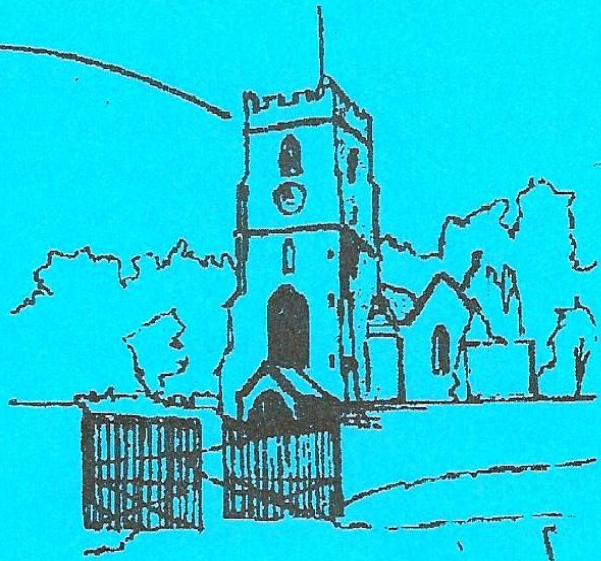
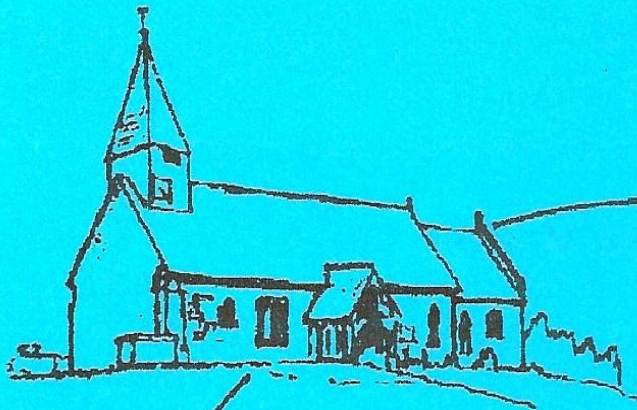
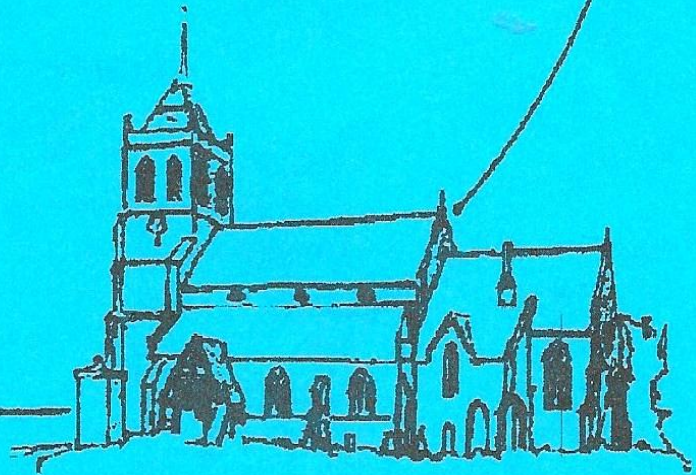
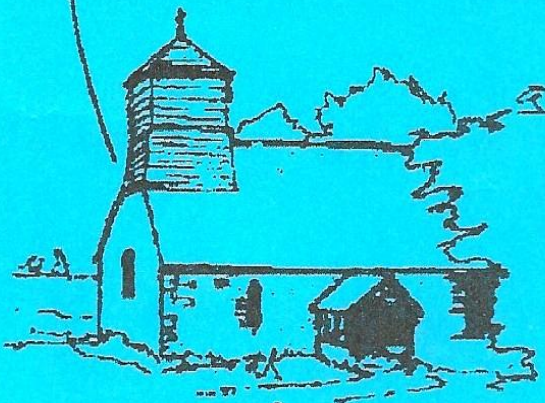


February 2021



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

Parish Secretary Alison Khan email: leighrectory@outlook.com 07984 748059
Parish Treasurer Mrs Ina Steele 821777

For those with computers, iPads etc., you will continue to find worship via:

YouTube [wwrtlivestream](#)

Other information can be found on:

A Church Near You (ACNY): www.achurchnearyou.com

Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam

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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. The Sphere accepts no liability for any errors or omissions and does not endorse any companies, products or services that appear in the publication.

Dear Reader

As our strange year filled with anxiety, fears, constant change and uncertainty, even with the hope on the horizon of the vaccine taking us towards some sort of normality, moves on, the Christian year continues in the same way as always. Christmas has gone (the Christian year starts on the first Sunday of Advent) and now we journey towards Lent. Ash Wednesday, the day Lent starts, is on 17 February this year.



As most of you are aware Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. During the forty days of Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. Many, both those who believe and those who don't, choose to give up something they enjoy such as chocolate or alcohol. Other Christians choose to carry out a specific activity such as counting their blessings through Christian Aid, or engaging in a daily reflection, of which there are numerous books or online resources.

For all Christians the purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

Recently a friend of mine gave me an envelope with a collection of 'cuttings' around spirituality and prayer. One of these was a poem called 'To laugh is to risk appearing a fool'. When I Googled the poem I found at least three people who took credit for writing it – Janet Rand, Leo Buscaglia and William Arthur Ward. Even the version among the cuttings was slightly different, but whichever version by whoever, the message is the same – and for me it reflects the life of Christ to which we are all called to do our best to emulate in our daily living.

I have copied and pasted the version by Janet Rand:

RISKS

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool,
To weep is to risk being called sentimental.
To reach out to another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk showing your true self.
To place your ideas and your dreams before the crowd is to risk being called naive.
To love is to risk not being loved in return,
To live is to risk dying,
To hope is to risk despair,
To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, because the greatest risk in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing,
and becomes nothing.
He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn, feel, change,
grow or love.
Chained by his certitude, he is a slave; he has forfeited his freedom.
Only the person who risks is truly free.

As the vaccines are rolled out during these winter days please continue keeping warm, safe and well.

Blessings

Rev Anne

Services for February 2021

Due to the ever-changing number of coronavirus cases we are taking each week as it comes. The weekly 'News around the WWRT' and ACNY website will have the latest information.

7 February (Second Sunday before Lent)

10.30am Leigh – Holy Communion

6.00pm Alfrick – Evensong

14 February (Sunday before Lent)

9.00am Alfrick – BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Crown East – CW Holy Communion

4.00pm Suckley – Celtic Evening Prayer

17 February (Ash Wednesday)

7.30pm WWRT Zoom Compline

21 February (Lent 1)

9.00am Bransford – BCP Said Communion

4.00pm WWRT Zoom Service

Wednesday, 24 February

10.00am Suckley – Midweek Communion

28 February (Lent 2)

10.30am Crown East – BCP Holy Communion

6.00pm Leigh – Evensong

From the Registers

Baptisms: None

Weddings: None

Funerals:

Leigh:

Anne Jones, funeral and burial, 05 January

Suckley:

Peter Hudson, cremation, 11 January



A selection of other special days and events in February:

Saturday 30 January to Saturday 6 February:

National Storytelling Week:

<https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week>

Tuesday 2 February: Candlemas

Thursday 4 February: World Cancer Day:

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/get-involved/donate/world-cancer-day-2021>

Wednesday 5 February: World Nutella Day

(we try to cater for all tastes!)

