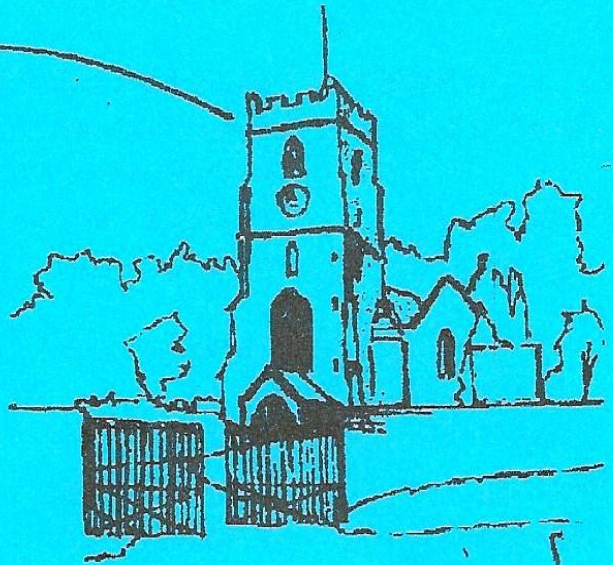
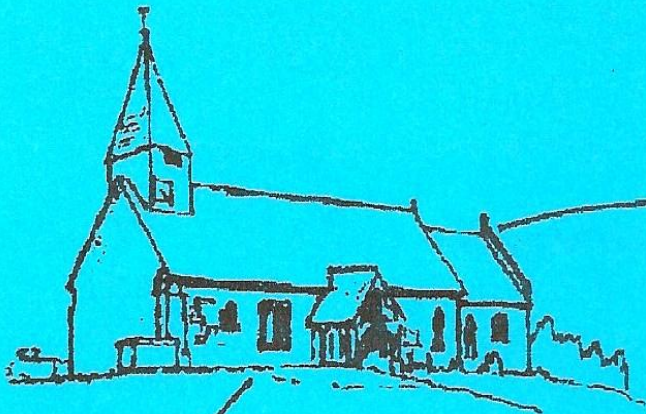
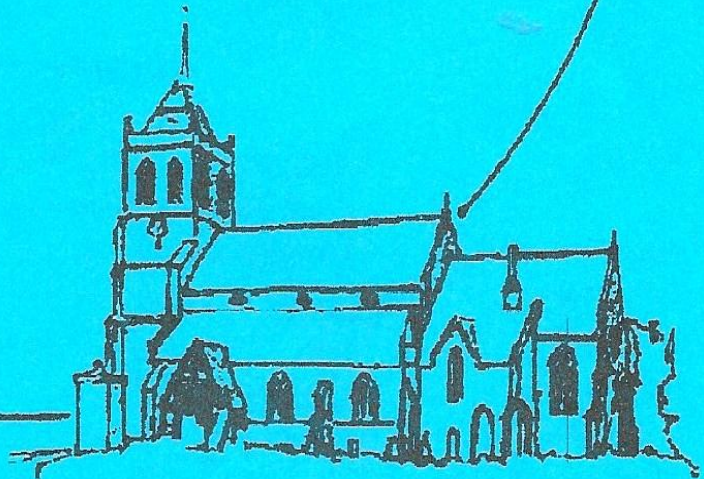
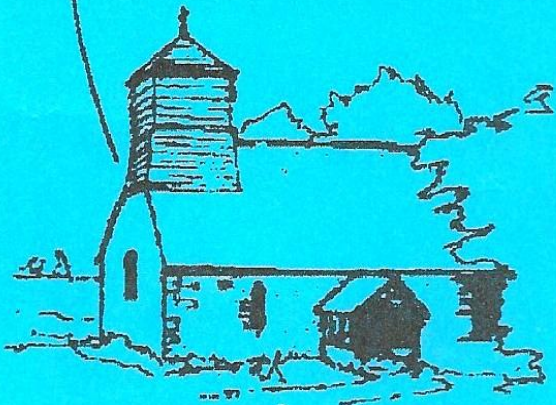


*March 2021*



The

Sphere.



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



## Dear Reader

I thought I'd share this article written for Parish Magazines by our Archdeacon the Venerable Robert Jones.

I'll be back next month.....*Rev Anne*

"An article in the *Church Times* took me back to a hymn I'd not sung for many a year with its wonderful opening line, 'O Love that wilt not let me go'. This is the only sort of love which really counts; it's the one we recognise in our own loved ones, in parents who loved us into life, in friends who mean the world to us - and, of course, in the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

It is one year ago that we first went into lockdown. Perhaps you can recall what you were doing then when life was more 'normal'. I can remember going for drinks with neighbours the weekend before it all happened, when Covid seemed something quite distant. Now there are few of us who have not been affected personally one way or another. We know people with Covid, we know people who have died from Covid, and all of us are living with the consequences of Covid.

Lent takes us back to Jesus' forty days and nights in the desert. It seems to me that we are living our own wilderness experience in a way we could never have imagined. For Jesus this was a time of struggle: as the 23rd Psalm puts it, he walked through the valley of the shadow of death. Yet he was held in a love which would not let him go, and emerged from it to a ministry which was to turn the world upside down in faith, hope and love.

Whatever else is lacking during this time of wilderness, one thing not absent is loving kindness. We've seen it in NHS workers, teachers, neighbours and many others. In practical down-to-earth ways we have seen and experienced living examples of 'love that wilt not let me go'.

George Matheson, who wrote the hymn, had his own wilderness experience. 'Something happened to me, which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. The hymn was the fruit of that suffering,' he says, and then he wrote these beautiful lines:

'I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.'



Tracing the rainbow through the rain. Isn't this God's tenacious love for us, stronger than we can imagine, mirrored by our human experiences of being loved? We've surely had plenty of rain lately, but, you know, I've seen the odd rainbow too - hold on to such precious glimpses of glory in times as these."

### **21 March is World Poetry Day**

*World Poetry Day* is a UNESCO initiative to honour poets, revive oral traditions of poetry recitals, promote the reading, writing and teaching of poetry, foster the convergence between poetry and other arts such as theatre, dance, music and painting, and raise the visibility of poetry in the media. As poetry continues to bring people together across continents, all are invited to join in. For more background to the day see:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-poetry-day>

## Services for March 2021

**NB: the weekly 'News around the WWRT' and ACNY website will have the latest information.**

### 7 March (Third Sunday of Lent)

10.30am Leigh – Holy Communion, CW  
6.00pm Alfrick – Evensong

### 14 March (Mothering Sunday)

10.30am Crown East – All Age

### 21 March (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

9.00am Bransford – Holy Communion, BCP  
4.00pm Zoom Service

### 28 March (Palm Sunday)

9.00am Alfrick – Holy Communion, CW  
10.30am Crown East – Holy Communion, BCP  
3.30pm Suckley – Family Service

### HOLY WEEK

**Monday 29 March** 7.00pm Alfrick – Compline

**Tuesday 30 March**

**Wednesday 31 March** 7.00pm Crown East – Compline

### Thursday 1 April (Maundy Thursday)

10.00am Suckley – Holy Communion  
7.00pm Zoom Passover Meal

### Friday 2 April (Good Friday)

12 noon Leigh – Meditation with choir (will be recorded)  
10.00am Alfrick – Walk of Witness

### Sunday 4 April (Easter Day)

6.15am Bransford – Sunrise Service  
9.00am Alfrick – Holy Communion, BCP  
10.30am Suckley – All Age Family Eucharist  
10.30am Crown East – Holy Communion

## A selection of other events in March

22 February - 7 March: *Fair Trade* Fortnight

1 - 31 March: Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal

1 - 7 March: Eating Disorders Awareness Week

1 - 31 March: Ovarian Cancer Month

1 - 6 March: National Carers Week

1 - 7 March: British Pie Week!

