't end there! We have the **Cultural aspect** and as we connect with the historical traditions, so we connect and foster sense of identity and belonging to our home and place in BT. Associating with high days and holidays, singing will undoubtedly contribute to the overall festive atmosphere, and for me it makes the holiday spirit complete.

## A Spiritual Christmas workout!

For me the most important aspect of singing is the **Spiritual**. St Augustine recognized the power of music to influence emotions and behaviours. Augustine's *Da Musica* a monster heavyweight of a theology book series explores this and shows the importance of using music for the glory of God creating good moral and virtuous societies. It's about engaging body, mind, and spirit and singing itself brings a sense of alignment, promoting spiritual well-being and – well – just a good feeling. (The Muppets Christmas Carol does the same but is more accessible and arguably much more enjoyable!)

Singing deepens our connection to the spiritual aspects of life now more than ever. We must use our voices as one to bring reassurance in the face of today's challenges.

Sing out the hymns, carols and chants providing us comfort in times of difficulty and grief, and haven't we've seen far too much of this recently?

So, as we gather this Christmas at Church and on the Village Green, we will join in



that song made for the angels all those centuries ago. May we be drawn deeper into the wonder and truth of it all. The birth of Jesus, God becoming human and heaven embracing earth.

Watch out especially this year for the sparkly Bethlehem star on St Chads' tower north face and feel warmly invited to '***follow the star***' at the manger to '***join the song***'. Come into the presence of the Christ Child, and if not already, let it lead to a relationship that begins at Christmas but lasts into eternity.

A Christmas Prayer

***May we join in this song on earth as in heaven – and give us that peace on earth this Christmas time and goodwill towards all – for evermore and evermore.***

***Amen***

Rev Jonathan Smith



# St Chad's Christmas Programme

| Date in December | Event  | Time            |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| 3rd              | Christingle All Age  | 10 a.m.         |
| 3rd              | Craft fair in the St Chad's Centre<br><i>Stalls are available contact Fiona on 07506 581240</i>      | 11.30 a.m.      |
| 10th             | Communion  | 10 a.m.         |
| 10th             | 'Carols on the Green'  | 4 p.m.          |
| 11th             | St Chad's Tinies with Christmas Nativity Puppet Show<br><br><i>Show from 11 a.m.-11.30 a.m. Free</i> | 10.30-12.30 pm. |
| 17th             | Nativity Service<br><i>Including dressing up the crib with Sunday Club</i>                           | 10 am.          |
| 17th             | Carol by candlelight   | 6.30 p.m.       |
| 24th             | Crib Service   | 4 p.m.          |
| 24th             | Midnight Mass  | 11.30 p.m.      |
| 25th             | Christmas Day – Family Communion<br>All welcome—bring a present to show and tell                     | 10.00 a.m.      |

# Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

Following the pandemic, a lot of people report the speeding up of life; I suspect this happened when we went from using digital as one form of communication to using it as our primary one. I wonder if, in part at least, this explains the level of division, loneliness and mental fatigue that seems to be prevalent within our society - when you engage with someone on a screen, they aren't in front of you, it's just a digital representation of what they look and sound like - I suspect that in our subconsciousness we know the difference (it's aspartame for the mind, and just as addictive). With lots of Christmas events going on, locally and within the district, the opportunities for real interactions present themselves - I hope that, this Christmas, people can find time to "connect" in person and within our community. However you choose to spend it, the whole Parish Council wishes you a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Unfortunately the representative from Severn Trent responsible for the maintenance of the system was unable to attend our November meeting. We are trying to arrange a meeting with the project manager with the aim of obtaining some firm dates as to when our outdated, over-capacitated sewage system will be upgraded. So far requests for a meeting haven't been successful. Fingers crossed we can get a meeting in January or, if not, some firm dates for when this work will take place. Please continue to report sewage where you see it, this raises our priority as an area.

At our last meeting County Cllr. Matecki explained the County Council system for adopting roads from developers. He said that only a small section of Vickers Way and Garrett Drive had been adopted (please note that there is a difference between "adopting a road" and "designating land as public highway"). However, County Council officers are liaising with the developer to try and improve road safety around Heathcote Primary School with additional road markings. The Police have also confirmed that they will be visible in the area during the school's drop off and picking up times to advise parents/carers to park responsibly.

