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February - March 2022

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Under the Wrekin

Welcome to our February / March edition. Happy New Year! In this edition, we are, once again, looking ahead to events to come as well as looking back at recent happenings.

With the Queen about to achieve 70 years as our Monarch on 6 February, many people and organisations are looking ahead to the celebration “long weekend” at the beginning of June and planning community events as part. Look out for details as you read the magazine.

A big ‘thank you’ to Bob Ling, Kate Gough, and our local councillor, Claire Wild, for their recent donations towards our printing costs. If you’d like to make a donation, we’d be pleased to hear from you! **Thanks also to Tina Corfield Photography for our cover photo.** If you’d like your photo to be used on our cover or in a future calendar, please email it to us, or share on our Facebook page.

Finally, the sale of our UTW 2022 calendars raised £108 towards our printing costs. If you would like your photo of The Wrekin or surrounding area included in our 2023 calendar, please share it on our UTW Facebook page **@UnderTheWrekin**. We've already had some stunning photos sent to us, including the first sunset of 2022!

We look forward to receiving your articles and news for our next edition.

Editorial Team: Viv Amos, Nigel Bowen, John Wardle and Tricia Wilkin
Treasurer & Advertising: Ray Owen
Distribution: Sheila Woodfield
Facebook: Andrew Bowcott and Luis Evitt

Email the Editorial Team: underthewrekin@outlook.com

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Please support our local advertisers and mention this magazine when contacting them

Deadlines for the next edition (April / May 2022)

Advertising: 1st March

Editorial: 15th March

All material submitted to Under the Wrekin is published in good faith. No liability is accepted, implied or otherwise, as to the accuracy of information in articles.

Under the Wrekin is a not-for-profit magazine. Our printing costs are met by income from advertising, and contributions from parish councils and individuals. We don't charge for publishing stories for not-for-profit organisations and events. If you'd like to make a donation towards our running costs, please let us know.

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Advertising rates (1 year i.e. 6 editions)

£25 – quarter page

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£75 – full page

For more details, contact:

Ray Owen Email: ro@snpots.co.uk Tel: 01743 257357

Edition	Advertising Deadline	Editorial Deadline
April - May	1st March	15th March
June - July	1st May	15th May
August - September	1st July	15th July
October - November	1st September	15th September
December - January	1st November	15th November
February - March	1st January	15th January

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Rest of world	Standard Class	£25.00

DO HAVE A STORY TO TELL? ANY INTERESTING FACTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? PLANNING AN EVENT?

We'd love to hear from you!

Email the UTW Editorial Team: Underthewrekin@outlook.com

WHO NEEDS INSPIRATION?

**“I’m accustomed to my deafness, To my dentures I’m resigned,
I can cope with my bifocals, But – oh dear- I miss my mind”**

Reading Giles Brandreth’s autobiography ‘Odd Boy Out’ (a good read by the way) I came across the quote above (he credits John Sparrow). It made me smile. It also made me think about the amazing role models we have around us, Under the Wrekin. We know some incredible 85+ year olds. Whatever challenges life throws at them, they move forward, making the absolute best of what they have, doggedly determined to enjoy the hand they’ve been dealt, as much as they can. Here are inspiring examples from recent months:

- A gentleman who enjoyed his 20 miles of walking through the Shropshire Countryside this (often damp) holiday
- A lady (recovering from a recent operation) seen with her walker delivering Christmas cards through the Village
- Several, radiating a wonderful sense of ‘well being’ from the pleasure their gardens still give them
- Several, who bake the favourite treats of their family (even though those individuals are now pensioners themselves!) because they know how much pleasure they give
- A gentleman who completes the crossword against the clock daily challenging himself to ‘do better’ than his best
- A couple who can still make each other laugh after nearly 70 years of marriage!

Our Head of State is 95 years old. A true Wonder Woman, who happens to be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee this year. She is another inspiration, an amazing role model. She has ‘survived’ 14 Prime Ministers (a feat in itself!) and entertained countless World Leaders and ‘ordinary’ people from all over the world during the 70 years of her reign. The stories she could tell! If only she would!

