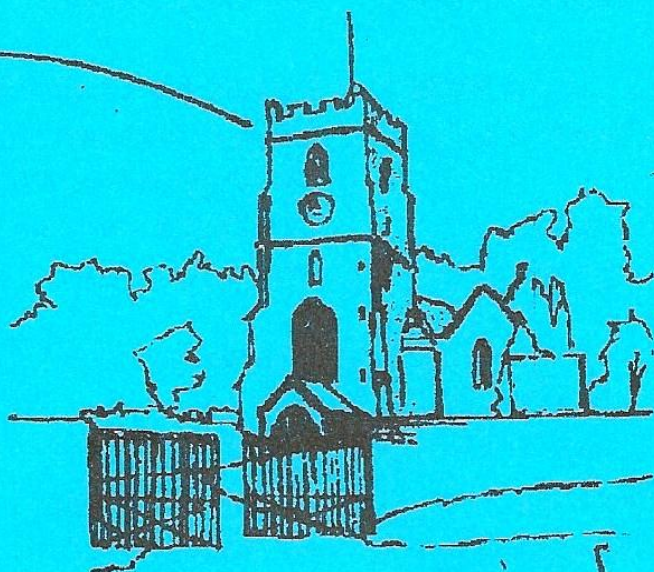
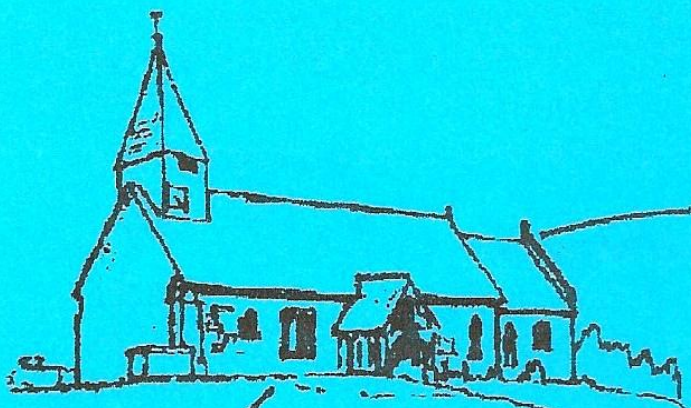
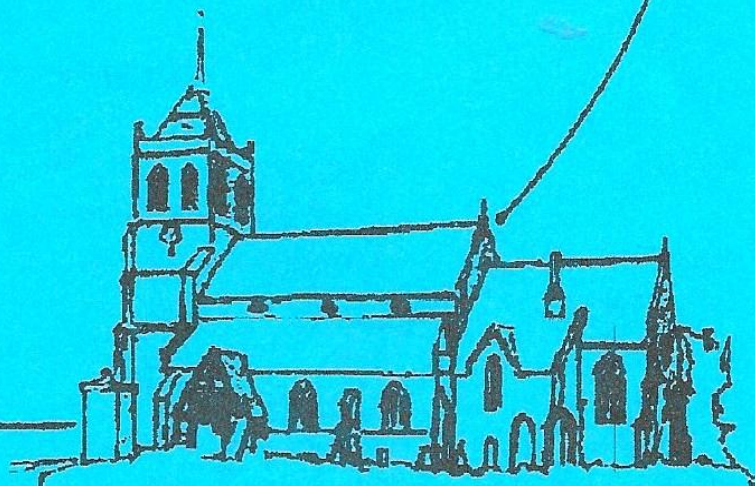
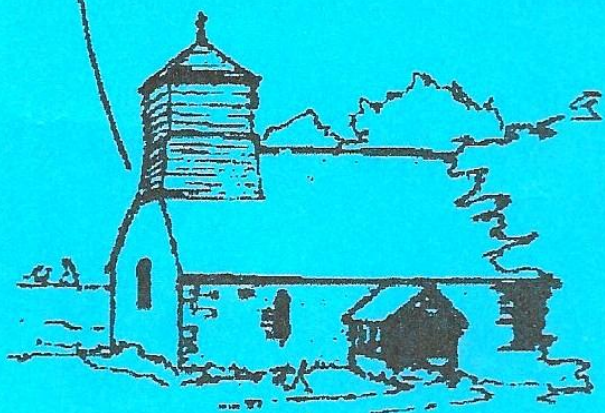


October 2020



The

Sphere.



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

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

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

ALFRICK w LULSLEY Church of St.Mary Magdalene

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

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

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

SUCKLEY Church of St.John the Baptist

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

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

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

From Rev Anne.....

We continue to live with constant changes of rules around services, especially weddings and funerals, and so we are not organising services in advance as we recognise we may all be back in lockdown any day. At the time of writing there will be a Harvest celebration in each church. We are currently thinking about each Parish's *Act of Remembrance* in November. As for Christmas I think this year we will not be able to have the *Barnyard Nativity*, as we have known it, or large carol services – but watch this space for what we can do to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our Christian faith.



Now... instead of hearing from me this month I thought you would like to hear from the, not so new now as he was ordained in January, Bishop of Dudley, Rt Rev Martin Gorick:



“2020 has been such a strange year. Autumn has arrived, yet in some ways the year never seems to have got started. I feel I am still living with so many uncertainties, and trying to make plans on the constantly shifting sands of guidance and advice based on ever evolving Covid realities. We are all learners in this, and pioneers too as we discover new ways of being church. Tiredness and fatigue are very natural too and sometimes the weight of it all can press very heavily. I’m so encouraged by the prayerful determination in our churches to be people of hope, even in the darkest times.

Traditionally we celebrate Harvest at this time. It’s been a tough year for farmers, with heat-waves, droughts and floods. Sowing seed in a wet winter was almost impossible, and many grain harvests have been poor. Nevertheless lorries and trailers filled with bales of straw and hay are testimony to the resilience and grit of our farmers, who just had to ‘carry on carrying on’, pandemic or not. I salute all those who work on the land, who produce our food and tend our environment. Brexit will affect them all, though it’s still not clear how. They deserve our traditional harvest thanks and prayers.

