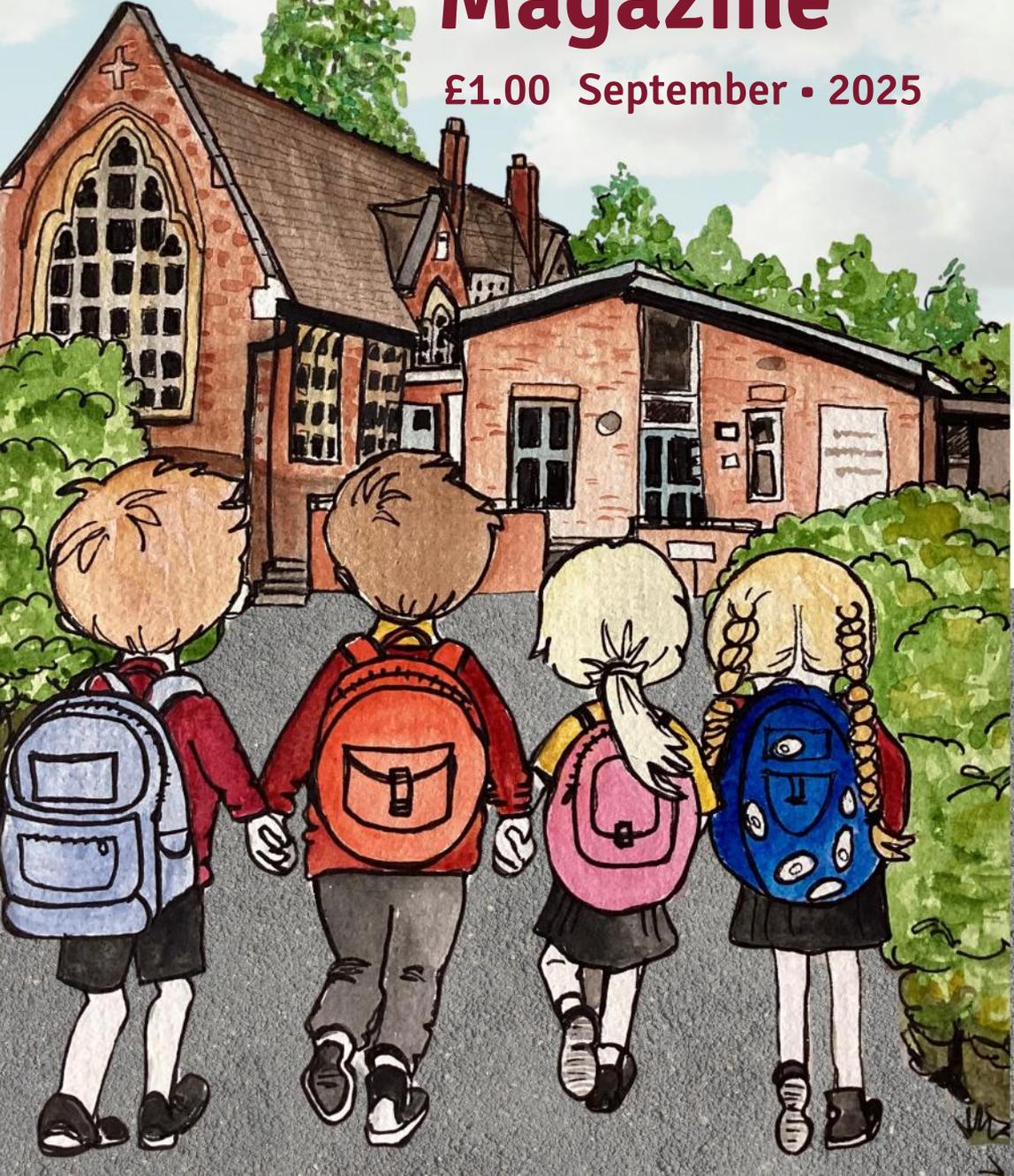




# Hartlebury Parish Magazine

£1.00 September • 2025



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# Little Black Pig

Front cover: 'Back to School' by Diane Hickman

**BAG  
TO  
SCHOOL**

(note: front cover titles in Hartlebury Primary School burgundy.)

Our September cover illustrates a typical September scene, the start of a new school term which will bring new knowledge, new experiences and new challenges to returners of all ages, a theme reflected in the magazine. Father Tim urges us to deepen our understanding of the impact of climate change and calls on each of us to challenge ourselves to do more to mitigate its effects; we bring news of a Parish Hall initiative to host a Repair Shop to avoid unnecessary waste which Emma Stuart's article expands on, and Stephen Owens reflects on, how new opportunities open up at all ages bringing unexpected joys and rewards. Summer, whose lease is coming to an end, has also brought new horizons - read about Tim Cornah's family experience with the Sealed Knot at Hartlebury Castle and Matt Howells adventures in the Borneo jungle. And as ever, GHOB reminds us of the enduring relationship that we have with the natural world as we enter Harvest season, or Michaelmas as Father Tim would call it. Finally, don't forget to check out all the autumn events forthcoming in Hartlebury from the Gardening Club Show to Trish's Crochet Craft sessions and a perfect Murder Mystery at Hartlebury Castle.

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**Parish Magazine FlipBooks website > [bit.ly/44NFdHD](http://bit.ly/44NFdHD)**

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### Editorial Policy

Inclusion of any article does not imply endorsement of the content of that article. We make no judgement as to the accuracy of the articles that appear. If there are any inaccuracies, we offer the opportunity to correct them through the pages of the magazine.

**September**

## Taking care of our 'Eden' - by Fr. Tim Williams

I hope that those you who have been on holiday have returned refreshed and those of you who are still to go will do so too.

Whilst on holiday we were made aware of the even greater unpredictability of the weather on Madeira. Before I left, I was speaking to some local farmers who had planted, ripped up and replanted. So, I write with a growing concern that touches both the whole world and the lives of our neighbours: the impact of climate change, particularly on our local farmers.

In recent years—and especially this year—we've seen the real effects of changing weather patterns here in our own community. Many of our farmers, some of whom have worked the same land for generations, are now reporting crop yields that are significantly lower than normal. Whether it's prolonged drought, unexpected downpours, or unseasonal frosts, these changes are not just statistics in a news report; they are daily realities for the people who grow our food, care for the land, and form a vital part of our local economy and community life.

This is not just a scientific or political issue; it is a spiritual one. As Christians, we are called to be stewards of God's creation. In Genesis 2:15, we read: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." This call to 'take care' of creation still echoes today. It's not a mere suggestion—it's part of our identity as followers of Christ who honour the Creator.

But as we try to live out this calling in today's world, it's important to acknowledge that some 'green' solutions aren't always straightforward.

Take electric cars, for example. While

they are often promoted as cleaner alternatives to petrol or diesel vehicles, I have my own reservations. The batteries they rely on use minerals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel—many of which are mined in ways that are damaging to both people and the environment. Some mining operations involve child labour, poor working conditions, and environmental destruction in vulnerable parts of the world. We must not be blind to these trade-offs.

And then there's the cost. Making environmentally conscious choices often comes with a price tag that many people simply can't afford. Installing solar panels, buying organic food, or switching to an electric car might be out of reach for families already struggling to pay bills. That doesn't mean they are less faithful stewards—it simply means we need to be honest about the challenges.

But here's the good news: you don't need to have lots of money to make a difference. God never asks us to do more than we are able, but He does ask us to do something.

Each of us, regardless of our income or circumstances, can do something to care for creation and support our local farmers. Here are a few ideas that are low-cost or even free, yet which have an impact:

- **Use less:** Reducing waste - whether it's food, electricity, or clothing - helps lower our environmental impact. Turn off lights, eat leftovers, repair rather than replace.
- **Reuse and recycle:** Simple practices in our homes and churches can help reduce landfill waste and conserve resources.

- **Buy locally when you can:** Even small purchases from local farms or markets help keep rural communities going and reduce the distance food travels to reach our plates.
- **Grow something:** Whether it's herbs on a windowsill or vegetables in a back garden, growing even a little food connects us with the Earth and reduces reliance on global supply chains.
- **Speak up:** We can write to elected officials, sign petitions, and support policies that protect God's creation and promote fair treatment for farmers.
- **Pray:** Perhaps most importantly, we can lift up our farmers, our environment, and our leaders in prayer. As James 5:16 reminds us, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now." Creation groans—and so do many in our communities. But as Christians, we are not without hope. We serve a God who promises to restore, who invites us to be part of the healing.

When Jesus fed the 5,000 (John 6), He started with just five loaves and two fish. God is in the business of multiplying small offerings made in faith. No act of love or care too small or wasted.

Let us remember that caring for creation is not about guilt or perfection. It is about love. Love for God, for our neighbours, for the land beneath our feet, and for those who will come after us. Whether your steps are large or small, costly or free, they matter. Let us walk them together.

Yours in Christ,



In Romans 8:22 Paul writes "We know that

## Michaelmas: A Celebration of St. Michael and Autumn Traditions

**M**ichaelmas, celebrated on September 29, is a traditional Christian feast day honouring Saint Michael the Archangel, one of the principal angels in Christian theology. Along with Michael, the day also honours Gabriel and Raphael, the other archangels mentioned in the Bible. While it has religious roots, Michaelmas has also come to be associated with harvest, seasonal change, and a rich variety of folk customs, particularly in Britain, Ireland, and parts of Northern Europe.

Saint Michael is often depicted as a warrior angel, leading the heavenly army against the forces of evil. He appears in

both the Old and New Testaments, and in the Book of Revelation, he famously defeats Satan in a cosmic battle (*see page 5*). For this reason, St. Michael is seen as a protector and defender, and is the patron saint of soldiers, police officers, and paramedics.

Michaelmas has traditionally marked the close of the harvest season and was once one of the quarter days in the UK and Ireland—key dates for paying rents, hiring servants, and settling accounts. The quarter days were: Lady Day (March 25); Midsummer Day (June 24); Michaelmas (September 29); Christmas (December 25). ▷



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Saint Michael vs Satan

◁ Because it falls near the autumn equinox, Michaelmas was also linked to the turning of the seasons and the approach of darker days. This transition gave it a slightly reflective and protective tone, as communities looked ahead to winter.

A traditional Michaelmas meal often includes a roast goose, symbolising prosperity and protection. This custom dates back to at least the 14th century, when people believed that eating a goose on Michaelmas would ensure financial stability for the coming year.

In parts of Scotland, especially the Hebrides, people would bake a special bannock (a type of flatbread) using barley and oatmeal, without using metal implements. It was cooked over an open flame and often eaten with seasonal fruits like blackberries.

In English folklore, Michaelmas is the last day to pick blackberries. Legend says that when Lucifer was cast out of heaven by St. Michael, he fell into a blackberry bush and cursed it. After this date, blackberries were thought to be spoiled or even dangerous to eat.

Michaelmas was traditionally the time of 'hiring fairs' in rural communities. Farm workers and domestic servants would look

for new employment for the coming year, and it was a time for socialising, dancing, and feasting.

Some churches in the UK, celebrate Michaelmas with special services or festivals. At Oxford and Cambridge universities, the term beginning in late September is still known as the Michaelmas Term.

While its prominence in public life has faded, Michaelmas continues to be observed in religious communities and by those interested in traditional and seasonal festivals. It offers a moment to reflect on the balance between light and dark, both literally and spiritually; to celebrate the harvest and the fruits of hard work; and to draw inspiration from the strength and courage of St. Michael in facing adversity.

Michaelmas stands at the crossroads of faith, folklore, and seasonal change. Whether marked by a feast of goose, a church service, or a final blackberry picking trip, it invites people to pause and prepare for the darker days ahead with gratitude, courage, and community spirit. Though lesser-known today, its traditions still resonate with those who seek to stay connected to the rhythms of nature and the stories that shape our cultural heritage. □

# Journeys in Faith - The Reverend Julie Humphries

## *All I needed was one angel*



It was five days before her much anticipated sixtieth birthday trip to Norway, that semi-retired vicar and mother of four Julie Humphries found herself in A&E racked with abdominal pain. At first, she was sent home and told it was gastroenteritis, but the pain got even worse. Julie knew something was seriously wrong, and she returned to A&E where a scan revealed she had stage four bowel cancer which had metastasised into her liver and lungs.