On the subject of Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee, there have, I know, been several meetings held locally to discuss how we, Under the Wrekin, might join in the Nationwide celebrations with our Queen. Various Local Organisations have been involved - Village Halls, Parish Councils, the Wrockwardine Deanery and one or two local businesses. The results are being published in this very magazine! Keep a look out and please join in.

Dear Reader, finally, a request. There is, I am sure a wealth of memories amongst you. Special moments during our Queen’s reign, captured in your hearts forever. Many of you may even remember her Coronation. I hear several Village Hall committees are intending to hold ‘down memory lane’ sessions over the Jubilee weekend.

If you would like to share a memory or picture for the Platinum Jubilee weekend, please get in touch with your Village Hall or alternatively.....

You can either e-mail underthewrekin@outlook.com with ‘Jubilee Memories’ in the subject heading or write to: Jubilee Memories, c/o LEC Parish Council, Back Lane, Longnor, Shrewsbury, SY5 7PP

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Buildwas Village Hall

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*There will only be 60 instead of the usual 80 tickets for each
performance to allow some social distancing. Tickets tend to sell
out quickly, so order asap to avoid disappointment!*

*Raising funds for **The Shrewsbury Ark***

UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR FOR THE SEVERN VALLEY

Happy New Year to everyone, hopefully we will soon start to see a drop in Covid cases. Since the beginning of December, Shropshire Council staff have been busy helping the booster roll out by the NHS, this work has included providing the venues, staff, helping organise volunteers, turning the Shropshire Local space in the Darwin shopping centre into a vaccine hub and not forgetting the operating of Bob, the Vaccine bus. I am pleased to say that by early January the Shropshire Council area had helped 85% of all our adults over the age of 40 get boosted. This figure is one of the highest in the country, with the average being 64%. We have very dedicated NHS staff, Council staff, volunteers and carers who all deserve a huge THANK YOU.

At Full Council on Thursday, it was agreed to provide all households with a new 240 litre bin (similar size to green bin) for their glass, cans and plastic. These bins can be ordered on line www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste or call **0345 678 9007**. Your new bin should be delivered by spring, you can keep your old boxes and use them for something else, recycle them or keep using them, you don't have to have the new bin if you don't want it, it's entirely up to you.

On December the 8th last year, a visit was arranged for a few Shropshire Council Councillors and senior officers along with Lorraine Pratt, Chair of Buildwas Parish Council, to look at and experience the Revolution VLR train that is currently being tested on the railway line at Ironbridge Power station. It looks like a train, feels like a train ride but with some very special differences! The VLR is a prototype, it's made from a light weight composite of carbon fibre. This reduces its weight by approximately 50%. It is a hybrid so runs mainly by batteries neatly placed under the main train carriage. If it travels at 20mph, there are zero emissions. The train carriage looks exactly like an ordinary train and seats 56 people. Its aim is to facilitate growth of the UK railways, including line extensions and RE-OPENINGS of presently disused tracks. Throughout this whole planning process, it's fair to say that one of the most worrying prospects for all of us was the predicted increase in traffic on our roads. This project may well deliver the opportunity to take a considerable amount of the predicted traffic from this site off our roads. The plan, if the pilot is successful, is to have a train station on site and connections to Ironbridge, Much Wenlock and mainline stations to link into our existing rail network. If it's easier, cheaper, quicker and greener to hop on a regular convenient service then it will be successful. Hopefully over the coming months there will be open days for local residents to take a look. Personally, I was very impressed and wish them every success.

The planning decision for the Ironbridge power station redevelopment has not yet been published, this is due to all the legal documentation that needs to be signed by Harworth, Shropshire and Telford.



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Once the decision has been published the local liaison group will be able to meet. Dan Thomas (Shropshire Councillor for Much Wenlock) and I will sit on this group along with the local Parishes and Town Council. Our first priority is to get speeds reduced on the A4169 and B4380. We will both be working hard to deliver for our local communities.

Stay safe and please contact me with any local concerns.