Friday 7 February: Charles Dickens Day

Sunday 14 February: St Valentine's Day

Sunday 14 to Sunday 21 February:

British Trust for Ornithology National Nest Box

Week <http://bto.org>

Saturday 27 February: International Polar

Bear Day:

<https://polarbearsinternational.org/get-involved/international-polar-bear-day/>

Candlemas

Did you know that Christmas doesn't end when the decorations come down, but after both Christmas and Epiphany on **2 February**, forty days after Christmas with Candlemas? It is also known as the *Feast of the Purification of the Virgin*, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to thank God for giving them a son.

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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 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

(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.



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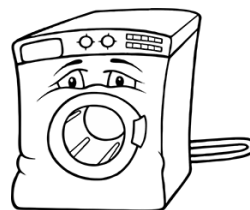
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Our District Councillors' "View from the Hills"

Happy New Year! Even though we are again in lockdown, the days are getting longer and nature is showing early signs of life. Life continues, as does the work of MHDC. Socially distanced and not quite as pleasantly as we would want, but the work does go on.



A vital part of that work currently is to ensure that support is available to those in need. It's no secret that domestic stresses have increased during the pandemic, nor that finances have been stretched. Help IS available. MHDC's website contains a wealth of information on sources of help for individuals, grants available to local businesses and – most recently – a scheme to help those experiencing fuel poverty. We usually condense and copy this information onto our *Facebook* page too.

There is one message that we must convey of course: **Stay At Home!** It means what it says. No "just popping out to do errands" as someone told me yesterday. That's how COVID spreads. Yes, it's tedious, but very necessary.

As I write in mid-January, MHDC's rate of positive COVID cases is one of the lowest in England, but still almost four times the December level. **Stay At Home!**

We continue to work 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@malvernhillsc.net

Peter Whatley

The Sphere Magazine: Future Plans

Your editorial team was delighted with the response to the Christmas double issue professionally printed for us by *Aspect Design* in Malvern. It certainly saved us a lot of labour in printing, collating and stapling needed for our usual production process. We received numerous complimentary comments about the quality of the production, perhaps the nicest of which was, "*Hearing the magazine arrive in the letterbox, then finding it on the mat, made it feel like normal life again.*"



We have therefore decided that from the Easter (April) 2021 edition we will have the magazine produced for us, rather than reverting to production in the vestry of Alfrick Church (even if open by then). This will of course be dependent on any Covid requirements and the ability (and willingness) of the veritable 'army' of volunteers who deliver the monthly copies to individual households.

There is, of course, an inevitable downside in that professional production costs more than our amateur efforts, however, we hope you will agree the magazine will still provide excellent value for money. The price of an annual subscription will therefore be increased from £5.00 to £6.00 per annum, whether received as a printed copy through your letterbox, or by email. Annual subscriptions will be requested, and collected by your distributor, during the summer of 2021.

We have not charged advertisers in the Sphere since the April 2020 edition because of the uncertainty of how many readers would view online. These numbers have now increased to over 500 views and downloads per month. Again, to help with the increased production costs, small adverts will increase from £30.00pa to £35.00pa, and large ones from £60.00pa to £70.00pa. Still great value for money and many advertisers have said how much they have appreciated their one year payment 'holiday' in these difficult Covid times.

Meanwhile, prior to the April 2021 edition, we shall continue producing digital editions, and surely, like everyone else, will look forward to a more normal service being resumed.

David and Geoff



This will provide a snapshot of modern society, and households across Worcestershire will soon be asked to take part.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the *Office for National Statistics*, said, and “this could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on **21 March**, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. For the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within twelve months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. For more information, visit: www.census.gov.uk

“I’ve fallen behind on my bills and the debts are building up, and I am worried that I won’t be able to manage in the New Year and don’t know where to start?”



You’ve already taken a great first step by asking for help, and it’s important to know you don’t need to face this alone. Your local CAB can help.

In the meantime here are four steps you can take to get started:

- 1. Work out how much you owe:** Make a list of who you owe money to and add up how much you need to pay each month. If you don’t have your most recent statements, contact your creditor to find out what you owe. Some creditors have special arrangements for people with Covid-related [arrears](#).
- 2. Prioritise your debts:** Your rent or mortgage, energy and council tax are called priority debts as there can be serious consequences if you don’t pay them. Separate these and work out how much you owe. Again, you can ask the companies or the council what support may be available during the pandemic.
- 3. Work out how much you can pay:** Create a budget by adding up your essential living costs, such as food and housing, and taking these away from your income. The [Citizens Advice budgeting tool](#) can help. Any money you have spare can be put towards your debts, starting with the priority debts first. If you have any money left after paying priority debts, but not enough to make your usual payments on other debts, consider getting advice on the best way for you to start getting on top of them. Or contact your creditors and offer them what you can afford to pay.
- 4. If you can’t pay your debts:** If you’ve got little or no money spare to pay your priority debts seek advice from *Citizens Advice* straight away. If you’re struggling to pay for basics like food, seek help immediately to see what support might be available to you. Some regions are also helped by a range of localized Welfare Support Schemes. If you can’t pay off other debts, such as credit cards and loans, it would also be worth contacting your nearest *Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)*.

For more information and advice, contact your local CAB or see www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Due to guidance on COVID-19 we have suspended our face-to-face sessions, but 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

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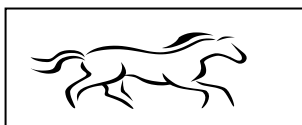
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St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick

**Please remember that unless you hear otherwise,
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between 10.00am and 4.00pm**



Church Cleaning Rota

February			March		
	3	Mrs Fowler & Mrs Agnew		3	Mrs Jeffery
	10	Mrs Hood & Mrs Skyrme		10	Mrs Cooke & Mrs Sirrell
	17	Mrs Davies & Mrs Fishwick		17	Mrs Crisp & Mrs Crockford
	24	Mrs Mansell & Mrs Collins		24	Mrs Fowler & Mrs Agnew
				31	Mrs Hood & Mrs Skyrme

Thank you to all cleaners for your help and perseverance throughout 2020 and may I wish you all A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. **DS**

St. Mary Magdalene Church Fundraiser

I would like to thank everyone who has so kindly given to the church fundraiser to help with the maintenance and upkeep of the church and churchyard at this difficult time.

The members of the PCC are extremely grateful.

Andrew Cooper, Treasurer

Community Choir

By the time you read this, we'll have started singing again after the Christmas/New Year break, still online via Zoom. Look at the rehearsals page on our website: www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com/rehearsals.htm

to see when we're next meeting - it'll probably be next Tuesday at 7.30pm.

We'll be varying the format a bit this term, but you'll probably find us doing a warm-up, trying some simple sight-singing - there's no need to read music, but we'll encourage you to try, learning something new but untaxing, then singing something that we all know. After that, there's always time to stay and chat, and often Lucas will entertain us with a piano piece or two! Ask and we'll show you a rehearsal video, and we might even let you see the recording of our Twelfth Night party!