We give thanks too for the harvest of Kingdom Values that have been so evident in parishes up and down our diocese this year, for every glimpse of love, every act of compassion, every shout for justice and every step into freedom.

May the Lord of the world, the Lord of the harvest, bless you and keep you. One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Our Church continues to be alive and active, but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed except where mentioned in the separate parish pages.

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

Rev David Sherwin (Team Rector) 01886 888664 davidwin56@aol.com

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

Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897 jenmwhittaker@icloud.com

Rev Jen Denniston 01886 853280 jendenniston@gmail.com

Rev Becky Elliott 01886 812451 revrebeccaelliott@btinternet.com

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

For those of you with computers, iPads or other such ‘modern technology’ you will continue to find worship through our youtube [wrtlivestream](https://www.youtube.com/wrtlivestream)

Other information can be found on our website: www.wwrt.churchinsight.com

Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam

www.facebook.com/suckleychurch and on A Church Near You.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2020

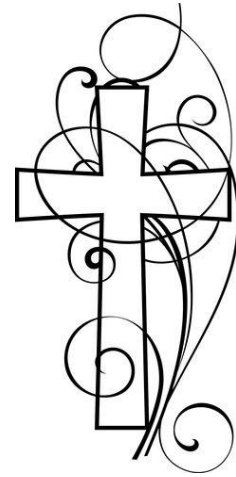
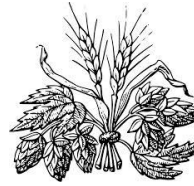
Sunday October 4th

3.30 pm Crown East – All age Harvest
6.00 pm Alfrick – **Harvest Evensong**

Sunday October 11th

Harvest YouTube Service

6.00 pm Leigh – **Harvest Evensong**



Sunday October 18th

9.00 pm Bransford – BCP Holy Communion

(Wednesday 21st October – 10.00 am Suckley Midweek Holy Communion)

Sunday October 25th

9.00 am – Alfrick CW Holy Communion
10.30 am Crown East BCP Holy Communion
4.00 pm – **Harvest Zoom Service** with ‘social’ breakout rooms

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday November 1st

10.30 am Leigh – CW Holy Communion
3.00 pm Crown East – *Memorial Service*



Sunday November 8th – Remembrance Sunday

9.00 am Alfrick – BCP Holy Communion followed by *Act of Remembrance*
10.45 am Leigh – *Act of Remembrance*
10.45 am Crown East – *Act of Remembrance*

Wednesday 11 November – Armistice Day 2020

11.00 am – *Act of Remembrance* at Suckley War Memorial

There will not be a 'set' service pattern for the rest of this year. We are taking one month at a time as there is still so much uncertainty around COVID-19 and some of our regular church members are continuing to self-isolate.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Alfrick	23 August 2020	Amelia CHIDLOW
	6 September 2020	Imogen JONES



WEDDINGS

None

FUNERALS

None

Our District Councillors' "View from the Hills"

As I write, COVID cases are increasing steeply, though the same is not true of deaths and – it seems – serious illnesses. Malvern Hills figures are in line with those nationally, but consistently at much lower levels and by far the lowest in Worcestershire. Touch wood that they stay that way.



Despite COVID, there is never a shortage of schemes from our masters in London. Last month we advised you of Westminster's draft proposals to alter planning law, removing most local input to development. This month's proposal is to remove a layer of local government by creating "unitary authorities", as in Herefordshire.

This is superficially attractive: who isn't in favour of fewer bureaucrats? The problem lies in how you form a new authority and how local interests are represented, not to mention how high council tax creeps when local representation is minimised. We believe firmly that local government should remain just that: local.

On a happier note, additional funds have been made available (locally!) for fibre broadband schemes. We hope these will help the schemes at Crews Hill, Longley Green and Lulsley, though *Openreach* remain an obstacle to be circumvented.

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@malvernhillsdc.net

Peter Whatley

Poppy Appeal 2020



Due to Covid-19 this year, door to door collections have been cancelled. *The Royal British Legion* has apologised for the inconvenience but they want people to be safe.

You will be able to purchase poppies at certain supermarkets, e.g., *Morrisons* and *Sainsburys* and I am hoping that certain Pubs and Garages will have a collecting tin/poppies.

I can order wreaths (from £10) or poppy posies (£8) and it would be appreciated if certain organisations could purchase one.

Thank you for all your support.

Stay Safe

Heather Cass

Poppy Organiser





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Plumbing and Heating Engineer

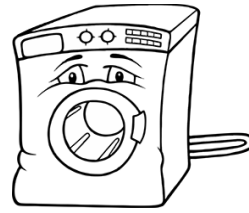
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Alfrick with Lulsley

St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on
Monday, 5 October at 7.00pm in the church

**Please remember that the church is only open on
 Wednesdays and Sundays 10.00am to 6.00pm**

Church Cleaning Rota

October	7	Mrs Morpuss & Mrs Sirrell	November	4	Mrs Mansell & Mrs Collins
	14	Mrs Fowler & Mrs Agnew		11	Mrs Jeffery
	21	Mrs Hood & Mrs Skyrme		18	Mrs Cooke
	28	Mrs Davies & Mrs Fishwick		25	Mrs Crisp & Mrs Crumpton

Community Choir

With the shifting sands of COVID-19 rules and guidance, it's becoming increasingly difficult to plan ahead when running a choir! At the time of writing, it looks likely that we'll continue to meet using Zoom for the time being, but simplify our online sessions, keeping to music where everyone sings the same line at the same time. We also plan to make our sessions even more fun, and to include more music education - for example helping our singers to learn to 'sight-sing', etc.