A public consultation will start shortly on the Fire Service; details are available on the County Council website.



Councillors have alerted County Cllr. Matecki to concerns regarding the safer routes to Oakley School. The verges along Harbury Lane are not suitable for pedestrians. If the paths through the Country Park from the village are delayed (which I understand they are expected to be) children will be walking along Oakley Wood Road which is unlit, often covered in sewage, narrow in parts and has a 50mph speed limit. Councillors are continuing to push for a reduction in the speed limit on this road. We've impressed upon Cllr. Matecki the difference between "safe route to school" on paper, and what the parents of an eleven year old may consider to be safe. Clearly, the Parish Council is concerned that if improvements are not made to Oakley Wood Road, parents will understandably seek to drive to the school instead of walking - this, as you remember, was not the intention of the county council and will likely result in traffic/safety issues outside the schools.

We understand that roadworks will start in the new year at the Oakley Wood Road/Harbury Lane junction. Cllr. Carter is trying to obtain a timetable for the works. This information will be circulated via social media as soon as we get it. Cllr. Carter is asking for pedestrian/cyclist access and has suggested the footpath on the east side of the road is improved to facilitate this. He is also requesting that vehicle access is maintained possibly via a one way system.

Seven Acre Close play equipment installation will start on 22nd January, the equipment will include a play house. The District Council had advised that this project is below budget and suggested additional purchases such as a timber bench in the orchard area, maybe more trees, shrubs, cycle hoops and scooter stand in the park area as well as the park signage and a communication board. Would residents please let the clerk know if they have any preference for the additions?

The Harbury Lane active travel connection consultation by the County Council has been summarised. Information available on [Proposed cycle schemes - have your say – Warwickshire County Council](#). The next steps for this project include more detailed design work for the paths and street lighting which will incorporate some of the suggestions from the community engagement. The County Council will also be looking at land dedication with Warwick District Council and commissioning an ecological survey. A scheme programme is being prepared and the County Council is considering delivery in two phases, starting at Oakley Wood Road/ Tachbrook

Road and working towards Europa Way: Phase 1 – Oakley Wood Road/ Tachbrook Road to Earl Rivers/ Gallagher Way, possibly starting in Summer 2024 – subject to other highway works being completed at Oakley Wood Road junction, and successful completion of the Cycle Tracks Order/ land dedication process. Phase 2 – Earl Rivers/ Gallagher Way to Europa Way/ Gallows Hill/ Heathcote Lane, possibly in 2025, subject to programme of works on Europa Way corridor.

Cllr. Deely has tried to get the Country Park project divided into two projects to speed access to parts of the park up for residents. However, officers resistant to this change have subsequently informed the board that such changes would not be cost effective and, therefore, the idea has been quashed. .

Cllr. Gillman, has been successful in getting himself appointed as a director of the management company on Oakley Meadows. He is now actively working to try and get the dead trees on Oakley Meadows replaced. He will be obtaining soil samples from the management company to pass to a local nursery to try to ensure that the next batch of trees planted are suitable for the conditions.

Posts around the Sports and Social Club car park are a little wobbly. We are obtaining quotes for replacement/repairing of the wooden posts and replacing them with metal posts as the wooden posts rot.

You will have noticed that work has finally started on the car park on the Meadow. It appears to be moving along quickly thanks to Cllr. Guest. We are hoping it will be finished by mid-January.

Tree work has taken place on the Village Green and Meadow but there is more to follow on Saturday, 9th December. The ash tree adjacent to Argyle Way needs to be felled. Warwick District Council tree officer has issued an order to say it needs to be felled due to the large branch falling earlier this year. Once this tree has been felled we will arrange for grinding of the stumps. Could we please ask residents to avoid parking on Argyle Way near this tree on 9th December. Residents walking in this area should also respect the guidance given by the professional tree surgeons and keep away from the tree. This is a huge tree being felled close to a public highway, houses and footpaths so please keep your distance. All wood will be removed from site by the tree surgeons.

