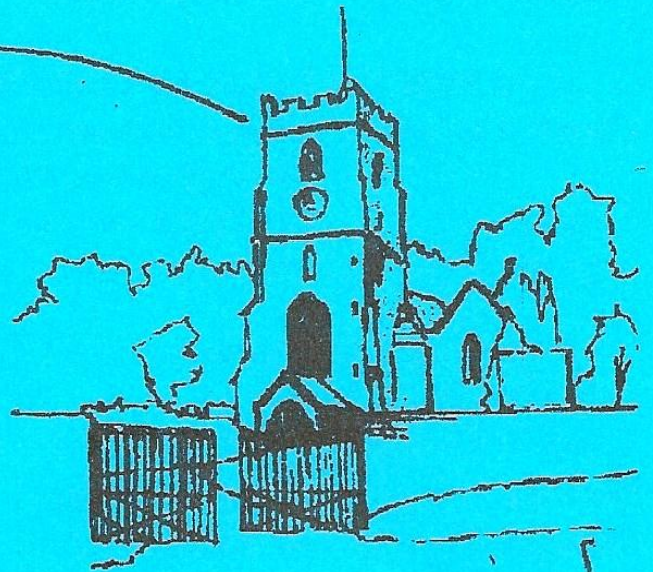
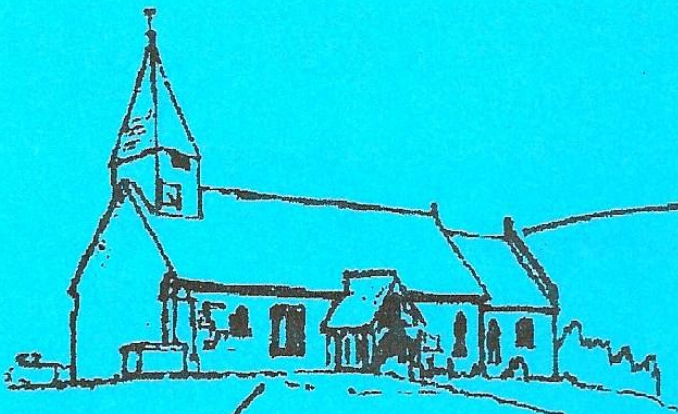
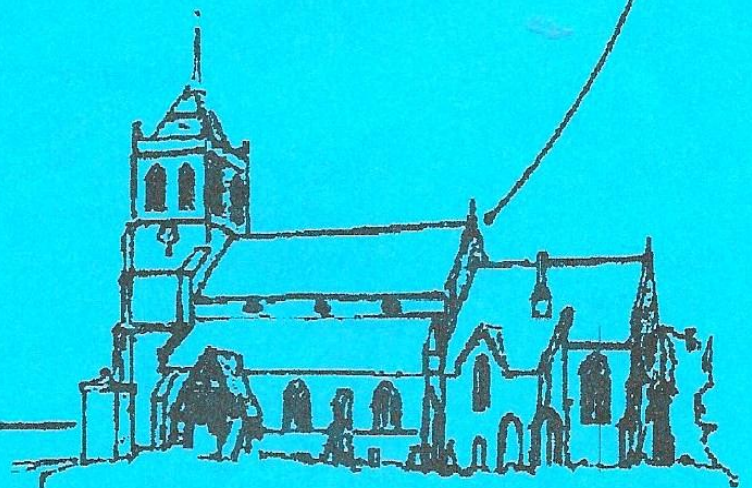


August 2020



The

Sphere.



*The Magazine for the Parishes of Alfrick with Lulsley,
Leigh and Bransford, Leigh Sinton and Suckley*

THE PARISHES OF ALFRICK w LULSLEY, LEIGH & BRANSFORD, SUCKLEY

		STD code 01886
Vicar	Revd. Anne Potter	07783711665 or 832355
	The Rectory, Suckley Road, Leigh WR6 5LE	email revannepotter@gmail.com
Curate	Revd. Jen Denniston	07783432017 or 853280
		email jendenniston@gmail.com
Parish Secretary	Alison Khan	07984 748059
Parish Treasurer	Mrs Ina Steel	821777

ALFRICK w LULSLEY Church of St.Mary Magdalene

Church Wardens	Mr.A.G.Duncan	884281
	Mr Stephen Osmond	884259
Secretary	Mrs.Judith Davies	884336
Treasurer	Mr.Andrew Cooper	833903

LEIGH & BRANSFORD St.Edburga, Leigh/St.John the Baptist, Bransford

Church Wardens	Mrs Jean Colley	832964
Secretary	Mrs. Judith Soper	832354
Treasurer	Mr John Drage	833178
Bell Captain	Mr Christopher Phillips	832230
Organist	Vacancy	
Chapelry Warden		

SUCKLEY Church of St.John the Baptist

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	Mrs Liz Devenish	884787
Secretary	Mr. Richard Lewis	884552
Treasurer	Mrs.Diana Holloway	884665
Bell Captain	Mrs.LindaTaylor	884280

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Please send in articles for the Sphere NOT LATER than the 12th of the month.

All material published in The Sphere, including adverts, editorials, articles and all other content is published in good faith. However The Sphere accepts no liability for any errors or omissions and does not endorse any companies, products or services that appear in the publication.

From Rev Anne.....

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

"I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.



For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial and family crisis.

For some that live alone they are facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons and daughters.

Some are bringing in more money to their households than when they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales. Some families received universal benefit while other families received nothing. Some were concerned about getting a certain chocolate egg for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different. Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm.

It is important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, but actually seeing. We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a different journey. Realize that and be kind." *Unknown author*

From Mark's Gospel: That day when evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Remember God is with you in the midst of the storm.

Our Church continues to be alive and active but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed except as previously mentioned.

However, our worship, prayers and praise, alongside reflections and our care for each other continues. And so (until we meet again)May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. *Amen*

Even though we are not able to meet with you in person the clergy are available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to contact us:

Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com

Rev Jen Denniston 01886 853280 jendenniston@gmail.com

Rev Becky Elliott 01886 812451 revrebeccaelliott@btinternet.com

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com Please contact Alison if you would like to receive a regular weekly pew sheet by email.