But don't take my word for it ... see the latest information here: www.alfrickcommunitychoir.com

Best wishes,

Keith Bramich (07771 600 776)

PS: Here's something to amuse all Sphere readers sent from an Australian contact about Covid:

<https://media.alfrickcommunitychoir.com/western-australia-symphony-sep-20.mp4>

Enjoy!!

Bible Sunday – 25 October

Traditionally within the Church of England, *Bible Sunday* has been celebrated on the second Sunday of Advent, but in recent years many churches have taken the lead from the *Bible Society* whose annual celebration this year is on **Sunday 25 October**. The history of the *Bible Society* including a founder, William Wilberforce, can found at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-us/our-history/>
With Bible Sunday in mind, this should raise a smile: a grandmother showed her granddaughter the special family Bible explaining that it was an old and beautiful King James Version. The girl had a few questions, but Grandma was completely speechless when she asked, 'So which virgin was the mother of Jesus - the Virgin Mary or the King James virgin?'

Don't be too early for Bible Sunday! NB: 25 October, the clocks go back one hour at 2.00am which means you get an extra hour in bed before church! (9.00am CW in Alfrick Church)

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/
Please send your queries by email to info@timesaversconciierge.co.uk
Or phone: Adrian Biggs on 01905 312456*

Table Tennis in the Hall:

Takes place on Mondays (except first Mondays) and Wednesdays starting at 6.00pm, £1.50 each per session. New players always welcome, please bring suitable foot-wear. For information contact: Richard Steele 821777 or Sue Adams 830190



Worcestershire Oval Race Club (WORC):

The club will be back in operation as soon as possible during these difficult times.



Alfrick & Lulsley Village Hall - Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

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

Slowly Round the World – Again!

By the time you read this, there will have been two talks in Alfrick Village Hall so just to confirm that if, because of the restricted numbers, there were some who came but were unable to get in, we will re-run the talk again at a future date.



Alfrick Players: 84 Charing Cross Road

Alfrick Village Hall - Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November at 7.30pm

This dramatised version of the well known book by Helene Hanff is a moving story about an exchange of letters over twenty years between an American writer and a London bookshop. *With current restrictions, numbers in the hall will be limited so look out for tickets which will be available soon.*

The Noble Spaniard by W. Somerset Maugham now rescheduled for May 2021

The Bosbury Films

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

Alan Soper

Elaine Kite is the **Citizens Advice** Community Liaison Volunteer for Alfrick, contact 01886 884435 or email: elainekite@btinternet.com Elaine can discuss your enquiry, clarify your concerns and refer on to CAB for specific advice. So do please get in touch.



Alfrick & Lulsley Community Shop: Apple Juice

As in previous years we'll be making bottles of apple juice from local apples for sale in the shop. If you have any spare apples, cookers or eaters, we'd be grateful to receive them outside the shop on **Sunday 4 October between 9.00am and 12 noon**. Thank you!

PS: They don't need to be perfect but should not be bruised or contain bugs.

Derek Bradley

Alfrick and Lulsley Community Shop



This time of year sees an abundance of fruit and vegetables from our gardens and hedgerows. We've been most grateful for donations of damsons, beans, courgettes, apples and much more to offer for sale in the shop. This has complemented our wonderful organic fruit and veg from *The Fold* at Bransford as well as a wide range of produce from other local suppliers and growers. We love supporting local!

Our sad news is that we have had to say goodbye to our Café manager, Claire Fennell, since the Café has been forced to close for the foreseeable future because of the Covid crisis and the difficulties of operating safely in our space. Claire was with us for about 18 months and many of you will have got to know her over that time and, like us, will miss her warm and friendly welcome, tasty breakfasts, supper evenings and delicious cake. The shop community of volunteers is most grateful for all she did for the café, even helping us to gain a much-coveted place in the Regional Finals of the *Rural Oscars* for best shop/café enterprise (on hold for this year due to Covid). We're very sorry to see her go and send our best wishes in whatever comes next for her in these difficult times.

We all desperately want to see the café buzzing again as the social hub at the heart of the village,

but there are many challenges. Rest assured, its reopening is under constant review. In the meantime, the kitchen is being used by some enthusiastic and talented volunteers who are baking cakes and making sandwiches and hot drinks to sell as takeaways in the shop.

As a community, we recognise all too well that life is not so fortunate for many people locally and many more families are struggling to put food on the table since this crisis began. We are therefore very happy to continue our partnership with the local Church and Worcester Food Bank, providing a collection point at the shop for donations of food and household essentials. (The food can be purchased anywhere and placed in the basket outside the shop during opening hours). Please keep them coming! People have been very generous throughout lockdown and since ...and the need is expected to grow.

Keep an eye out on our *Facebook* page for special promotions, new stock, fresh produce:

www.alfrickandlulsleycommunityshop

Wishing everyone a mellow October and hopefully a few more Indian summer days!

Vicky Gatley, volunteer

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

(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.



After an absence of five months, the WI met in Suckley Village Hall for their September meeting. After a welcome from the President, our Secretary, Rosemary, quickly ran through the business which was minimal – most being out of date due to the lockdown. The President was asked to write to National on behalf of members, abhorring the fact that Denman College is being sold.

Members spent a happy half hour catching up on news with each other before settling to the evening’s programme “Travellers’ Tales”. Members were invited to relate holiday stories, and what an interesting assortment they were! We heard everything from Father Christmas arriving by camel in Egypt to a soggy camping holiday trying to put a tent up in the pouring rain when you didn’t know which bit went where. One member had visited Texas and had been taken to a Funeral Museum which she found very interesting, especially the coffin shaped like a cow. Two members related experiences on African holidays – one having a leopard walking under their Land Rover giving everyone a fright and the other out hunting in the Kalahari Desert with the San Bushmen. It was a most entertaining evening.