Annual inspections have taken place on the play equipment, Meadow, outdoor gym equipment and BMX track. We have instructed our contractor to repair the gym equipment and we will be monitoring the condition of the BMX track.

The 10 allotment plots on Oakley Meadows have been allocated to residents on a first come first served basis. If you haven't been able to secure a plot you will be on the waiting list and could be contacted if a half plot becomes available on the Meadow allotments. Councillors have agreed a 50% discount on the Oakley Meadow plots for 2024 as they require considerable work. The annual rent will be £7.50 for 2024 but will then increase to £15.50.

Existing Meadow allotment holders have been sent tenancy agreements and they have been asked to confirm that they require their plots next year. Could we please ask that you let us know, as soon as possible, if you do not require your plot as we have 10 residents on the waiting list who might like the chance of working a plot.

From 2025 the Meadow allotment plot annual rent will be £24 for a full plot and £12 for a half plot. Oakley Meadows allotment plot annual rent will be £15.50.

Finally, at our last meeting Councillors considered 2 requests from community groups for S137 funding. They granted £500 to Bishop's Tachbrook Rainbows and £500 to Bishop's Tachbrook Brownies.

Next meeting is at 7pm (note the earlier time) on Thursday, 14th December at St. Chad's Centre (the plan is to be finished by 9pm - something we haven't managed since 2019, which has saved me a fortune in buying everyone a round at the Leopard!).

Again, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# District Council Update

By Andrew Day

As the festive cheer of December approaches, we are pleased to bring you the latest local updates.

## **Bin schedules and recycling coffee pods**

This holiday period will, as often it the case, mean changes to our refuse, recycling, and food waste collection schedules. Collections due on Christmas Day will be moved to Saturday, 23rd December and all other collections will occur a day later than usual. To get the full schedule and more information, please visit [Warwick District Council Christmas Recycling](#). In partnership with Podback a new kerbside coffee pod recycling service is also being introduced, taking a positive step towards sustainability. You'll be able to recycle your plastic or aluminium coffee pods at home by signing up for free on the [Podback website](#).



*Your Warwick District Councillors  
Matt Collins (left) and Andrew Day (right)*

## **Severn Trent**

We are aware of significant sewage problems affecting residents' homes and District Council land in the village. We are working closely with Cllr Matt Greene, our Parish Council Chair, who has engaged Severn Trent, to resolve issues with regular updates on our progress being reported to Parish Council meetings. Regrettably, Severn Trent have recently advised that their decision to upgrade the main sew network in the village has been postponed until 2025. This delayed timeline is unacceptable, and we are advocating for earlier action. Kenilworth has faced similar issues with Severn Trent in the past, so we are exploring how their Councillors managed to bring about earlier action and use this experience to get a better response from Severn Trent.



## Housing

Warwick District Council recently conducted a review of our council housing stock and where council housing has been found not to meet the required standards, the council has been rectifying issues as soon as possible. The Council has been in touch with affected residents and, for full transparency, has self-referred to the regulator on this matter. Please visit the [Warwick District Council website](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk) or call 01926 456 442 for more information.

## We're here to help!

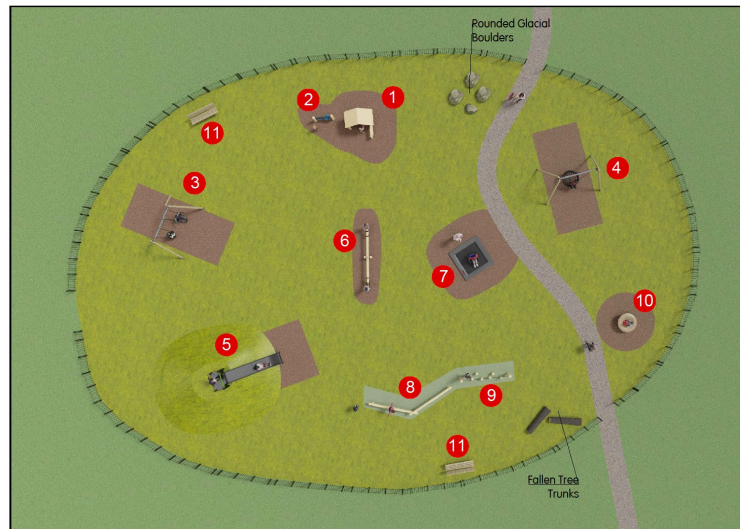
If there are any issues concerning you or perhaps you would just like to chat, please do reach out to us! We hope you're looking forward to a wonderful festive season and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