“It came as a complete shock,” Julie recalls. She had had stomach pains on and off, but as an Irritable Bowel Syndrome sufferer, she had dismissed them. Now it was potentially life threatening. As someone who had got the 'Faith Bug' at the tender age of eight when she walked into St Peter's Catholic Church in Birmingham on a shopping trip with her

mother and was dazzled by the beauty and atmosphere she discovered in a house of God. I wondered how she had felt about her diagnosis. Was Julie angry at God? Did she feel her faith weakened?

“Not at all!” Julie assured me. “I never asked 'Why me?', God doesn't punish people. He uses bad things to help us. The words of the twenty-third psalm came into my head, 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me.' I always carry Mary Stevenson's poem '**Footprints in the Sand.**' (see page 8) and I was comforted by knowing that God was carrying me in this moment of trial and suffering.”

### **“Carry me Jesus for I will not comply”**

And Julie certainly suffered. The first course of chemo was nearly fatal for her. She got infections, lockjaw, sepsis and a DVT. She recalls, “I had a sudden pain in my groin that shot down my leg. I didn't know what it was but fortunately, my daughter Beth is a doctor, and we suspected it was a clot and called an ambulance.” Julie recalls her leg swelled to twice its size and turned blue, and her neutrophil score sank to 0.7. At 0.5 she would have had to be sent to the Intensive Care Unit. As she lay in A&E a vascular surgeon arrived and started to talk to her about losing her leg. In real distress, Julie prayed, “Carry me Jesus for I will not comply.” Fortunately, at this point Beth arrived and spoke to the surgeon and in short order, Julie was moved to oncology where she was able to make a partial recovery. However, she had lost her mobility and was at a low ebb, when she turned to her phone app which picks a bible verse at random and it said, Matthew 26.53. This is the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane when the disciples fear for Jesus who has been betrayed by

Judas. Jesus says, "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" In other words, in Jesus' time of testing, he puts his faith in the fact that



God, his father, knows the path he must tread. He will not turn from his trials but will face them. Julie remembers thinking, "I don't need legions of angels, just one would do." The very next day in the post, she received the angel (left) from a kind work colleague. "I knew God's message was to trust Him to bring me the rest of the way."

This time, the chemotherapy has been much more successful, although still exhausting. Julie is now waiting to see if her tumours have shrunk sufficiently to enable her to be operated on. Overall, she says, her cancer has made her faith stronger. "When you have been so close to death you want to help others - make their suffering easier for them."

### **"This is a one-shot deal, God"**

In many ways, Julie's journey in faith has been remarkable, from her moment of realisation that she was a person of faith as a young child to having the courage to train for the ministry in 2005 when Beth, her youngest, was nine and her oldest, Laura, was nineteen by enrolling on an Adult Course in Theology at Birmingham University, when no one on either side of her family had ever darkened the doors of a university. "I was raised working class," Julie reflected. "I didn't question why it should be that women couldn't be priests. It was only when one of the first female priests challenged me, that I had a conversation with God." I said, "This is a one-shot deal, God. It's now or never." In fact, Julie has never looked back, a First-Class Honours Degree in Theology was followed by a

Master's Degree from Queen's Ecumenical College. "My family is very proud of me for rising to the challenge, though I always felt out of place. My friend Carol, who was also an adult student felt likewise and made me a stole, one side of which features a pantomime horse going into the ark. That sums up how we felt."

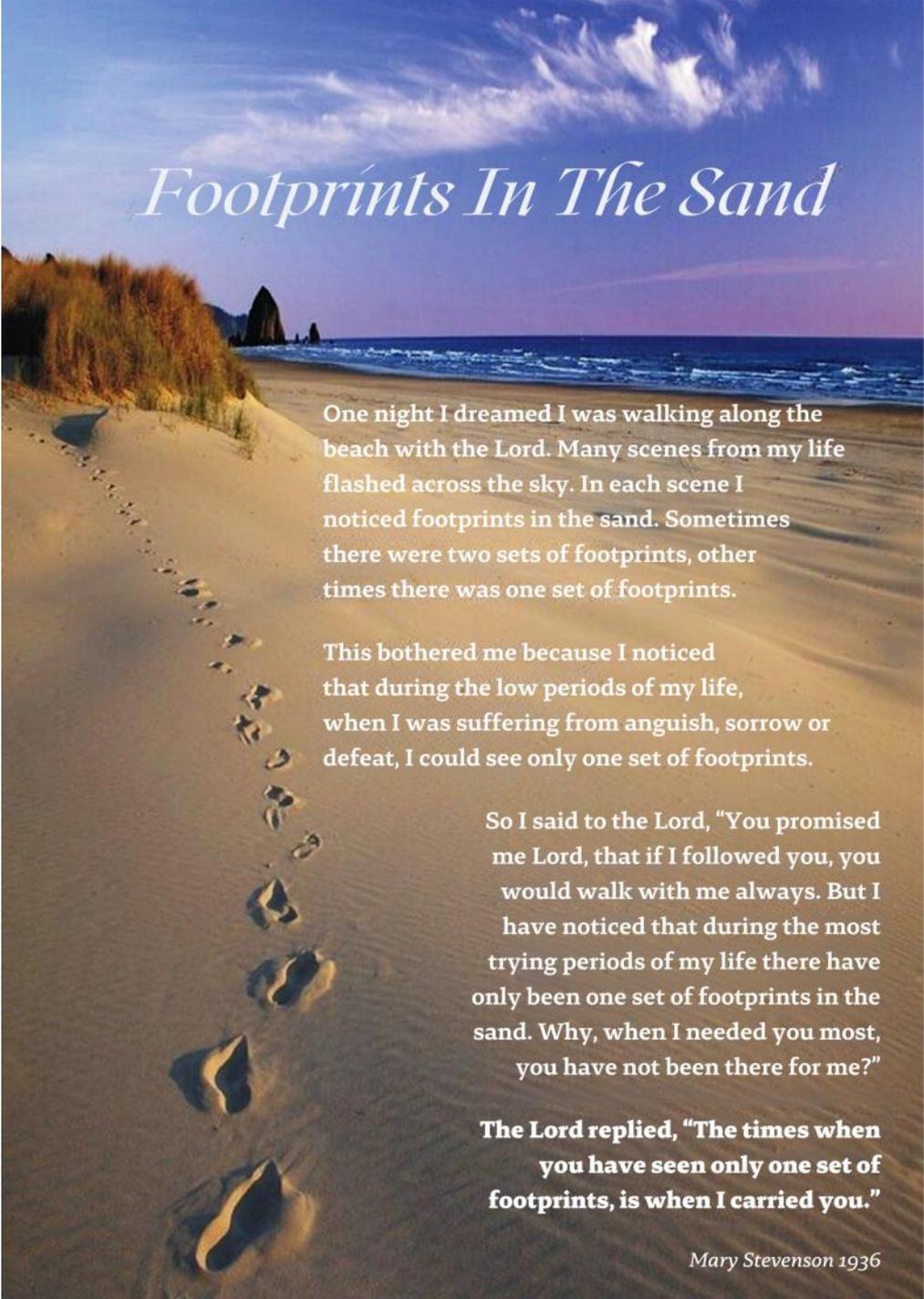
It is a very long training programme to become a fully ordained minister, years in fact, and the theology is only a part of it. "They put you under pressure and ensure that you learn that priesthood is about humility and serving others." That is what Julie then spent the next fifteen years doing in Redditch and Birmingham before turning her thoughts to semi-retirement which is what brought her, Mick and Beth to Hartlebury. She became a peripatetic minister across the diocese of Worcester, but has developed a particular relationship with St Mary's Elmbridge where she took their regular monthly services, and of course the signature services in the religious calendar of Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival.

When I ask Julie what her hopes are for when she's fully recovered, she says without a moment's hesitation, "I would love to be able to take this year's Christmas Service at St Mary's. That would be wonderful."



A few weeks after writing this article, Julie contacted me to tell me she had been given only two months to live. Her cancer was terminal. Nevertheless, she wanted this article to be published as a testament to her faith. As it says at the end of Psalm 23, *'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the House of the Lord, for ever.'*

Elizabeth Davies



# *Footprints In The Sand*

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

**The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you."**

Mary Stevenson 1936

ST JAMES CHURCH - HARTLEBURY

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<b>Assistant Curate</b>	James Homer	01299 851637
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Carolyn Gumbley	01299 251148
	Carl Carlson	07836 798689
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Carolyn Gumbley	01299 251148
<b>Elected Members</b>	Jeremy Broadway	01299 251346
	Emily Jones	07304 085055
	Chris Webb (Secretary)	01299 250452
<b>Churchwarden Emeritus</b>	Chris Webb	01299 250452
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b>	Vacancy	

## WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

If you wish to book a wedding or a baptism please contact the Benefice Administrator, Nick Wright, at the Seven Parishes Office in the first instance. Nick co-ordinates these for the Benefice to ensure the availability of date, time and clergy.

If you have any queries regarding your service in St James please contact:  
Chris Webb (01299 250452) or Carolyn Gumbley (01299 251148).

## BENEFICE OFFICE

<b>Administrator</b>	Nicolas Wright
Tel 01905 622464	(please leave a message)
or 07968 531216	(in emergency only)

Email: admin@w7b.org.uk  
Post: The Seven Parishes Office  
St Andrew's Church  
Main Road  
Ombersley  
WR9 0EP

# CHURCH SERVICES



## ROTA FOR VOLUNTEERS - SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER 7	Sidesperson Reader Intercessions Refreshments	tba Matt Howells Natalie Mason Pat Powell
SEPTEMBER 14	Sidesperson Reader Intercessions Chalice Refreshments	Jeremy Broadway Chris Webb John Hellens Stephen Owens Liz Broadway
SEPTEMBER 21	Sidesperson Reader Intercessions Refreshments	Eileen Aitken Carl Carlson Beryl Thomas Lynne Owens
SEPTEMBER 28	Sidesperson Readers Intercessions Chalice Refreshments	Matt Howells Geoff & Sandra Phillips Jeremy Broadway Chris Webb Carl Carlson
OCTOBER 5	<b>HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT BELLS FARM SHOP</b>	

## HARTLEBURY HERO - AUGUST 2025



A recent recipient of the Hartlebury Hero award was Mr Mike Tooley.

Mike has been a quietly industrious member of the Parish Magazine team for some years now. His contributions with inventive graphics and colour have greatly improved the magazine's appearance.

Mike is also the designer of the Parish Hall website. He maintains this and greatly assists with the design of event posters, tickets and other promotions. He has archived our documents and is always a source of useful information on how to build more efficiency into our systems.

We are very pleased Mike has been awarded this certificate as it isn't in character to seek out reward or recognition, despite it being justly deserved.

*Cath Holden - Chair HPHMC*

## CHINESE JUNIPER TREES

By the time you receive the September copy of the Parish Magazine, work will have been undertaken by a local company to fell the two Chinese Juniper trees in St James' churchyard along Quarry Bank. Although these trees were not dead or dying, they both presented a danger in that one of them had a trunk which had split into three (and if it had fallen in a strong wind it would have caused a lot of damage) and the other had a number of dead branches. This work was approved by both Wychavon District Council (as we are in a Conservation Area) and the Diocese of Worcester.

Work will soon be undertaken to fell two of the yew trees along the footpath from Quarry Bank to Inn Lane as their roots are damaging the footpath. Again, we have received the necessary approvals.

## HARTLEBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The recent (June 2025) Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) affirmed that Hartlebury CE Primary School is 'living its foundation as a Church school, enabling every pupil and adult to flourish'.

We send our congratulations to the children and staff on this achievement, which sits alongside the outcome of GOOD for their Ofsted inspection.

## PARISH COUNCIL SCARECROW COMPETITION

St James Church was delighted to 'host' the scarecrows which the Year 3 children at Hartlebury CE Primary School had designed and made towards the end of term. Although not one of the winners, we hope you enjoyed seeing the efforts of the children (see *page 21*).