The October meeting should again be held in Suckley Village Hall but, at the time of writing, new Government measures have just been put in place and members will be notified if and when we can proceed with any further meetings.

Carol Boughton

From the Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council Meeting 24 September by Zoom

Formal Co-option:

To fill the vacancy on the council caused by the resignation of Ms B Brown, the council heard brief presentations from two candidates and – the applicants having left the meeting – the council discussed whom to co-opt. The general view was that both candidates offered interesting and useful contributions and there was a substantial discussion before the Chair called for a vote following which Mr G Messervy-Whiting was confirmed as the successful candidate.

Planning and Environmental Matters:

- It was agreed to support the application at Hop Pickers Cottage, Lulsley, for the construction of a double garage and stables with storage.
- There was concern about an application for an all weather riding ménage at Clay Green Farm as it seems to relate to a built structure which does not have planning permission. Furthermore the access to the site will be via the road through the proposed development at Clay Green Farm, and it is doubtful this would be adequate. Also there is no reference in the application to effluent run off and no ecological information has been provided.

New Public Facilities

The Parish Council is planning the following developments:

- Alter the current tennis court to become a Multi Use Games Area, (MUGA), with marked courts for Tennis, Five aside football and Basketball. It will be run by a new group for use by villagers (subject to a membership fee) and also could be booked by outside groups subject to rent.
- A Toddlers’ Play Area to be built on the playing field alongside the existing picnic tables.
- A footpath to be laid around the perimeter of the playing field to encourage all of us to take exercise. The idea of the footpath is that for the less able and younger ones there would be a place where they could walk that is flat and surfaced, and which can be used all year.
- Outdoor exercise equipment to encourage all to get fitter. This will be once we have conducted a fundraising effort.

We shall be circulating details to all residents as this is the best way to let everyone know what is happening in this time of restrictions due to the pandemic.

The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 22 October 2020** at 19:30hrs via *Zoom*

Shoe Boxes 2020

There are not many things we can do at this present time, but you can make up a shoebox for a family or the elderly. Leaflets will be in the churches.

Helen Cook 01886 821784

A History of Harvests, etc.

The month of October starts with Harvest and ends with Halloween (All Hallows' Eve) – the start of two days of celebrating the lives of those who have gone before us – All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Harvest Festival is often celebrated in the Church on the first Sunday of October. The festival, as it is known today, is attributed to Rev Robert Hawker who, in 1843, invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service in Morwenstow, Cornwall.

In reality, of course, harvest celebrations date back about 3,500 years to Old Testament days when God gave Moses instructions for seven annual feasts (*Leviticus 23*). These included three harvests: *First fruits* in spring for the barley harvest; *Weeks* in early summer for the wheat harvest; and *Tabernacles*, or the ingathering, in the autumn when thanks were given for all the year's crops and prayers offered for the coming year.

As well as wheat and barley, the other main crops were grapes, figs, dates, olives, and pomegranates. These seven foods are sometimes called the *Seven Species* of the Bible. They are those God told the Israelites they would enjoy when they arrived in the Promised Land. (*Deuteronomy 8:8*)



In Rev Hawker's days most of the UK population relied totally on growing their food locally and a good harvest was vital for their wellbeing throughout the coming year. It is easy to see how his idea for a great festival rapidly established itself as a tradition. Today, few people in the UK rely on their own home-grown food or source it entirely from within their communities, so the underlying nature of Harvest Festival has changed significantly.

Not so long ago, locally grown food was taken to church at Harvest Festival, thanks given to God, and then the food was distributed to the needy in the parish. But times have changed. Nowadays, some people still take home grown food to church, but after the service, the donations are often forwarded to a food bank. Usually, in Alfrick there is the traditional Harvest Supper and Auction, cancelled this year because of Covid-19 precautions. So in 2020 we shall miss the hearty homemade casserole followed by tasty apple or fruit pies accompanied by a glass of wine (or two). The auction would regularly raise over £300 and be followed by lusty singing of two traditional harvest hymns. Those were the days; let's hope and pray they return in 2021!

David Fowler, with input from the Association of Church Editors

From Garth Lowe: the word UP explained

An amazing two letter English word.

A reminder that one, two-letter word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition: **UP**

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**?

At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, and why are the officers **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report? We call **UP** our friends, brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and fix **UP** the old car.

At other times, this little word has a special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special.

And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** because it is stopped **UP**.

We open **UP** a shop in the morning, but we close it **UP** at night. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost a quarter of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions.

If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing **UP**.

When it rains, the earth soaks it **UP**. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry **UP**. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP** for nowmy time is **UP**!

Did that crack you **UP**? Now it's **UP** to you, don't screw **UP** and I'll shut **UP**!

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Leigh and Bransford

ST EDBURGA, LEIGH

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

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

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



St. Edburga, Leigh Events

CREAM TEAS

Leigh Churchyard Sundays 3-5 p.m.

St Edburga Sunday Cream Teas have been really well attended this year - out in the open and socially distanced - the weather was favourable throughout. On our final Sunday, 6 September, we also had a few stalls to keep within COVID-19 safety measures and again well attended. It was sad that we couldn't use table cloths and china, but paper cups and plates, wooden knives and spoons, didn't spoil the taste of those lovely cream teas. So thank you to all our helpers and bakers and to all our most generous visitors.



Saint Edburga (Eadburgh of Winchester)

Edburga was a Saxon princess, grand-daughter of Alfred the Great, and daughter of Edward the Elder (who was King of Wessex from 900 – 924 A.D.) and his third wife, Eadgifu. She was educated at the Abbey of St. Mary at Winchester (Nunnaminster) which was founded by her father. She remained there as a Nun, renowned for her humility and gentleness, and after she died aged 40 years, a religious cult became established celebrating her sanctity, at the Abbeys of Winchester and Wessex. When Pershore Abbey was refounded in 972 A.D. Saint Edburga's relics were obtained from Winchester and a chapel was dedicated in her name by the Benedictine monks at Pershore Abbey. The Manor of Leigh was at that time under the authority of the Abbots of Pershore so the Parish Church was also dedicated to St Edburga. Her Feast Day is June 15th.