**Cllr Matt Collins**

**Cllr Andrew Day**


[matt.collins@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:matt.collins@warwickdc.gov.uk) [andrew.day@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.day@warwickdc.gov.uk)






- EQUIPMENT**


1. Playhut with Sids, Cables & Desks  
Ref: NRI001-1001  
Total height 150cm  
Fall height 0cm  
Age range 1-6 years  
DQA Accessible




2. Play Panel 2  
Ref: NRI0014-1001  
Total height 150cm  
Fall height 0cm  
Age range 1-6 years  
DQA Accessible




3. Swing Frame with Flat Seats  
Ref: KSW00004-0902  
Total height 274cm  
Fall height 127cm  
Age range 3-10 years  
DQA Accessible




4. Swing Frame with Nest Seat  
Ref: KSW00004-0902  
Total height 274cm  
Fall height 145cm  
Age range 3-10 years  
DQA Accessible




5. Embankment Slide, Wide  
Ref: POM10221-0902  
Total height 110cm  
Fall height 100cm  
Age range 4-12 years  
DQA Accessible




6. Seesaw, 2 Persons  
Ref: NRI0105-0502  
Total height 115cm  
Fall height 115cm  
Age range 4-12 years




7. Jumper Square  
Ref: JUM10001-0301  
Total height 0cm  
Fall height 100cm  
Age range 4-15 years  
DQA Accessible




8. Double Balance Beams  
Ref: NRI0003-0001  
Total height 61cm  
Fall height 61cm  
Age range 3-12 years  
DQA Accessible




9. Balance Poles with Rope  
Ref: NRI0021-0001  
Total height 120cm  
Fall height 30cm  
Age range 4-12 years



10. Tippi Carousel  
Ref: ELE40006-311732  
Total height 83cm  
Fall height 100cm  
Age range 4-15 years  
DQA Accessible



11. Anita Bench with Backrest  
Ref: PAR1001  
Product Dimensions  
50cm x 140cm



Seven Acre Close play equipment installation will start on 22nd January, the equipment will include a play house. The project is below budget so additional purchases can be made such as a timber bench in the orchard area, maybe more trees, shrubs, cycle hoops and scooter stand in the park area as well as the park signage and a communication board. Would residents please let the clerk know if they have any preference for the additions?



# History Group

By Ian E Morley

## ***Dr. Thomas Pert: Britain, The 'Palatinate Family' and the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)***

The History Group met slightly earlier than usual (2.00 pm on Tuesday 14th November in St. Chad's Hall instead of the usual 2.30 pm) to listen to a talk by Dr. Thomas Pert (Department of History, University of Warwick) on the Thirty Years' War. We would like to thank all those who made the earlier time possible, and especially Lindsey, who cleared away the equipment used by her adventure baby group in double quick time. Thank you.

Dr. Pert's talk was an introductory lecture such as, he could have given to students at the University. It was interesting, extremely well presented, and challenging. The slides were very clear and easy to read.

The 'Thirty Years' War' was not really one war, but a series of conflicts fought all over Europe, mostly in central Europe, although it did last thirty years. For various reasons it has been described as the first 'modern' or 'total' war:-

- at one time or another it involved most of the major European powers of the time;
- they were engaged in various combinations of religious, dynastic, territorial and commercial rivalries;
- in addition to regular troops there were conscripts, mercenary troops, peasant revolts, private armies, robber bands, and war profiteers;
- the number of casualties is etched into the folk memories of the populations most involved, and on some estimates casualties far exceeded those in either the First or Second World Wars. The figures suggest that almost one person in five was killed during the war and because of the war.