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The monthly **MEN'S BREAKFAST** and **COFFEE & CAKE** mornings are much enjoyed by those who attend, and we are delighted that the numbers are growing! The Wellness Choir performed two musical items for us in August - one a 'round' **Shalom chaverim** (see *page 15*) and the other, **The Lord is my Shepherd** by *Howard Goodall* ('The Vicar of Dibley' theme). This choir seems to be going from strength to strength and we hope that they will bring their voices to some of our special church services.

We hope to continue with our 'normal' **pattern of services** between now and the end of the year. Everyone is welcome at all of them, but in particular we want to 'highlight'

**Harvest Thanksgiving Service** at Bells Farm Shop, 2.30pm on Sunday 5 October

**Holy Communion Service for Remembrance** on Sunday 9 November at 10.45am, and at the **War Memorial**, with children from the schools in the village, on Tuesday 11 November, at 10.45am.

**Advent Carols and Readings** on Sunday 7 December at 10.00am

**Christingle** on Wednesday 24 December at 4.00pm.

Fr Tim Williams, our Rector, would like to introduce a **mid-week Holy Communion service** across the Benefice - this would be in addition to the Wednesday Morning Prayer services. As Churchwardens, we have been asked to 'sound out' whether such a service would be a welcome addition to the Sunday services. If so, would you have a preference for a day of the week, time and whether you would be willing / able to attend if the service was held at one of the other churches. Please let us know. Our contact details are on page 10.

## MID-WEEK MORNING PRAYER

During September the rota on Wednesdays, at 9.15am, will be:

03.09.25	Doverdale
10.09.25	St Mary's, Crossway Green
17.09.25	Elmbridge
24.09.25	Hartlebury
01.10.25	Rushock

Carolyn Gumbley & Carl Carlson

# SERVICE CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2025



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

DATE	HARTLEBURY	ELSEWHERE IN THE BENEFICE
<b>7 SEPTEMBER</b> TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <b>GREEN</b>	<b>10.00 SUNDAY FIRST</b>  Readings Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33	9.00am Hampton Lovett HC CW 10.30am Elmbridge FS 11.00am Doverdale MP BCP 11.00am Ombersley HC CW
<b>14 SEPTEMBER</b> THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <b>GREEN</b>	<b>11.00 PARISH EUCHARIST</b>  Readings Exodus 32.7-14; 1 Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10	9.00am Rushock HC CW 10.00am Ombersley FS
<b>21 SEPTEMBER</b> FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <b>GREEN</b>	<b>10.00 MORNING PRAYER</b>  Readings Psalm 113; Amos 8.4-7; Luke 16.1-13	9.00am Elmbridge HC CW 10.00am Ombersley Harvest 11.00am Doverdale HC BCP 6.00pm Hampton Lovett Harvest
<b>28 SEPTEMBER</b> FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <b>GREEN</b>	<b>11.00 PARISH EUCHARIST</b>  Readings Amos 6.1a,4-7; 1 Timothy 6.6-19; Luke 16.19-end	9.00am Hampton Lovett HC CW
<b>5 OCTOBER</b> SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY <b>GREEN</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>  <b>HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT BELLS FARM SHOP</b>	9.00am Hampton Lovett HC CW 10.30am Elmbridge Harvest 11.00am Ombersley HC CW 11.00am Doverdale MP BCP

HC Holy Communion MP Morning Prayer CW Common Worship BCP Book of Common Prayer FS Family Service ES Evensong



# Friends of St James Hartlebury



## THE CHURCH CLOCK IS ON STRIKE ...

Well, not quite, but it needs your help. As you may have noticed, the hands of the clock have stopped at 12.30. However, the clock mechanism inside the tower is running perfectly and is striking the hour bell at the correct times. The problem lies with the 'dialwork', which is a gearbox situated inside the tower right behind the dial. It has 12:1 reduction gears to drive both hands but has developed wear and stiffness which has been causing the clock to stop. The drive rod from the clock to the dialwork has been disconnected so that the clock is able to run and strike the hours, but the external hands are stopped. Until now, neither the clock nor the dialwork have needed any expenditure for at least forty years, other than a routine annual maintenance visit.

The company who maintains the clock for us have put forward a repair proposal. This would involve:

- Removing the hands by abseiling down the outside of the tower.
- Removing the dialworks from inside the tower and transporting them to the company's workshops for overhaul.
- Returning to the church and re-fitting (more abseiling).

The quotation for this work is £4,030 + VAT. A second quote has been requested, but this will not be available until end-August, too late for this edition of the magazine.

Fund raising activities have started and these will be carried out under the auspices of The Friends of St James Church Hartlebury (FOSJ) which is a Registered Charity (Number 1156410) having the objectives of supporting the repair and conservation of the fabric of St James Church. We will be seeking grants towards the clock repair cost and considering other fund-raising activities.

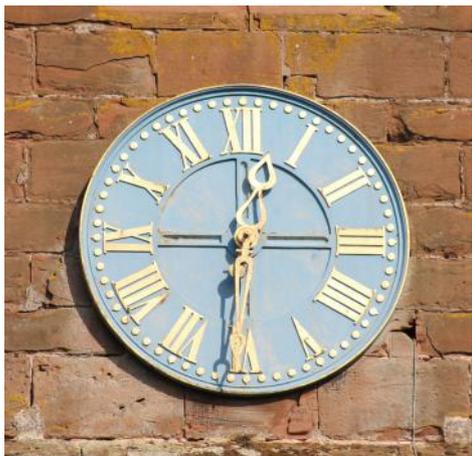
The Friends would be grateful to receive individual donations: These may be made directly to the FOSJ bank account, or by cheque or cash. Please contact John Webb (01229 250452), Malcolm Owen (01299 250660) or any of the other FOSJ Trustees for bank details.

## Descriptive note

The church clock was made in 1839 by William Rhead of Coventry: he was a nonconformist minister as well as a clockmaker. The clock is a fine example of a hand wound two train (*see note*) cast iron posted frame pendulum clock. It needs to be hand wound every seven days. Every hour the clock hammer strikes the tenor bell the appropriate number of times to announce the time. The tenor is the heaviest of the eight ringing bells mounted in the tower, weighing 17 cwt (865 kg).

The clock was dismantled and completely overhauled in the early 1980s. No work was done on the dialwork at that time or since.

*Note. One train comprises the gears, escapement and pendulum which operate the exterior hands of the clock and regulate its timekeeping. The other train operates the hour striking mechanism. Each train has to be hand wound each week.*



## VISIT THE CHURCH TOWER TO SEE THE CLOCK

With reference to the problems we are facing with the church clock, I will be arranging a series of visits to enable those interested to come up into the tower to view the clock mechanism. It is an interesting piece of early Victorian engineering which is worth seeing.

For safety reasons, the number of people attending each visit will be limited to six. There is a fairly steep set of stairs (not a ladder) leading to the clock room with a hatchway at the top. With reasonable fitness and mobility these are easily negotiated.

Participation in the visits will be by advance booking only.

The dates of the next two visits are:

- **Saturday 6 September at 10.15** (the same morning as the Men's Breakfast)
- **Saturday 11 October at 9.30** (Coffee Morning day)

Please contact John Webb if you would like to book a place.

✉ [hjohnwebb42@gmail.com](mailto:hjohnwebb42@gmail.com) 📞 07973 324813

The visits are an opportunity to raise funds for the repair of the clock so we will be asking for a donation of £10 from each attendee.

*John Webb*

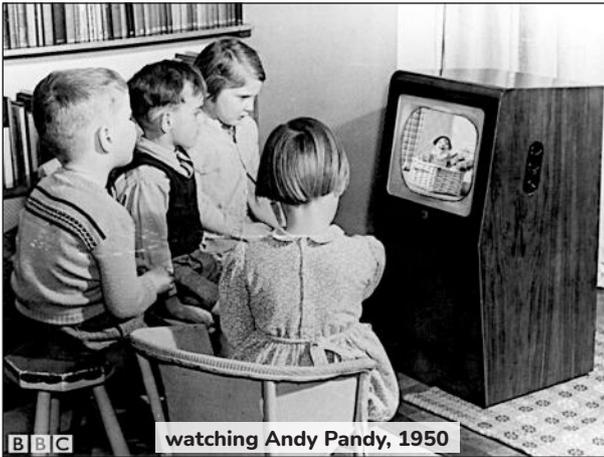
***Shalom chaverim*** (Hebrew: מִירְבַּח מוֹלֵשׁ) is a traditional Israeli folk song that can be sung as a simple melody or as a three-part round. While literally translated 'Peace, friends', the word ***shalom*** has more depth and richness of meaning than can be contained in any single English word. Hebrew scholars suggest something closer to 'comprehensive well-being', but that's difficult to set to music.

From 'Music that Makes Community'



## Past, Present and Future - *by Stephen Owens*

**W**e watched an episode of Andy Pandy on BBC Four. I was most surprised at the effect it had on me. This children's television programme was first broadcast in 1950 and then 26 fifteen-minute programmes were filmed and continuously repeated until 1969, many children watched the puppets over the years and heard the stories and songs.



I was amazed that when we watched, I was transported back seventy plus years to my childhood, for I had watched these episodes then. It was so vivid and unexpected.

Do you find that certain things evoke vivid memories of the past? Maybe it is a place that you visit, a smell, a name or some music? Do you find as you get older that you ponder more on memories from the past?

Memories can bring joy and laughter but can also bring a deep sadness. Perhaps we remember someone whom we now miss very much or a time long past when we were very happy. They can also be very

difficult as we might remember traumatic events, or moments that bring regret or guilt.

It could be said that it is not good to focus on the past, but better to concentrate on the present or look more ahead to the future. That is true, but good memories from the past can help us place our lives in context and draw the threads of our life together.

Life is not just about memories, and I have experienced the joy, shared by many people, of doing new things in my old age. One of these was returning to the violin after many years of not playing it at all. I will not go into the story of this but just say that doing that has had many positive repercussions. The challenge of having to learn to play a musical instrument again has been a creative exercise.

It has also led me to orchestras and people who have become particularly important to me. I have played all sorts of music that I did not know at all. If you have ever heard me play, you will know that I am a very amateur player. But it is such a joy to make music with others.

### **Wellness Choir**

Those of us who sing in the Wellness Choir in Hartlebury will have shared the same experience. The joy of doing something creative with a group of people. Many of us are singing music that is new to us, and it is a wonderful thing to do.

Doing new things in our lives, taking up new hobbies, joining new groups, and visiting new places all help us grow as people and must be good for our health and well-being, especially as we get older.

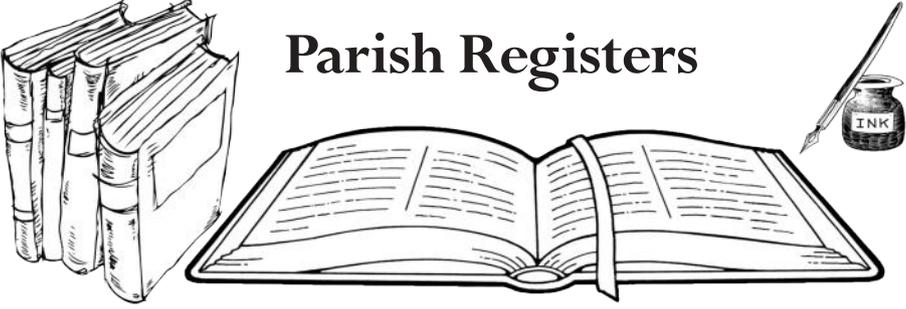
There is a place for looking back in our lives, and a place for doing new things, living in the present and looking to the future. As a follower of the Christian faith, I see all these reflected in the lives of those who follow Jesus Christ. We look back in time to his teaching and the traditions of the Christian communities worldwide. We believe Christ to be with us now spiritu-

*... it is such a joy to make music with others.*

ally and we try and work out what he wants us to do today. We think too of the future with hope and trust, for ourselves and for our world.

I hope that whatever your age and beliefs, the things of the past, present and hopes for the future can come together for good in your life. I hope that as you look at your life you can see amid life's complexities and disappointments something unique, good and wonderful.