1 - 31 March: Brain Tumour Awareness Month

2 March: National Old Stuff Day – getting rid of the old  
and trying something new

4 March: World Book Day

8 March: International Women's Day

10 March: No Smoking Day

### 14 March: Mothering Sunday

17 March: St Patrick's Day

18 March: Global Recycling Day

19 March: Comic Relief

21 March: World Poetry Day

26 March: Wear A Hat Day!

### 28 March: Palm Sunday

29 March – 4 April: World Autism Awareness

## From the Registers

**Baptisms:** None

**Weddings:** None



**Funerals:**

### Bransford:

Joan Wilesmith, Funeral & Burial 20/01/21

### Leigh:

Robert Ernest Kemp, Cremation 26/01/21

Graham James Atkinson, Cremation 28/01/21

### Suckley:

Richard Thomas James, Cremation 01/02/21

### Alfrick:

Janet Katherine Bray, Funeral & Burial 05/02/21

Christine Margaret Bradley, Vale Crem. 08/02/21

## WWRT 2021 Lent Talks in March on Zoom

**Wednesday 3 March - Revd Canon Mia Hilborn**, Head of Spiritual Health Care and Hospitaller at Guys and St Thomas NHS Trust London shares her experiences on the medical front-line

**Wednesday 10 March - Harriet Baldwin, MP** talks about how her faith has sustained her in facing the challenges within Government

**Wednesday 17 March - Karen Smith**, Primary Teacher explains how her faith has kept her going through the demands of educating children both in school and online

**Wednesday 24 March - Bishop of Dudley, The Rt Revd Martin Gorick** shares his experience of moving during lockdown and offers an opportunity to meet him

Each Wednesday, all those who have registered an interest, will be sent a Zoom link early evening for the meeting at 7.30pm. After a brief introduction the speaker for the evening will be asked to talk for approximately half-an-hour. There will be 15 minute breakout rooms for participants to chat among themselves and to raise any questions. These will be followed by a Q&A session.

Then at around 8.45pm latest we will finish the evening with Compline.

**To register please email Rev Anne on  
anne.wwrteam@gmail.com**





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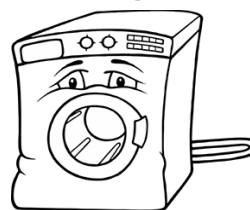
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## The Sphere Magazine, Report on 2020



Inevitably, the magazine was affected by the coronavirus pandemic, which significantly interrupted production for the first time in its 37 year history. Only the February and March editions ran as normal with production of the April (Easter) 2020 edition completed just as all churches in the country were closed preventing further production in the vestry of Alfrick Church. Little were we to know that this would be the last printed edition until Christmas 2020 when the joint December/January 2021 edition was professionally produced for us by *Aspect Design* in Malvern. This was a special treat not only for our readers, but also for our small team of dedicated volunteers who have continued to produce monthly online editions.

These were produced and uploaded thanks to parish webmasters so those with internet access could read them (with colour photographs and fonts). Online visits have now grown to over 500 views and downloads per month. A survey was carried out to establish how many subscribers would like to receive their copies by email, but the response was limited by its patchy distribution. However, about 160 subscribers (out of around 750) were content to receive it this way, including some who would want hard copies when they are resumed. We appreciate however that many of our loyal subscribers do not have the facilities or the ability/inclination to follow the internet route and of course many subscribers prefer to have a hard copy at hand to refer to (especially for events – when these can take place – and for advertisements).

The Sphere editorial team continued to be led by Geoff Wright who edits the General and Leigh and Bransford sections, plus masterminding the printing process. I have continued to edit the Alfrick/Lulsley and Suckley sections, plus having an increasing involvement with production and distribution of the online editions. We are also very grateful to Mrs Margaret Newitt of Alfrick who continued to produce the *Younger Generation* page for the hard copy editions.

Biddy Hood's stalwart service as our treasurer is as always much appreciated. Mrs Brenda Collins, who coordinated the collation and distribution of hard copies, for which we have been most grateful, decided it was time to retire

after long service. However, since production of our own hard copies has ceased, collation has now ended, and with the planned move to professionally printed copies (albeit in grey scale owing to the otherwise high cost) the collation team will also be able to stand down. We thank them all for their considerable work over the years. John Burton has continued with the coordination of distribution in Suckley, but John Colley has now stepped back from distribution around Leigh Sinton after many years and we thank him for his considerable efforts. Our dedicated distributors collected as many of the annual subscriptions as they could at the beginning of 2020. They delivered hard copies when they were produced and we very much recognise their loyal work which will still be needed to enable printed copies to be delivered safely. Daphne and I have continued to manage the advertising with nearly 100 advertisers. There is presently a waiting list for spaces to become available, and we attempt to limit adverts to local businesses and ask our readers please to support them (and to mention *The Sphere* when making contact). Since lockdown we have not been charging advertisers, which has been much appreciated, as we were uncertain how many readers would be able to access online editions. As a result revenue has been significantly reduced, and even though our production costs were lower, this has meant that this year *The Sphere* has had less than usual to donate to our local churches and regular charities.

The magazine aims to provide as much information as possible about local events and church services/activities, and gives contact information for local groups and *The Sphere* team. Please help us to keep this information up to date. We always much appreciate receiving articles of local interest to our readers, and continue to be most grateful to all of our contributors and subscribers. New contributors and subscribers are always most welcome, just contact one of *The Sphere* team listed on the front inside cover.

As no doubt we all are, we look forward to a more hopeful and positive 2021.

**David Fowler (on behalf of The Sphere Team)**

Geoff Wright, having completed five years as editor of *The Sphere* (and very many more before that as assistant editor to Peggy Johnson who moved to Derbyshire in June 2016 having served as editor after about 30 years) has now handed over the editor's role to David Fowler. Geoff has been involved with printing *The Sphere* since 1993 and David joined the team as assistant editor in 2011. Many thanks to Geoff, now returning to the role of assistant editor, for all his hard work over the years.

## Mothering Sunday: the fourth Sunday in Lent (14 March 2021)

Traditionally it is a day when we thank God for the love of our mothers, and we thank them in person for their care for us. In the UK, the service dates back hundreds of years to the time when people were encouraged once a year, on Laetare (Latin: *to Rejoice*) Sunday, to return to their home or 'mother' church or cathedral.