Best wishes, **Keith Bramich** (07771 600 776)



Citizens Advice

Although we are currently unable to offer our usual Friday drop-in clinic at Knightwick your local Community Liaison Volunteer Elaine Kite is still available and happy to take queries via email (elainekite@btinternet.com) or phone (01886 884435). Please get in touch if you have an issue that you would like to discuss. Sometimes just a chat helps to clarify things, at other times referral to a *Citizens' Advice* advisor with specialist knowledge is necessary.



Thank You

Ros in Broadwas says a big thank you to Frankie, Charley and Val Turley in Alfrick for their help and support during these recent most difficult times.

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: Hilary Simmons: 832611; Pam Lowe: 833362; Ro Mopuss: 832622

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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@timesaversconcierqe.co.uk
Or phone: Adrian Biggs on 01905 312456

The only activity that can be held at the Village Hall under the current restrictions is the Age UK foot clinic operated by Rose Hill. Unfortunately, whilst the Hall is not officially closed, it is for all other activities until further notice.



Alfrick Players: Sadly, all plans seem to be going backwards at the moment! At least everything we have been aiming to do is still on track, just at later dates. So we still aim to put on the two plays we've been working towards but these won't be on stage now until at least May:

84 Charing Cross Road based on a book by Helene Hanff about a twenty year correspondence between an American writer and a London bookshop. A moving period piece set in the 1950s.

The Noble Spaniard by W Somerset Maugham, a comedy about a family's relationships and misunderstandings while on vacation in France.

I will of course keep you posted as to likely dates and let's keep our fingers crossed for some drama on the Alfrick stage very soon!

Alan Soper

Carol Singing

Thank you to everyone who came to sing carols outside Alfrick Shop before Christmas. A very good turnout of around 60 people spread themselves widely across the socially distanced car park! And we raised **£180** for *Maggs Day Centre* in Worcester which, with the takings from the shop's cake raffle, meant a total of **£260** went to *Maggs* in time for Christmas. After the singing, we were all treated to mulled wine and mince pies, thanks to the hospitality of Alfrick Shop. All in all, it was a credit to a determination that, even within the rules of these difficult times, we could still come together for the pleasure of singing at Christmas. Thank you.



Judith and Alan Soper

Bridges Stone Mill: Sunday 7 March: 2.00 to 5.30pm

National Garden Scheme Open Garden

Once a cherry orchard next to a 19C flour mill, this all-year-round garden with trees, shrubs, and mixed borders now includes a mature Japanese garden and a colourful parterre of roses. The garden is bounded by the Leigh Brook from which the mill's own weir feeds a mill leat and a small lake. There is wheelchair access to the Mill's courtyard.



Teas provided, if possible, courtesy volunteers from St Richard's hospice. Admission £6.00

For this open day you can pre-book your tickets in advance via the *National Garden Scheme* website: <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/16186>, but it is not at present essential. Click on the yellow **book now** button on the website or you may be able to just turn up and pay on the day.



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Many of you are having to cancel plans for those special occasions due to the pandemic, or not being able to have all of your friends and family attend your weddings and other special occasions due to limited numbers. Creating film is a great way to capture the moment which can then be shared with everyone. Then I can edit them and add the person's favourite music and photos to create a memorable gift.

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I also specialise in supporting small businesses with film to help with marketing which is one of the best ways to engage with audiences on social media and to help to make a stand out website.

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Look me up on *Facebook* and *Instagram* and give me a like and a follow. Email hi@naturesedgefilms.com

Steve Forrester

Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop

February can be a cold and grey month for us all at the best of times, but there are small signs of spring and the shop is open seven days a week, bright and cheery.....

The Christmas period was busy, especially for the *Post Office*, with last-minute posting of parcels to family and friends who could no longer spend the festivities together. In mid-December the annual community carol singing was able to go ahead outside the shop and a good crowd, well-distanced and wrapped up warm, sang into the cold night air and warmed up afterwards with mulled wine and mince pies. It was great to have this chance to catch up briefly with others and share something worthwhile ...in fact, it raised £260 for the Maggs Day Centre for the homeless, a fantastic achievement, thanks to the generous donations that evening and a raffle for a Christmas cake generously made by a volunteer.

A welcome addition to Christmas activities this year was the *Spot the Pom-Pom challenge* around the village organised by the *Knit and Natter* group who met regularly in the café, but presently online.

385 colourful, cheerful and pretty handmade decorations were to be found hanging from trees and hedges all around the village (including the robin in the photo). The prize went to five year-old Eadie as the youngest competitor guessing



nearest to the actual number!

It's business as usual now for us! We've found this lockdown to be less frantic than the first since systems developed and suppliers found over ten months have become well-established, and it is a far less daunting prospect to stay open, well-stocked - and safe now!

We take Covid safety very seriously, both for our volunteers and customers, and constantly review our safety measures. Our expectation of shop users remains basically the same: please sanitize your hands - wear a mask - keep your distance. We're very lucky to have such sensible and considerate customers. Thank you!

If you, or anyone you know, has any difficulty with their shopping, or is in a vulnerable group, please contact us on 01886 832862, and we are happy to do home delivery.

The *Food Bank* is even more important than ever and we are very grateful to those who donate items and also to those who donate cash.



Our raffle of a hamper, together with donations, provided around £100 in cash to be sent to the *Food Bank* along with a goodly number of carrier bags full of packets and tins. So, thank you on behalf of the shop, the local churches and the *Food Bank*. The odd tin you put in the basket can provide part of a meal for someone who cannot afford to go to the supermarket.

We have a healthy stock of most items as always and are so grateful for our local supplies of fresh bread, dairy, eggs, smoked fish, vegetables and meat. Our apple juice is now sold out, but we look forward to even more apple donations next autumn so we can produce even more bottles!

Our kitchen takeaways are proving very popular and our volunteers have risen to the challenge of the cold weather by making lovely hot soups as well as cakes and sandwiches. Do come and try some if you're out walking!

We hope that you continue to visit to our shop for your provisions (and maybe some treats sometimes) and that your visit helps you to feel better by being connected to others. Any suggestions on how we can improve our service are always welcome.

For up to date news, visit our Facebook page regularly: it's Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop!

Take care and stay safe.

Vicky Gatley on behalf of the volunteers.



Rainfall at Old Storridge 2020 from Garth Lowe

This was to be a very varied year from almost a dry month to some very wet ones. In February there were in fact only four dry days, whereas in May it was just the opposite with only three days with measurable rain. This was also the month with the longest dry spell a grand total of fifteen days. There seems to be a shift towards wetter Augusts in recent years. There have been five Augusts with over 100 mm in the last 20 years, but only two in the previous 20. There were unusually four months in the year with over 100 mm which all together gave 68% of the year's rainfall, but was beaten in 2012 when there were five months and a year's record total of over 1,000 mm.

Most of the lengthy dry spells took place from March to May with May having spells of two weeks and a single week totally dry. From then on it was only September that had over a week dry in the middle of the month. The heaviest fall occurred on the 23 December and although 35.8mm was less than usual caused Leigh Brook to flood the junction of Old Storridge Lane. Over the previous eight days much rain had already fallen to saturate the ground and cause the flooding.