*The Leigh & Bransford Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Thursday 8 October at 7.00pm
in St Edburga's.*



Covid 19 has changed scouting – a bit

We have only been meeting for a few weeks now, but there are noticeable changes to the way we interact with each other. Gone are the two or three girls rushing in, hugging and then going to a corner to whisper and laugh about something that happened at school. No longer do several boys tackle each other to gain possession of a football and fall to the floor laughing. Instead the scouts patiently and quietly wait to register and have their temperature taken; they then walk down to the field, sanitise their hands and then sit on seats spaced two metres apart. We have flag break, spaced two metres apart, we remind everyone about distances and cleanliness and we are forever watching to make sure everyone is safe – BUT...

We still have fun, the scouts light individual fires while calling advice to each other and laughing when someone fails on the first attempt. We play games that require distance and communication; we have started badge work, adapting requirements to suit team work when the team work is at a distance. One of the scouts, Jack Sandy, has even completed his Chief Scouts Award (the highest award for a scout) during lockdown.

We have even had an overnight camp! – Socially distanced with the scouts sleeping in individual tents/bivi's, a 32 page risk assessment and do-it-yourself meals, but a camp none the less – I have been camping as a cub/scout/venture/leader for 44 years now and I couldn't miss a year just because of a pandemic!!!!

This September we should have been celebrating 50 years as a scout group with a party and group activities. Covid 19 has stopped that for the minute, but we can still remember past highlights, leaders and scouts no longer with us, and all of the camps and activities we have attended and enjoyed. Please go to our website www.1stleigh.org.uk to see many pictures and messages from the past 50 years. If you have anything to add please send it to me at: mcooper4@qinetiq.com

It's strange and different and hard, but rewarding work to put scout sessions on at the moment, but the leaders decided that it is the right thing to do. I miss the closeness of training small groups or 1-2-1 training but that time will return – we just don't know when.

What I do know is 1st Leigh scouts are back in business!!

Matt

1st Leigh Guides



We at 1st Leigh Guides have had the most wonderful August. Because of where we meet we were allowed to have proper meetings. We obviously observed social distancing and had hand sanitising stations all over the place. As we had to remain outside we have been grateful that the weather has been in our favour.

Being back has been wonderful, but did mean we had to plan activities that mean the Guides and leaders stay at least two metres apart.

We have been roasting marshmallows on fires made in baked bean tins, learning semaphore and Morse code to send messages to each other.

With the nights drawing in we have no idea how long we will be able physically to meet for, but at least we know we always have *Zoom*.

Here's to another healthy month and getting back to normal even more.

Valda, Wendy, Charley, puffin and panda



From The Trustees of the Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall

TWO STEPS FORWARD BUT ONE STEP BACK So, just when we were beginning to think it might be safe to ‘get back in the water’, we find those Covid-19 sharks are starting to circle again menacingly. As the daily infection rate started to rise again in early September prompting fears of a ‘second wave’, the government introduced the so-called, legally enforceable, ‘Rule of 6’ in the attempt to halt the spread of the virus – short of imposing a return to the full lockdown.

HOW THE RULE OF 6 MAY AFFECT FUTURE HIRES AT THE HALL The trustees decided to reopen the Hall for hires in August – after first making sure that the building was ‘Covid-secure’ and by following all the latest (and updated) guidelines. By introducing additional Covid-19 Terms and Conditions of Hire we were able to welcome and host a few new groups and events over the last couple of months – but the new *Rule of 6* now introduces further restrictions on the hire of your Hall. Put simply, from the 14 September the number of people who don’t live together, but may wish to meet and socialise in groups, is limited to 6 – as long as appropriate social distancing is maintained. There are, however, ***a few exceptions*** that may allow community venues like your Hall to continue to accept hires ***for groups up to 30 people***.

Until further notice you may apply to hire the hall if your group event is: for work, and voluntary or charitable services, for education, training, registered childcare, or providers offering before or after-school clubs for children, to organise and/or participate in children’s playgroups, for wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and receptions, or for other religious life-cycle ceremonies, funerals/wakes, organised indoor and outdoor sports, physical activity and exercise classes or youth groups or activities.

But please remember that for any event included in the above list, the total number of attendees (including the hirer(s) and any children) may not exceed 30 people.

Sadly, for the time being, it will no longer be possible to hire the hall for other family (or non-family) gatherings such as a child’s birthday party, family anniversary, recreational or community clubs, groups or organisations (other than for educational, training, sports, fitness or exercise classes) unless, of course, no more than 6 people attend. However, if you are considering hiring the hall for a future event for up to 30 people, but unsure whether it complies with one or more of the above list of exceptions, please contact us at leighandbransfordhall@hotmail.co.uk where we’ll be happy to help and advise.

Finally, I want to thank our Hall trustees who continue to work hard on your behalf during these difficult times to keep the Hall and its grounds well maintained, safe, viable and Covid-secure. We look forward to the time when we can welcome all of you back once more to share more widely our valuable community resource.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees

Leigh & Bransford Parish Council

Leigh & Bransford Coronavirus Helpline

As we move into the autumn a second wave of coronavirus is unfortunately starting to look increasingly likely, with cases rising and local lockdowns already ordered in some parts of the country. The first wave drew a fantastic response from local people who volunteered to help friends and neighbours cope with the impact of isolation, including helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions or simply checking in with people and being a friendly voice on the phone. We all hope a second wave can be avoided, but if restrictions are once again put in place, we will be operating the coronavirus helpline again. Details of how to request assistance or volunteer to help will be on the noticeboards and website, or you can call the parish response co-ordinator John Sharp on 01886 833844 or at chair@leighandbransford.org.uk

Bransford Play Area

Plans to refurbish Bransford Play area with exciting new equipment made possible by funding from Malvern Hills District Council are moving ahead and on track to start in mid-October. In the meantime, thank you to everyone for following the coronavirus guidelines and helping to keep this play space open and safe.