**In 2021, *The Children's Society* is asking churches to help them fight for hope for children and young people on Mothering Sunday, when we think about and thank all those who care for us.**

The coronavirus pandemic has affected all our lives, but it has hit vulnerable children and young people particularly hard. They have had months out of school, hidden from view and often without access to online learning resources. Lockdown has trapped some children at home with people who hurt and abuse them, and our research shows lockdown has also made some children more vulnerable to criminal exploitation and online grooming. As their mental health and well-being suffers, many children are losing hope.

Over the last 15 years, *The Children's Society* has studied and reported on children's well-being. And each year they have seen a consistent decline, which has only worsened as a result of the pandemic. The charity has launched its ambitious goal of overturning that decline by 2030. The theme of their Mothering Sunday resource is '**Fighting for hope**'. The charity fights for hope by

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## Our District Councillors' "View from the Hills"

February already: where does the time go? We do hope that despite lockdown and the imperfect weather you are in good health, both physically and mentally. If you need help, it is readily available, both from us and dedicated groups like the *Here2Help* staff. They can assist with many common problems, COVID-induced or otherwise. Please do use them: 01905 768053 or [Worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://Worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help)

Despite floods and ice, council activities have continued. We are now in the never easy process of determining MHDC council tax for next year. With regret, we do propose an increase to keep the books balanced for the next 5 years, though only of £5.00 per year for an average household (under 10p per week!). We believe this compares quite well to the £15.00 increase from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and £18.00 or so by the County Council.

Elections to the County Council and for the PCCs are scheduled for May. We have several concerns about this, due to restrictions on campaigning that clearly favour those parties with deep pockets, plus your ability to vote. It seems likely that voting will take place while COVID restrictions still apply. We believe it is vital you keep your chance to vote. If you have any concerns about going to a polling station, please apply for a postal vote. You can get the form online (just Google "postal vote") or post a stamped, addressed envelope to one of us and we will send you a form by return. We can both be reached by post via: The Council House, Avenue Rd, Malvern, WR14 3AF0.

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](mailto:sarahrouse72@gmail.com)

Peter Whatley: 01886 884126 [peter.whatley@malvernhillsdc.net](mailto:peter.whatley@malvernhillsdc.net)

providing support for those who need it most and by campaigning for changes that make life better for young people.



**Alyssa** (not her real name) grew up in a home where there was violence, and that affected her mental health. Then she started getting bullied at school too. At one point Alyssa felt that she was completely overwhelmed, like she was 'drowning'. Unfortunately school didn't offer her the support she needed. She says: 'in my life before *The Children's Society*, I wouldn't even consider it a life. I would try and stay in the house as much as possible. I'd refuse to go to school, or I would pretend to be sick so I wouldn't have to go, and it wasn't healthy.' Eventually, Alyssa came to one of *The Children's Society's* projects and received counselling, which gave her the strength and tools to get better. Today she says: 'I probably would be dead by now without *The Children's Society* and I've noticed such a big change in myself. It brought back the Alyssa that I knew, that I love and that everyone else around me seems to love, but I guess she got lost on the way before that. I don't know what I would have done without *The Children's Society* and I'm very grateful for everything they've done for me.' Alyssa found a community of care through *The Children's Society*, and the care and help she received has enabled her to move forward in life and to reach her full potential.



**Peter Whatley**



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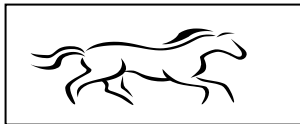
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\*\*\*\*\*

## **St. Edburga, Leigh Events**

Another month has gone by and now there are signs of spring. Our churchyard has its usual blanket of snowdrops. It really does look magnificent.



Our Evensong at the end of January was cancelled last minute with the arrival of snow! Our lanes all looked a bit dicey and very cold. But we were able to have our service on Sunday morning (the first in February) and the choir sang, socially distanced, from the chancel. Harvey treated us to a wonderful 'Jerusalem' to leave by.

We remain open for private prayer every Wednesday and Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm. You are welcome at those times and to our services. We have taken all COVID safety precautions.

We are hopeful that restrictions will ease enough for us to run our teas through the summer months.

In the meantime 'Stay Safe'

*Jean Colley*, Churchwarden

## Leigh & Bransford WI



Our January monthly meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> by *Zoom*. Our acting President, Elaine Shaw, welcomed those members who had been able to join and introduced our speaker, John Sharp, Chairman of Leigh and Bransford Parish Council. John gave a very interesting and informative talk about some of the responsibilities of the Parish Council and some of the recent projects undertaken. He also outlined the criteria which have to be met for anyone wishing to serve on the Parish Council. John finished his talk on a light hearted note by showing a clip from an old 'Vicar of Dibley' episode on how NOT to run a meeting, which proved to be remarkably similar to the recently *YouTube* hit of a parish council meeting held in Cheshire!

Our February *Zoom* meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 2.00pm when all members will be welcome. Our secretary Shelagh is keeping us all informed by email/doorstep delivery of any relevant correspondence received from WI House, and our members will be informed of any decisions made or actions required during a short business meeting. Following this will be a very general 'fun' quiz organised by Ann and the results of 'Name the Face' competition organised by Rosemary and sent round to members the week before.

Our thanks go to Dave and Denise Fereday who are currently hosting all our committee and monthly *Zoom* meetings. It is expected that when we get back to being able to meet normally, our monthly meetings will revert back to the first Tuesday of each month, but in the meantime we are grateful for the opportunity to meet as many as possible by our *Zoom* meetings. We have also implemented a 'phone call catch up' system spearheaded by Elaine so that the committee can keep in touch with all our members on a regular basis.

**Ann Sharp**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Leigh And District Gardeners' Club

Our Club talk by Simon Gulliver on **Thursday, 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](mailto:kentsx2@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Leigh & Bransford Community Car Scheme

This voluntary service covers all residents of Bransford, Leigh or Leigh Sinton who need transport to medical appointments at Knightwick, Cradley, Malvern or St John's Surgeries.