By the end of the year the large total in December took 2020 into being a slightly wetter year than the average. This was also the wettest December since 2006, but in 2000 it was 160.3 mm. The long term average rainfall is 732.3 mm so this year was above that by 10%.

(25.4 mm = 1 inch) top row 2020, 2nd row 2019

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
55.4	124.8	32.9	37.5	1.4	64.8	49.9	102.3	25.8	129.6	40.1	142.0	806.5
22.2	30.7	54.9	54.1	56.1	140.2	49.4	68.9	82.8	113.5	132.6	84.3	889.7

Early spring and a topsy-turvy winter



When I popped my head gloomily out of the door at first light yesterday I was rewarded by an unaccustomed feeling of spring round the corner - slightly warmer

than of late and bursts of birdsong: thrushes with their three-times-repeating calls, the 'teacher-teacher' of great tits (the ones with the smart black waistcoats), short melodious bursts from robins, cheerful chattering of the few house sparrows remaining in our hedges and distant snatches from numerous other birds. In the recent cold weather some very smart-looking garden birds had been visiting our feeders, having moulted ready for the nesting season. In the warmer weather before Christmas there seemed to be plenty of food around - we saw clouds of tiny insects in the air being picked off on the ground by small birds like wrens, as well as seed eaters like goldfinches pecking at dead flower heads, lavender being a favourite.

Hedgerow plants appear to have been behaving very strangely of late. In response to last year's hot dry summer, many had dried up and died off then autumn rain led to a burst of unseasonal re-growth of spring and summer flowers. During the warmer weather in late autumn I saw much fresh spring foliage along the verges normally seen in February or later. Had some wildflowers, such as the fresh-looking, normally August flowering wild carrot that I saw on a verge in late November, just kept on flowering or had they anticipated the coming

summer? And is the unusually short, normally mid-spring greater stitchwort I saw hidden deep in a verge fairly recently a sign of an extremely early spring, likewise the cow parsley I've seen flowering throughout the winter?

I often count the wildflowers while ambling round local 'blocks' (sad, but a good memory game and a distraction from the current difficult situation). My tally was twenty three before Christmas and twenty-one yesterday, including the ubiquitous daisies, dandelions, white and purple dead nettles and sow thistles, as well as true plants of spring like primroses (widespread now) and lesser celandines.

Strangely, snowdrops seem to be a bit late - perhaps because they are bulbs?

During the first four days of January, many wildflower enthusiasts take part in three-hour plant hunts throughout

Great Britain and Ireland counting those in flower in their local area

(I forgot!) You can look up the results on the BSBI (*Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland*) website: 1,194 lists were sent in from all parts from as far north as beyond the Orkneys to the furthest tip of Jersey (the longest list); 714 species were recorded (!), with 21,412 unique records. As usual, top of the list was the humble daisy, seen everywhere.



Carol Bradley

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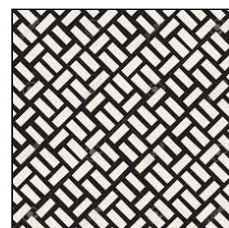
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Suckley

Suckley Church Flower Arranging Rota

February 2021	Ellen Gwynne
March 2021 until Lent	Jenny Taylor
April 2021	All for Easter (5 April)

Suckley Church is at present open for private prayer daily from 10am to 5pm, but Covid precautions may change this. Please look at Suckley Church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/suckleychurch and also on the Suckley page of A Church Near You on: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18630/> for the current information.



The Suckley Tree of Light



This has been appreciated again these dark winter evenings, with its list of names and shining out to remind us of those precious to us, but unable to be with us at Christmas. We were a bit worried when it suddenly developed a problem at the end of December, but thanks to advice from electrician professionals we realised that TWO of the 100 bulbs, despite shining beautifully, were causing the recurrent 'trip'. All sorted. Shine-on, *Tree of Light*, you make a lot of folk happy with your light.

Thanks to all involved. **Richard and Anne Lewis**

**SPACE (Registered charity:
Suckley Parish Academy and
Community Enterprises)**



This continues on its mission to help Suckley Church become useful daily to the whole community. If you'd like to know more, or would like to be involved in this exciting project, do please contact a church warden - Liz Devenish 07929 001563 and Anne Lewis 07957 388926.



Thanks to many kind local donations and a grant from *Magic Little Grants* we have now ordered fifty of our comfortable chosen hi-stacking chairs. **If you would like to sponsor a chair with a dedication plate for a family member, or to promote a local organisation (like the bell ringers, the Tractor Club and the Care Farm have done) then a basic chair costs £100, and one with arms £120.**

With our much appreciated underfloor heating and Broadband all we need now to be really useful is a toilet and kitchen!

We continue to apply to Trusts and other Grant funders, and we hope that we will be able to start on the next building phase this spring.

NB: *Magic Little Grants* come from the *Local Giving and Postcode Community Trust*: <https://localgiving.org/magic-little-grants>

Suckley Village Hall News

The Hall re-opened after the November lockdown and the Art Group and Keep Fit were able to meet for three weeks before the Christmas holiday. Sadly, we have not been able to re-open due to the current lockdown, but will do so, as and when we are allowed to. It has been encouraging to hear that a good proportion of both the groups who have been using the Hall

'Tractivity'

On Christmas Eve afternoon a tractor and trailer left Pewcroft Farm with a nativity tableau on board. The brain-child of Rev Anne was well received by probably about 500 people. (Had we all come to see the Holy Family, hear the carols or collect the chocolate thrown out by Anne, the angel - not sure which?)

For many other years we have gathered in Lulsley for the Christmas Eve Barnyard service, so this was definitely the next best thing, and it worked very well with excellent timing, despite worries over tyres, health and safety, Covid and socially distanced gatherings etc.

Driven with great skill by Douglas Roper the mobile (very) rustic stable visited Longley Green, Alfrick, Leigh, Bransford, Rushwick, Leigh Sinton and then returned safely to the farm. I did notice the shepherd and the wise man each had a hip flask secreted about their costumes, for medicinal purposes apparently! I can't say they were following the star as it was illuminated on the back of the trailer. Our apologies to a few people who missed it, or wanted it to stop for better viewing, but the 'powers that be' had said that wasn't allowed.

through these difficult times have been able to access their first dose of the vaccine thereby affording them some measure of protection.

The *Hill Trust* wishes everyone a Happy New Year with the hope that you all stay safe and well until we can again welcome you through our doors.

Carol Boughton



Photo: Natures Edge Films

Mary and Joseph, together with the innkeeper were keeping a good eye on 'Baby Jesus' in his manger, but I fear he too was a bit cold, as he had been on that trailer for four days with only a life-size resin sheep for company! The 'players' were glad of a little mulled wine and a mince pie on return from their epic journey.

The trailer, dressed with lights and greenery, plus carols on a loudspeaker, made it feel very Christmassy as it went along, especially as the beautiful sunset changed to complete darkness.

Thanks to Steve, Mike, Barrie and John for all the preparations, and Rev Anne for using her vision to make this special and probably unique event possible.

Jill Hammonds

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme

01886 840 480

The *Good Neighbour Scheme* (GNS) is for all residents in our community to access help should it be needed, especially during difficult and challenging times and circumstances.