Dr. Pert's talk set out this general background, but his main objective was to show that historians had a systematic bias in treating events in Europe and events in Europe as concurrent but independent. For example, there is considerable overlap between the Thirty Years' War in Europe and the First English Civil War but



historians have often treated them as independent (so that, for all practical purposes, one could be understood without considering the other). Dr. Pert set out to redress this imbalance.

The first crucial event we need to note was the marriage of Princess Elizabeth Stuart to Frederick V, Prince Palatinate of the Rhine. She was the daughter of James I of England (when he was James VI of Scotland) and Anne of Denmark. She was also the elder sister of Charles, who later became Charles I of England. He (Frederick) was one of the seven secular Electors of the Holy Roman Emperor (no longer exclusively Catholic) and the highest ranking protestant prince. His future and that of his bride seemed to be secure in his court in Heidelberg.

The second crucial event was the 'Defenestration of Prague', in which Bohemian nobles threw envoys from Ferdinand II (legally their king) out of a window in

### **The Defenestration of Prague painted by Karel Svoboda**





Prague Castle (hence 'defenestration'). The nobles were Protestants were incensed by Ferdinand's attempts to foist Catholicism upon them, making it the one true religion of the state. Amazingly, the Catholics survived and made their escape. Some Catholics put this down to divine intervention, because the envoys were acting (through Ferdinand) in the service of their God. The Protestants countered by saying that the envoys had fallen into a dunghill outside the window, and that cushioned their fall.

Shortly afterwards, Ferdinand II was elected Holy Roman Emperor, making him one of the most powerful men in Europe. Shortly afterwards, Ferdinand II was elected Holy Roman Emperor, making him one of the most powerful men in Europe. Despite this, Frederick (very foolishly) accepted an offer to become King of Bohemia, thus deposing Ferdinand, and was crowned in Prague with Elizabeth as his Queen. His reign in Prague lasted less than one year (which is why he is known as the "Winter King" and Elizabeth as the "Winter Queen").

At this time, the Holy Roman Empire was no longer united by Charlemagne's vision of a Germanic and Roman Catholic State. Instead it had become a mix of Catholic and Protestant states, frequently in dispute and sometimes on the brink of war. The first phase of the Thirty Years' War was essentially a civil war within the Empire, although each side sought external support with alliances based on kinship or religion, as between Frederick and James I, or between Ferdinand and his nephew, Phillip of Spain)

After five years it was clear that not only did Ferdinand control Bohemia but he controlled what had been Frederick's Palatinate. In 1623 he was able to transfer Frederick's Electoral Vote, along with his other titles and lands (including the Palatinate), to Maximillian of Bavaria, as reward for funding the armies that put down the Bohemian Revolt. Frederick and Elizabeth were forced to hold court in exile in the Netherlands.

Much of the foreign policy of James I and Charles I was aimed at the restoration of the Palatinate to Frederick's control. In 1624 Parliament gave James £300,000 to support a naval war against Spain, but he used it to finance an army in an unsuccessful attempt to recover some of the Palatinate lands. Later that year James died, and one of the first actions of his son, Charles I, was to declare war on

Spain. Parliament, however, refused to provide funds to Charles, fearing that he would use the money to impose Catholicism on England. Such fears seemed all the more real when, in 1625, Charles married a Roman Catholic Princess Henrietta Maria of France. Hopes for an Anglo-French alliance against the house of Hapsburg and the Holy Roman Empire were not realised, and in 1627 Charles declared war on France so that England was simultaneously at war with Spain and France. Expeditions against the Ile de Ré and La Rochelle failed disastrously, and Charles, without support from Parliament, raised money through a series of extremely unpopular 'forced loans' sanctioned by Royal Prerogative. In 1629 Charles dissolved Parliament and ruled without it for 11 years. When, in 1630, Charles made peace with France and Spain it looked as if Charles had abandoned Frederick and Elizabeth. He had not, but his financial weakness meant that, without Parliamentary support he was unable sufficiently to commit troops and supplies to arm Frederick and Elizabeth, nor was he able to find allies for them. The same constraints applied after Frederick's death from plague in 1632, so that although Charles publicly supported Frederick's son, Karl Ludwig (known in England as Charles Louis), his diplomacies failed and his reputation suffered at home and abroad.