Phone: Andrea Draper 833313; John & Elaine Drage 833178; Simon Clay 502046; Ellen Gwynne 832990 (am only)



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



## Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall

This month it's the turn of another of our trustees, **Stephen Seymour** to send in a piece for *The Sphere*. Here is what he calls

### THE SAGA OF THE HALL ROOF REPAIR

There is an area of flat roofing over part of the kitchen and foyer covered with roofing felt which had deteriorated over the years and leaks were showing on the ceiling inside. The repair work was put out to tender and local company *AES Roofing* was duly chosen. Work commenced on the 12 January. So far, so good – however on stripping away the old roof the workers found 8cm thick rotting straw board between the roof joists. Obviously this had to be removed and then replaced with fibreglass insulation before the re-boarding and re-felting work could start. By Friday the re-boarding was completed and the old roof debris taken away – the exposed roof area was then covered with thick polythene sheeting for the weekend. That same Friday night, the early stages of what was later named *Storm Christoph* blew in and deposited 7mm of rain onto the polythene sheeting. When our caretaker, **George Thomas** called by on Saturday morning for his routine check of the building on he was greeted with a significant ingress of water that had both damaged the internal ceilings and flooded the foyer and kitchen floors. He mopped out, suspecting that the fierce winds of the night before had lifted the sheeting in places. He phoned me and I joined him at the hall where a more thorough inspection of the roof area confirmed his suspicions. This flat part of the roof has three pitched roof areas feeding on to it and I so immediately phoned the contractors with the bad news. It was very unfortunate timing with the storm breaking at that stage of the repair, but *AES Roofing* accepted full responsibility and agreed to cover the cost of replacing the sodden internal plasterboard, skimming and redecorating. But we were not out of the woods yet. Work on fitting the new felt started after the weekend, but then another problem quickly emerged. When fitted, the new felt had to be lapped under the bottom two sets of tiles on the sloping roofs to create a waterproof seal. Usually it's just a case of lifting those tiles and refitting them after lapping in the felt. But the roofers found that the original tiles had been incorrectly fitted – probably when the new



extension was being built in the 1990s. To remove correctly fitted tiles, a special ripping instrument is used to take off the nail heads and the tiles then slide out. But because our tiles were double nailed it was not possible to remove the bottom rows without breaking the ones in the row above, which meant removing another row, which would also break, and so on. The solution offered was to remove *all the tiles* and re-roof these roof elevations correctly. The estimate for this extra work would have added £5,900 to the bill!

As this additional cost was way outside what we the hall trustees had budgeted for, other solutions were explored. Finally, the contractor agreed to cut out (rather than try and lift out) the necessary tiles and, after lapping in the new felt, create a waterproof seal with lead fixings. But before any tiles of this type and age may be cut, they first have to be checked for the presence of asbestos. And, yes, you've guessed it – ours were made from an asbestos/concrete composite. More delay and yet more expense! With additional time and some lateral thinking the company finally managed to remove the tiles, re-felt the roof and replace the broken, cut tiles with lead fixings. The final part of the exercise is the removal of the damaged ceilings in the kitchen and foyer, replacing the insulation and plasterboard, re-skimming and then decorating. As I write, this work is underway and being carried out by a local builder, Kevin Oliver.

*AES Roofing* have been very supportive all along the way by economically fixing the problems not of their making (charging us at cost) as well as paying for the interior work caused by the storm damage. Supporting local approved trades people has always served us well. And we also owe thanks to our own Parish Council who had previously agreed to give the Hall a grant towards the cost of the original repairs. Once again, that community spirit in times of adversity shines through. We're now watertight and cosy and look forward to welcoming you when lockdown eases.

**Stephen Seymour, Hall Trustee**

## A LOCKDOWN WALK ALONG THE SUCKLEY ROAD FROM BRANSFORD (IT'S NO TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC)

*"If you walk down Suckley Road today, you're sure of a big surprise  
If you walk down Suckley Road today, you'd better go in disguise  
For every beer that ever there was, is gathered there, for certain, because  
Today's the day the Litterers had their picnic"*



Those darlings, the **Carlings**  
are nesting again  
I saw them myself when we  
walked down the lane  
Their black and white plumage  
just made them so plain  
So *Canada's* loss is now Suckley  
Road's gain



Those bad fella **Stellas**  
seen nesting close by  
Have flown here from *Belgium* –  
fell out of the sky  
The **Carlsbergs** from *Denmark*  
were easy to spy  
They're shiny and green –  
I think they can fly



And **Heineken** joins them  
to add to the jam  
A *Dutch* double helping from  
old Amsterdam  
**Budweiser's** here in both  
bottle and can  
They've come from *Missouri*,  
"Gee, Thanks, Uncle Sam"



That posh Aussie **Foster** in Red,  
Blue and Gold  
Has come from Down Under –  
from *Melbourne*, we're told  
While nearer to home **John  
Smith** has arrived  
Migrating from *Yorkshire* to lie  
close beside



Those busy bee **Boddingtons** –  
not pretty things  
*Manchester's* finest – just more  
litter brings  
And caffeine rich **Red Bull** from  
*Austria's* springs  
Crash-landed to join them,  
you'd think it had wings



I fear a new birra has wormed  
his way in  
But Sweaty **Moretti** should be  
in the bin  
From *Italy's* shores to the  
*Hereford* plain  
That brute, fruity **Strongbow**  
now blocks our terrain



There's more though than beer  
that's moulding away  
And clogging our ditches with  
deadly decay  
Those stalkers, the **Walkers**  
this Crisp, springtime day  
Have put all their **NikNaks** out  
on display



Where **Monsters** and **Crispy  
Wheat Crunchies** abound  
There's **Kit Kats** and **KFC Fries**  
to be found



A lost **Costa Coffee** Cup's  
crushed on the ground  
And **chicken with mayo** wraps  
lying around



While **Stick Fingers** lingers  
along the pathway  
Where **Townie the Brownie**  
was dropped off today



A **7UP** too and flat **Orangeade**  
A **Coke** and some **Gum**  
that will never degrade



But, who *are* these denizens  
deep undercover  
Ditching their debris one way  
and another  
Filling our hedgerows along  
Suckley lane?  
All that I know is they should be  
ashamed.

Yet bountiful Nature still gives  
us her riches  
While humans just leave us  
*their Bounty* in ditches.



Jon Gamble, February 2021

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# Alfrick with Lulsley

St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick

**Please remember that unless you hear otherwise,  
the church is only open on Wednesdays and Sundays  
between 10.00am and 4.00pm**



## Church Cleaning Rota

March	3	Mrs Jeffery	April	7	Mrs Davies & Mrs Fishwick
	10	Mrs Cooke & Mrs Sirrell		14	Mrs Mansell & Mrs Collins
	17	Mrs Crisp & Mrs Crockford		21	Mrs Jeffery
	24	Mrs Fowler & Mrs Agnew		28	Mrs Cooke & Mrs Sirrell
	31	Mrs Hood & Mrs Skyrme			

## Margaret Bradley, RIP: 18 April 1930 – 11 January 2021

Margaret was born in Bromsgrove and spent her early years in nearby Dodford. After leaving school she trained as a Domestic Science Teacher before marrying young John Bradley in 1950 at St John's Church, Bromsgrove.

Their first home was in Cofton Hackett at the base of the Lickey Hills, and with their two children Stephen and Sara, moved in 1959 to the top of the Lickey Hills with wonderful views across Worcestershire. Once the children were born Margaret became a full-time mother and gardener. She had a deep love of simple things and especially gardens a-b blaze with colour and adorned with fruit trees. In 1970 the family moved to Fininstall, and John became an Area Chairman of Round Table with Margaret being an active member of Bromsgrove Ladies Circle, at one time being its president.

In 1983 they moved to the top of Crews Hill, with its stunning views across the valley. There they enjoyed socialising, often entertaining other families from the village, and Margaret took a great deal of pleasure in her garden, mowing the lawns until she was eighty-three.