Manned by friendly local volunteers who can be contacted Monday to Friday, they will try to help you with any issues via a network of residents who have offered their assistance with all manner of things: from collecting prescriptions, a friendly chat, changing a light bulb or perhaps walking a dog whilst convalescing; we're here to help.....

Call 01886 840 480 or email: suckleygns@gmail.com

And especially during the times we are now faced with, we all need to be 'good neighbours' so please be aware of those around you and how we may be able to help them.

Do not go hungry: Malvern Hills' Food Bank and the School Meal Schemes are well supported at this current time and are available to all who are in need .

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:

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

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.



Suckley School - New Governors Required March 2021



We are looking to extend and broaden the membership of the Governing Body of Suckley School by recruiting two new governors.

Suckley School is a popular stand-alone primary school academy with 84 children on roll. Further information about the school can be found on the school's website, see details below.

A school governing body is made up of representatives from the school, the parents and the local community and is responsible for the strategic management of the school making decisions about a wide range of issues. It has three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent.

To make a positive contribution to the work of the Governing Body, governors need to be able to commit to attending the following meetings:

- The Full Governing Body meeting - usually one per term plus one to receive the annual financial audit report.
- Membership of either the Resources or Curriculum Committee – usually one meeting per term.

Training and mentoring are available to all governors to enable them to fulfill their roles appropriately.

Full details of the role and skills requirements can be found in the information pack on our website:

<http://www.suckleyschool.co.uk/school-vacancies>

If you would like further information or to discuss the role, please contact Janet Ashton, Chair of Governors at: JAshton@suckley.worcs.sch.uk

Expressions of interest from anyone who would like to be considered as a governor are welcomed. Please email your application by **1 March 2021** to: office@suckley.worcs.sch.uk using the guidance in the information pack.

Suckley School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils, we expect all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. This position is subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and references.

Suckley School Update

The children settled back into school fantastically well last term following the school closure. We identified the gaps in the children's learning and wrote a catch-up curriculum. One of the main areas we wanted to address was their well-being. We needed to improve our *Thrive* nurture room which was accessed via some very steep steps and was a dark and dreary room. We decided to turn our staff room into the nurture room (which is a bright, easily accessible room), make the old 'wet room' into the staff room and the old nurture room into a storage room. We had delays due to Covid, but the new staff room and storage room are now fully functioning and we are in the process of decorating and furnishing the new nurture room. The room will be used for 1:1, group work and *Thrive* activities.

We also increased the use of our *Forest School* area and all children accessed the provision at least once a week to help with their social skills following lockdown.

With a donation from the *John Palmer Trust* we were also able to purchase a new reading scheme for our early readers, in line with the *Ofsted* expectations.

We had 12 hours to prepare for the new national lockdown. We had already set up our remote learning. We were extremely grateful for the support from local Trusts and charities at this time and with their help we were able to purchase three laptops. This provision was given to our families who did not have remote access at home. We are open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. We offered a place to all the children identified on the Government's critical worker list - some parents accepted and some declined. The numbers varied each day, the highest day seeing the numbers reaching nineteen. We have separated them into KS1 and KS2 groups and they access the same learning as those working at home.

The staff members have been exceptional. It was a difficult autumn term adjusting to the new Covid safe guidelines and often putting their own health at risk.

I look forward to meeting you soon when the restrictions allow. Please get in touch if you require any further information.

Helen Field, Head Teacher

News from Suckley Parish Council Zoom Meeting: 11 January 2021

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting. A new Chief Fire Officer had been appointed starting at the end of March. Worcester Royal Hospital was having to cope with a dramatic increase in Covid cases and the situation was becoming pretty dire. The Minor Injuries Unit at Malvern Community Hospital had been temporarily closed to re-allocate staff to Worcester Royal. Work on the Southern Link Road was going well, and plans were being looked at to raise the level of the roundabout at Powick to avoid flooding.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported that most of her time and that of other District Cllrs was devoted to responding to Covid community problems in the district, especially dealing with a wide range of Government Grants cascading down from Central Government. The District Council had set a budget for 2021/22, bearing in mind that no income had been received in the past year from car parking charges. Despite Covid work, the Council was still working on the revamp of *Splash* and Priory Park, and a regeneration plan for Malvern Town Centre.

COMMUNITY: Superfast Broadband - Cllr P Whatley reported on the latest outrageous actions of BT Openreach over the FTTP deal for Longley Green, after two years of negotiation. He had been informed on 26 December 2020 by Worcs CC that Openreach had decided to supply FTTP to 10 premises in Longley Green and nearby on a commercial basis (out of the 10 only 4 had expressed an interest in FTTP). On 5 January 2021 he received confirmation that Openreach's decision meant that

those 4 properties (2 business and 2 domestic) had to be taken out of the grant-based scheme. This left the business case for Longley Green short of £20K grant funding and therefore unviable. He had sent a letter round to all interested parties in Longley Green explaining the situation and of his withdrawal from any future dealings with BT Openreach.

PRECEPT 2021/22: The Council unanimously agreed to keep the 2021/22 Precept figure to the same level as 2020/21.

PLAYING FIELD: Cllr C Luton reported that she was looking into the cost of replacement bins to be fixed off the ground onto posts. She had also received a fencing quote for erecting 6 ft wooden posts (with 2ft into the ground) and stock netting. There would be a gap to allow access for buggies etc., but it would not be wide enough to allow cars to be driven onto the field.

SUCKLEY CHURCH: Cllr A Lewis reported that thanks to the now completed central heating, the Church had been a warm place to be over Christmas. Funding was now available for a sink and cupboard. The next phase would be the installation of a toilet and small kitchenette. The Church was open for private prayer only.

DIANA TAYLOR, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council

Tel: 01684 569430; email: dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.15pm. 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. For the Zoom link please contact the Clerk.

Houses in My Life by Rosemary Harward

Rosemary's fourth book brings her interesting life to the fore. Her early days, with its ups and downs, are particularly poignant, with each of fourteen subsequent house moves being detailed in her straightforward style. Her love of animals is well described, and it went on to become the backbone of the farming years. Attempts to keep 'many plates spinning at the same time' with the truthful need to earn enough to keep the family are well documented, some sad, some amusing, a good mixture.

I was moved to tears in two places as she detailed the roller coaster that is marriage and family life, but it certainly didn't spoil my enjoyment of Rosemary's writing. Her journey from Manchester suburb to Alfrick via fourteen other homes is well worth reading; her common sense attitude to life is obvious.

Rosemary's skill in illustrating her narrative with wonderful line drawings of the sixteen houses she has lived in is well demonstrated in each chapter. A thoroughly good read, made even better by knowing the author/illustrator. I can only suggest you may enjoy reading it as much as I did. You can get a copy from Alfrick shop, which will benefit from your donation of £5.00.



Jill Hammonds

Congratulations: Christopher Lewis (the son of Anne and Richard Lewis) was awarded the OBE in the New Years Honours 'for services to International Development' (his work on Ebola in Sierra Leone, work in Nigeria, and on Covid in developing countries). He is at present, Deputy Director, Covid-19 Science, Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, and Head of Health Profession for Health, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. He now lives with his wife and family in Salisbury, UK.