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such 'modern technology' the team is continuing to find creative ways of offering worship through our YouTube: wwr live stream as well as keeping you informed through the website: www.wwr.churchinsight.com and A Church Near You

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From Atheism to Faith

9 September - Introduction

16 September - Come as you are

23 September - Bullets and Hugs

30 September - What is the Gift?

7 October - What's so good about Friday?

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revrebeccaelliott@btinternet.com

before Sunday 6 September

If you have a problem with internet access
please call Becky on:
07961 053860

'There will be no 'set' service pattern for the rest of this year. We are taking one month at a time as there is still so much uncertainty around COVID-19 and some of our regular church members are continuing to self-isolate.

Services in August

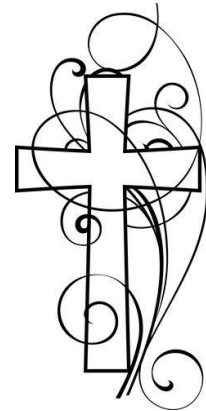
Sunday 2nd – Leigh: 9.00 am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 9th – Crown East: 10.30 am BCP Holy Communion
Alfrick: 6.00 pm Evensong

Sunday 16th – Bransford: 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion
WWRT Zoom Service 4.00 pm

Sunday 23rd – Alfrick: 9.00 am CW Holy Communion

Sunday 30th – Suckley: 3.30 pm All age service outdoors.
(Move into Church if bad weather)



Our District Councillors “View from the Hills”

As what should be the summer holiday period begins, COVID inevitably still dominates. We are in a strange half-world. Local buses are back. Local pubs, shops and other public places are open, but not as they were before March. COVID has been subdued, not beaten, thankfully with MHDC one of the least affected areas in the UK. So far. There is no cause for complacency, as events in Mathon show. Wear a mask when appropriate. You just might be the next carrier of the virus, showing few symptoms, but spreading it to your friends and co-workers.

We will have to live with COVID in terms of what local services can be offered for at least the next year. Most likely for longer as Westminster tries to recoup the huge sums spent supporting the economy. That said, there is positive news. Refurbishment of The Splash leisure centre will happen, and earlier than expected due to continuing lockdown restrictions. MHDC’s plans for a greener local economy with less commuting and more homeworking are also very much in favour nationally, but those require more investment in proper broadband and mobile phone connectivity. We continue to press for both.

Those affected by February’s floods are not forgotten. A massive scheme to provide flood alleviation measures in the Severn and Teme catchments was announced in early July. That includes grants of up to £10,000 to increase individual properties’ flood resilience. Doubtless of interest to residents of Knightwick and Bransford.

We are, as always, working actively on your behalf. If you need help, we can be contacted by phone, email or via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rousewhatley>

Sarah Rouse: 01886 833653 sarahrouse72@gmail.com

Peter Whatley: 01886 884126 peter.whatley@malvernhillssdc.net

We wish you good health and some respite from life’s stresses during the summer.
Peter Whatley

My income has dropped due to coronavirus and I'm struggling to keep up with all of my bills. I rent my house from a private landlord and pay all the usual bills - electricity, water, and Council Tax. How best can I juggle them, and is there any help I can get from the government?



If your income is reduced because of coronavirus, you should check whether you're entitled to sick pay or to claim benefits.

You can check your eligibility for both sick pay and benefits on the [Citizens Advice website](#). If you're already on existing benefits, [these might also increase](#).

If you're struggling to pay rent, talk to your landlord straight away. You should explain the situation and could ask for more time to pay, a temporary reduction in rent, or ask to catch up any missed payments by instalments. If you [contact your nearest Citizens Advice](#) an adviser can help you explain things to your landlord. If you can't come to an agreement with your landlord, it's a good idea to pay what you can afford and keep a record of what you offered.

The government passed an emergency law which means landlords have to give you three months notice to end certain tenancy types from 26 March. The court service has suspended all possession action for 90 days from 27 March. This means that even if you have been served a notice for eviction it's unlikely it can be enforced during this time. You can find out more about what to do if you're being evicted for rent arrears on the [Citizens Advice website](#).

If you already claim Housing Benefit, you should tell the council your income has reduced. If you don't claim it already, you might be entitled to [help with housing costs from the government](#).

When it comes to your utilities, you should contact the provider as soon as possible. Depending on the type of bill, they may be able to arrange a payment plan, or have schemes in place for people in financial hardship. You should also talk to your local council, as your income has changed you might be entitled to a council tax reduction.

If you're struggling to pay multiple bills, it's important to sort out what's known as 'priority bills' like energy bills or council tax over credit card bills. This is because the immediate consequences of not paying these things are much more serious. [Citizens Advice website](#) can help you with this.

For further information and advice, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or see www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Due to guidance on COVID-19 we have suspended our face-to-face sessions. Our volunteers will be providing advice by telephone and email as follows:

Malvern

To speak to an adviser, please ring **01684 563611 option 1**, or email enquiries.malvern@citizensadvice.org.uk

More Sayings of Albert Schweitzer:

"Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in a world all of your own."

"If you own something you cannot give away, then you don't own it, it owns you."



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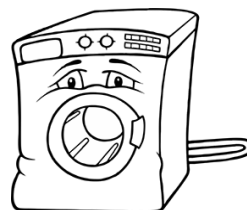
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Leigh and Bransford

ST.EDBURGA, LEIGH

The Churches were allowed to open for private prayer in June and St.Edburga is now open between 10 am and 6 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays.

At the end of June the churches were permitted to hold services as long as strict anti-covid-19 safety measures were observed.

A Thanksgiving Service at 9 am on July 5th was held and recorded.

The link is <https://youtu.be/NB4shghfc5Y>.

The clergy Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 revannepotter@gmail.com and Rev Jen Denniston 01886 853280 jendenniston@gmail.com are available at the end of a telephone line so please feel free to contact them.

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or leighrectory@outlook.com



St. Edburga, Leigh Events

CREAM TEAS

Leigh Churchyard Sundays 3-5 p.m. Until August 30th



Sunday September 6th

CREAM TEAS & STALLS 3-5 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

Jean & the Tea Team

The Leigh and District Gardeners' Club

As of course I am sure you would all expect, our July visit to Pear Tree Cottage in May was cancelled. However, it is lovely to see that some of you are sharing your questions and beautiful photos of your gardens or daily exercise in our local area on our Facebook page. We welcome all members to join this. If Facebook isn't an option, please don't hesitate to keep in contact by email. We would be pleased to receive any questions, points of interest and photographs; we will forward any that you wish to other members.