Best wishes

Claire Wild

**Chair of Performance Management Scrutiny Committee
Councillor for the Severn Valley**

t: 01743 255 884

m: 07582 002 100

e: claire.wild@shropshire.gov.uk



A photograph taken during the visit to the former Ironbridge Power Station site on 8th December 2021. From left to right:

Edward Potter, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council & Portfolio Holder for Planning

Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council

Claire Wild, Shropshire Councillor for the Severn Valley

Dan Thomas, Shropshire Councillor for Much Wenlock

Lorraine Pratt, Chair of Buildwas Parish Council



The Mill

AT LEIGHTON

Events in February and March

FEBRUARY

Saturday 5th February - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Ireland / Wales 14.15 & Scotland / England 16.45)

Saturday 12th and Monday 14th February – Valentine's Menu (booking essential)

Saturday 12th February - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Scotland / Wales 14.15)

Sunday 13th February - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Italy / England 15.00)

Thursday 17th February – Monthly Pub Quiz, teams of 4, £1.00 entry per person

Saturday 26th February - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Scotland / France 14.15 & Wales / England 16.45)

MARCH

Friday 11th March - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Wales / France 20.00)

Saturday 12th March - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Scotland / Italy 14.15 & Ireland // England 16.45)

Thursday 17th March – Celebrate St Patricks Day with live Irish music (tickets £5.00 / person)

Saturday 19th March - Six nations rugby showing at The Mill
(Wales / Italy 14.15 & Ireland / Scotland 16.45 & France / England 20.00)

Thursday 24th March - Monthly Pub Quiz, teams of 4, £1.00 entry per person
Sunday 27th March - Mothers Day Menu (booking essential)



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BEWARE BIRD FLU

If you are feeding the birds, please make sure that you keep their feeders very clean. The UK is facing its worst ever outbreak of avian flu, and already there have been more than 40 cases around the country. The disease is thought to have been spread by migratory wild birds from Russia and Eastern Europe.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "Everyone should take care to maintain good hygiene when feeding garden birds, regularly cleaning feeders outside with mild disinfectant, removing old bird food, spacing out feeders as much as possible and washing your hands."

Humans can catch the disease by touching infected birds or their droppings. So, the advice is to NOT approach any dead or dying birds, and to wash your hands every time you touch anything to do with your bird table.

Fortunately, avian flu mainly affects larger species than our much-loved garden birds.

Christine Middlemiss, Britain's chief vet, recently told the BBC that the disease was at a 'phenomenal level' in the UK, which in turn has 'huge human, animal and trade implications'. And meanwhile, the migratory period for birds does not end until March.



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QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Under the Wrekin Drawing Competition

Are you a budding artist? Do you like to doodle? Or do you fancy having your child's drawing printed on a tea towel to forever remind you of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee?

If so, this competition is for YOU.

Requirement: Draw the Queen in black fibre tip pen on plain white paper; the drawing must measure no more than 3 x 5.5cm. Entries must reach us by Thursday 31st March 2022 at the latest.



The winner will be awarded a prize.

You can either take the finished picture to the Mill at Leighton or send it electronically to underthewrekin@outlook.com. If you are leaving it at the Mill, please put your picture in an envelope that is clearly labelled 'Wrekin Queen's Platinum Jubilee Drawing Competition' and remember to include your name and contact details.

The first 100 accepted drawings which meet the requirements above and would look fabulous in your favourite Aunt's kitchen, will be printed as a white cotton Wrekin Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 Tea Towel. We will make it available for sale at the various events over the Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend.

Please join in the fun..... it would maybe make a good Christmas present for someone, too!

USE THE STAIRS NEXT TIME

Professor Sir Chris Witty, England's Chief Medical Officer, wants you to use the stairs more.

At the recent Confederation of British Industry's annual conference, he told employers that they should tell their staff to take the stairs because it could mean the difference between entering old age 'healthy or not'.

He said: "in the medium to longer term, a lot of it is about trying to make sure people can be as active as possible. And in doing small things, for example, ...taking the stairs rather than the lift, they can really help.