Christopher came to Suckley in 1986 and went to King's School, Worcester before studying medicine. He began as a GP, and moved to South Sudan where he worked for four years undertaking humanitarian relief working with NGOs and the Ministry of Health. Then he led NGO humanitarian health responses to the earthquake in Haiti, cholera in Zimbabwe, drought in the Horn of Africa, and conflict in Cote d'Ivoire. Until the outbreak of Ebola he also continued clinical practice as a GP. For more details see <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/dr-chris-lewis>

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St. Edburga, Leigh Events

This strange world we are currently living in is presenting increasingly stricter rules and regulations; and we find ourselves having to make difficult decisions.

Early December saw us in Tier 2, and the freedom to sing as a choir in church, wearing masks except when singing and of course being socially distanced.

Singing carols outside the shop in Alfrick has become a tradition over many years, and we were lucky to be able to continue with it this year. Masked and unmasked, and socially distanced, we sang carols, led by Alan and Judith; and mulled wine and mince pies were shared (provided by the shop). Money was collected in a bucket, together with the monies from a cake raffle in the shop, which meant that £260 was sent to *Maggs Day Centre*.

As well as live services, there have been many opportunities to join together on *Zoom* and to watch recorded acts of worship in several guises. And so the usual Carols and Lessons which Leigh would have hosted, was recorded and available to view on *WWRT YouTube*. Leigh choir sang "O Come All Ye Faithful" (unaccompanied and with the descant). Carols and readings were shared well across the Team.

On a personal note, John, Della and I were able to meet up with family in Cirencester and exchange Christmas presents; and John and I ventured into Wales for lunch with John's son and daughter-in-law. And all within the rules.

The five days of Christmas became one day only and families were not able to come together as planned. But we were able to hold our traditional 'midnight' service at 11 pm. Our congregation had been asked to 'book' their places and a socially distanced congregation and choir worshipped together, with the choir singing the carols. It was so good to worship together even though our Christmas Day would be quiet. However, as a family we met on *Zoom* and Della was able to be with us in the cottage.

Outside our church was a large wooden cutout of a Nativity Scene, backlit at night, and a Christmas Tree. A further large Christmas Tree was inside the church, together with a small one decorated by *Animato*; and a lovely pedestal of flowers. And of course, the crib and figures with baby Jesus added at our midnight service and the three wise men arrived for Epiphany during our first service of 2021.

So we're back in full lockdown again, but our church remains open on Wednesdays and Sundays for private prayer. Services are planned throughout the Team and we hope to have had an Evensong on 24 January by the time you read this.

On behalf of Leigh PCC I wish you very best wishes for 2021 and Stay Safe.

Jean Colley, Churchwarden



CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

AT THE LEIGH & BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL
ON SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER, 2020



How time flies! Incredibly this was our fourth year of *Carols Around The Tree* – an opportunity for locals from Leigh, Bransford and our surrounding villages to come together in gentle worship and to sing traditional, and fun carols outside the Memorial Hall.

Each year we have put up an outdoor, illuminated tree next to the Hall – courtesy of *Leigh Sinton Christmas Trees*; then on the weekend before Christmas we gather close by it at sunset to share in the spirit of Christmas – and each year the numbers wanting to join in just grows! No more so than this year when, having survived two national lockdowns, people were more than keen to return to some sense of normality – strictly within the Covid-19 rules and restrictions – to gather together safely outside, singing and celebrating together.

At first we feared that – as with so many events planned since March – *Carols Around The Tree* would become just another casualty of this pernicious Covid-19 virus. We were not to be deterred however, and after many *Zoom* meetings and consultations, risk assessments and of course, a strict observance of (at the time) Tier 2 government guidelines, we were finally ready and able to go ahead and advertise the event. There was, though, a final important condition that required us to impose a limit on the numbers attending. So, the advert made clear that, unlike in former years, if local families wanted to attend they had to let us know in advance.

What we weren't quite prepared for was the overwhelming and rapid response to the advert! Because *so many* people were contacting us to say they wanted to attend, it quickly became apparent that we would have to run not one, but two short carol services, one after the other. And so it was - the first started at 3.00pm and the second followed on at 4.30pm

And how we were all rewarded that late winter's afternoon with such a lovely sunset enhancing the twinkling lights and adding so much to the atmosphere. A warm welcome awaited everyone who came (in spite of the ubiquitous masks) with mince pies, mulled wine and carol sheets all available upon arrival. We then took our places in safe, socially distanced bubbles across the field to sing our favourite Carols. At the end, a collection was made for *Malvern Food Bank* and dear old Father Christmas was waiting to wave to all the children as they collected their selection pack on exit.

Our Marshalls had an easy time, as everyone attending fully understood the need for, and readily complied with, the social distancing and 'flow' arrangements we had put in place. All the additional work to ensure compliance with the regulations this year was more than worthwhile just to hear all the lovely comments and 'thank-yous' from those attending – and one little girl was heard to say that this was "the best night of her life" as she danced up the lantern lit path home. Makes it all so worthwhile – and gives us a renewed sense of hope for the future.



Pauline Harcombe – Hall Trustee

Punographics

- Broken pencils are pointless
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool



February Update from the Trustees of the Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall

2020 was a landmark year – and I’m not talking about the ‘C’ word here. It marked the 25th anniversary of local Leigh resident, Malcolm Scott, joining the Hall’s Committee of Trustees. Put another way, Malcolm has served our community as a dedicated and diligent trustee for over a quarter of century – and that also means for a quarter of the Hall’s whole history.

But, sadly for us, Malcolm has decided it is now the right time for him to retire as a trustee. We will greatly miss his foresight, his skills and the example he set by his sheer determination always to get things done. So it is right and fitting that we should celebrate his loyal service over the past 25 years by recording, albeit briefly, his lasting legacy.

Malcolm always understood the important part our Memorial Hall could and should play in contributing to a sense of community – but he also understood that financial viability was the key to this. One of his great skills was to keep the hall a relevant part of community life. He did this by organising live theatre (fund raising) events and writing grant-funding bids – the income from which would then be invested back in improving the Hall’s appearance, facilities and appeal. His personal efforts in this regard over just the past eight years have resulted in him securing over £45,000 of funding for the Hall.

The money Malcolm was instrumental in raising helped us to embark on an ambitious programme of modernisation – but Malcolm also knew that this would result in more people wanting to use the venue, which in turn would result in additional annual hire income. As the improvements continued we would see year-on-year, more surplus funds generated (after annual running costs) to invest in yet more improvements. Malcolm knew that this was a virtuous circle – financial viability gave the Hall the additional benefit of greater long-term security and sustainability.

And sustainability is another of Malcolm’s passions. It was Malcolm’s vision that convinced us to install air source heating throughout the building three years’ ago. At the time, raising £30,000 to cover the costs of this system seemed daunting. But Malcolm was undeterred. Thanks to his efforts we raised the funds in just 18 months. But in true style, Malcolm then registered our new, non-domestic system with the Renewable Heat Incentive – a payment system for the generation of heat from renewable energy sources. The Hall will benefit from quarterly RHI payments for the next twenty years.