One question I have is, does anybody know how to deter moles from my raised beds??

Please take care and stay safe,

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1st Leigh Guides

We are still working in a virtual world but we are so grateful for technology. The Guides are still meeting virtually and over the past few weeks have enjoyed a Garden Bird and wild flower based bingo, a quiz and the Guides have been making friendship bracelets to be posted to other members of the unit in a way to bring us closer together.

We have also been baking, we all made a cake in the microwave which was very nice and easy for everyone to do at the same time.

Whilst we still cannot wait to get back to physical meetings we are still grateful that we can continue virtually.

Valda, Wendy, Charley, Ann and Ann



Vandalism at the Fold

A fundraising campaign has been launched to replace a £10,000 sculpture destroyed by vandals at a nature trail near Worcester. The sculpture, Eve, from the Fold in Bransford was destroyed on Thursday night (June 25) after vandals tore the sculpture off its plinth and smashed it up. A Crowdfunding page has been set up for the community to donate cash to replace the 5 ft. tall statue which overlooked the lake.

Owner, William Tooby, said he was “gutted” by the destruction of Eve, adding: “I cherish this land, and I love to share it with everyone, so to see it violated in this way makes me realise how far we, the human race, have yet to travel. I’m pleased so many people have been enjoying this beautiful countryside during the hot weather, but so many visitors have raised concerns with Eve being smashed and so much litter being left on the land. Villagers in Bransford have complained about groups of youngsters parking on the verge by The Bank House Hotel and heading down to the River Teme at the Fold for parties. Fold staff have had to clear up litter and other debris is left behind and the vandalism of Eve has further angered the community.

Operations manager Chloe Mackean said: “We all feel very upset by it. Everyone is devastated. There have been so many people using the nature trail, it’s been very popular. However, it’s a different sort of people using it now. People are drinking, having parties and listening to loud music and leaving their litter. We are doing our best with litter picking and have installed a donation box in the car park. For Eve to be vandalised after people have been leaving their litter over the whole area, it seems like the last straw. Due to the extent of the damage, the statue cannot be repaired, so instead the business is asking for contributors to think of an idea for a replacement sculpture.” Chloe added: “We will be so grateful for any contribution we receive. The support and the response we’ve had from the community has been phenomenal.”

The team are aiming to raising £5,000.

To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/the-fold-cic?

Police are investigating and anyone with information should call 101 quoting incident number 0584S 260620.

From The Malvern Gazette Friday July 3, 2020

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL: AUGUST 2020

1. REOPENING THE HALL

Following an extraordinary meeting of the trustees on Monday evening, July 13th we are delighted to announce that the Hall will be reopening on **Saturday August 1st**. For the two weeks before reopening we have been engaged in extensive preparations to ensure that the building and grounds comply with the latest (and continually updated) guidelines for reopening Community Venues.

We have already published our “Covid-19 Guiding Principles and Four-Part Reopening Plan” on our website. You can read the details of that plan here

<http://leighandbransfordhall.co.uk/wp/reopening-plan/>

or by going to our website:

www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk

Of course the very nature of the virus means that even after following all the current reopening guidance, reopening any community venue building will never be entirely risk free. For this reason we have decided that keeping users as safe as possible also requires the full cooperation of our individual hirers. For this reason we have now introduced some additional Covid-19 related Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) with which all future hirers must comply as a requirement of hire. These additional T&Cs (and the reasons behind introducing them) are available on our website but you can read them here: <http://leighandbransfordhall.co.uk/wp/additional-terms/>

We sincerely look forward to welcoming back all our regular hirers in due course and the many individuals who trust us as a quality venue for their private and professional events.

2. FRIENDS OF LEIGH & BRANSFORD FUND RAISING

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our annual fund raising scheme by paying their subscriptions by standing order. We have started doorstep collections of subscriptions and will hope to have them all collected by the end of August. Monthly draws are up to date and all winners continue to be notified. Last year we raised nearly £1,500.00 thanks to your generosity of which half was given out as prize money.

3. IN MEMORY OF NORMAN KIMBER

Many people in the Parish will remember Norman Kimber, a former Chair of Trustees of the Hall who was brought up in Leigh Sinton. We were recently contacted by a firm of solicitors in Bristol to advise that Norman has sadly passed away, but generously left a legacy of £10,000 to support the Hall. In the mid to late 1980s, having moved back to Leigh Sinton, he was very eager to get involved in the village community where he grew up and quickly joined the Hall's management committee – later taking over as Chair. In 1987, a legacy of £11,500 left to the Hall by Albert Jones (a local farmer) was the initial financial stimulus for his vision to modernise and extend the original building – culminating in the construction of a second, larger hall with stage. He wanted to ensure that the Hall's facilities were improved for the benefit of our community well into the future. He worked extremely hard to plan, organise and project manage the addition of the new hall. As such, Norman encouraged many other local villagers to get involved and together with Ron and Cath Hall was also co-founder of the Indoor Bowls Club which is still running today.

The trustees send their sincere condolences and thanks to his family for such a generous legacy. We will use it to honour his memory and to celebrate the vision he had almost 40 years ago which has given our community such a lasting and valuable parish asset.

Jon Gamble
Chair of Trustees

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Alfrick with Lulsley

St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick

The church is open on Sundays and Wednesdays for private prayer between 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Sunday services in August at Alfrick:

9 August, 6.00pm, Evensong

23 August, 9.00am, CW Holy Communion



Community Choir

We continue to run online rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, with a recording available soon afterwards for those who couldn't make it. These are complete rehearsals with warm-up exercises, often some sight-reading or something educational, at least one piece that we work on, and time to chat afterwards. Each rehearsal is self-contained. We use different and varied material each week.



All welcome - just get in touch beforehand to join in.

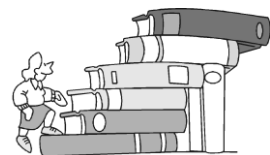
In recent weeks we've been looking at: different movements of Schubert's Mass in G; at Thomas Tallis's 'If ye love me'; have reminded ourselves of 'The Ballad of Molly and Ewan' (written specially for us by Lynn Norris) and our own special version of Schubert's 'The Trout'. And also have been experimenting with reading text and making 'random noise' choral music.