Highways

Speeding on the A4103 in Bransford continues to be a problem and the parish council are in discussions with the police and Worcestershire County Council to see what can be done to reduce this. We are also continuing to follow up on the pavement parking problem in Leigh Sinton and would again urge drivers to ensure sufficient space is left for pedestrians to pass safely on the footway, particularly now as the darker evenings draw in.

Dog Fouling

Thank you to those who have told us about locations where dog fouling is a problem. We still have signs available, so if you know of any locations that would benefit from a 'No Fouling' sign, please do let us know.

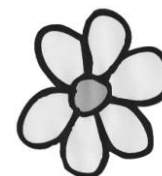
Rectory Wood

Thank you to those who have offered to help plant the 2,000 wildflower bulbs we have for Rectory Wood. We are still looking for more volunteers though, so please contact chairman John Sharp on 01684 833844 if you would like to get involved.

In accordance with current guidance meetings will continue to be held virtually for the time being. Residents are always welcome to join us, so please get in touch for details of how to participate. The next virtual meeting (subject to change – please see noticeboards and website for arrangements) is scheduled **24th November at 7.00pm**.

LEIGH & DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

Hello to you all, I hope this entry finds you all in good spirits despite the continuing situation. It was good to see all those who were able to attend the club's successful plant sale in September and many thanks to those members who were able to provide plants and cakes for all to purchase and enjoy. It was good to grab a socially, distanced gathering amidst these difficult times, to be able to talk to people in real life to share knowledge and discuss growing successes and failures.



We are investigating the possibilities of arranging a *Zoom* talk with one or more of the speakers we had hoped to have had during this season. Members will be emailed with information regarding this possibility so please make sure your email addresses are current.

Marian Kent 01886 832537

The History of the Organs of St Edburga, Leigh

The earliest record of a substantial organ in St Edburga Leigh is of a three manual organ built by Nicholson of Worcester sometime before 1889. Before this the singing could have been led by a barrel organ or by a group of instrumentalists. The organ was situated immediately opposite the present organ in the area from which the choir sang. It was a substantial organ, very similar to the organ in Christ Church in Malvern, built at very nearly the same time, and the organ at St. Peter's Cowleigh, built in 1868. This organ gave good service until the late 1960s when an infestation of wood boring beetle and dry rot discovered in the roof timbers was found to have spread into the woodwork of the organ immediately underneath. This meant the organ had to be removed to clear the infection in the roof; such was the damage to the woodwork of the organ that the cost of repair, together with the cost of repairing the roof, was more than the church could afford.

Nicholsons made it known that there was an organ available which might offer a possible solution. At the time the company was working on the organ at Edmundsbury Cathedral, Suffolk, during which time they had installed a makeshift organ. This organ had been removed from Quinton Methodist Church, College Road, South Birmingham, which closed in 1968 and demolished soon after closure. Being a large building it had required a loud organ, Nicholsons seem to have fitted this organ straight into St Edmundsbury Cathedral, considering its

volume adequate. A quotation from *Anglican Daily Times*, 4 October 1967: "Although it only has 11 stops, the organ has no difficulty filling the cathedral with a rich sound." The organ was moved to St Edburga, Leigh and installed in 1973 at a cost of £2,450.00. In order to fit this into St Edburga, Nicholson fitted electric action so the organ could be placed where the present organ is situated and away from the repaired roof. The fitting of electric action meant that the console could be placed in a position which allowed the organist to follow the services better. Anecdotal evidence suggests the organ was rather loud, (it did come from a large Cathedral!) and somewhat monotonous, (it had few stops, mostly loud). This organ gave reliable service, but was apparently criticised for being too loud. With smaller congregations, it was difficult to play at a suitable volume and for quieter moments during any service only two stops were really suitable, the swell viola and the great stopped diapason.

A suggestion was made that perhaps it would be possible to find and install a more suitable organ. The "available" organ was stored in the Bishop's Palace at Hartlebury. It had been removed from St Nicholas Church in Worcester when that Church was made redundant in 1989. It was said to contain two stops by Samuel Green, a well known organ builder in his day. His organs are considered to be well worth preserving now. It sounded mild and pleasant compared with the previous organ.

The story continues.

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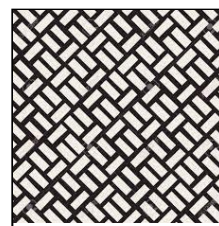
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Suckley

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Suckley Church Flower Arranging Rota

October: Ellen Gwynn

**Please remember the church is only open for
private prayer in October on Saturdays
10.00am to 5.00pm**



The Suckley Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Wednesday 14 October at 7.00pm in the church.

Suckley Church has been open (virtually) for the **2020 Heritage Open Days**. If you missed it, don't worry - the story of Suckley Church, as told by the lives of those who worked or worshipped here can be read by clicking on the link below. Discover the hidden treasures that make up the Church. Explore at your leisure the fascinating story through the ages; its people - how they lived, died and worshipped in this scattered community. If only the 12th century font could talk!

https://media.acny.uk/media/news/post/2020/09/Discover_the_hidden_treasures_of_Suckley_Church.final_small.pdf

Throughout wars, disease and pandemics Suckley lives have been challenged, and our church has provided a place of peace that serves to remind us that through it all, God never changes.

Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme says, “Keep alert” and “Be a Good Bush Telegraph”!