Stephen Owens □



## Parish Registers

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**Baptism at St James**  
24 August 2025                      Addilyn Rose Westherstone

**Wedding at St James**  
26 July 2025                        Grant Oliver Campbell and Alisha Shellie Briggs

**Burial of Ashes at St Mary's**  
6 August 2025                       Elizabeth Childe

**Funeral at Wyre Forest Crematorium**  
1 July 2025                           Clifford Edwards



**The Samuel Manning Charity is asking Hartlebury Residents ... Can we help?**

Each month presents financial challenges for already stretched budgets. The Samuel Manning Charity is keen to help those experiencing a temporary financial difficulty by offering small hardship grants.

Perhaps you need some funds for a travel pass to get you to work before you get your first pay cheque. Or you need a set of tools to start an apprenticeship. A purchase of school supplies or the cost of an educational trip might be causing you to struggle to afford what you know your child needs. Maybe equipment, or a white good has broken, or worn out and it's beyond your current budget to replace it. If any of these or similar circumstances apply to you, apply to us ...



**REQUEST A HARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM FROM:**

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The Samuel Manning Charity Registration Number 204271



## WELLNESS CHOIR

**WE WILL BE LAUNCHING OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME WITH PERFORMANCES IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER**

**A welcoming group of local singers who meet twice monthly at St James Church.**

**September Rehearsal Dates: 10th and 24th**

**Time: 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

**Cost: £5 per person per month**

Details and music from Elizabeth Davies at [ewynnedavies@gmail.com](mailto:ewynnedavies@gmail.com)

# Scarecrows and Sunflowers

Hartlebury Parish Council would like to thank everyone that took the time to enter into another successful scarecrow competition. Our thanks go to the competitors that took the time to build their scarecrows, to those that toured around the village to look at the scarecrows and to those that voted for their favourite. We would also like to thank The Tap House for hosting this event. This year we had voting boxes at various locations around the village to enable residents to vote over the whole of the scarecrow weekend.

There was a wide range of scarecrows, from Ozzy Osbourne to Minions. Congratulations go to **The Tap House** for the winning Ozzy, 2nd place to the **Leapgate Activity Centre** for their Minions and 3rd place to the **Red House** for their Ozzy. The Tap House has donated their prize to the Kidderminster Food Bank together with an additional donation from themselves.

Once again feedback from the public has been brilliant. Everyone said how much they enjoyed themselves and recommend we do the event again next year.

This year, HPC also held a children's sunflower competition and would like to thank all the children and parents that took part. Congratulations go to brother and sister **Harry and Lily Bradford** and **Sam Evans** for winning the tallest sunflower and the widest sunflower head plant. All runners-up received a block of chocolate.

*Cllr Clare Atkinson and Cllr Louise Tarleton-Hodgson*





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**The Wharf**  
Care Home  
Maria Mallaband

**Residential | Dementia | Nursing | Respite**

## PARISH HALL DIARY & LOCAL EVENTS



**Armoury Action Air** - Monthly on Sundays noon-6.00pm Airsoft

Contact: enquiries@armouryactionair.co.uk

**Art Group** - Wednesdays 2.00-4.00pm

Contact: Marion Inman 01299 250175

**Baby Massage / Baby Yoga** - Thursdays 10.00-11.30am

Contact: Maxine Downes 07395 444239

**Card making & Paper Craft** - Tuesdays 10.00am-noon

Contact: Pat Onslow-Jones 07801 100927, patricia.onslow-jones@sky.com

**Community Café** - Tuesdays 10am-noon. Pop along—everyone welcome.

**Dementia Café** - Third Friday of the month 1.30-3.30pm

Contact Kelly Reeves 01905 724294, dementia-wellbeing-service@ageukwyvern.org

**Drama Group** - Mondays at 7.30pm. Ombersley Dramatic Society

Contact: Dave Vas 07977 991131. Always looking for new members.

**Gardening Club** - First Thursday of the month at 7.30pm

Contact: Tony Hardwick 01299 250937, ajhardwick2@gmail.com

**Glowing Mama** - Fridays 10.00-11.30am

Contact: Jenna Cole 07968 470888

**Parish Council** - First Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm - everyone welcome.

**Portman Dance** - Fridays 8.00-9.30pm. Ballroom and Latin dance practice.

Contact: Ray or Marion 01299 250853, raymondportman@btinternet.com

**u3a Ceilidh Club** - First Friday of the month 2.00-4.00pm

Website [www.wyreforestu3a.org.uk](http://www.wyreforestu3a.org.uk)

**WI** - Second Wednesday of the month 7.30pm

Contact: Marion Inman 01299 250175, hartleburywi@gmail.com

**Yoga** - Tuesdays 6.00-7.15pm £8 per class Holistic Therapies & Yoga

Contact: Yvonne Toms—07929 801856

**Yoga & Well Being** - Wednesdays 09.45-11.00am.

Contact: Linda Thomas—lt.yogagongs@gmail.com



Hartlebury Church of England Primary School - Scarecrows

**T**ransition is an important part of the school year in any school, but particularly at the Cambian New Elizabethan [CNES], where all the pupils have a diagnosis of autism and many can find change a challenge.

During transition pupils get a chance to experience the subjects they will be learning in their next school year and meet their new teachers and teaching assistants. At CNES this is particularly important and is extended to a full two weeks at the end of the summer term when pupils follow their new timetables, so that when they return to school in September things will be, as much as possible, the same as they were when they finished in July.

This year that meant one (hot!) day of hard work for staff, who spent the Friday before transition, when the children were not in school, moving around classrooms to their new locations.

As the school is expanding from one primary classroom to three next year, this made for a lot of moving as the maths and science rooms had to be moved to make a primary section at one end of the school.

After the summer holiday, we are hoping to come back to a new refurbished and fully equipped science lab.

The English room was moved next to a room which is a new school library. The Sixth Form, the art room and the admin offices were also moved, which led to lot of furniture and equipment moving for staff, which thanks to some great teamwork, was all completed in a day, so children could come back on the Monday to a transformed school.

At the end of term the school was offered an amazing opportunity by The Sealed Knot, the English Civil War battle re-enactment group which puts on the

event at Hartlebury Castle in July, for our children to visit the castle and take part in a variety of activities connected to the English Civil War.



Deputy Headteacher Ben Homer learning about an English Civil War musket from a member of The Sealed Knot.

We decided to take down the whole school, with half the school going in the morning, the whole school having a picnic lunch together at the castle, and then the other half of the school doing activities in the afternoon.

It was wonderful to see children who might sometimes be reluctant to join in activities at school, putting on a soldier's helmet from the English Civil War and marching around with a 20-foot pike.

Members of The Sealed Knot provided a variety of really engaging activities for the children like pike drill, guessing the ingredients of 17th Century gunpowder, learning how to fire a musket, designing flags or having a go at being a drummer. It was an unforgettable experience for pupils and staff.

*Nick Howells*

## Borneo Trip - by Matt Howells

During July I spent three weeks in Sabah, the northern most state of Malaysian Borneo, on an expedition with school. We spent time in both the jungle and the city; as you'd assume, they're very different

The thing I felt in the jungle was the sense of freedom, a literal breath of fresh air compared to life in the UK. In Borneo you're free to roam around the jungle as you please, it's wild, it's free. We walked for five days and didn't see another human being.

One of our guide's villages used to be a week's trek from civilisation until they got roads in 1992 and is now a mere 6-hour drive just to see another building. That concept of true unfettered nature was somewhat foreign to me, as in the UK we have the guise of freedom. If you go anywhere here, you're going onto private land, everything's bought and paid for.



Matt Howells crossing a bridge during his trip to Borneo

True freedom was refreshing, almost as much as the river we bathed in, which we wouldn't have been able to do in the UK as it would've been owned by someone. In the UK over 90% of the land is privately-owned. We have no virgin forest left in this country, compared to the 28% in Borneo. In Borneo almost the whole jungle is free to roam. I enjoyed that feeling.

But the trip wasn't all tree conservation work and wild camping in hammocks, while doing our business in a hole we dug in the ground and eating a chicken that had been strolling about 2 hours before it became our very delicious dinner, we traded real jungle for concrete jungle.

Kota Kinabalu didn't have quite the same charm. Replacing freedom and open air were endless markets, where people would swarm you and one man even weighed his fish for me to prove his authenticity. The predators switched from ground hornets that attacked us and stung several of our group to hucksters who would offer to throw in a small crab to our meal as a 'favour from our bestest friend in the whole world' though it alone would cost more than our 19-person feast. Instead of checking your legs for leech bites, you'd check your money belt to ensure you'd got what you came in with.

So, on the whole, it was an interesting experience, one I'd love to do again. It was a bit of a rollercoaster. Like most rollercoasters you get on, start questioning every life decision that led you to this moment, then scream as loud as you can as your flung through the sky at 100 km/h and then it stops and you hop off grinning from ear to ear, begging your mum to let you go again.

**Matt Howells**



## Welcome back to my Crochet Corner

**T**hank you to all those who joined me during my August Crochet groups; flowers were hooked and created a beautiful display.

After a short break for summer, I am back brimming with ideas and everything Autumnal (I haven't yet let my mind turn to anything festive yet). Here we are in September, Autumn, Harvest, Fall. Sometimes it's hard to see the beautiful days of sunshine get shorter and give way to the chillier evenings, the great news however is that as days get shorter and nights creep earlier, there's generally more time to crochet as we begin to snuggle inside in warmth and cosiness!



The season's relentless march continues, soon the rustling of tousled leaves in multiple shades of burnt ochre, and the earthy smell of dampness underfoot will become the harbinger of colder wetter days.

The rosy apples are ripe ready and picked, the berries abundant in the hedgerows for the brave and nimble to tackle the brambles, the silos swelled with grain and nature's stores stocked ready for its dormant months. Autumn in its hurrah of bold and homely shades gives us a triumphant orchestra of colour to use on our palette for crochet.

We use these colours to create warm scarves to wear and colourful housewares to bring nature indoors.

This month's choice of the year is newly released by **Bella Coco** in collaboration with **Hobbii** ([www.hobbii.co.uk](http://www.hobbii.co.uk)). It's 100% merino wool, which comes in pastel and bright colours. Merino wool is soft and warm, which makes it perfect for scarves, shawls and neck warmers. The wonderful and exciting aspect of this yarn is that it is created by Bella Coco specifically for crocheters, although it can be used by knitters as well, and spun using the 'z-twist' to prevent any splitting of the yarn strands whilst using it. This yarn was released in July, my herding skills with yarn have struck again, of course I have ordered some to try out and I will bring a sample of this wool to my groups in September.

In crochet, specific stitches – Suzette, Waffle, Basket Weave, Alpine to mention only a few, are produced by alternating the basic stitches of double, half-double, treble and double treble. By building up your repertoire of stitches, your crochet pattern becomes increasingly intricate but remains uncomplicated to complete.

This month I will introduce the **Suzette Stitch**; the front is the same as the back and it is a solid stitch making it very warm. It uses a combination of double crochet and treble crochet to give a very textured pattern.

To begin, grab any yarn and the corresponding hook size for that yarn.

Row 1: Create a slipknot. Chain 41.

Row 2: Double crochet into the second stitch from the hook. Double crochet into each chain until end (40 stitches at end of Row). Chain 1 and turn.

Row 3: Double crochet into 1st stitch. Treble crochet into same stitch. Skip 1 stitch. Double crochet and treble crochet into the next stitch. Continue until the end of the row. Chain 1 and turn.

Row 4: Same as Row 3.

Continue until the desired length is achieved.

Multiple colours can be used, change these at the end of rows. Video demonstrations can be found on YouTube. For beginners I would advise both the use of these videos and this pattern because it will bring familiarity with written crochet patterns.

Come join me in my Crochet Corner at *Magnolia's* on **September 5 and 29, 10:30–12:00** for some Halloween themed crochet. I look forward to seeing you there for discussing all things yarn and crochet stitches in beautiful surroundings with great coffee.