Our schedule for August (which includes a socially distanced picnic on Tuesday 18th) is on our website: www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com

All the best

Keith Bramich (07771 600776)

Alfrick Educational Charity



This was created out of the sale proceeds of Alfrick Primary School and has now been in existence for over 30 years. It provides grants for educational purposes to residents of Alfrick, Lulsley and Suckley and for schools serving the children of those Parishes.

The Trustees will consider applications from students attending further educational courses during the academic year 2020/21 and are under the age of 25 at the start of their course. Also, grants are available for projects by those schools serving these parishes where there is no other source of funding available.

Students wishing to apply for grants should apply in writing (not by email) not later than 30 September 2020 to the Clerk: A. G. Duncan, Bewell, Alfrick, Worcester, WR6 5EY.

Elaine Kite is the **Citizens Advice** Community Liaison Volunteer for Alfrick, contact 01886 884435, or email: elainekite@btinternet.com

Elaine can discuss your enquiry, clarify your concerns and refer on to CAB for specific advice. So do please get in touch.



Alfrick & Lulsley Community Car Scheme: This voluntary service covers all residents of Alfrick & Lulsley who need transport to local medical appointments, or to take or collect prescriptions to or from Knightwick Surgery.

Drivers are: Ro Morpuss: 832622; Hilary Simmons: 832611; Pam Lowe: 833362
Please start telephoning from the left and give as much time as possible.

Our drivers reserve the right to refuse any request that they consider inappropriate.





For more information on booking the Village Hall please visit our website at: www.alfrickandlulsley.org/hall-make-booking/
Please send your queries by email to info@timesaversconcierge.co.uk
Or phone: Adrian Biggs on 01905 312456

The Village Hall reopened on Monday 13 July. The committee has written to all the groups that have regular bookings to advise them of the additional conditions to the normal hire agreement we have to make to enable us to comply with the Government’s regulations during the Coronavirus pandemic, together with the advice from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). The capacity of the hall has to be limited to **28** generally in the main hall (max **40** theatre- style) and **6** in the committee room. Certain functions will not be able to take place to ensure everyone can be kept as safe as possible. All bookings through the online booking process operated via Adrian Biggs please.

Alfrick & Lulsley Village Hall - Annual General Meeting Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

All residents of Alfrick and Lulsley are invited to attend this meeting at which the hall management committee will be elected for the next year. Residents over the age of 18 are eligible for election to the committee and to vote. We hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend this meeting.

Slowly Round the World – Again!

It looks as if we may soon be able to hold another evening on the topic of Alan Soper's Round the World trip, including the new film of the journey. As we are likely to be limited in numbers in the hall, it may have to be first come first served.



This will be on one of the weekend dates in September but to be confirmed in the next Sphere issue.

The Bosbury Films

A few years ago we showed three films of past shows staged by *Bosbury Players*, a group which includes several local actors and singers. During the coming autumn, we plan to repeat this with two or three more, including 'My Fair Lady' and 'Salad Days'.

Live stage performance

If regulations and circumstances permit, I am planning to stage a performance of '84 Charing Cross Road' by Helene Hanff, a play which involves only two actors on stage and is ideally suited to self-isolation! This is likely to be in October so look out for further detail in next month's Sphere.

Alan Soper



Alfrick Players: Rescheduled for May 2021

***The Noble Spaniard* by W. Somerset Maugham**

An incredibly funny period comedy in 3 acts.



Alfrick & Lulsley Community Shop has received the following from:

Lt Col Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire

“The innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting.

As Her Majesty The Queen’s representative, I would like to thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to the County during these extraordinary and challenging times.”

The Lord-Lieutenant is the personal representative of The Sovereign in Worcestershire. He represents Her Majesty The Queen on a wide variety of occasions which merit Royal support and which celebrate significant achievement in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Lord-Lieutenant works across the County with his Deputy Lieutenants to promote Worcestershire and to help it become a better place in which to live and work.



Alfrick & Lulsley Community Shop



One of the positive things that has come out of this pandemic is that we have gained many new customers who have discovered the benefits of shopping locally. It's been great to meet and welcome new people and get to know them as they've returned over these last few months. Although it's been tough at times, as we all know, we've managed to keep the shelves pretty full and introduced many new products and ranges over the lockdown thanks to our hard working and entrepreneurial Administrator and a team of committed volunteers. Everyone massively appreciates the efforts of all our volunteers in keeping the shop open, friendly and safe, as well as giving a chance for customers to catch up socially in the car park while queuing, if necessary!

Sadly, the Café remains closed for the time being, but locally made bread, cakes, sandwiches and other snacks are almost always available to buy and takeaway, along with a wide selection of drinks for those thirsty picnickers, cyclists and walkers...or just for a treat! There is always lovely fresh fruit, veg and salads too, for the healthy option...



Check out our Facebook page: *Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop*, for updates!

The care we have taken to give customers a safe shopping environment is demonstrated by the super purpose-built screen around the counter, plus the screens around the Post Office counter. We expect customers to sanitise their hands as they enter the shop and wear a face covering, as mandated by the Government.

However, we will still shop for any customer who doesn't wish to come in, of course, and take telephone orders where necessary.

In case you hadn't noticed, we are almost back to pre-Covid opening hours:

Shop: 9 to 5, weekdays; 9 to 12, weekends

Post Office: 11.30 to 4pm, weekdays only (Last post 3.30pm)

So, thank you to all our customers for your continued support and to all our volunteers for keeping the community's daily hub going strong and thriving! Here's hoping for a continued steady return to a more relaxed and normal life, as we all look out for each other.

Best wishes

Vicky Gatley, volunteer

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Coronavirus emergency list

Tinned potatoes

UHT 1 litre fruit juice

1 litre UHT milk

Cracker biscuits

Fray Bentos meat pies etc

Tinned meat - ham, spam, corned beef,

Tinned fruit - single fruit such as oranges, grapefruit etc

Extras: Tomato sauce, Brown sauce,

Mayonnaise, Cooking oil

Shampoo, Deodorants, Washing Powder (small),

Toilet Rolls, Shower gel/soap for men, Anti-bac

(Non-perishable foods are welcome, including bars of chocolate)

Smash

Cooking sauces for rice and pasta

Sandwich paste

Peanut butter

Jam

Sponge puddings

Coffee (small jars)

Rice pudding, tinned custard

Tinned spaghetti, e.g., Hoops, etc.