01886 840480

We're here to help on 01886 840480 and suckleygns@gmail.com on Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. We are grateful to the many Suckley folk who have joined the volunteers. Do phone 01886 840480 if you need help or if you would like to offer help.



These days we don't bump into each other like we used to which makes it harder to know when someone nearby needs help.

The good news is that most people are happy to help out when they can see the problem and have the where-with-all to tackle it. What we don't have is the old *bush telegraph* which rapidly connected the problem to the solution. That's what *Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme* is all about. There's probably someone living near you who is a GNS volunteer.

It is thanks to the Suckley volunteers that in the first wave of the pandemic several people were helped and housebound residents had their Suckley PO shopping brought regularly to their door. Julian and Mark continue to have lots of fresh fruit and veg as well as their usual stock, and if a second wave affects us again keep your eyes and ears open to know how Suckley PO ordering line will work. **Suckley Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS)** is available to Suckley residents, and our volunteers will try to help if someone is in need of assistance. In these present challenging times, it could be that someone would appreciate a phone call, maybe for advice, or even just a friendly chat on the phone. Several volunteers have been trained by *South Worcestershire Citizens Advice*, and all our regular volunteers have been screened by the *Disclosure and Barring Service*.

So please “Keep alert” to spot those who might need a bit of help or benefit from a friendly telephone call and “Be a good Bush Telegraph” - if you can sort things out yourself that's great, if not - then please suggest they contact the **Good Neighbour Scheme** which is here to help.

Remember the phone number is: **01886 840480** and suckleygns@gmail.com

Suckley Community Car Scheme

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

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 Village Hall News

We have, in the last few weeks, welcomed back the Art Group – a little space in the week of peace for those of us with busy lives. Just doing what we enjoy without the distractions of dogs, mobiles and dare I say, husbands!! Also, for three weeks now, the Keep Fit Group has been successfully running, helping us more aged souls to unravel the knots and stiffness which has occurred during lockdown. Alfrick WI held its September meeting in our Hall - the first meeting since March (for report please see the Alfrick section).



However, new, more stringent measures have just been announced by the Government and we are informed that under the new guidelines for Village Halls, we can continue with our Art Group as we are small enough and we shall also be able to continue with Keep Fit as exercise classes are exempt.

Carol Boughton

News from Suckley Parish Council Meeting held 14 September by Zoom

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Co Cllr Paul Tuthill reported to the meeting: Covid numbers had increased in the county, but Worcestershire had a much lower rate of cases than many other parts of the country; Fire Service performance was ahead of expectations. The new cycling and walking bridge was now in place across Hams Way, but approach routes remained to be completed. The A4440 causeway had yet to be completed and was behind schedule. As a result of February's flooding around Powick, proposals were in hand to raise approach roads to the bypass roundabout.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Dist Cllr Sarah Rouse reported to the meeting. She noted that in the midst of the pandemic, Central Government had tabled proposals to re-organise County and District Councils, and changes to planning law that would impose greatly increased house building figures on all Councils nationwide. Within MHDC's area, Covid cases remained low. MHDC continued to support neighbour schemes and would be focussing on rebuilding communities and helping those affected by the end of the furlough scheme.

VAS SPEEDING STATS - VAS stats for May – July 2020 revealed that 42.9% of journeys in the Parish during this time were above the speed limit, with one speed in the evening of 29 June being recorded at Bruff Bank at over 70 mph!

COMMUNITY – Superfast Broadband – Cllr P Whatley reported that Worcs Co Council had introduced an enhanced voucher scheme from 12 September, intended to reduce the costs of schemes to householders and businesses.

Both Crews Hill and Longley Green schemes were stymied due to failures by *Openreach* to provide accurate, timely quotations and – out of the blue – a requirement for organisers to create legal entities with which *Openreach* would enter into contract. Cllr Whatley had consulted with the Hanley Castle Scheme's leaders and established that the contract type accepted by *Openreach* added no value or protection to them, but would impose a cost on the community. He intended to liaise with interested residents and Alfrick PC regarding their scheme in Lulsley.

PLAYING FIELD - Cllr P Whatley reported that the Playing Fields were now secure, although the play area was still being used (**despite signs stating it was closed and it still is**). The All Weather pitch was being used regularly and an enquiry had been made from Bromyard re using the football area when it becomes available. Cllr C Luton reported (via the Clerk) that she had put up new Covid signs (these have now disappeared). The steel door grid would be arriving this week and hopefully would be fitted soon after.

DIANA TAYLOR

Clerk to Suckley Parish Council

9, Lambourne Avenue, Malvern, WR14 1NL

Tel: 01684 569430

email: dtaylorsuckleyclerk@gmail.com

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 9 November at 7.15 pm. It will most likely be a virtual Zoom Meeting. There is always time at the beginning of the meeting for parishioners to make a short address to the Councillors for discussion in the meeting.

Puns for Educated minds:

- In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes
- If you jumped off a bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine

Suckley School



My name is Helen Field and I have recently taken up the Headship at Suckley School. Previously I was Head of School at Lord Scudamore Academy in Hereford. I have also had the joy of working in a small, rural school in Herefordshire called Kings Caple Academy.



Currently, I live in Malvern with my husband, two children, a cheeky cat called Peggy and two stick insects called Buddy and Woody! As a family we enjoy spending lots of time outdoors - playing sport, walking on the Malvern Hills and visiting new places of interest.

During my time at secondary school which was in Malvern, I spent many enjoyable times in the Alfrick and Suckley area. I had the pleasure of riding friends' horses around the beautiful countryside. We would set off on a hack with a picnic early in the morning and often not return until the sun was setting.

I am very excited to be given the opportunity to lead Suckley School in its next chapter. When I visited the school, I was met with a highly-skilled and committed team, a supportive governing body and pupils who were motivated and engaged. It was simply lovely.