So, how are we going to mark his contribution, his legacy, in a way that is fitting? Well, his passion for sustainability gave us the answer. We will be planting ornamental Malus (or crab apple) trees in his honour. We think it is a most fitting tribute – after all they provide blossom in the spring, beautiful colours throughout the summer and particularly the autumn and then produce crab apples to feed the birds during the winter months. Truly a ‘sustainable’ tree for all seasons, to honour the legacy of a man for all seasons.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees



1st Leigh Scouts – still in lockdown!

Along with the rest of the country we have not been able to meet face to face for some time which has been hard on both the scouts and the Leaders. I have really missed the chatter and banter of a Friday night and the fun and excitement of a challenge or game.

We have tried to do what we can within the restrictions: challenges and badge requirements are emailed to the scout parents so that they can do the challenges at home, record on camera and then send back to me – badges will be issued the first week we are allowed to meet up again.

Even though we have been unable to meet we have carried on with other things around the scout hut. The kitchen has been cleaned and remodelled to make a better space for young people to cook in, the entrance room has been repainted and a new display cabinet has been put in to show off all the trophies that the different sections have won. Our new stores and multi-function room has been built replacing the old, wooden stores at the back of the hut (thanks to Dale for getting the grant and Alistair Griffiths for building it so well). We now have the ability (after lockdown) to practise climbing and bouldering, air rifle shooting and archery all year round, whatever the weather. This space also gives us a classroom that can be used when we separate out into small groups - we also intend to fit a projector and screen for showing training videos and fun videos during a sleepover! It is great to think that in our 50th year as 1st Leigh we have all these brilliant facilities for young people to use. When I was a cub we met in the old Leigh Sinton School and moved to the scout hut when I was a scout, a completely different hut to the one we now have (one room, one toilet, no heating).

We have now secured a lease with the Village Hall to use the field at the back of the Hall as a scout activity field – this has been a godsend during the times we were allowed to meet outside. This is a safe area for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Guides, perfect for fire lighting, games, camping and training. Hopefully after the lockdown is lifted we will use it again.

Our 50th anniversary celebrations were cancelled when Covid hit us but it is my hope that during 2021 we will be able to come together and celebrate the fact that we are 51 years in scouting and not even a pandemic can stop us.

Keep yourself and your family safe, hope to see you soon.

Matt (Scout Leader)

LEIGH AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

Our Club talk by **Simon Gulliver** on **18 March 2021** will hopefully go ahead as a *Zoom* talk if enough members are interested.

The talk is entitled '**Pruning Trees and Shrubs**' - most appropriate at this time of year. We have decided to offer this to members free of charge so hopefully as many of you as possible will be able to attend this virtual talk.

If you have not already experienced a *Zoom* meeting it is very simple...all you have to do is click on the link sent by Simon Gulliver, and follow the on-screen instructions.

I would like to gauge the response so please email **ASAP** with your reply.

Please email me at kentsx2@hotmail.com

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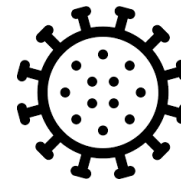


COVID Corner

This article is written on 12 January 2021, and as you know in this pandemic, there is such rapid change that anything written now may be out of date before you read it. When I last wrote in mid-November, I was very worried that mixing between generations over Christmas would cause a large spike in infections, hospitalisations, and deaths. You will all be aware that these obvious predictions have been sadly confirmed. In our locality we fared better than many due to lower baseline numbers of cases and a lower percentage of the new variant of the virus. But I anticipate that by the time you read this we will have high numbers of cases and rapidly increasing amount of the new variant, (currently about a quarter of our cases), and our local hospitals will be under enormous pressure. We will be surely following the trend in London and elsewhere by a similar lag that we saw in the first wave. The likelihood is that this exponential rise in cases will continue for weeks to come, and hospital admissions inexorably follow new cases with a week or two lag time. The problem is that we now face a combination of forces which is going to put extreme pressure on the local NHS. At this time of year we always see health services under pressure, but at the time of writing some hospitals have over 60% of their beds occupied by COVID patients and that pressure is overwhelming. There is no doubt that the new variant of the coronavirus, which is more transmissible, is a big factor in this. So, each of us has a personal responsibility to keep ourselves safe, and in turn avoid adding further pressure on our local NHS which not only impacts on staff, but prevents many urgent and vital operations from taking place, for example because post-op High Dependency is full of COVID.

So how should we act differently during this lockdown than we have in the past?

1. Assume that anyone you meet outside your own household bubble is carrying this infection and could pass it on to you, or that you yourself may have just got the virus and are in that period at the beginning of the infection when you can transmit it to others without knowing you have got it. Indeed, if you are young enough you may never know you have it. Act as if you have it in respect to others.
2. HANDS: Be extra vigilant washing or sanitising hands especially after touching door handles and other high contact surfaces.
3. FACE: Wear a multi-layered face covering when near others outdoors and always in a public space indoors, and keep well away from anyone only wearing a face-shield without a mask. The image shows how useless a face-shield on its own is since it does not prevent particles in exhaled breath escaping and infecting others.
4. SPACE: I personally feel with the increased transmissibility of the new variant that the "1 metre plus" rule (where social distancing under 2 metres is considered "OK" as long as we are wearing a mask) is now not enough indoors. Keep at least 2 metres apart if possible, even if wearing a mask. So be incredibly



careful in shops, supermarkets, places of worship, or anywhere that you may be with others from outside your household indoors. I

totally agree with Dr Kathryn Cobain, Director of Public Health in Worcestershire who wrote a few days ago: "Please now stay at home, don't go out unless you need to" and I would add "minimise ALL unnecessary contact with others". This advice is more important to follow just now than at any other time during this pandemic.

5. Say YES when offered the vaccine.
6. Keep fit with exercise and a healthy diet. This will improve your immunity.

Here is what Chris Whitty said as I write this:-

The key thing to understand is that when you meet people from another household under any circumstances – and they're often your friend, your family – those are the kind of situations where the virus is passed on. It doesn't care who you are, it doesn't care whether they're your friends. If you meet someone from another household the virus has an opportunity to be transmitted.

Fortunately, we now have extremely good vaccines and, once the most vulnerable in our society have been vaccinated, we will begin to see a reduction in pressure on the NHS. But at the moment it is a race against time due to the large numbers who desperately need to get the vaccine, and the number of new cases is accelerating so fast that the vaccine roll out will not prevent the rise over the next couple of months. There is good evidence to justify the new plan to get as many people vaccinated with their first dose and to delay the second booster dose to be able to protect more people. We are so very fortunate to have superb local practices that are being pro-active in getting their patients vaccinated. Beware however that you do not relax your guard just because you have had your first vaccine jab. There are still a lot of unknowns in this area. Also, just because you are allowed to do something does NOT mean that you should do it. The government has always been behind the curve rather than behind the science.

Finally, it has been relatively easy from the safety of our own home for Anne and I to wait out this pandemic. But our former colleagues in the local GP practices and hospitals are facing an horrendous time, taking personal risks daily, exhausted, overworked, and having to make terribly difficult decisions. We not only have to thank them all, but more importantly to do everything in our power not to increase the pressure on them. Remember, if you get this virus and need admission, you will be hoping that there are enough beds, enough staff, enough space in critical care, enough ventilators that your chances of survival are going to be as high as possible. The only way to ensure this will be the case is to do everything in your power not to get admitted, and not to overwhelm what is a finite resource under immense pressure over coming weeks.