Spray, Shaving foam and razors, Nappies sizes 5 and 6.

Please place your food donations, wherever they have been purchased, into the basket outside Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop from where they will regularly be taken to the Foodbank.

Rev Anne Potter revannepotter@gmail.com

Notes from Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 23 July 2020.

This was the first meeting of the council since the end of February and the institution of 'lock-down' and the first to be held under the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting was held electronically using ZOOM software. Parishioners who wish to take part in these internet based meetings can do so by applying to the clerk of the council for an access key. They will need to have ZOOM software running on their computer which can be downloaded free from ZOOM.

Prior to the formal agenda County Cllr P Tuthill reported on the activities of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and answered questions on WCC activities.

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC during the pandemic emergency noting that in the area the rate of infection was considerably below the national average.

A Resignation from the Council

The Chair advised that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Ms B Brown. The council noted her resignation and asked the clerk to put in process the co-option of a replacement. Members also asked the clerk to write to Ms Brown expressing their thanks to her for her contribution to the life of the village.

The council now wishes to co-opt a parishioner to fill the vacancy left by Cllr Brown's resignation. It is hoped that a candidate for co-option will come forward by the next meeting on 24 September. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the council in its work for the parishes please contact the clerk to the council for details. (geoffreybrewin@waitrose.com)

Financial Matters

The council formally approved the Council's Accounts 2019-20, the formal Annual Governance Statement and the formal Annual Statement of

Accounts as required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The clerk advised that the formal notice of Public Rights to view the accounts would be posted on 27/7/2020 and the inspection period would be from 1/9/2020 to 12/10/2020.

Planning and Environmental Matters

The council considered Application No: 20/00943/FUL, The Grange, Alfrick, for the change of use, conversion and extension of a pigsty to one-bed holiday accommodation, and agreed to support this application as it brought into use redundant buildings and would contribute to the general wellbeing and economy of the parish.

Committee on New Public Facilities

The Committee Chair, Cllr A Cooper, reported on the plans of this committee so far.

Firstly it has decided that building a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) would be of benefit to all. It would have a 5-a-side football pitch, tennis court, basketball and we hope a cricket net. Obviously, the existing tennis club will move onto this, and we hope that the football club will take some time on it and possibly walking football. This is to be sited roughly where the existing tennis court is.

Secondly a children's play area will be put in the playing field.

Thirdly a selection of outdoor exercise equipment will be arranged round the perimeter of the field, linked by a tarmac pathway to enable people to take exercise on the field throughout the year, even when it is wet.

This week two companies visited to discuss our needs and measure up so we can get a precise quotation. The budget is £90,000.

We are now turning our thoughts to what happens when it is built and how does it run.

We propose to sub-let the MUGA to a newly formed A&L Sports Club, or such, whose committee would have at least two members from the Parish Council plus other interested parties.

The children's play area and exercise equipment will be open to use 24/7 and 365 days a year.

The next meeting of the council will be Thursday 24 September 2020 at 19:30 hrs. via ZOOM



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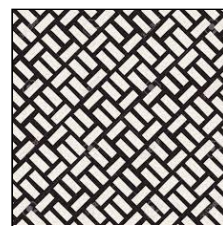
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Suckley: St John the Baptist Church

Lt Col Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire sends the following message:

“The innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational and uplifting.

As Her Majesty The Queen’s representative, I would like to thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made to the County during these extraordinary and challenging times.”



The Lord-Lieutenant is the personal representative of The Sovereign in Worcestershire. He represents Her Majesty The Queen on a wide variety of occasions which merit Royal support and which celebrate significant achievement in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Lord-Lieutenant works across the County with his Deputy Lieutenants to promote Worcestershire and to help it become a better place in which to live and work.



Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme says, "Keep alert" and "THANK YOU"!

We're here to help on 01886 840480 and suckleygns@gmail.com on Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. It is thanks to the many new Volunteers that a lot of stay-home folk have their Suckley PO shopping brought to their door regularly at present. Julian and Mark now have lots of fresh fruit and veg, as well as their usual stock. If you would like an order delivered or put by to collect, please phone the GNS on 01886 840480 between 10.00am and 1.00pm Monday to Friday for delivery after 5.00pm



01886 840480

the next day. *Knightwick butchers'* meat orders deadline is 1.00pm on Tuesdays!!

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is available to Suckley residents, and our volunteers will try to help if someone is in need of assistance. In these present challenging times, it could be that someone would appreciate a phone call, maybe for advice, or even just a friendly chat on the phone. Several volunteers have been trained by *South Worcestershire Citizens Advice*, and all our regular volunteers have been screened by the *Disclosure and Barring Service*. So please be alert to those living nearby, and if you feel it appropriate remind them that the **Good Neighbour Scheme is here to help on: 01886 840480 and suckleygns@gmail.com**

Suckley Community Car Scheme

This voluntary service covers all residents of Suckley who need transport to local medical appointments, or to take or collect prescriptions to or from Knightwick Surgery. Drivers are:

Jill Hammonds: 884221; Caroline Mitchell: 884070; Rosemary Harward: 832289

Please start phoning from the left and give as much time as possible.

Our drivers reserve the right to refuse any request that they think to be inappropriate.



Throughout this edition of *The Sphere*, you can find more quotations by Albert Schweitzer which can be particularly appropriate for these present times. They have been kindly provided by Anne Lewis.

"The only way out of today's misery is for people to become worthy of each other's trust."

Suckley Village Hall News

We do hope that all our friends and supporters have remained well and safe during these very trying times. Under Government guidelines, we are now able to re-open the Hall and we intend to do so from **1 August**. Unfortunately, we are still unable to hold any of our usual events, but we can invite our hiring groups to use the Hall again should they wish to do so. Since the numbers involved in our hiring groups are relatively small, we feel sure that they can safely distance. The Committee is putting the necessary requirements in place e.g., notices, wipes, sanitising equipment etc., and removing anything that cannot be easily disinfected. We shall be making sure that hirers are fully aware of what can be done and risk assessments will be in place. According to the guidance, it is suggested numbers are limited to 25% of the allowed capacity in the building - in our case, about 20. We hope, by opening the Hall, we can offer a little bit of normality for those who feel able to resume some of their usual activities.