Having always been community minded, Margaret was a stalwart member of Alfrick WI, and in her later years was involved with a local reading group. In her younger days she sang with a choir in Bromsgrove, and here in Alfrick was a great supporter of the Community Shop and Post Office, always a regular, and one of its best customers, driving down the hill until Covid and increasing lack of mobility prevented her.

Silver haired and stylish, Margaret was an independent, hospitable, generous, kind, sociable lady, of high integrity with a great sense of humour and a deep Christian faith. She will be much missed by all those who knew her in the village, by friends and her family of two children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren of whom she was so proud. Margaret was ready, though, to be re-united with John having had a fulfilling and faith-filled earthly life.

## 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](mailto: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.



**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.





**WR6 5HJ**

For more information on booking the Village Hall please visit our website at: [www.alfrickandlulsley.org/hall-make-booking/](http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org/hall-make-booking/)  
Please send your queries by email to [info@timesaversconcierge.co.uk](mailto:info@timesaversconcierge.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* fortnightly 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:

Nothing new to report yet so just a reminder of what is to come as soon as we can: **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**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Community Choir

There must be something in the air, writing this in mid-February, because more people than ever seem to be saying 'Hope we can start singing again soon'. No-one is trying to pretend that *Zoom* choir practice is a substitute for the real thing, but at least it keeps some of us singing a bit, or in my case, a lot! We're becoming more and more aware of the health benefits that singing can bring. Just as important is that we talk afterwards and keep the social side of the Community Choir alive.



Lately, following one of the latest crazes on Tik-Tok and elsewhere, we've started singing sea shanties. They're jolly and not difficult to learn.

We're meeting online most weeks at our usual rehearsal time of 7.30pm Tuesday, you don't need to be able to read music, and there's more info here: [alfrickcommunitychoir.com](http://alfrickcommunitychoir.com)

**Keith Bramich** (07771 600 776)

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Great Daffodil Appeal is more important than ever!

By March throughout the UK, daffodils will be reaching their peak in parks, gardens, and woodlands. While daffodils are a popular choice for St David's Day (1 March) and Mothering Sunday (14 March), you can wear a daffodil every day of the month by supporting the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2021 (1 - 31 March) which this year is more important than ever.



Please support Marie Curie nurses by donating or organising fund raising events to help them help not only those dying from the pandemic, but those living with other terminal illnesses that are being overshadowed by Covid. Fund raising resources and information about donating can be found at:

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil>

## Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop

It's been business as usual at the Community Shop this last month, despite the bitter winter weather, which means our lovely volunteers have been willing and happy to get up early and clear the entrance of ice or snow before the first customer arrives. The shelves have remained pretty well-stocked and we have finally had a brand new freezer installed after the old one broke down, so our frozen food stock is now much increased.

A number of new volunteers have been trained up and are now working on shifts, and the kitchen volunteers try to keep up with the demand for their very popular cakes and sandwiches! The cakes are obviously very difficult to resist...it has to be something to do with their added comfort value in these difficult days!

Needless to say, the *Food Bank* is still in great need of donations and we have been very heartened to be able to send several bags a week to the Worcester branch, donated by our generous customers. Thank you! Just a reminder, you can drop off suitable food donations from anywhere, and pop them in the basket outside the shop. We've also had a Valentine's Day Raffle in aid of the Food Bank - again, thank you to everyone who bought a ticket.

Given the harsh winter weather so far this year, we are pleased to be offering a good selection of bird food including fat balls, seeds and nuts.



Now we have the promise of spring on its way (although difficult to appreciate fully as I write this with the temperature gauge showing minus 2 degrees outside!) We also have some lovely new plants arriving regularly now: primroses, narcissus and others to bring a bit of cheer. Easter eggs will be arriving soon....

Another reminder: we are happy to take orders over the phone for anyone finding it difficult to get out, as well as deliver if requested: **01886 832862**.

As always, please keep an eye on our *Facebook* page: Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop, for up to date news and photographs.

We look forward to seeing you in the shop and wish everyone all the best as we wait for the end of lockdown.

*Vicky Gatley* on behalf of the volunteers.

### WORCESTER FOODBANK NEEDS YOUR HELP TO HELP OTHERS

#### 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,

**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](mailto:revannepotter@gmail.com)

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

Smash

Cooking sauces for rice and pasta

Sandwich paste

Peanut butter

Jam

Tinned fruit - single fruit such as oranges, grapefruit etc

Sponge puddings

Coffee (small jars)

Rice pudding, tinned custard

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

## From the Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council Meeting 28 January 2021

### Financial Matters

The Parish Council has decided that the parish precept that is included within the local Council Tax will be the same as last year - £13k, which on average is - 72 pence/week per household. It had decided also that £10k could be used from the general account to augment the fund for the Children's Play Area Project.

### The Virus Pandemic and Lock-down

As in spring last year the council is trying to help residents to cope with Coronavirus isolation.

Are you at risk and have to keep yourself isolated?

Would you like some help with Shopping, Posting Letters, Getting medical prescriptions, Someone to talk to?

We will try to link you to someone close by who can help. Please contact the Clerk to the Council:

*G M Brewin 01886 821 386*

Or -

Are you someone who is fit, well and not medically restricted who could help someone nearby? Please contact the Clerk to the Council to join in.

### Committee on New Public Facilities

We have received a very generous offer from the *Fox and Hounds* Lulsley of their play equipment as they will be removing it. Discussions have taken place about its suitability and how it could be incorporated into the total scheme.

Subsequently it was decided to carry forward this aspect to another meeting and proceed to install the *MUGA* (Multi-Use Games Area) on its own to get the project moving. This led to an application to MHDC being made on 21 January for £56,032 and we have heard this has been accepted. More news later once the contract starting date is agreed.

### Enhancing Biodiversity on Parish Council Land

As you may have seen, things have been happening on the playing field! The ditches have been cleared out, the tarmac near the lane gate no longer floods in heavy rain, making access easier and thanks to our enthusiastic band of volunteers, new native mixed hedges have been planted, supplied free of charge by the *Woodland Trust*. All the work should result in some reduction to the water logging. Thanks to *Western Power* some trees along the hedge now look very odd; we're giving them time to recover before pruning to a better shape.

A professional arboriculturist has carried out a safety inspection on all the Parish Council trees, especially the ash. Some limited felling and

branch trimming will be done. We will keep a close eye on the big ash trees for dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*); the Forestry Commission is keen that if not dangerous, large iconic trees such as these aren't felled immediately even if in an early stage of the disease. Some ash trees will recover and cuttings from them will be important for growing on new young resistant trees.

The lockdowns and restrictions as well as poor weather have meant, frustratingly, that working parties in the Spinney have been intermittent this season and non-existent at Alfrick Pound. The field fencing in the Spinney has been replaced and a new gate installed. The path has progressed well and we hope that the few planted snowdrops will flourish.

COVID-19 permitting, more working parties will be organised during the spring. Volunteers will be very welcome; do contact Carol and Derek (01886 884372/mobile 07929 091814 or carol.bradley372@hotmail.com).