STAY AT HOME.....TAKE THE VACCINE.....PROTECT THE NHS.....SAVE YOUR OWN AND OTHERS' LIVES.

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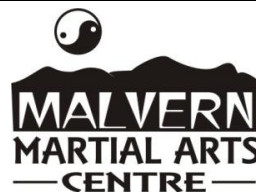


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MIRRORED WALL
KICK BAG STATIONS
INTERLOCKING MATTS
BAG GLOVES, SHIELDS ETC
ALL AVAILABLE TO HIRE

EXERCISE CLASSES AVAILABLE

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VILLAGE INFORMATION

STD 01886

ALFRICK-w-LULSLEY

Website at - <http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org/parishcouncil>

VILLAGE HALL Booking on line at www.alfrickandlulsley.org or for information and advice email info@timesaversconcerge.co.uk or phone Adrian Biggs at 01905 312456

PARISH COUNCIL - 4th Thursday 7.30 pm.	Clerk Mr.Geoffrey Brewin	821386
RVS THURSDAY CLUB - Alt Thursdays 2.00 pm	Mrs.Newitt	884784
RVS Representative	Mrs J.Cooper	832444
AGE UK	Brenda Collins	833358
ALFRICK PLAYERS	Alan Soper	832354
PILATES GROUP - Village Hall Tues 5&6 pm email sallyp88@btinternet	Sally Knowles	821654
W.I. - 2nd Wed at 7.30 pm.	President Carol Boughton	884210
ALFRICK & LULSLEY SHOW - 3rd Monday 8.00 pm	Contacts Linda Fishwick and Anne Potter	832617 832355
TENNIS CLUB - Membership.	Dympna Jardine	830085
GARDENERS' CLUB - 3rd Thursday.	Mrs.Marion Kent	832537
TABLE TENNIS – Mondays 6.00 to 9.30 pm	Richard Steele	821777
COMMUNITY CHOIR	Sue Adams	830190

Keith Bramwich: www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com 07771600776

LEIGH & BRANSFORD

Website at <http://www.leighandbransford.org.uk>

MEMORIAL HALL - Booking & Keys:www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk

HALL COMMITTEE - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 3rd Tuesday in January then every other month.

AGM 3rd Tuesday in May. Chair: Jon Gamble - j_e_gamble@hotmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 4th Tues in Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov

Clerk to Council Mrs.Jackie Barker 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB 01684 567674

Footpath Warden Gary Mellor 288370

PRESCHOOL Sherridge Road Leigh Sinton Open 8.30 to 3 pm Katie Wiggins 07854 477445

W.I. - Memorial Hall 1st Tuesdays - 7.30 pm President Mrs Angela Dancer 832737

BOWLS (Indoor) Memorial Hall - Mondays 7.30pm-9.30 pm Mrs.C.Hall 832650

Knit & Natter - Royal Oak 2-4 pm last Thursday of the month

MALVERN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE L/S www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk 833033

TAE KWON DO Weds 6.30 -7.30 pm. Julian Burton 07770 822033 833033

BOXFIT/CIRCUITS/WING CHUN/TAI CHI/QIGONG Kev 07725 161178 830175

PILATES - Tuesdays 9 - 10am Di Fox 07775 795670

BranchesDayOpportunities 10am-3pm Mon-Fri jesshibbert@hotmail.com 07572 398095 833382

SCOUT HUT 1st LEIGH SCOUTS

Explorer Scouts Thurs 7.00-9.00 pm (14-18) Stuart Diplock 880078

Scouts Fri 7.00-9.00 pm (10-14) Matthew Cooper 884277

Cubs Tues 6.45-8.15 pm (8-10) June Etheridge 01905 425793

Beavers Wed 5.30 - 6.45 pm (6-8) Joanne King 833925

1st LEIGH GUIDES Mondays 7.30-9.00 pm Mrs.Valda Cane 833115

BROWNIES - 1st Leigh - Wednesdays 6.00 - 7.15 pm Mrs Kaye James 832304

RAINBOWS - Thursdays 6.00 - 7.00 pm Ann Osborne 833480

AGE UK Margaret Hamilton 833412

WREKIN SPIRITUAL CAFE 1st Wed 11am - 1pm Clair McDonald 884888

LEIGH & BRANSFORD BADGERS FC - Senior Coach Bosko Medakovic 07979 725196

LEIGH & BRANSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL Head Mr Stuart Bill 832342

SUCKLEY

Website at <http://www.suckley.net>

VILLAGE HALL Keys/booking Steve Boughton 884210

PARISH COUNCIL Clerk Mrs Diana Taylor 01684 569430

SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELDS All weather pitch for football or tennis.

Bookings: Mr C Luton 884558

Two Football Pitches Mrs C Luton 884558

Skateboard Area Mr P Beaumont 884550

SUCKLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Nessa Haworth 884383

LADIES KEEP FIT Tuesdays 11-12 noon Carol Boughton 884210

BELL RINGING - 1st, 2nd, 4th Weds 7.30-9.00 pm Captain Mrs Linda Taylor 884280

SUCKLEY SCHOOL Church Lane Headmistress Helen Field 884283

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME 840480

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Leigh & District Branch Shirley Tasker 832669

Last Friday in March, July, September and November at 2.30 pm in the Bear & Ragged Staff

WEST MERCIA CONSTABULARY Emergency 999 Other matters 0300 333 3000

PC 3381 Sarah Ransome-Williams CSO 6494 Tracey Caldwell CSO 6481 Collin Davies

Local Policing Team Kempsey/Alfrick based at Upton Police Station



Café
 Unfortunately
 closed for the
 duration
 Looking forward
 to seeing you
 soon



Shop open:
 Mon to Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm
 Sat & Sun 9.00am – 12noon
 Bank Holidays 9.00am – 1.00pm
 Telephone 01886 832862



Post Office Local
 Weekdays 11.30am – 4.00pm
 (Last post 3.30pm)
 Chip & Pin cash withdrawals
 and paying in

Facebook: Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop
 Do phone for home delivery if you are self-isolating

Leigh Sinton Post Office & Stores

Hereford Road, Leigh Sinton
 A Premier Convenience Store

With a wide choice of produce at value-for-money prices!
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 Fresh bread from our own in-store bakery

Shop Hours – Monday to Saturday 6.30am - 7.30pm, Sunday 8.00am - 2.00pm
 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

WR6 5DU Tel 01886 884 201
 Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00
 Sat 09:00-13:00
 Thu 09:00-18:00 (Nov 12-Dec 17)

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@suckleypoandmore
suckleypoandmore.uk

COVID-Safe traffic light system for stay-safe shopping
Post Office for experienced advice & service
 - Late mail collection (16:50) for your parcels and letters
Village store for everyday supplies & more
 - Local bread, meat, pies, craft beers, cider & gin



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Bromyard

One day the theatre will be able to open, but we have no idea when. Rest assured behind the scenes there are plans taking place for when we can, and even if we can't open the theatre.

Once the weather improves then an outside production is already starting its infant steps to becoming a reality in the months ahead.

Watch this space! <https://conquest-theatre.co.uk/>
Email: conquest@conquest-theatre.co.uk