Carol Boughton

Suckley School News

As another academic year draws to a close we can reflect upon its events, some fondly, some which we are happy to be moving on from.

This year the school has continued to flourish, with full and busy classrooms, successful learners and accolades for our practice including for the Arts, Reading and Sport. We continue to seek excellence in all areas of the curriculum and will be doing so when we welcome children back to the new school year in September.

This was also the year in which the country was hit by a pandemic, and the school closed for the longest period that it has ever had to in its long history. Teachers, children and their parents had to learn new ways to work together and learn from their homes. We are very proud of much of the work achieved throughout this period and have displayed it on our celebration pages on the school website for all to share.

2020 is also the year in which I have decided to take early retirement and will be moving on at the end of August. I hand over to Mrs Helen Field, who will be welcomed to the Suckley Community in September.

I would like to thank the various groups within the community for their support for myself and the school during my six years, and will very much miss it all.

Mrs Sheila Marshall



Self-Isolation

THANK YOU to Suckley Shop and Suckley volunteer drivers, especially PENNY, who did a food drop for ten weeks to the Greenways in Birchwood Lane.

From Albert Schweitzer

"Nature compels us to recognize the fact of mutual dependence, each life necessarily helping the other lives who are linked to it. In the very fibres of our being, we bear within ourselves the fact of the solidarity of life."

"Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it."

Time for a Smile

A one pound coin met a twenty-pound note and said, "Hey, where have you been? I haven't seen you around here much." The twenty pound note answered, "I've been everywhere - hanging out at the casino, I went on a cruise and did all the tours, then back home for a while, before going to a few theatre shows and shopping expeditions. And how about you?" The one pound coin replied, "Oh nothing much, just the same old routine - church, church, church."

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme Needs YOU



We will help all Suckley residents to keep better connected, especially the vulnerable and socially isolated by giving each home a local info folder and developing IT skills in the community.

9 backers

£294 pledged of **£476**

(61%, target date is 14 August!)

Donate at:

<http://www.spacehive.com/suckleygns>

Suckley GNS needs YOU to keep Suckley special! We will help Suckley residents to be better connected, especially the vulnerable and socially isolated - so vital in Suckley where homes are scattered and social isolation is real - but this does not have to be a problem. We will give each home an updatable folder of useful local information and contact details, and encourage local businesses and craftsmen to use it. We will enable more digital champions to teach IT

skills to those not yet digitally connected. We will encourage and enable digital communication skills, especially for the vulnerable and elderly. Social distancing is easy here, but keeping alert to our neighbours' and each other's wellbeing requires us to engage with each other in new ways as well as old. For Suckley residents effectively to meet the challenges of this present pandemic era we need to strengthen our local identity and maintain our community spirit. Together we will improve the quality of life for many.

What we'll deliver:

- Purchase 500 A5 quality printed card information folders to hold loose sheets (c £340)
- Create and source the information sheets for the above folders - donation
- Create a 'bank' of donated iPads & train new Digital Champions - donations
- Enable new volunteers to have DBS checks

Why it's a great idea:

- 1) All Suckley residents will have a durable attractive and up to date folder with information and contact details for all their local needs and more.
- 2) Suckley and nearby businesses and craftsmen will benefit from knowing that their A5 fliers could reach all residents and probably be kept and updated and attract more local business.
- 3) New volunteers will be encouraged to join the **Good Neighbour Scheme**. They may then enjoy the satisfaction of further GNS training (CLV training by *Citizens Advice* and Digital Champion training by *LearnMyWay*)
- 4) COVID self-isolation has emphasised the disadvantages for those who are not digitally connected. Our volunteers will be enabled to help bring digital connectivity to those who would benefit from the new social interaction and interest that this brings.
- 5) Suckley's scattered community will be encouraged to work together and thus equip themselves better to deal with challenges like COVID self-isolation and geographical social isolation.

Steps to get it done:

- Designing the cover of the new leaflet folder
- Contacting local businesses and craftsmen etc., to provide information leaflets
- Achieving a DBS for every new GNS volunteer

Suckley is an unusually vulnerable community comprising a sprawling mix of farms and scattered hamlets where challenges include:

- 1) Social deprivation. 25% of households live alone and there is an increasingly elderly demographic.
- 2) Connectivity deprivation. Mobile phone and internet coverage is variable and unreliable.
- 3) Services deprivation. We are in the lowest 5% in the country in terms of barriers to Services.
- 4) **Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme** has a tried and tested infrastructure (useful multi-skilled volunteers accessible via GNS email and local telephone number).
- 5) Working with local Councillors and the local PO and Stores, and supported by local social networking,

Suckley community coped well through the challenges of the first COVID peak. Volunteers enabled an effective delivery service for shopping and other supplies. Now is an excellent opportunity for new local folk to enjoy the rewards of volunteering to foster community cohesion and strengthen community spirit.

News from Suckley Parish Annual Council Meeting held 13 July 2020

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, Suckley Parish Council held its first Zoom meeting on 13 July.

This was the Annual Meeting of the Council which is normally held in May. Cllr Peter Whatley was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr John Green re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. In order to meet the demands placed on it by the Covid 19 pandemic, the hospital had set aside areas for Covid patients, and separate areas for other patients needing care. Kidderminster hospital had been designated for chemotherapy treatments. At the time of his report, the numbers of Covid deaths for Worcestershire were 500 – 300 of these in hospital and 200 elsewhere. At this stage the average deaths per week were 160 compared to the normal average figure of 110. Worcestershire County Council, together with District and Parish Councils, had been working hard to cope with the pandemic, with most employees working from home. WCC had set up a *Here to Help* single telephone number for people to use throughout the County. The new cycling and walking bridge was now in place across The Hams at Powick.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting and thanked everyone for all their hard work and support during the lockdown period. Malvern Hills District Council had done very well – especially the bin men. Economy was the key going forward, and a County wide economic recovery plan was being put together. Tenbury Wells was still suffering from flooding problems. The local plan had been delayed due to the pandemic. She was on the Committee to deal with the Covid break-out at a local farm in Mathon. Homeless people had been provided with secure

accommodation during the lockdown and the Council was working hard to keep them secure and off the streets for the future.