The Peace of Prague (1635) effectively ended the first phase of the Thirty Years' War because most of the Protestant states within the Holy Roman Empire were reconciled with the Emperor. However, it did not settle the claims of the Palatinate family to restore its lands and titles. From 1635 onwards the Thirty Years' War became a much wider war between France, allied with Sweden, and the new Holy Roman Emperor, Ferdinand III allied with Spain.

The outbreak of the English Civil War did nothing to help Karl Ludwig's position in Europe. After the crushing defeat of his Uncle at Marston Moor in 1644, Karl Ludwig came to England, and publicly sided with Parliament. Subsequently he received a generous pension from them. Charles himself, and many historians, saw this as an example of cynical opportunism. In contrast, Dr Pert's view is that the pension was a financial lifeline which not only helped to fund his delegations to the Westphalian Peace negotiations, but was also vital for his everyday subsistence. To publicly support the king or even to remain neutral in mid 1644 ran the risk of condemning him and his family to penury and permanent exclusion from their lands and titles' (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ecc/blog/royalfamilydivided/>).

The Thirty Years' War was ended by the Peace of Westphalia (1648). In many ways Karl Ludwig gained as much as he could possibly have expected from it. The Palatinate was divided formally between Upper and Lower. The Upper Palatinate, to the north of Bavaria, remained under the control of Maximillian of Bavaria who had taken Frederick's position as the seventh Elector in the Electoral College of the Holy Roman Empire. The Lower Palatinate, along the Rhine, was given to the control of Karl Ludwig, and he was given a new position as Elector in the Electoral College as Elector number eight.

Dr. Pert concluded that many of the policies of James and Charles were the result of events in Europe, some involving members of their family. What they did made sense in a European context but was viewed with suspicion at home. Some unpopular aspects of their economic policies were direct products of the Thirty Years' War. So the Thirty Years' War and the English Civil Wars not only occurred at similar times, but were intimately related. Perhaps what stands out most is that wars have to be financed and that money talks, then as now!

Most of the audience came away wanting to learn much more, especially about Karl Ludwig. Thank you Dr. Pert for a very informative and thought provoking talk.

The next meeting of the History Group is on Tuesday 5th December, for a festive lunch at the Leopard Inn.



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# TRACC

Thank you to everyone who came to our drop off session on Saturday 25 November. Our next drop off will be on Saturday 20 January 2024 9.30-12.30.

We can recycle some soft plastics and items not collected with kerbside collections.

Find out more at:

<https://bishopstachbrook.com/parish-council/local-initiatives/>

**SAVE THE DATE:  
SATURDAY  
20TH JANUARY  
9:30-12:30**



# Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

As I scribble this, Autumn strolls its misty lane towards Winter. The first frosts have spread silver carpets across the grass. Hedgerows hang with Rosehips and Hawthorn berries waiting for birds to eat and spread their seeds. Scandinavian Thrushes have crossed the North Sea hoping for a milder Winter, Redwings with their 'seep, seep' call and the larger Fieldfares with their 'chuckles' all oblige by tucking into nature's bounty