*Derek Bradley - Parish Tree Warden.  
01886 884372*

### Speeding through the Village

The latest data from the Radar Camera shows that some 50% of all traffic passing the Lulsley and Stocks Road camera locations was over the 30mph limit and 38% by Swan Orchard. Speeds recorded at all locations showed averages of around 36mph but the incidence of speeds of over 50mph has reduced. The highest speed recorded was at the Old Police Station on Stocks Road - over 60mph twice at 16:30 on 6 November.

Our thanks to Richard Ashton who collects and analyses the data for us and Suckley parish.

### Four-wheel drive vehicles on Sandy Lane

At the January council meeting a group of parishioners raised the matter of the behaviour of four-wheel-drive vehicle enthusiasts on the un-maintained public road Sandy Lane. This has caused serious damage during the recent wet weather and the late night visits and associated noise are antisocial to say the least. **Road Closed** signs have now been placed at both ends of this road. This should allow WCC Highways to assess the damage and reinstate the roadway to its previous state which followed some substantial restructuring and fencing (all now destroyed) about two years ago.

The council is supporting residents where it can in their efforts to resolve these problems.

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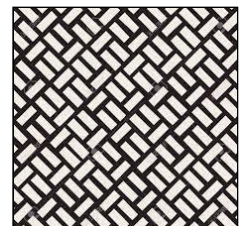
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# Suckley

## St John the Baptist

### Suckley Church Flower Arranging Rota

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](http://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.



#### 1) Did You Know: Cashew Nuts Aren't Really Nuts?

Over half of the world's **cashew** new **production** is concentrated in just three countries: Vietnam, India, and the Ivory Coast. The industry in each country, however, is marked by dangerous conditions and poverty-line wages for workers.

Cashew nuts come from fruit producing trees. The fruit, or 'cashew apple', which resembles a bell pepper, is what is called a 'false fruit'. The real fruit dangles from the bottom of the cashew apple, guarding within it a single seed, known to us as a cashew nut. *To see a picture, for copyright reasons just Google cashew; you'll be amazed!*

The most difficult step in how cashew nuts are processed is extracting the kidney-bean-shaped nut from its shell, which is labour intensive and requires a skilled workforce - 90% of whom are women and paid negligible wages. When cracked open, the shell oozes highly corrosive oil referred to as CNSL or 'cashew nut shell liquid'. This oil, when in contact with skin, causes burns and sores which often present health risks for workers.

The cashew nut industry also has significant social value, providing vital employment to millions of people, especially women. A combination of cashew nut farming, processing and exporting can create employment for local farmers and communities all year round.

So

#### 2) Suckley Church has chosen to support Toilet Twinning in Ivory Coast, where Cashew nuts grow.

More than half of all schools have no toilet or water point. Ivory Coast remains one of the poorest countries in the world: about 40 per cent of its population lives below the poverty line. Up to a third of people in rural areas do not have safe, clean water to drink, so water-borne diseases are rife.

Here a family tells its own heartwarming story:

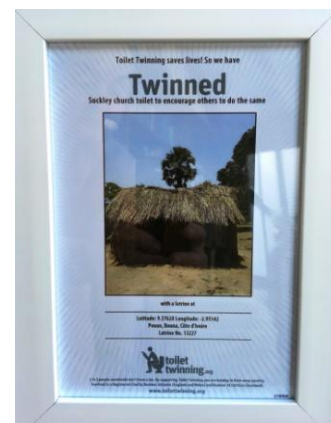
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If you would like to support *Toilet Twinning* you can make a donation, or for £60.00 you can 'Twin' your own toilet with one in Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Democratic Republic Congo, Pakistan, Uganda, or Zambia.

You have thus enabled a sanitation project in your chosen country, where smiles and life-changing health improvements will result.

For further information please contact Anne Lewis 884552 or

[annelewis@doctors.org.uk](mailto:annelewis@doctors.org.uk)



Usually in March Suckley folk enjoy getting together in church at the **Fair Trade Fair**. We can't gather in church as we normally do, but fortunately we have been able to continue with bringing to life our plans to create a user-friendly Community Space that is useful to everyone, as well as being our church on Sundays.

## Suckley Church - What's happening now?

Thanks to many local donations, and local activities like concerts and French lessons, by the time you read this our new chairs will have been delivered. They will be comfortable and hi-stacking, and yes, the new essential Covid-cleanable!



Thanks to funding from *Severn Trent* our builder is expected imminently, working in the Tower to give us running water in the church at last. Hurray! Apologies if you find the church unexpectedly closed some days - this is inevitable with building work, but won't be for long, and we'll do our best to inform you with notices and on Facebook and <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18630/>

**Fundraising continues for Phase 2 of the SPACE project, and we are now fundraising for our church Toilet!** Plans are on display in the church, and we are open daily from 10am to 5pm, so you are welcome to come and see what is planned and pray for it too when you visit. Phase Two is the downstairs fully accessible toilet with baby-change area, and a useful kitchenette with a mobile counter. Upstairs will be a small meeting room. Fundraising is very difficult in the present times, as you can imagine, so **if you would like to help us achieve our target there are details of how to make a donation in the leaflet below.**

We look forward to when we can enjoy getting together again. Meanwhile if you want to read about what is unfolding and what has been planned for the future, you can read all about it here at this QR Code:



If you'd like to find out more, please contact a church warden Anne on 01886 884552 and [annelewis@doctors.org.uk](mailto:annelewis@doctors.org.uk) or Liz on 07929 001563 and [lizdevenish@gmail.com](mailto:lizdevenish@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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](mailto: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:

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

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



\*\*\*\*\*

## Membership Extended and Subscriptions Paused



**Bromyard**

At the 2020 AGM we recognised the impact that Covid-19 has had upon our ability to deliver a programme of events throughout 2020 and potentially part of 2021.

In recognition of this the *Conquest Committee* is delighted to announce that Theatre Memberships will be extended through to the **end of January 2022** and all membership payments will be paused.

Your Membership Subscription payments will resume on **31 January 2022** when hopefully we can return to delivering a full programme of events for your enjoyment.



## The Hill Trust

Most people will know Suckley Village Hall and, indeed, probably have been inside from time to time. Fewer people will know about the Hill Trust. This is a charity set up to run the Hall and the trustees and committee members include the vicar, representatives from the PCC and PC.

In 1908 Suckley Working Men's Club and Parish Room was completed on land provided by Edward Henry Hill, the son of Worcester MP, Thomas Rowley Hill. This building included a main hall, a committee room, a kitchen and outside toilet blocks. Adjoining the Hall was the caretaker's house, with rooms for a nurse. In total the land extended to approximately 1,570 yards.

The purpose of the Club was to provide education and recreation for the members and by providing a nurse, the sick poor would also benefit.

In April 1911, Squire Hill, as he was known, died, and in his Will bequeathed to the Trustees of his Will "the Suckley Parish Room and Working Men's Club at Suckley, in the County of Worcester, recently erected by him, with land occupied therewith at his death and all furniture and other contents of the said Club..."