FINANCE - The Year End Accounts to 31 March had been internally audited and were approved by the Council.

COMMUNITY - Cllrs Anne Lewis and Liz Devenish are pushing ahead with a superfast broadband project for the Crews Hill area of the Parish. However, little progress was being made in Longley Green as *Openreach* were adamant that the *Bruff Business Centre* has to be included in the scheme (despite very little interest from the businesses on that site). Cllr P Whatley is taking this matter up with *Openreach* and the WCC representative. Cllr Anne Lewis reported that so far £250 has been raised for the *Good Neighbour Scheme/Parish Information Pack* through a match funded *Crowdfunding* project backed by MHDC.

PLAYING FIELD - Yet again a break-in has occurred at the Playing Field Pavilion with damage being caused to the door. This has now been secured and a metal security grate will be installed. Due to Covid restrictions the Play Area and play equipment had been taped off and Closed notices put up. However, the tapes and notices have been removed. Photographs of the measures taken have been made, and notices etc., will be replaced. The Play Area is officially closed and should not be used.

DIANA TAYLOR Clerk to Suckley Parish Council
9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern WR14 1NL
Tel: 01684 569430
E-mail: dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com

*The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 14 September at 7.15 pm.
It will most likely be a Virtual Zoom Meeting. There is always time at the beginning of the meeting for parishioners to make a short address to the Councillors for discussion in the meeting.*



Why is it called the Conquest Theatre?

A: Because it was a conquest! Many people said that it could never be done in Bromyard as it was such a small town.

Where did the masks come from above the Proscenium in the auditorium?

A: One of our members when we first opened knew of a company in London and had them made for us. They are made of fibreglass.

Who owns and runs the theatre?

A: The theatre is a Registered Charity and run by a group of people who work very hard behind the scenes. It is run with the aim of being for the town, and those that enjoy the arts in general.

How is the theatre funded?

A: We don't receive any regular funding from anywhere. Our income is based entirely from our ticket sales, occasional fund raising and ancillary sales from within the theatre. When we have a major project we will seek extra funding from various sources.

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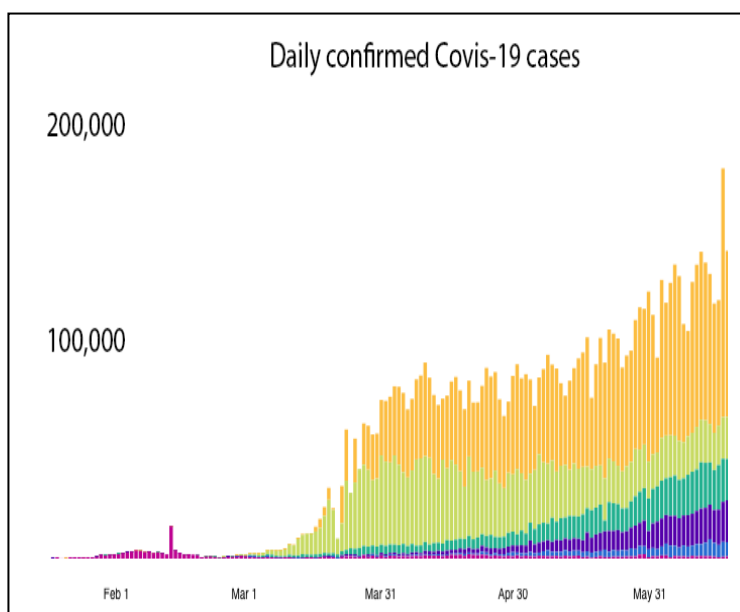
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Safe in Suckley?

There is so much mixed messaging coming out in print, interviews and actions (Boris wearing a mask when visiting a hair salon, but Rishi failing to do so when serving meals to customers). Masks are mandatory in shops in Scotland but not, at the time of writing, in England. And what about “Social Distancing” and the “One Metre + rule”? Such a small symbol that “+” but such huge implications. Social media doesn’t help, and clearly the behaviour of many says; “why bother?” Why bother? They think it’s all over. It isn’t.

When writing this I have heard of an outbreak of 73 cases of Covid-19 just 4.5 miles from here, and my Covid-19 app from Prof Spector’s team at Kings College Hospital tells me that today there are 1,471 daily NEW cases of Covid-19 in the UK and 25,000 current cases. Clearly outbreaks are more common when people are together for longer periods of time inside in confined spaces (meat and veg packing, sweat shops, religious gatherings). Globally the situation is even more dramatic, as seen from the chart below from the World Health Organisation this morning, showing that cases are exponentially rising across the world. In February there appeared to be a massive outbreak in China, (magenta on left of the chart below) but that is now dwarfed by the rise in the Americas (orange), and SE Asia (purple) while Europe has fallen a little (lime-green). This chart represents just the 12.5 million cases that we know about, but no one knows how many cases are not documented, especially in Africa. There are also over 0.5 million known deaths. So, there is no reason to be complacent. If, from that “little blip” in China in February, we all found ourselves in lockdown in March, just consider the risk we face today from the absolutely massive numbers of cases in the world.



https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAlaIqObChMIiZe7wdJ6gIVh-7tCh3j6AC6EAAAYASABEgLqxPD_BwE

Why bother? Because you just do not want to get this virus even if you are young. We know that the older you are the greater the risk of death. Compared to a 50-year-old you are over twice as likely to die if you are over 60yrs, over 7 times as likely over 70yrs and 26 times as likely over 80yrs. (*OpenSAFELY* study of over 17 million people in England). But it is not just death that is the concern. Evidence just coming in from Italy indicates that even those who had a ‘mild’ infection in all age groups are getting mental, neurological, kidney, cardiac and other problems, some of which may be long term problems. This is not just a respiratory infection; it affects the whole body.