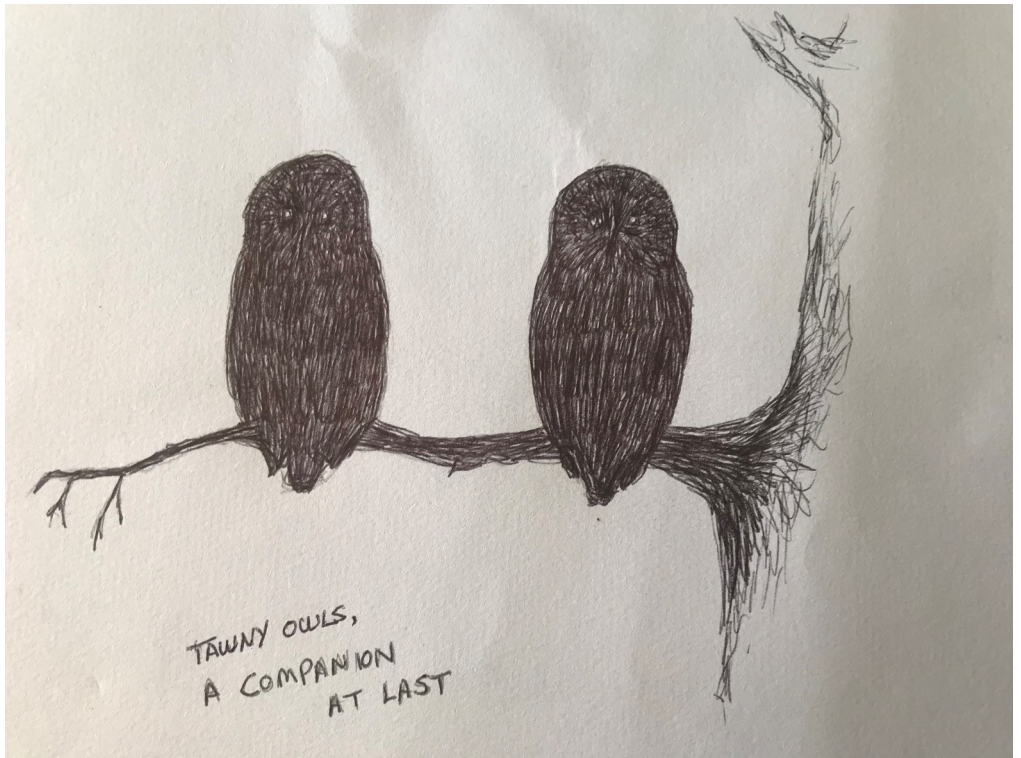
The mighty Cedar tree has given us its pollen fest. Tens of thousands of tiny green buds develop all over its branches during August. They continue to grow, looking like candles all over the branches making the Cedar look like the biggest Christmas tree in the world. In October the male catkins produce so much pollen that everywhere is covered in a fine yellow powder. When it rains the puddles have yellow tide marks around them. I'll always marvel at this magnificent tree.

Meanwhile, under the Magnolia tree the bird table is beyond busy. As I go out to feed them early morning they are waiting - usually ten to twenty Bluetits, half a dozen Great Tits, a couple of Coal tits, a Nuthatch, a Robin, several Chaffinches, lots of Goldfinches and a pair of Collared Doves. Half a jug of Sunflower hearts go on the table and down they come before I walk away. It's all cleared before midday. That's what happens in the right location and a daily guaranteed feeding station. I only feed sunflower hearts as all species that visit the table love them and nothing is wasted.

I've been worried about the Tawny Owls here. Since we moved in over six years ago there's been a pair spending their days dozing in the spinney in front of the cottage. They greet each other in the late afternoon or early evening, sounding excited to reunite. For the last few weeks there's only been one Owl calling with no reply. It seems the more you get involved and notice the wildlife around you the more concerned you get. Now going back a month or so I remember seeing a small bundle of feathers on the road not far from the village, smaller than a Pheasant and with Tawny markings.

Each evening the remaining Owl would call and keep calling with still no reply. It would move further into the park across the field calling night after night. Tawnies generally mate for life and don't move more than a few miles from where they were born so this seems to be such a loss and so sad to hear the calling every evening.

Then today, just before I scribbled this I heard the Owl call and there was an answer. Can't tell you how good that sounded. From the Spinney the calls continued. I'll never know if the Owl had found another mate or one of its offspring had returned. Either way after two months our Owl has company. No more lonely nights, thank the Lord for a happy ending.



In November we were visited by Sally and family from Henley Chocolates who are based at Yew Tree Farm Craft Centre Henley in Arden, which, in itself, is worth visiting.

Sally explained how she had been a family law solicitor before taking a career change into landscape gardening and when a family came along diversified again into home baking which then led to kitchen chocolate and finally to having her unit at Yew Tree.