Patricia Stockdale

## Repair Cafés: Fix, Don't Throw Away

Repair shops run at local venues offer precisely this service. Each repair café diverts on average 2 to 3 tonnes of waste from landfill each year as well as reinforcing the traditional messages of reusing items rather than throwing them away.



Hartlebury Parish Hall would be interested in setting up such a monthly service. To find out what's involved, Kidderminster Repair Café is inviting people to attend its next session on Saturday 6 September 10.00 am to 1.00 pm at Youth House, Bromsgrove Street DY10 1PF. (More information on Facebook.)

There will then be an open meeting at Hartlebury Parish Hall to determine interest in taking this forward on September 27 from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm.

# The Battle of Hartlebury 2025

TIM CORNAH OF WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY, WHO DISCOVERED THE BASTION AT HARTLEBURY CASTLE, JOINS THE SEALED KNOT FOR THEIR RECREATION OF THE BATTLE OF NASEBY.

**A**s many of you know, or will have heard, the Sealed Knot were at Hartlebury Castle in late July this year. They were recreating the Battle of Hartlebury, but did this actually happen at any point within the Civil War of the 1640s? In a word, no. Or at least, not that we know of. But could it have? Maybe...

The records are pretty sparse as to what actually happened at the Castle, but we know from the bastion we found over the last few years that they were ready for action. We think the Royalist garrison could have started the defences in early 1643, based on a document from 1646. But there are some suggestions that some skirmishing happened, most notably two entries in the parish registers in January 1645. Firstly, one John Housman 'a souldier' was buried in the churchyard on 14 January. Three days later on 17 January 'a souldier from the Castle' was also buried. These are the only two mentions of burials of soldiers throughout the wars. The fact that they were three days apart does seem a coincidence. But does it tell of an unknown encounter or skirmish? Possibly, but similarly why couldn't it have been a drunken brawl taken too far by bored soldiers?

Later in 1645, the Scottish Army passed through Hartlebury parish stripping many resources as they went. One Emanuel Ives had '20 good sheep' taken at a cost of £6 13s 14d and Emanuel Smith lost six oxen at a cost of £27. In all, 497 sheep were taken from the parish. They had time to steal all that livestock, but didn't take a few shots at our garrison waiting atop the bastion

and manning the ramparts? It seems unlikely to me that this didn't happen, I am sure the garrison would have seen any local livestock as their own resources.

The main potential flashpoint was in 1646 when Parliamentary forces under Colonel Morgan made ready to siege the site. As an account of this, I give you a *quote* (below) from the contemporary diary of Henry Townshend of Elmley Lovett.

## Did Hartlebury garrison fight the Parliamentarians or not?

*'The 14th May 1646 Colonel Morgan summoned Hartlebury Castle, wherein Captain William Sandys was governor, and therein was Lord Windsor, Colonel Samuel Sandys, late governor of Worcester, Mr Anderson his brother, Lady Sandys his mother, and some other gentlemen, and 120 foot soldiers and 40 horse. A place which put the country to an excessive charge the fortifying by the covetousness of the governor and the officers there and was made very strong, being situated on a rock and huge moat, provision and ammunition for 12 months. For the governor had sharked the county thereabouts, that for beef, malt, hay and bacon he lived in free cost. Yet he most poorly and cowardly, without a shot, delivered it up within 2 days, being the 16th of May. And some say he had given for the deliver the same £3,000. The conditions of the surrender were poor and mean.'*

This clearly biased passage has been the taint of Hartlebury Castle garrison that has lasted down the centuries. We now know from the archaeology that they put in the effort to defend the site. I can't deny

some disappointment that the archaeology did not give us the clear smoking gun evidence of action, but similarly it has not ruled it out.

And this for me is where re-enactment groups such as the Sealed Knot come in and prove their value. They give another aspect, which records and archaeology can't; the direct experience of real people. Smoke rings billowing from the cannon's muzzle, the smell of black powder and cooking, the weight of pike and musket, barked orders and idle soldiery, I suspect the nightly emptying of beer supplies was not too far from historical reality either, thankfully with no brawling this time!

### Joining the Sealed Knot

This year, I was offered the chance to join the ranks of the Sealed Knot. I and my family joined willingly. Being part of the camp was great fun. The highlight for us

was being allowed to join the lunch queue for the genuine period food cooked on site over wood fires! The Knot members have so much enthusiasm and were delighted to have two new children to enlist as apprentices.

We really enjoyed dressing up. Who knew that breeches would be so comfortable? I was delighted by a wide brimmed hat too, though both were quite warm on the day. And that's what it does. It immediately gives a new perspective of how people at that time would have felt, beads of sweat would also have dripped down into their eyes too when in line preparing their muskets to fire a volley. Though these re-enactments do not have the same immediate danger elements of a real skirmish,

I certainly felt a moment of genuine moment of adrenaline when with the musketeers. In a broken field recreating a hand-



Tim Cornah and family



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**SCAN  
ME**





Scottish Army

like some genuine battlefield danger, chaos and fear.

For me it's absolutely worth remembering if any action did happen for real at Hartlebury Castle in the Civil Wars, the thumping sound of cannon and crackle of musketry would have struck genuine fear into the

to-hand fight, a large horse and rider appeared looming over very suddenly within a couple of metres. The horse that was an hour before half-asleep and being patted by members of the public, at this point had a wild look in its eye that was far from reassuring. Some of my regiment pushed me quickly into a circle of pike as a defensive move. I was told later this was a standard response, but in that moment to me it felt

residents of our village when they heard it. This was no foreign war, its impact was right here in this place. It is similarly worth remembering that we are in the extremely privileged position where we can host such re-enactments for the sake of both learning and fun. And did I have fun firing the cannon from the bastion? Of course I did!



Tim Cornah

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- \*Bird Surf & Turf
- \*Tap House Ultimate Mixed Grill
- \*10oz Local Butchers Black & Blue Rump Steak
- \*10oz Local Butchers Mexicana Rump Steak
- \*Chargrilled Cajun Spiced Chicken Salad
- \*Grilled Halloumi Salad
- \*Salmon Fillet Salad
- \*Steak and Stilton Salad
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- \*Three Cheese Mediterranean Vegetable Lasagne
- \*Falafel and Spinach Burger
- \*Moroccan Cauliflower, Chickpea Chutney Roulade

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**Served with Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Home Made Gravy.**

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# Hartlebury WI - *Planting for Hope Uganda*

The July meeting was held on 9 July 2025 on a very warm, sultry evening in the middle of a heat wave but was still very well attended by members and visitors.

The meeting reported that the trip to Stourport basin had been successful, and Marion our President reminded members about the annual craft competition on 30 October and that for any member interested, a meeting would be taking place in September to discuss our entries. Also, we would be entering a scarecrow in the forthcoming scarecrow competition and members were asked to continue contributing granny squares for use in the Christmas tree competition.

Events happening included a visit to Drakelow Tunnels on 18 July, a bat walk at Hartlebury Castle on 9 August, an afternoon tea at Rowberry's nursery on 13 August and a visit to the Coffin Works in the Jewellery Quarter on 24 September.

Our speaker this month was **Kate Oakley** talking about her work for the charity *Planting for Hope Uganda*.



SCAN ME



[www.planting4hopeuganda.co.uk](http://www.planting4hopeuganda.co.uk)

Kate first visited Uganda in 2007 after the death of her husband where she found unimaginable poverty, hunger, disease, poor housing, and poor sanitation alongside lack of work and lack of educational opportunities. This motivated her to help—she and Apollo Saku, a young farmer and school principal, decided in 2013, to work together. The overriding aim in the village of Kititi in

southwest Uganda, is to empower the community to be self-supporting and have a sustainable future.

Children now go to school and the pupils win prizes for their education qualifications, The women have formed a co-operative, have sustainable farming projects and grow commercial crops both for their own use and for sale, many eventually leaving the co-operative and setting up their own businesses. The children have improved diets and clean water; electricity is being provided by solar panels and support is given to the elderly.

There was a table set up with crafts and other goods that the women make and sell to help buy land bought by the Charity to provide food and educate their families. Kate is certainly proof that one woman can make a difference!

The next meeting of the book club was 11 August at the Tap House where the book for discussion was *The Bone Hunters*. The raffle was won by Anne Evans— tea and coffee was served. The Sewing club meet again on Monday 22 September where we will be making Wiggle worms and Toiletry bags.

The next meeting is 10 September. Visitors are welcome.

**August Meeting.** There was no meeting in August, but 36 members met for Afternoon Tea at Rowberry's Garden Centre. We were served a delicious tea with fresh sandwiches, cream scones, a variety of homemade cakes and a selection of teas and coffee. Needless to say, a particularly enjoyable time was enjoyed by all!

theWI

Pamela Ford □

Anne

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### **Planning**

There were 15 planning applications considered and the decisions of the Parish Council on this can be seen in the full minutes available at [Hartlebury-pc.gov.uk](http://Hartlebury-pc.gov.uk).

### **Future Unitary structure of the District and County Councils**

The proposed unitary structure for Worcestershire involves replacing the current two-tier system—comprising Worcestershire County Council and six district councils including Wychavon and Malvern Hills—with either one or two unitary authorities. One option is a single Worcestershire-wide unitary council delivering all services. Another is a South Worcestershire unitary authority, merging Wychavon, Malvern Hills, and Worcester City. The aim is to streamline governance, improve service delivery, and achieve financial sustainability. While some Councillors support a single authority, others prefer a smaller, more localized model. Final proposals are due in November 2025, with implementation expected by April 2028. It is still unclear at this stage how this new structure will affect Parish Councils.

### **Hartlebury Hero awards**

The Parish Council presents the Hartlebury Hero award to outstanding volunteer contributors within Hartlebury. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to nominate someone for this award which includes a small gift.

The Parish Council awarded this to Mike Tooley for all the voluntary work he does in the Parish. The Parish Council were delighted to give him the Hartlebury Hero award as a small acknowledgement of gratitude from the Parish.

### **Parish Lengthsman and Parish Maintenance contractor.**

The newly contracted maintenance and Parish Lengthsman has been busy taking and passing courses that are essential to the work and will start work in September 2025.

### **Tree by the Tennis Court**

There is a tree near the tennis court whose roots are starting to damage the surface of the tennis court. The Council is looking into suitable action for the tree to ameliorate this situation.

### **Advisory Group and working parties.**

There are several allotments available for anyone who wishes to grow their own flowers and vegetables this year. Time to get winter vegetables in!

### **Councillor Vacancy**

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council, and the Parish Council will be able to co-opt a new Councillor to the Council in September or October. If you are interested in applying, then please contact the Clerk.

### **Car Park at the Parish Hall**

The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of leasing the Car Park to the Parish Hall for the remainder of the Parish Hall Lease which is currently to expire in 2105. The Parish Council has engaged solicitors to investigate this possibility.

### **Finance**

The financial details from 2024-25 are available on the Parish Council website and you are welcome to examine them from 10 June to 21 July 2025 by appointment.

### **Events**

The Council thanks the events advisory group for organising the Sunflower competition for the younger members of the parish and the Scarecrow competition that had 21 entrants and 269 votes.

### **Dates for your diaries.**

November 22 has been booked for the 2025 Christmas light switch on.

### **Future Parish Council meetings**

September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. There is no meeting scheduled to take place in January 2026. Everyone is welcome to attend any Parish Council meetings in person or via the live streaming straight into their living rooms!

### **Parish Maintenance**

Councillors conduct inspections of the play area on a weekly basis, to ensure the safety and maintenance of the equipment, so if you do spot any equipment in need of TLC, do please bring it to our attention. The same is true of any other furniture or fixings in the village, from bus shelters to VAS signs.

### **Finally**

Do not forget to keep an eye on the Parish Council website where you can find the link to watch the Parish Council meeting live and find relevant documents for each parish council meeting. All the minutes are available online and all the decisions made by the Council are recorded in them.

New ideas and suggestions are always welcome as to how the Parish Council can improve your village and parish. Please contact the Clerk at [clerk@hartlebury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hartlebury-pc.gov.uk) or call 07341 372139.