If we needed to go into lockdown in March, with relatively few cases in the world, how can we avoid the ‘second spike’ or the third with so many cases globally, especially when the economic impact of lockdown demands that we open up? Well, it is up to us and our behaviour as a society. That little “+” in “One metre +” cannot be ignored. It does not mean we are safe if we are just a little over one metre away from each other, it means it is ONLY safe under 2 metres if we put other things in place to protect ourselves. Masks/face coverings are the main thing available to protect yourself and others if you enter somewhere where you cannot be sure of being at least 2 metres distanced such as a shop, pub, restaurant, religious gathering etc. This short video is very good at explaining why face coverings work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTp0zB904Mc&feature=youtu.be>

Boris wore a mask after Prof Anthony Costello, a former director of the *World Health Organisation*, criticised Rishi for not doing so. Branding it a “terrible mistake” the professor of global health said; “Our

message is to wear masks indoors, wear masks in public places – and ministers should be setting a good example”. It is not macho to be seen without a mask. We are not somehow immune from infection just because we live in rural Worcestershire.

It is only by everyone being responsible; by remaining socially distanced (2 metres if possible) and wearing masks in public places and indoors when mixing with others from outside our “bubble”, and by washing/sanitising our hands that we are going to be able to protect ourselves and to protect our society. This is not just a personal responsibility; it is the only way we as a society are going to avoid this disease getting out of hand again. After all, 92 people out of every 100 in the UK have not yet had this. So, until a vaccine that works becomes available

(if that ever happens, which is by no means certain), we need to find a safe sustainable way of living with this virus.

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Aspects of Alfrick



Friends in my Garden

Today it is raining, which is welcome news for gardeners, and everything is looking refreshed and healthier. However like many other people, I have been spending more time than usual in the garden, and it recently occurred to me that many of the plants have special memories of family and friends.

A lovely perfumed rose (a house-warming gift 20 years ago) climbs round our bedroom window, and a beautiful pink Gertrude Jekyll rose, also a house-warming gift, rambles through an old cherry tree. Another old pear tree is the host for Bantry Bay, a pretty rose given to us by my sisters on one of our wedding anniversaries. From the study window we can see a

flower bed where I have planted all the bowls of hyacinths given to me by our grandchildren when they were small, and this provides a very colourful display of blue, pale and deep pink and white - not to mention the delicious perfume. There are daffodils in the orchard bought with a 'thank you' gift voucher.

Near the pond is a beautiful dark purple lilac tree, originally a small cutting from a friend's garden when she was moving house, and nearby are a couple of dark red peonies which we rescued from David's Aunt's garden after she had died and the house was being sold. Later in the year there will be delightful pink water lilies, another thank-you gift, from a friend who came to lunch; and lovely white water lilies, bright yellow and blue iris from friends who love water gardens.

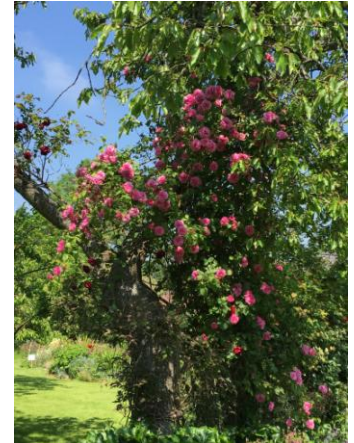
I have a bay tree - now bigger than I am - which a close friend's mother-in-law gave me in a small pot. Several other smaller trees have memories attached to them - a rowan and a crab apple bought with a 'thank you' gift voucher for our involvement with the village, when we moved from Rowney Green; our son bought me a pink flowering cherry for one of my 'big' birthdays; our daughter gave me a white cherry years ago (it was only about 12 inches when I planted it and is now nearly 25 feet tall); I bought David a liquidambar tree one Christmas, and a Paul's Scarlet crataegus (pink double hawthorn) another year.

In a big pot by the front door is a stunning blue hydrangea, a gift from friends on our 50th wedding anniversary, and I have several large pots of blue and white agapanthus which we bought as small cuttings from Madeira. There are poppies everywhere in the summer, originally from seed pods collected from friends' gardens, and violets, wallflowers and sweet peas remind me of my mother.

Two 'love birds' swivel around in the breeze, reminding us of a happy weekend in Devon with good friends a few years ago when we visited a beautiful National Trust garden, and of course 'Shaun the Sheep' (the one with the brown face) enjoys 'grazing' on the lawn (a gift from lovely Inner Wheel ladies last time I was club President).

I won't bore you further but I think you have the picture, and realise that our garden is very special to me. All the above plants, and many more, have individual memories, and provide me with company when I am gardening, and even when in lock-down, we are surrounded by friends and family, all with a tale to tell.

Happy Gardening - **Daphne**





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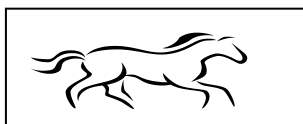
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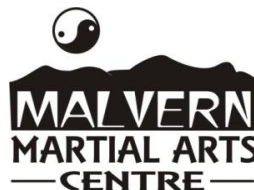
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Post Office – **Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm**

Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Contact **DAV** or **TRACEY** on **01886 832201**



Suckley Post Office

village store & so much more



@suckleypoandmore

www.suckleypoandmore.uk

WR6 5DU Tel 01886 884 201

Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00, Sat 09:00-13:00

Post Office for experienced advice & service **Village store** for everyday supplies & more

Late mail collection (16:50)
Bulk mail drop-off (ideal for online sellers)
Home Shopping returns
Amazon & Parcelforce Local Collect
Pay bills & mobile phone top-ups
Withdraw cash, deposit cash & cheques
Travel Money Card now available

Organic fruit & veg
Local beers, wines & gins
Local meat, snacks & pies
Local bread, filled rolls & ice cream
Fresh, chilled & frozen food
Lottery & scratchcards
Dry cleaning & repairs (Tue/Fri pick-up)



Café

Unfortunately
closed for the
duration

Looking forward
to seeing you
soon



Facebook: Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop

Do phone for home delivery if you are self-isolating

Shop open:

Mon to Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm

Sat & Sun 9.00am – 12noon

Bank Holidays 10.00am – 1.00pm

Telephone **01886 832862**

Post Office Local

Weekdays 11.30am – 4.00pm

(Last post 3.30pm)

Closed Bank Holiday Mondays

Chip & Pin cash withdrawals



Bromyard

The Conquest Theatre is gently resting and waiting for when better times return, which they will do. We hope you keep safe and well and we look forward to welcoming you back for a diverse range of entertainment from far and wide.

Until then if you want to keep in touch we are sending regular emails to our subscribers.

Want to join? Just go to our website and a joining slip will open for you.