It sounds trivial, but day in, day out over an entire work lifetime, it can be absolutely the difference between someone entering older age healthy or not healthy."

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Tibetan is a knave
Utonagan is quite rare
Viszla's debonair
Whippet curls up in a chair
Xolo has no hair
Yorkshire Terriers can snap
Zuchons tend to yap.

Canis Lupus sired them all
as he succumbed to human thrall.

Elaine Nester

CHRISTMAS

LIGHTS

COMPETITION

Sally Williams and Pam Henderson
judged the competition and awarded:

**£20 First Prize to
The Old Post Office, Wroxeter**

**£15 Second Prize to
1 Lower Longwood
(Polar Bear House)**

**£10 Third prize to
Townsend Cottage, Leighton**

The judges spent a most enjoyable evening travelling round the local villages choosing the most attractive Christmas lights display.

Everyone had obviously put a great deal of time and effort into each one and it was not easy for the judges to make a final decision.

I would like to thank everyone who made the effort to light up Christmas time.

It certainly lit up my spirits and I am already looking forward to the next Christmas Lights Competition.

Ray Owen

DON'T COVER OVER YOUR GARDEN

The TV presenter Monty Don has said that having pavement or tarmac on your property is one of the 'worst contributions' that homeowners can make to climate change.

The Gardeners' World presenter points out that hard surfaces prevent water from being absorbed into the ground, which is a growing problem because of increased flooding.

Instead, Don urges people to consider having as many absorbent surfaces in their gardens as possible. Writing in the BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, he explains: "We need for excess water to slowly work down into our underground aquifers and make its way gradually to our rivers and out to the sea."

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News from Christ Church C.E. Primary School

Preparing, Sowing, Growing

What is 'cultural capital'?

The Government are very keen that all children develop 'cultural capital'. It is one of those terms that is easy to say but no one is quite sure what it means! In school we see it as ensuring that all children have access to experiences, knowledge and skills which will equip them to flourish and enjoy life now and as adults. On one level this means visiting art galleries, the theatre and museums and taking part in musical and dramatic performances. Visits have been more difficult in these Covid-times but we are pleased that we are still managing to make them happen. But it also means that in our curriculum we look at the musicians, artists, scientists, engineers and craftspeople – from around the world - who have all influenced our rich British culture.

This term we are 'deep' into other cultures! Ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt have come into our classrooms and we are looking at historical artefacts, learning names of gods, appreciating art and engineering skills and also enjoying some good old-fashioned dressing up days and role play in our classrooms. Our youngest children are getting ready to perform at William Brookes Dance Festival as we believe that having the confidence to take part in a performance is an essential life skill and part of developing 'cultural capital'. All our classes are also working towards musical performances – this term we have borrowed a set of West African drums (djembes) and are enjoying learning about their cultural background.

You can find out more detail about our curriculum on our website but here are the class themes:

- Acorns YR: Traditional Tales
- Maple Y1: Space and Transport
- Holly Y2/3: Egyptians
- Willow Y4/5: Romans
- Oak Y6/6: Ancient Greece

Would you like to find out more about our school...



We are always happy to show prospective parents around school. Please contact the School Office on 01952 510383 or email admin@christchurch.shropshire.sch.uk for more details.

Tracey Cansdale, Headteacher



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Our website is also full of updates and information: christchurchcressage.co.uk

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HISTORIC CAROLS AT WROXETER

It was rather chilly on the evening of 18th December as St Andrew's Church awaited a congregation for its Carol Service. The wait itself had been rather a long one, as there hadn't been any Carols sung in the building for 41 years!

In the event there was no need to worry, over 40 people attended and the building looked beautiful with Christmas greenery, candles and a splendid tree donated by the Raby Estate. There was even a cluster of tea lights to illuminate the porch and a handmade Nativity scene which started life as the lining of a reptile tank.

It was very moving to see so many people in the building at one time and there was a real feeling of community. Many local residents came together to support this special occasion and put great effort in to helping prepare the church. A well-deserved round of applause followed a reading from 8 year old George Barnes. He very confidently mounted the pulpit steps to read from St Matthew's Gospel. Very likely the first such person to do this since the church closed for regular worship in 1980. Someone commented that the church had really come back to life after so many years and there are already plans to ensure that it won't be such a long wait for the next Christmas service.