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Wednesday ..... 08:00 - 18:00  
Thursday ..... 08:00 - 18:00  
Friday ..... 08:00 - 18:00  
Saturday ..... Appointment Only  
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## **Hartlebury Parish Council Minutes**

Access to the minutes, supporting documents and more, has become much easier through the Council website <https://hartlebury-pc.gov.uk>, so the magazine no longer includes full minutes.

However, this change does not suit everyone so we are offering to deliver a printed version of the minutes, when they are available, to subscribers with your magazine.

To sign up call **John Hellens on 07711 601576** with your name and address and we will supply hard copy of the minutes with your magazine delivery.

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## New House Farm Quarry Extension Proposal

You are invited by wienerberger to view and comment on the proposals to extend clay working at New House Farm Quarry.

An in-person consultation event will take place on Thursday 9 October 2025 at Hartlebury Parish Hall between 1pm and 7pm.

You will be able to view the proposals and provide feedback online by scanning the QR code, or visiting [newhousefarm-consultation.com](http://newhousefarm-consultation.com)



Scan Me

COMMUNITY  
CONSULTATION EVENT



9 October  
1pm - 7pm

Hartlebury  
Parish Hall

 wienerberger

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# Hartlebury Gardening Club

## 82nd Annual Show - Sunday 7 September 2.30pm

ADMISSION £1 - children free  
Refreshments available



**SPECIAL AWARDS** - given to the following sections, to be held by the winner for one year.

Section 1 - Flowers and Plants

Section 2 - Fruit and Vegetables

Section 3 - Floral Art

Section 4 - Children's Classes

Section 5 - Men Only

Section 6 - Cookery and Preserves

Section 7 - Arts and Crafts

Section 8 - Unusual Fruit and Vegetables



The Cliff and Edith Hughes Cup for the Best in Show is awarded for all sections.

Points awarded: - 1st prize = 3 pts, 2nd prize = 2 pts, 3rd prize = 1pt.

Prizes for each class (unless otherwise stated): - 1st = £1.50, 2nd = £1, 3rd = 50p.

If you are not a member and would like to enter the show, you can pay your membership fee at the show — £7.00 single, £12.00 double.

The Gardening Club will present the 'John Jordan Potato Cup' to the winner of our annual 'potato grown in a bucket' competition this autumn.

The Barbara Smith memorial trophy will be awarded at the discretion of the Committee & Judges on the day.



Booklet cover design: credit **Stuart Courier**



# Hartlebury 82nd Annual Gardening Club Show

Sunday 7 September - 2.30 pm



*Join us for a day of fun, flowers, and gardening inspiration!*

The Gardening Club is celebrating its 82nd annual Flower and Produce Show at the Parish Hall on Sunday 7 September.

The Show covers a number of classes and is open for all Club members to exhibit their items. Do not worry if you are not a Club member you can join when entering your exhibits.

Show Schedules are available together with entry forms at the Post Office or can be emailed by contacting Pat Jewkes on 01299 251362 or Tony Hardwick on 01299 250937.

Entries must be submitted on the form provided in the Schedule by Saturday 6 September to the Show Secretary or at the Parish Hall, Sunday morning between 8.30 am to 10.00 am.

ALL exhibits MUST be staged by 11.00 am.

NO time extension will be allowed.

Remember it costs nothing to enter any exhibits.

The Show opens to the public at 2.30 pm - admission is £1 per person, children free!  
Refreshments will be available.



# NOW and THEN - Harvest Home



Traditionally, late September and early October are reckoned to be associated with Harvest Festivals that give thanks for another year of plentiful supplies of food to eat and enough surplus to store for a long winter period ending after what 'the old folk' called the Hungry Gap (the period of late March–early May when green vegetables were in short supply), not quite so important in these days of imported foodstuffs and heavily laden supermarket shelves.

Hartlebury will no doubt be putting on various Harvest Festival themed events; the schools, St James Church and the Gardening Club all have their own well produced and well attended celebrations of Harvest Thanksgiving. More details will, I'm sure, be in this edition of 'The Mag'.

Harvest festivals in the UK are traditionally on the Sunday nearest to the full moon around the time of the autumn equinox, generally September 22nd or so. This year (2025), the full moon is on October 5th. The first recorded church celebration of harvest was at Morwenstow in Cornwall, where in 1843, the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to his home to receive the sacrament with 'the bread of new corn'. From there, all the festivals involving religious aspects have grown.

But my aim in this piece is to think about **Harvest Home**, a slightly different event. This is much, much older, origins going back many hundreds, or even thousands of years, to a time when bringing 'the harvest home' safely was literally a matter of life and death to all concerned. Would there be enough to feed the humans and also enough fodder to keep the animals from starving over the long, cold winter months? No wonder there were big celebrations for a successful harvest. It's similar all over the world; for instance, the rice harvest in Bali, Indonesia is celebrated

with offerings to **Dewi Sri**, the goddess of rice in replica mini-temples made of bamboo and decorated with many flags, or in China where they celebrate the harvest at **Zhong Qiu Jie** (中秋节 *zhōng qiū jié*), the Moon Festival, this year on October 6th, where families meet up, light paper lanterns and eat mooncakes (recipe unknown to me, please see Google).



Harvest, the word, is from the Old English *Haerfest* where it originally was used as a season, the time between August and October. Only in the early Middle ages (c. 1250 AD) was it used to describe the action of bringing in the land's bounty, hence the term Harvest Home, which was linked to the Christian festival of **Lammas** (Old English *Hlāfmæsse*), which celebrates the start of harvesting on or around August 1st.

In the ancient Harvest Home celebrations, which was the conclusion of so much hard, manual work, cutting the corn stalks with firstly; sickles made from curved sticks that had sharp flints glued into them in the Neolithic age, then later with bronze and then iron sickles, culminating in scythes. Acre after acre of back breaking work in the heat of summer, to reach at last the final small patch of corn to be cut. This was called the Neck or the Mell. It was here that the '*spirit on the corn*' was to be found hiding and this resulted in singing, dancing and guess what? Drinking. The last load of stooks (a collection of sheaves) including the very last one to be cut and tied was taken back to the farm/village amidst much jollity and raucous 'goings-on'. The straw from the last sheaf was made into corn dollies, which could be made to represent '*the corn mother*' or any other design that the maker thought appropriate to the locality. It was then put up in the houses of the harvesters to capture the '*corn spirit*' and keep him/her/it

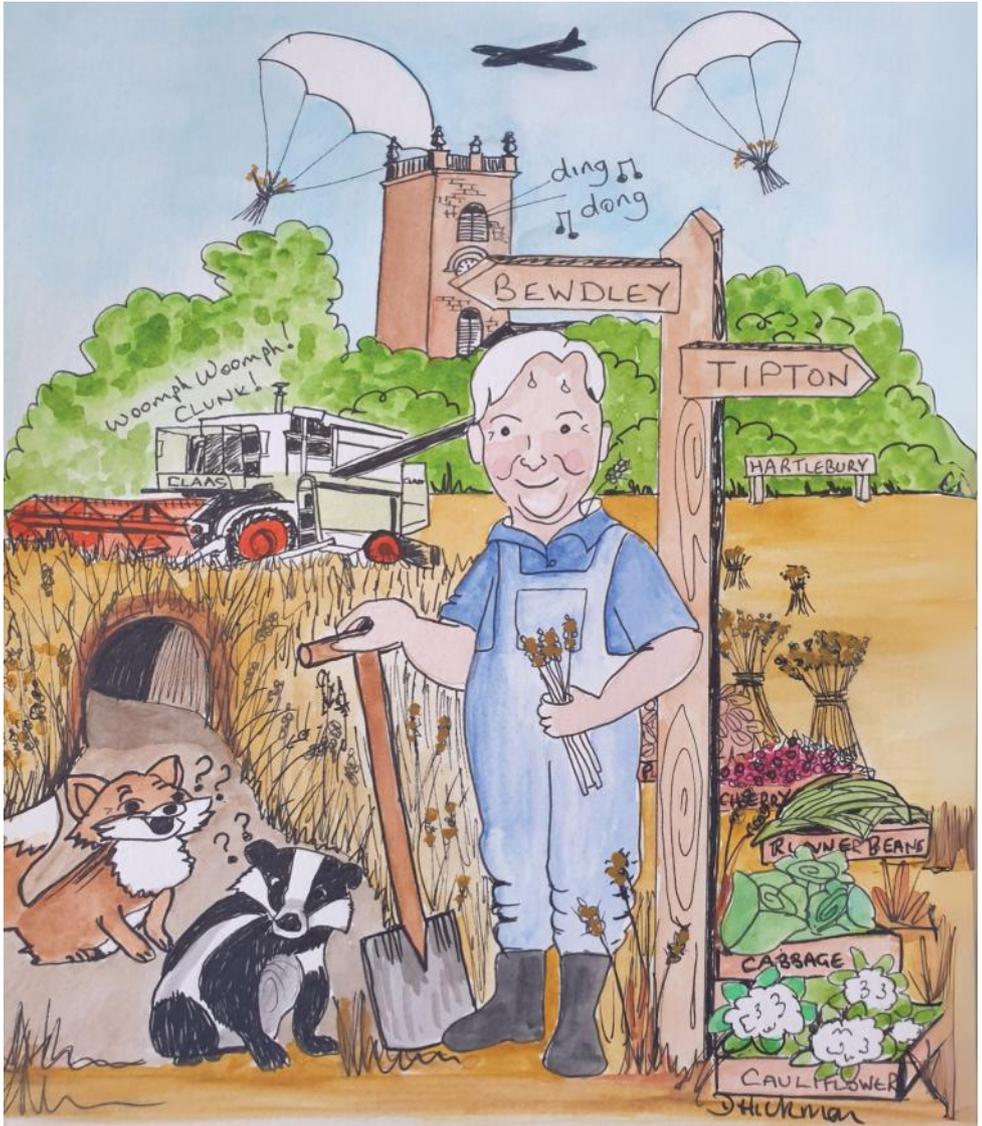


safe till next year. The grain from the last sheaf was made into the first new bread of the year and washed down with copious amounts of ale.

On our farm in the village, there were many harvests, I suppose starting in the early summer with hay making in mid-June, then fruit (cherries/egg-plums/gooseberries), then moving onto vegetables (runner beans in late July, cabbages throughout the year, cauliflower in the autumn and what we called broccoli [now known as calabrese] an over wintered cauliflower harvested in springtime), potatoes, sugar beet in the late autumn and early New Year sent to the factory in Kidderminster, now houses. So, there were many harvests, but the one that is synonymous with Harvest Home, is the corn harvest, both barley and wheat. There is something extra special about bringing in the last load of grain, storing it away with all the other loads in a weatherproof building where you know that THE harvest is safely gathered in. The corn harvest started on our farm with preparing the

combine, latterly a **Claas Dominator** which cut a swath of 14ft (4.3m). I have recently been to a farm where the single massive combine harvester cuts a 40ft (12.5m) swath! And the driver is in relative comfort with air conditioning and GPS controls, fridge for the drinks and camera monitors for every part of the operation, (progress eh?). My wife still remembers fondly the sound of the combine first being started up in the yard, prior to greasing up and checking over and being ready for the off. It was a loud woomph, woomphing noise, totally distinctive and much loved by our family. Combining was great whilst all went well, but when we had a break down, not so much fun, with barley piles (the awns off the head) getting down your neck or scratching your arms and the dust, combined with high temperatures making life difficult! One year, whilst combining around the edge of a field which was quite 'banky', the combine front wheels (the big ones) sank into a hole, and it soon became apparent it was a collapsed badger/fox subterranean





tunnel. That caused some head scratching I can tell you. How on earth were we going to get that great big machine out and back to work without damaging all the gubbins? Much digging with spades and pulling with tractors eventually saw the old gal back on firm ground and little damage done, but an afternoon of glorious combining weather lost! I have visions of Mr and Mrs Fox and Badger plus offspring, sitting on the bank watching what was

going on and wondering about the damage inflicted upon their homes?