The trustees were charged with over-seeing the everyday running and maintenance of the buildings, appointing the caretaker, who was paid a wage and given the house to live in. There was a nurse who held her clinics in the community room, also paid by the trust, and many a child from Suckley School would have been marched down the lane to the Hall to have heads examined for nits. There was also a lending library which contained books and magazines.

Over the years many groups have used the Hall – from drama (the stage was removed in 1959 suffering from woodworm), the Pony Club, Alfrick Young Farmers, Suckley WI, to name but a few.

The Working men's Club suspended activities in 1955 and subsequent to this, the charity became known as the Hill Trust and was

\*\*\*\*\*

## Suckley Parish Council: Next Zoom Meeting: Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.15pm

*This 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:*



regulated by a plan of the Charity Commissioners, which continues to this day. In 1962, the Hall won "Best Kept Village Hall" in Worcestershire. At this time, the trustees realized that a car park was needed, but, despite attempts to find suitable available land to buy or lease, no car park materialised until decades later – the one now in use and owned by the housing association. By 1982, the trustees wished to update facilities by building inside toilets, a new kitchen and community room. In order to fund this extension, the caretaker's house ("Hill View") was sold in 1984 into private ownership. The last caretaker left the house in 1983. The old community room and the outside gents' toilet and fuel store were incorporated into the now private property. The outside ladies toilet is still used by the Hall as a storage shed. Since 1955, three schemes have been explored with the view to re-locating the Village Hall but all have fallen by the wayside. The layout of the Village Hall remains much the same as it was in 1984 and the Hill Trust continues to care for the Hall, and welcomes hiring groups, friends and supporters through its door. Looking back through the Minutes of the Hill Trust from 1955 onwards, I can say that we modern day trustees face many of the same challenges as former trustees did, but with perhaps a little less of the woodworm!!

**Carol Boughton**

*Information taken from Minutes of the Hill Trust and 'Aspects of Suckley'.*

**DIANA TAYLOR, Clerk to Suckley Parish Council**  
9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern WR14 1NL  
Tel: 01684 569430; email: [dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com)

## A Different Pandemic, Twenty Years Ago

"We come to kill all your animal tomorrow."

That is what a Spanish technician phoned us to say at 6.00pm one night, deep into the crisis. This week (mid February 2001) it's twenty years on since the start of the monumental terror that was foot and mouth. Items on local radio today brought back tears to my eyes even after all this time.

A bit like this current lockdown, we became used to not seeing friends, not being able to go anywhere and being worried continuously for months.

Our herd of Hereford cross cattle were very precious to us, having bred them all except Henry the Hereford bull. One cow had given birth to live triplets, which we were told is a 1 in 40,000 chance. Well, Speedy, Weedy and Greedy all survived amazingly, and over the next dozen years each of those three had nine single calves and one set of twins. A real family dynasty. We may be rather sad farmers in that we gave names to most of the other cattle too. (Their compulsory ear tags seemed impersonal.) We knew them all so well.

To be told by an unknown foreign person, not even our own vet, that he was coming to kill them all next day was devastating. Our life's work to go up in flames, literally, after being shot. No sleep at all that night. Next morning we waited and waited in great trepidation for the killing crew to pitch up, but no-one came. Eventually we phoned (useless) MAFF/DEFRA regarding the tissue samples they had taken a few days previously.

"Oh those, they came back normal a couple of days ago" another foreign person told us in a very offhand manner. Our relief was intense, but I'm afraid anger came to us as well, as we felt badly done-by. The exact same thing happened to other farming friends, and to us again two weeks later, very draining and upsetting, but we were fortunate in the end that our stock survived.

We had smoke drifting over the farm from the burning pyres in Whitbourne. The closest actual outbreak was on a neighbouring farm 500 yards away. Night after night from January to late August the news had heartbreaking pictures of the millions of cattle and sheep being burned on fires made from railway sleepers and straw. Devon and Cumbria had the worst times with thousands of families' livelihoods being cruelly destroyed. The children crying as their pet lambs and new-born calves were shot was especially sad.

The affected farms then had to be cleaned after the massacres. Gangs on very big money got drafted in supposedly to disinfect and steam clean the buildings, concrete yards etc. Many a large fortune was made in that way, but often the job wasn't done properly. We felt they were vultures, and it should be the farmers who received those generous sums to clean their own premises, not the folks having a jolly time squirting each other with pressure washers. Having no stock to feed and care for after the cull, it would have given the farmers some purpose in work. After a lifetime of doing animal chores seven days a week, suddenly having silent yards and fields left many to rethink their future. We continued with our cattle until the even worse and ever ongoing bovine TB meant the end of our herd, but that is a different story.

There were a few good aspects of the foot and mouth crisis which again is like our 21st century pandemic. People became more caring of their friends and neighbours. Also, in the case of 2001, farmers in general who normally got a bad press, (you never see a farmer on a bike etc.) received sympathy from the rest of the community. The Farm Crisis Network (FCN) and the Agricultural Chaplaincy became prevalent, and did sterling work helping desperate farmers with physical and mental problems. Even twenty years ago devastating mental effects were hardly talked about; thank goodness we do that a little more easily nowadays.

As with this virus situation we are in now, there are many unanswered questions from twenty years ago.

We wonder how many animals actually had the disease, as at least 95% were killed in a 'contiguous cull.' We wonder if MAFF/DEFRA handled it all sensibly?

We also wonder if 'young Mr Blair' wanted farmers to survive or not, as he was so keen on importing meat and milk from Europe. Articles in the farming press mentioned that merchants selling straw and railway sleepers had been contacted six months before the first fires were lit, to check on their stocks in case (?) they would be needed.

Political and personal thoughts collide sometimes, but we came through those tough times, and hopefully will get through the present one.



*Jill Hammonds*

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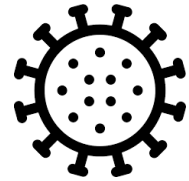
## COVID Corner

The good news is that, by the time you read this, the most vulnerable groups will have been vaccinated with at least one dose. The “Real World” impact of the vaccine, even one dose, has been most encouraging in terms of its ability to prevent severe disease. The reduction in numbers needing to go into hospital should enable the current lockdown to be eased soon. The important thing to remember if you have been vaccinated is that there is a three week delay before it really becomes fully effective, and it gives little protection in the first two weeks. Even after vaccination you can still get a milder form of COVID-19 and pass it on to others, although to a lesser extent.

There are many challenges ahead. The first is the large number of people who believe controversy theories about the vaccine and are refusing to have the jab. (I have to say it feels a bit like those who refused to wear seat belts when they first came in, and who were willing to risk injury or death because of false assumptions.) The science is unequivocally clear that the benefit of the vaccines is so huge that everyone who can should have one. Unfortunately, it is those more vulnerable in ethnic minority groups who are more likely to refuse. This will not only cause many of those who refuse the jab to find themselves with severe illness, but it will continue to put a strain on the hospital services who desperately need to have a chance to catch up with the usual work they do, and take well deserved time off.