I strongly believe that school is an opportunity for children to discover and unlock hidden talents in a safe, creative, nurturing and meaningful environment. Every child has the ability to succeed and do amazing things if a school provides the right opportunities.

As Head Teacher of Suckley School I will strive to create the best education to suit the needs of the children whilst they are members of our school family. I am looking forward to finding out more about Suckley School and the whole community surrounding it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole community who have already made me feel very welcome and settled. Thank you.

Helen Field



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COVID Corner

Look after Grandma and Grandad

I write this the day two related pieces of news were published, one that everyone knows about, the other that may have gone under the radar, but the two are very closely related, and indeed the findings in the second piece of news are largely the reason for the first.

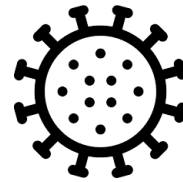
The first news is that it is now illegal to socialise in groups of more than six, "The Rule of Six". So, if you are a family of 5 you can only socialise with one grandparent at a time. Seemingly illogical, but of course the thinking is the KISS principle "Keep it Simple....."; simple rules are more likely to be followed. This principle worked last time, when we were asked to "Stay at home, Protect the NHS, Save lives". Of course, there are going to be ridiculous anomalies which will be widely publicised, but it seems that across the whole population we need simple rules if they are going to work.

Back to the second piece of news. This is the paper from Sir David Spiegelhalter's group in Cambridge about the risk of dying from Covid-19 as we get older.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3259>

The most important point that shouts out from this paper is that there is an absolutely steady increase in death from Covid 19 as we get older, and the frightening thing is that the rate of death from Covid-19 doubles every 5 to 6 years of age from youth upwards.

What does this mean in numbers? Well compared to someone aged 15 to 24, the risk of dying from Covid 19 is 262 times higher age 65 to 74, 976 times higher age 75 to 84, 2,353 times higher age 85 to 90, and 4,322 times higher over the age of 90. This is why it is so important to reduce the spread of this disease among the young in the first place, and the subsequent transmission from young to old. Evidence clearly shows the progression of Covid-19 with the initial rise in the young, and then spreading to increasingly older age groups.

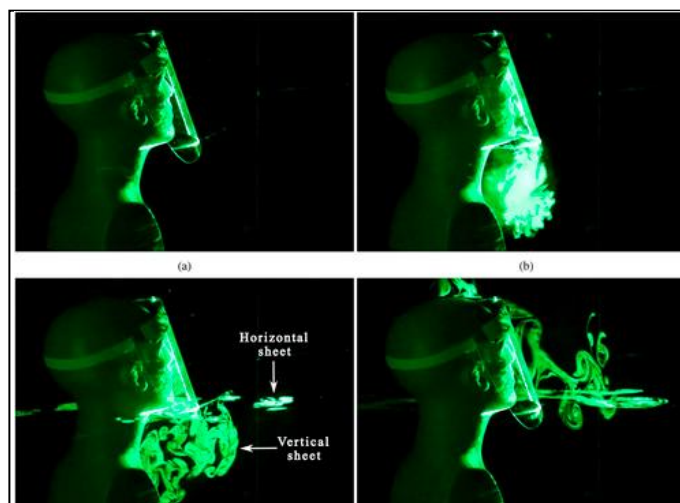


Because the elderly simply must not catch this virus it is important to reduce the risk of transmission from young to old. When I was at work, every year I found that there was a rise in respiratory infections in the elderly and vulnerable just after Christmas following social gatherings indoors with children and grandchildren.

Two months ago I wrote about the importance of staying two metres apart "Space"; last month about the importance of wearing masks "Face" when mixing with anyone outside our household group. Those things are important. The problem is that when socialising indoors neither "Space" nor "Face" rules are followed, and thus this new "Rule of Six" to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

However, do not rely on face shields (which are being widely advertised and we are beginning to see so many people wear) to protect others. They were designed to be used in **conjunction** with masks to protect the eyes and face of the wearer from particles, not to be used on their own. The image below shows that expired air can spread to others even when wearing a face shield.

<https://aip.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/5.0022968>



So do look after Grandma and Grandad (and others) with a simple rule: HANDS.....FACE.....SPACE.

Richard Lewis

Time for a Smile

While repairing a picture frame, a lady had to replace some chipped gold leaf. She asked at the hardware shop, "Do you have any gilt?" The shopkeeper replied. "Sometimes it's overwhelming,"

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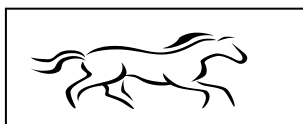
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RVS THURSDAY CLUB - Alt Thursdays 2.00 pm	Contact Mrs.Newitt	884784
RVS Representative	Mrs J.Cooper	832444
AGE UK	Contact Brenda Collins	833358
ALFRICK PLAYERS	Contact Alan Soper	832354
PILATES GROUP - Village Hall Tues 5&6 pm email sallyp88@btinternet	Sally Porter	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, 4 Crews Hill Court, Alfrick	830085
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PARISH COUNCIL - Memorial Hall 7.30 pm 4th Tues in Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov		
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BROWNIES - 1st Leigh - Wednesdays 6.00 - 7.15 pm	Mrs Kaye James	832304
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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	Contact 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 Mrs Sheila Marshall	884283
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME			840480
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - Leigh & District Branch	Contact 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 10.00am – 1.00pm
Telephone 01886 832862

Post Office Local

Weekdays 11.30am – 4.00pm
(Last post 3.30pm)
Closed Bank Holiday Mondays
Chip & Pin cash withdrawals

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!
Off-Licence, Newsagent, Fruit & Veg., Post Office, Lottery,
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



@suckleypoandmore
www.suckleypoandmore.uk
WR6 5DU Tel 01886 884 201
Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00, Sat 09:00-13:00

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

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

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



Bromyard

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

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

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