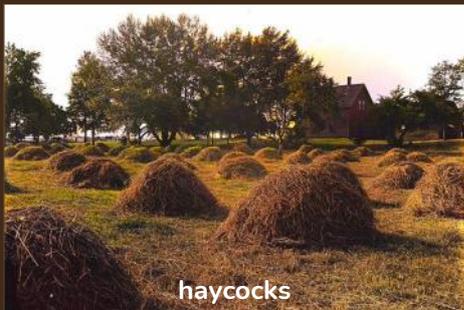
There is little better than seeing the combine raising clouds of dust, as this shows that the corn is ready and dry enough to cut. Most cereals are sold at 16% moisture content, so if you are above that then the product will have to be dried, at great cost, to enable it to be safely stored and not 'sweat' and go mouldy! Ahh, the tribulations of harvest.

## The Battle of Bewdley

A small digression here (it does have a harvest theme). Have you heard of “The Battle of Bewdley”? On Sunday 30 of June 1940, when Britain was alone in WW2 in its opposition to Nazi Germany and the fear of invasion was real in the population. Bewdley was enjoying a quiet Sunday, the weather was hot and the sky cloudless. There did seem to be an unusual amount of aircraft in the skies that day especially a couple of “horrible looking black-looking things, with a throbbing noise like bombers” highlighted against the azure sky. The LDV (local defence volunteers) had finished an exercise and around 4pm were alerted by several members of the public that they had seen parachutists descending from the ominous black planes. Harry Cuthbert reported to Police Sergeant Lawton that he had seen between 10 and 20 parachutes dropping towards Ribbesford Woods and Bewdley would soon be under attack!

The authorities were informed, the police and defence forces in the area were put on high alert. Dickie Doolittle from Callow Hill, reached for his shotgun and took off to set up a road block! The Church bells were rung to sound the alarm, as ‘news’ had spread that the Germans were approaching up the river in rubber boats. The army arrived with many soldiers and Bren gun carriers; the area was sealed off as best they could. The whole area was awash with rumour and fear of an invasion. The next day, after no Germans were found (two people were arrested on Stourport bridge for looking shifty but turned out to be holiday makers from Tipton) the area settled back into relative tranquility. The parachutes? These were reckoned to be haycocks (*hay piled into heaps to dry, about 3 feet high—4 feet across, hence the harvest aspect of this diversion, tenuous I know!*) that were lifted high into the sky by what we call ‘whirligigs’—mini-tornadoes that

happen on hot sunny days in the early summer when the land is warm. Due to thermal currents they lifted the cocks high into the sky and the light winds carried them towards Ribbesford Woods.



So, no Bewdley invasion — don’t panic Captain Mainwaring!  
(See ‘A true story of the Battle of Bewdley’ by David Birt, 1988)

Now it’s up to *The Wurzels* to harmonise us off into the harvest haze. The Wurzels reached Number 1 in the charts on 12 June 1976 and stayed there for 2 weeks!

Cuz I got a brand new combine harvester  
An’ I’ll give you the key  
Come on now let’s get together  
In perfect harmony  
I got twenty acres  
An’ you got forty-three  
Now I got a brand new combine harvester  
An’ I’ll give you the key

Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

*Robert Louis Stevenson 1850–1894*

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## Hedgerow Ramblings - Brockhampton Court

Anyone visiting Brockhampton Court in Herefordshire on a beautiful summer day will be in for a treat. Quite apart from the interesting history of the house, the surrounding orchards laden with fruit, transport you to the sort of quiet where the only noise is the bees buzzing. Brockhampton is celebrating its 600th birthday this year.



To give a sense of the longevity of the wattle and daub construction, during its construction, King Henry VI was on the throne, England and France battled over French territory and Joan of Arc was in the ascendency. The house has been used by many families down the centuries, beginning with John Dumbleton in 1425.

Near the house is an even older chapel, now in ruins, dating from the 1100s. The chapel was used through the centuries for those who could not travel to the other local churches easily. Without an allocated clergyman, the chapel ran marriages and baptisms under a special licence. The original font is the only remaining item, carved from a single piece of stone, dating from 1166.

Each of the rooms at Brockhampton is dedicated to a separate family who inhab-

ited the building. All of these are interesting; In Isabella's bedroom, a modestly sized area, there is a tiny wooden crib for the baby, a small trundle bed for the five year old and one child, in between those ages, would share the parental bed. The traditionally made furniture included hemp ties so the mattresses might be made firmer. This led to the term 'sleep tight'.

There is a substantial buttery, nothing to do with dairy products, but a room for storing barrels of either beer, cider or wine. The word is a derivation of the french word 'bouterie'. This would have been used for many barrels of cider down the years, as the orchards were extensive.

It is worth noting the demise of orchards, such as those so lovingly maintained at Brockhampton, began in the late 19th century, with the lifting of import tariffs. Then, with drastic alterations in farming and land use during the 1950s, 60% of all Herefordshire orchards were grubbed up, but now this is changing. The valuable habitats provided for wildlife including many types of bee, have been better recognised and recorded.

Brockhampton has over 145 acres of orchards, three recently restored by planting 700 trees.

At present the damsons are available for picking, £3 a bag and all donations go into the upkeep of this wonderful place.

Get baking!

Keep your spirits up,

*Hermione* ◻

# News and Events at

What a summer! It feels strange for it to be coming to an end, what with the countless heatwaves and events that have propelled everyone at the Castle through this busy season. Thank you to all those who came to see the thrilling action of The Sealed Knot's Battle of Hartlebury, party away at outdoor concerts, get hands-on with history in the school holidays, and more. This is always an important time of year for us, and seeing people really enjoying the events makes all the hard work putting them together worth it.



In case you hadn't already heard, Bishop Hugh Nelson has been appointed the next Bishop of Worcester since the last edition of the Parish Magazine. We're looking forward to him joining the community and are sure that he'll bring a wealth of experience to the table from his positions as the Bishop of St Germans and the Armed Forces (the latter of which he will continue). We look forward to welcoming him to the Castle in the future and keeping our long history with the Bishops very much alive.



Taking part in the Hartlebury Scarecrow Competition was a lot of fun – did you see the Elizabeth I scarecrow that Operations Manager Chantel created to stand watch at the end of the drive? She got creative recycling items, from crafting a discarded football into Her Majesty's head to combining a solar light and a broom handle for her sceptre. It was lovely to see so many fantastic scarecrows making this into a real community event. Long may it continue!



Speaking of community events, we're planning one for November! We're very lucky to have received funding from Natural Networks\* to buy 6000 wild spring bulbs to plant down the driveway and transform it next year. One Saturday morning, we'll be asking for as many people as possible to help us get bluebells, daffodils, wild garlic and snowdrops into the ground, so we hope you'll lend us a hand. Look out for more details in the Parish Magazine soon.

\*This project is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It is delivered on behalf of Wychavon by Natural Networks, a partnership programme between Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

## Hayley's Kitchen Café

Why not celebrate the end of summer with an afternoon tea at Hayley's Kitchen? Available for booking every week from Tuesday to Sunday, you can tuck into three mini cakes of the day, a scone with clotted cream and jam, a selection of finger sandwiches, and tea or filter coffee (with refill).

Afternoon teas cost £17.50 per person and pre-booking is essential, so do call 01299 251901 to arrange a date. Group bookings are also welcome – perfect for friends or family to enjoy a delicious treat together.

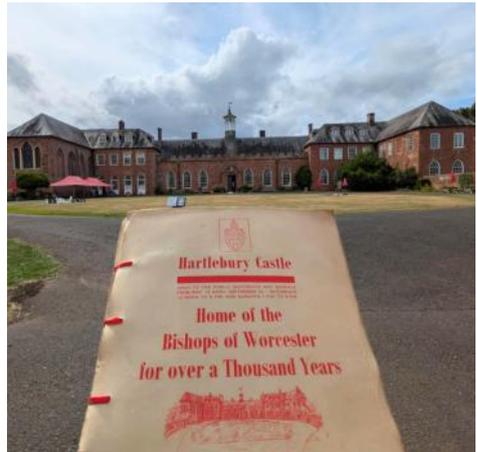
### Did you know...

That we have a brilliant 1960s guide to the Castle in our archive? It's fascinating to look back in time while flipping through its pages, as it shows all the work that was put into our first weekend Open Days in 1962.

The Bishop of Worcester of that era, Mervyn Charles-Edwards – and his wife Louise – helped to save the Castle when the Church Commissioners no longer wanted to maintain it as a Bishop's residence. This of course resulted in plans to partially open the site to the public, which the guide provides an early insight into.

*Hartlebury Parish Magazine • September MMXXV*

Notes, letters, press releases and newspaper articles detail how much of a community effort took place to get and keep the Open Days going – Mrs Charles-Edwards impressively managed to recruit around 675 people from the Clergy Wives' Fellowship alone!



Many of the volunteer roles are familiar to us today, such as stewards and car parkers. The flower arrangements made by locals and Worcestershire flower clubs were particularly praised, and are referred to as 'more consistently admired than any other single aspect of the Castle'. The Band of the Worcestershire Regiment's 7th Battalion played live in the grounds, and we can imagine this making it feel an even more momentous occasion. We also love how much importance was placed on the homemade teas; cake is definitely still a priority in the café!

That summer, 7,000 visitors came to explore the Castle, including the State Rooms, the Hurd Library, and an exhibition called 'The Work of Living Artists' held in the North Wing. Their fees and donations helped to fund developments at the Castle that were essential to its future – and our present! What is certain is that volunteers and community remain as important as ever in sharing the Castle and its stories with the wider world. ▷



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## ◁ Upcoming Events

### Heritage Open Days

**Friday 12 and Saturday 13 September**

Discover the secrets of the Bishop's Palace, Worcestershire County Museum and the Castle's historic grounds for FREE during the Heritage Open Days festival! Pre-booking on our website is essential (available from 1st September).

### Antiques & Collectors Fair

**Sunday 14 September, 9am to 3pm**

Don't miss the last Antiques Fair of the year! You never know what treasures you might find among the many wonderful stalls, or from talking to their friendly owners...perhaps the next precious item of your collection?

Entry costs £3 (free for under 16s), payable on the gate.

### A Celebration of Piano Music: Supporting Hartlebury Castle

**Friday 10 October, 7pm**

Award-winning pianist Peter Bradley-Fulgoni returns for another breathtaking classical concert in this fundraising event for Hartlebury Castle Trust. Enjoy works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Mendelssohn and more. £20 (includes a glass of wine or non-alcoholic drink).



### A Perfect Murder: Murder Mystery Dinner

**Saturday 25 October, 7.30pm**

Witness the mystery unfolding in the Medieval Great Hall as you dine in style with a 3-course dinner. Can you work out who-dunnit? This immersive experience from the popular Miss Mapletree's Perfect Murder is a fundraising event for Hartlebury Castle Trust.

Early Bird £50 (limited tickets),  
Standard £56.



In other news, our Halloween and Christmas events are now on sale! Look out for the new Hartlebury Halloween Hunt, where you can scour the Castle grounds for pumpkin tricks and treats, and Party with Santa which features games, a festive story, jelly and ice cream! Plus, our returning favourites include Pumpkin Carving, meeting Santa at A Family Christmas and Wreath Making. Both seasons will be here before we know it ... we hope to see you there!

**Event booking fees may apply**  
**Find tickets & more information at:**  
**[www.hartleburycastle.com](http://www.hartleburycastle.com)**



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# Hartlebury Common

- our ancient heathland and SSSI  
*Site of Special Scientific Interest*



## Benefits of Working Outdoors

### *Part 1 by Stephen Field*

**H**artlebury Common work parties are volunteer-based, and we assist the Rangers from Worcestershire County Council Countryside Services team in maintaining the Common as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Common remains as one of the few examples of Lowland Heath in the county and one of Worcestershire's most important nature reserves, so the work we carry out can be very varied:



Old gorse trimmings being removed

from removing Himalayan balsam (a non-native invasive species) from around the Hilditch Pool area, to cutting back gorse and brambles so that heathers are able to flourish on the open heathland.