The second challenge will be the new variants, and the risks of reduced protection from vaccines in the future. At the moment our current vaccines protect us from severe disease from the known variants, but the rapid rise in these variants and the mutations that they carry mean that we cannot be complacent, and we really will not know for a long time whether the vaccines we are getting now will continue to protect us in the future. One factor to consider here is that the new mutations, which could cause our vaccines to become ineffective, are likely to occur in low-income countries where few of their

population have been vaccinated. COVAX and other initiatives to enable those countries to receive a fair share of vaccines are the only way to keep us all safe. Currently the degree of vaccine inequality is astounding, with two thirds of doses having been given to the richest nations which only represent 16% of the global population. For every dose in a low-income country the wealthiest nations have given twenty-three. Some countries have purchased enough vaccine to vaccinate their population four times over.



HM Government

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**ACT LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT**

Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass it on.

**STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES**

NHS

Everyone wants to be able to look into a crystal ball and know when we are going to be able to lead a ‘normal’ life. There are too many unknowns to answer that at the moment, and probably the question needs to be “what will the new normal be like?” From all I read my best guess is that little by little we will slowly get back to more normal life, but for the foreseeable future the virus will be with us and having an impact on our lives. I think it would be unwise to plan an overseas summer holiday at the moment because that is dependent on the situation in the country you plan to visit. Face coverings may become the ‘new normal’ in public indoor spaces. There is also evidence to show that like the ‘flu, this virus has a much higher attack rate in the winter. So, after a relatively good period over the summer what happens over next winter will be critical. That in turn will depend on having as many people vaccinated as possible and to finding ways to overcome anti-vaxxers. But for the first time since the start of this pandemic I see green shoots of optimism.

*Richard Lewis*



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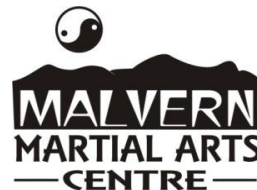


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# VILLAGE INFORMATION

STD 01886

## ALFRICK-w-LULSLEY

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

### VILLAGE HALL

Booking on line: [www.alfrickandlulsley.org](http://www.alfrickandlulsley.org)

or for information and advice email: [info@timesaversconcierge.co.uk](mailto:info@timesaversconcierge.co.uk) or phone Adrian Biggs: 01905 312456

PARISH COUNCIL - 4th Thursday 7.30pm

Clerk Geoffrey Brewin: 821386

RVS THURSDAY CLUB - Alternate Thursdays 2.00pm

Mrs Margaret Newitt: 884784

RVS Representative

Mrs Joyce Cooper: 832444

AGE UK

Mrs Brenda Collins: 833358

ALFRICK PLAYERS

Alan Soper: 832354

PILATES GROUP - Village Hall Tuesdays 5.00 & 6.00pm; email [sallyp88@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyp88@btinternet.com) Sally Knowles: 821654

W.I. - 2nd Wednesday 7.30pm

President Carol Boughton: 884210

ALFRICK & LULSLEY SHOW - 3rd Monday 8.00pm

Linda Fishwick: 832617 and Anne Potter: 832355

TENNIS CLUB - Membership

Dympna Jardine: 830085

GARDENERS' CLUB - 3rd Thursday

Marion Kent: 832537

TABLE TENNIS - Mondays 6.00-9.30pm

Richard Steele: 821777/Sue Adams: 830190

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Keith Bramwich: [www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com](http://www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com) 07771 600776

## LEIGH & BRANSFORD

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

### MEMORIAL HALL

Booking and keys: [www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk](http://www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk)

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

AGM 3rd Tuesday in May

Chair: Jon Gamble: [j\\_e\\_gamble@hotmail.com](mailto:j_e_gamble@hotmail.com)

PARISH COUNCIL - Memorial Hall - 4th Tuesday in January then every other month 7.30pm

Clerk to the Council

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

Footpath Warden

Gary Mellor: 288370

PRESCHOOL, Sherridge Road, Leigh Sinton. Open 8.30am-3.00pm

Katie Wiggins: 07854 477445

W.I. - Memorial Hall 1st Tuesdays 7.30pm

Acting President: Elaine Shaw: 830275

BOWLS (Indoor) Memorial Hall - Mondays 7.30pm-9.30 pm

Mrs C Hall: 832650

MALVERN MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE Leigh Sinton

[www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk](http://www.malvernmarialarts.co.uk) 833033

TAE KWON DO Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm

Julian Burton: 07770 822033/833033

BOXFIT/CIRCUITS/WING CHUN/TAI CHI/QIGONG

Kevin: 07725 161178/830175

PILATES - Tuesdays 9.00-10.00am

Di Fox: 07775 795670

Branches Day Opportunities Monday-Friday 10am-3pm

[jesshibbert@hotmail.com](mailto:jesshibbert@hotmail.com) 07572 398095/833382

### SCOUT HUT 1st LEIGH SCOUTS

Explorer Scouts - Thursdays 7.00-9.00pm (14-18)

Stuart Diplock: 880078

Scouts - Fridays 7.00-9.00pm (10-14)

Matthew Cooper: 884277

Cubs - Tuesdays 6.45-8.15pm (8-10)

June Etheridge: 01905 425793

Beavers - Wednesdays 5.30-6.45pm (6-8)

Joanne King: 833925

1st LEIGH GUIDES - Mondays 7.30-9.00pm

Mrs Valda Cane: 833115

1st LEIGH BROWNIES - Wednesdays 6.00-7.15pm

Mrs Kaye James: 832304

RAINBOWS - Thursdays 6.00-7.00pm

Ann Osborne: 833480

AGE UK

Margaret Hamilton: 833412

WREKIN SPIRITUAL CAFE 1st Wednesday 11.00am-1.00pm

Claire McDonald: 884888

LEIGH & BRANSFORD BADGERS FC

Senior Coach Bosko Medakovic: 07979 725196

LEIGH & BRANSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Mr Stuart Bill: 832342

## SUCKLEY

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

### VILLAGE HALL

Booking and keys: Steve Boughton: 884210

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Mrs Diana Taylor: 01684 569430

SUCKLEY PLAYING FIELDS All weather pitch for football or tennis

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Mrs C Luton: 884558

Skateboard Area

Mr P Beaumont: 884550

SUCKLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Nessa Haworth: 884383

LADIES KEEP FIT Tuesdays 11.00-12 noon

Carol Boughton: 884210

BELL RINGING - 1st, 2nd, 4th Wednesdays 7.30-9.00pm

Captain Mrs Linda Taylor: 884280

SUCKLEY SCHOOL, Church Lane

Headmistress Helen Field: 884283

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

840480

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Shirley Tasker: 832669

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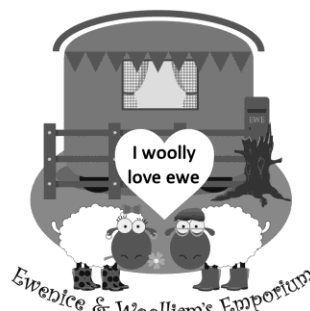
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starting its infant steps to becoming a reality in the months ahead.

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

Email: [conquest@conquest-theatre.co.uk](mailto:conquest@conquest-theatre.co.uk)