As the Churches Conservation Trust steward in Wroxeter I was overwhelmed at the response to this event. So much so that I quickly ran out of service sheets. St Andrew's Church may be a fascinating Grade 1 listed building, but it really needs people for it to fulfil its role as a part of the local community. It did so for Christmas 2021 and I am sure that its friends Under the Wrekin and beyond will ensure that it continues to do so.

William King



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BUILDWAS VILLAGE HALL New committee member required and new website launched

Buildwas Village Hall has one vacancy on its committee. Committee members are also Trustees, as Buildwas Village Hall is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. If you are interested in helping with the running of the village hall, please contact Nigel Bowen, Secretary, Buildwas Village Hall on buildwasvillagehall@outlook.com or call 01952 432497. More details about the hall are available on our new website www.buildwasvillagehall.org.

The village hall is now open for bookings for events, parties, meetings etc. We have a new Booking Officer: Juliet Bowen - Tel: **01952 432497** Mob: **07870 884123** Email: buildwasvillagehall@outlook.com.

IS IT HARD TO PARK YOUR CAR IN THE GARAGE?

It is not your fault: the bestselling modern cars have become bigger by about up to a third. A comparison of the most popular models sold in 1965 and 2020 had found that most popular modern models have expanded from 59 inches (1.5m) in width to 71 inches (1.8m) in width. Their length has gone from 153.5 inches (3.9m) to 169 inches (4.3m). The most popular 2020 model, the Ford Fiesta, has a width of 66 inches (1.7m).

Yet the average garage door is still only 82 inches wide (2.1m), often leaving just six inches (15cm) each side of the vehicle.

DETERMINED TO HELP

Half of people in the UK who are aged over 50 have cut down on the amount of meat and dairy that they eat. They want to help the environment and to reduce their carbon footprint.

A recent survey by the charity Rest Less, which offers advice to older people, found that many older people “feel a huge sense of responsibility for the health of the planet and their role in reducing climate change.”

The charity found that “the vast majority of mid-lifers are making changes to their own habits, from recycling more to consuming less, changing travel habits, and even giving up their car.”

LIVING IN THE PAST

Due to space constraint in the last edition of Under the Wrekin, it was not possible to include this copy of a document (source unknown) regarding industry in Leighton in the 'Living in the Past' article kindly supplied by Jane A. Rousseau (previously Wood - former landlady of The Kynn - now The Mill at Leighton)

INDUSTRY IN LEIGHTON

Whilst it is generally agreed that the Industrial Revolution may be held to coincide with Abraham Darby's discovery of the value of coke as a substitute for charcoal in the smelting of iron, it is equally well-known that iron founding was practised for many centuries before his time. The Domesday Book records a furnace at Stanton Long in Corvedale in 1086 and by the 16th century the monks of Wenlock Abbey had furnaces in Coalbrookdale. Similarly there was a blast furnace at Leighton using local wood to produce charcoal, iron ore, limestone as a flux and airblast by water powered bellows. The iron ore came by pack horse transport, perhaps via Horsehay (a halting place for the horses to be fed with hay) and Coalbrookdale. The limestone came from Benthall Edge. The local historian John Randall quotes Adam Luccock's reminiscence of "strings of horses, the first having a bell to tell of their coming, used to go; they called them cwickers - and a very pretty sight it was to see them winding through upland and meadow, the little tinkling as they went."

Water from Leighton Brook was impounded in two pools, the lower of which existed until recent times and was thought of as the village pond. From this lower pool - the village pond - the water was conveyed through a culvert to a large water-wheel which operated the bellows. The molten metal was run into troughs with smaller side troughs, resembling piglets feeding from a sow, hence producing pig-iron. Such pig-iron contained around 4% carbon which was removed at the Forge and the iron re-worked and hammered to give wrought iron.