She told us about the history of chocolate and how different countries produce a product with different taste. We tried a sample of a Madagascan chocolate which was very strong flavoured, a cappuccino truffle in the shape of a cup and another from Papua New Guinea in which you could taste the smoke from the fire that dried the beans.

Sally also explained how her unit is solar powered and that she uses no single use plastic in the packaging which is all compostable and most importantly all her products are fresh local products

It was a brilliant evening, Sally was a fun speaker and she had also brought along lots of lovely products to buy which are super scrummy.

This was Sam's first meeting as president and she did very well. She explained who was now doing which job, hence I am still doing this report.

We are having a table at the Craft Sale on December 3rd. Come along and have a chat and see what the WI gets up to apart from the crafts on sale. Our knitting/crochet group meet at the Leopard on the third Tuesday each month at 7:00pm everyone is welcome not just members. We're not all experts we just enjoy knitting and having a chat. Keep your eyes open for our next post box topper!!

I am still collecting used postage stamps for ACWW and unwanted bras that go to Bravissimo for recycling.



Our December meeting is on Thursday 7th. If you are interested in joining us please let me know. We are having a fish and chip supper supplied by the Village Chippy and in-house entertainment which I am sure will be hilarious.

We don't meet in January but are looking forward to a meal at the Leopard instead. Meetings start again proper in February . Make it your New Year's Resolution to come along and meet us. You will also find us on Facebook.

Anne Allen  
07929366701 or 424135





## 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></p> <p>Class. Over 12 years and adults</p>  | <p>Andy Shaw – <a href="mailto:andy@linkcube.co.uk">andy@linkcube.co.uk</a></p> |

| 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> |
| A new programme will start in 2024 | <p><b>HISTORY GROUP</b></p>  | <p>John Fletcher on 01926 426001 or <a href="mailto:johnfletcher@sky.com">johnfletcher@sky.com</a></p>   |

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| 16.30-19.00 | <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><br><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><br><p>Junior – Lyrical/Street/Jazz</p><br><p>6.15pm-7.00pm Ages 7-12</p> <p>A combination of Street and Jazz Techniques</p><br><p>Please see website for more details</p> | <p>Contact Ellie Rowe<br/>07392 348155 or<br/><a href="mailto:ellie@atomicdance.co.uk">ellie@atomicdance.co.uk</a></p> |
| 19.00-20.00 | <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.lifewithaman.com">www.lifewithaman.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 Wednesday 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.lifewithaman.com">www.lifewithaman.com</a></p>  |

| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Contact</b>   |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 10.15-11.45     | <b>ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ</b><br><br>Serving Drinks and Cake for you to enjoy  | kateatkaribu22@outlook.com<br><br>07713113464  |
| 12.15-13.15     | <b>YOGA/MINDFULNESS</b><br><br>A gentle and relaxing yoga/ mindfulness class to increase physical flexibility, mobility and improve mental wellbeing and awareness.<br><br>To book please contact Amanda | <a href="http://www.lifewithaman.daj.com">www.lifewithaman.daj.com</a><br><br><b>Message or WhatsApp 07795498759</b> |



| <b>Friday</b>                 | <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Contact</b>   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 10.00-12.00                   | <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.   | Peter Fletcher<br>07487 685679   |
| 16.00-17.15                   | <b>COOK STARS</b><br>Fun cooking classes, all ingredients included plus a craft activity & recipe card to keep.<br><br>Suitable for 2-11 year olds (under 5's will need to be accompanied by an adult) | Angela<br><br>Call/text<br>07477083778<br><br><a href="mailto:angel@cookstars.co.uk">ange-<br/>la@cookstars.co.u<br/>k</a> |
| <b>Sundays</b><br>18.15-20.00 | <b>ST CHAD'S YOUTH CLUB</b>  | www.stChad'sbt.org   |



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A warm, inviting scene featuring a large, speckled ceramic mug and a small black bowl of soup, both emitting wisps of steam. The background is a soft-focus plaid pattern, and a vibrant red flower arrangement is visible in the upper right corner. The overall atmosphere is cozy and comforting.

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