I joined the group midway through 2023, having initially spent time on the Common learning about butterflies through my involvement with weekly

butterfly recording during the spring and summer, something which I still enjoy being involved with. I have always enjoyed the great outdoors, and am a very keen gardener at home, and this is something which I have been continuously interested in from a young age. And, having spent all my working career in offices, I guess that retirement gave me the time to indulge in this passion for spending more time outdoors. When I worked, my garden at home was my 'go-to' place for de-stressing, for unwinding, and putting things into perspective. And now butterfly recording and conservation work-parties are an extension of fulfilling that need in me!

Hartlebury Common's volunteer group is a friendly and supportive group of like-minded people, but perhaps we do have different motivations for being part of the group? My own motivations are enjoying the extra exercise that the work parties provide, and being able to switch off to the world while I'm outdoors. I also enjoy the general social chat that happens within the group. And there is a fulfilment to completing tasks that help to maintain the Common as a rare habitat.

Having considered my own motivations for working outdoors, it has been interesting to discover that there are 'general well-being' benefits of working outdoors that have been proved by scientific research.

These beneficial effects apply to:  
**Mental health:** Working outdoors can improve mood, reduce stress, and increase motivation.



Clearing brambles near Wilden Top carpark

**Physical health:** Working outdoors can improve cardiovascular health, burn calories, and relieve pain.

**Productivity:** The change of scenery and fresh air can help you stay focused on tasks.

**Creativity:** Being amongst nature can inspire innovative thinking

**Energy levels:** Just twenty minutes outside can significantly boost our energy levels.

**Eye health:** Relying on sunlight balances our time spent on computer screens, which can protect your eyesight.

**Memory:** Going outside can improve memory and attention span.

**Disease immunity:** Exposure to non-dangerous bacteria and other organisms can help prepare your immune system to tackle disease.

*An article describing these benefits in more detail will be published in next month's magazine.*

## Helping on the Common

Conservation work is planned for the mornings, starting at 10 am:

Sunday 7 Sept  
Thursday 11 Sept

Thursday 25 Sept  
Sunday 5 October

Everyone is welcome. Please email Mike Lomax for more details:  
[info@hartleburycommon.org.uk](mailto:info@hartleburycommon.org.uk)

### Future Events

Tuesday, 9 September  
**a talk, to be arranged,**  
starts 7.45 pm

Tuesday, 14 October  
at 7.45 pm a talk on  
**Butterfly Recording**  
on Hartlebury Common

Admission £4 (Members £3).  
Annual membership is available on the night: cost £5). All are welcome.  
Talks venue (with free parking):  
The Elizabeth Mills Centre,  
Sion Gardens, Stourport DY13 8BH  
See website for more information:  
[www.hartleburycommon.org](http://www.hartleburycommon.org).  
or Facebook page:  
Hartlebury Common Local Group

Michael Howard

Hartlebury Common Local Group



## Focus on a local business: C.lo HAIR & BEAUTY

When I arrive to meet the new team who are preparing the salon (next to the Post Office) for its opening in late August, customer Lorraine Stubley of Waresley Park is having the finishing touches made to her hair. “Our first customer,” smiles Claire Louise, who has



Our first customer

taken over the lease on the property. “I’m only doing regulars before the opening. People who were my clients at Sophie’s Salon in Summerfield.” I had to admit I’d never heard of Sophie’s Salon, but apparently, it’s tucked away near The Mare and Colt. “It was too big for me,” admitted Claire Louise. “This place is just right, it’s cosy and has a family feel.”

And indeed, family are playing a big role in the salon preparation. Claire Louise’s three daughters, Sienna 15, Sian 13 and Lucia 8, got stuck in with the paint and wallpaper. “They told me they had a good feeling about this place. And I’ve been overwhelmed by the friendliness of people, popping their heads in to say hello and welcoming us to the village.”

### Realising a dream

Claire Louise wasn’t always a hairdresser and beautician. She worked for many years



The Salon on Old Worcester Road

in the NHS but five years ago she took the plunge and retrained, something she had always wanted to do. It was clear she had a natural aptitude for it, as in her first year she came third in a national competition (*Lee Stafford*) for her ‘graduated bob’ and was named ‘student of the year’. “It’s my



Graduated bob

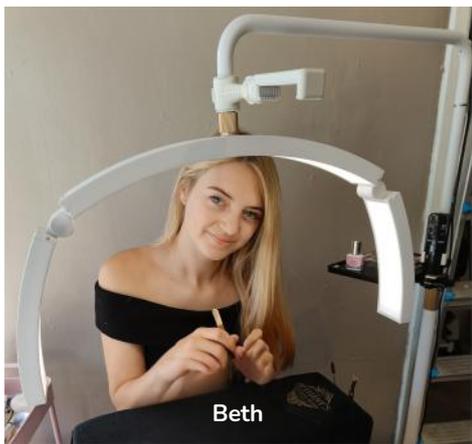
passion,” Claire Louise admits. “When I see my clients’ hair I just go into a zone and I won’t be satisfied until the hair is perfect. One hair out of place and I’ll be calling them back to have it dealt with. I call it being C.lo’d – after J.Lo” Hence the name of the salon.

Claire Louise won’t be working alone. She’s gathered a team around her. **Rachel Pagett**, who is a highly experienced nail technician and newly qualified hairdresser, will work two days a week and will be offering special deals to build up



her client list for her hairdressing. Full time hair dresser **Leah** will be joining in the next few weeks. And **Beth Davies** will be offering beauty treatments, particularly lashes, in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons when the

hairdressing side of the business isn’t operational.



The hairdressing salon will be open from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with a late night on

*Hartlebury Parish Magazine • September MMXXV*

Wednesday and a Saturday morning service from 8.00 am to 1.00 pm.

## **A wide range of services**

Claire Louise is a colourist and in particular works with blonde hair. It’s easy to dye



dark colours in your hair yourself, but going blonde is far more complicated and requires a specialist. Also on her list is hair extensions, which are very popular with younger clients who are seeking a smoother and thicker look. “It’s important to be real with your clients,” Claire Louise explains. “So much of what you see on Instagram is touched up or AI generated. That means I have to explain to clients why a particular look or style isn’t possible. But of course, I will work closely with every individual to give them the best possible outcome.”

While the salon is looking very smart, there are still finishing touches to be made, from pot-plants at the front of the salon to a half-glazed window across the area where the beauty treatments will take place. “We’ve done this all ourselves, and we can’t wait to get started properly.”

To make an appointment please phone 07572 595952 or visit Instagram [clohairandbeauty](https://www.instagram.com/clohairandbeauty) and [beautifulbookin](https://www.instagram.com/beautifulbookin)

*Elizabeth Davies* □



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**I**t seems a long time ago, but the Pound the Bounds walk at the beginning of June was well supported with ten participants. Buzz, the leader, was very efficient and everyone made it safely back to the White Hart car park after completing their six mile walk! There they were welcomed by Foxs Morris who were preparing their tatters and face paint. There followed dancing and music and alcohol consumption, all over a couple of hours! What could be more traditional or villagey? Quite memorable, taking place opposite the Church in an atmosphere that was timeless and could easily have been a hundred years ago. Thanks to everyone that supported us! If there is anyone who would like a Book of Hartlebury Walks, Jag still has copies in the Village store—£12.50 for 15 walks, still a bargain!

### **Glass half empty?**

I am a glass half full person. When dealing with County this can be a difficult situation to maintain! I am told that Patrick White, our contact at County, is shortly to retire. Another friend who works there, Fiona Argyle, is leaving to become the coordinator of the Offa's Dyke walk. It is probable that neither of these positions will be replaced. At County Countryside it must be very difficult to recruit, motivate, inspire and encourage staff to excel when budgets are being cut. No budget to recruit or support Footpath Wardens either. I certainly feel a bit like '*depressed of Hartlebury*'!

### **Glass half full again!**

I am told that our annual 'proactive' strim of five footpaths took place at the beginning of July. The good news is that this

very hot dry weather has discouraged some growth, as my scorched grass testifies. However, even better good news is that we now have a Village Lengthsman, Simon, who as part of his duties is going to work in conjunction with me to maintain our footpath network! We will no longer be dependent on County, we will be able to work on our footpaths as it becomes necessary and to our own time table! We will be able to manage heavy cut backs in the winter as well as regular strimming. Glass half full again! Sanity! We have limited funds, but hope that we can raise more money from County in lieu of them performing their proactive cut back. Hopefully our Parish Council will also regard us favourably? Private donations? I mustn't get too carried away! In any event, at last I feel that we are in charge of our own destiny. I wonder what other villages are doing and how are they managing? It will be interesting to compare our progress against them!

As it is Wednesday, I think I am going to have a tot of rum to celebrate! 'Up Spirits' and I think Wednesday night's Royal Navy toast is appropriate...

"To ourselves, as no one else is liable to concern themselves with our welfare, and the King, God Bless Him!"

*John Denby. Footpath Warden.  
aquadeus@hotmail.com*

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**This month, Emma Stuart of Worcester's Wasteless explains the benefit of Repair Shops. If the article inspires you, why not come along to Hartlebury Parish Hall on Saturday, 27 September at 3 pm (see ad on page 25) and find out if a repair shop could operate here.**

## **Repair, Don't Replace: Your Guide to Fixing for a Fresher Future**

We've all been there: a wobbly chair leg, a favourite jumper with a moth hole, or a toaster that just won't pop. The immediate thought is often, "It's broken, I need a new one." But what if that's not the case? What if we could give our possessions a second chance and, in the process, save money and the planet? It's time to fix it, not nix it!

### **Why Repair is the New Cool:**

Repairing isn't just a hobby; it's a powerful act with some seriously great benefits:

- **You'll Save Money:** It's often far cheaper to replace a part or mend a tear than it is to buy a brand-new item. Think of all the money you can save by not constantly replacing things!
- **It's an Eco-Win:** Every time you repair something, you prevent it from heading to land fill. Plus, you reduce the demand for new products, which saves energy and valuable raw materials needed for manufacturing.
- **It Builds Skills & Confidence:** There's a huge sense of satisfaction in fixing something yourself. You'll gain practical skills and a newfound appreciation for how things work.

### **Your Repairable Hit List**

You might be surprised at how many things are actually fixable! Don't be afraid to take a look at:

- **Clothes:** A loose button, a small hole, or a dropped hem can be easily fixed with a needle and thread. If you have anything bigger you want to repair or are unsure about whether you have the right skills there is now the Social Sew and Sewers group who meet at St Andrew's Church, Pump Street, Worcester. You can borrow a sewing machine and have access to knowledgeable people. Their Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/socialsewin](http://www.facebook.com/socialsewin). There are also volunteers at the repair cafes who can do basic repairs.
- **Furniture:** Wobbly chairs, loose screws, and scratches on tables are often simple fixes.
- **Electronics:** Before you toss that gadget, check if it just needs a new battery or a loose wire reconnected.
- **Bikes:** A punctured tyre or a squeaky chain can often be sorted with a few simple tools and a little know-how.

### **Ready to Get Fixing?**

It's easier than you think to get started. Don't be afraid to try!

- **Start with YouTube:** There's a video tutorial for almost every repair imaginable.
- **Visit a Repair Café:** There are 6 within Worcestershire that bring together people with broken items and skilled volunteers who can help you fix them. It's a great way to learn new skills and meet new people. The nearest ones to Hartlebury are in Kidderminster and Droitwich. For more information of locations and which day they are repairing visit [www.letswasteless.com](http://www.letswasteless.com) and click on the "reuse and repair" box.

As a last resort you can look at recycling items as clothes, furniture, electronics and bikes can all be taken to a Household Recycling Centre. None of these items can be put into the green bin as they won't be recycled and precious materials will be sent to EnviRecover.

So, next time something breaks, before you throw it in the bin and click 'buy now', consider if you could give it a little love and a new lease on life. It's a small change that makes a huge difference. What's the first thing you're going to try and repair?

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## Community Café news

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Parish Hall Bookings.....	bookings@hartleburyparishhall.co.uk	
Parish Hall Enquiries.....	Kirsten Webber	07399 627807

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Wychavon District Council.....	Antony Hartley	antony.hartley@wychavon.net
Parish Council Chair.....	Ray Kirby	r.kirby@hartlebury-pc.gov.uk
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