Tradition connects the Leighton furnace with Buildwas Abbey whose monks had considerable commercial interests in the Severn Valley; later it seems to have been part of a consortium of local furnaces formed as a cartel to maintain prices.

The Leighton furnace assumed importance during the period of the Civil War from 1642 up to the defeat of the Royalists at the battle of Worcester in 1651. At a time when the royal cause was in grave jeopardy Leighton could have held a key to the outcome of the conflict. Royalist requisitions were made on the Leighton furnace for 'round shot and grenadines' for the defence of Shrewsbury and very considerable stocks of these items were held here, so much so that Leighton was a thorn in the flesh of the Roundheads. This would account for the very thorough 'slighting' of the Leighton and other local furnaces at the hands of General Waller, himself a Sussex ironmaster and so well able to do the maximum damage on behalf of the Roundheads. This episode lends credence to the traditional belief that when Abraham Darby built his first furnace ^{at Coalbrookdale} in 1708 he used for the hearth beam a great iron girder bearing the date 1638, said to have come from Leighton.

In its heyday - around 1717 - the Leighton furnace produced four hundred tons of pig-iron per year. It ceased operations around 1800 and became a flour mill, using the water-wheel to operate the millstones. At the turn of the century the flour mill ceased its operations and the premises became a public house, the present Kynnersley Arms. The water wheel and the massive train of gearing can still be seen. But the lower pool - the village pond - became stagnant, weed-ridden and smelly and was drained and filled in in 1964.

THE POPPY APPEAL

Your contributions and the donations from our surrounding villages has enabled me to forward on your behalf £3,528.89 to The Poppy Appeal. This is a magnificent sum and represents the generosity of our local communities.

I would particularly like to thank the Poppy Appeal collectors who visited houses in the villages of Cound, Cressage, Leighton, Garmston, Upper Longwood and Buildwas. Without their time and effort the total amount raised would have been significantly reduced.

Thank you so much.

Victoria Todd
Poppy Area Organiser



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LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 AT THE MILL

Here at The Mill we're really looking forward to 2022! We've been busy planning the year ahead, booking forthcoming live music and events. It seems hard to believe that we are already planning our first birthday celebrations, and hope that you will join us in celebrating our first year of trading this coming May.

Our team continues to grow, with our head chef Josh Davies having recently been joined by Ethan Hodgson. This in turn has allowed us to open our doors and trade seven days a week, offering both bar service and food as well. Judging by the returning faces and our five star reviews, Josh and Ethan have been delighting the tastebuds of so many of you. Serving delicious and wholesome food is only part of the success of The Mill, and the lovely comments about our friendly front of house team definitely re-iterates that.

Ultimately, it's the people that make a place a success! It's been great to welcome so many new faces to the pub, especially during the festive period. So, whether you've recently visited us for the first time, or are a seasoned regular, on behalf of everyone at The Mill, we would like to thank each and every one of our customers for their ongoing support.

Nothing quite beats the feeling of running a pub over Christmas, and we certainly saw our fair share of seasonal fun!

The annual village Christmas meal was the first of many festive events, and owing to everyone having such a memorable evening, we are considering having an event like this every three months, in line with the seasons.

After an epic visit from Santa himself, much to the delight of so many youngsters, we had carol singers in the pub raising money for Hope House on Christmas Eve.

Our celebratory Christmas Day menu filled even the heartiest of appetites and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with one large table wanting to book again on the day for next years' Christmas Day!

The New Years' Eve menu was equally well received, with fun and dancing into the early hours and fabulous live music by Soul Agenda.

As always, our menu focuses on using local produce wherever possible, with our daily specials board offering a selection of seasonal dishes to complement the main menu. Depending on the availability, and of course what's in season, our specials board will also include freshly sourced fish and 'classic' favourites such as 'pie of the day'.

If you've yet to sample the menu at The Mill, why not book in to join us this Valentine's weekend or on Mothering Sunday, both of which will have a bespoke menu designed for the occasion.

Our monthly pub quiz is attracting quite a crowd now, and takes place on Thursday 17th February and Thursday 24th March, so if you do want to enter a team, it's always best to book.

Another event that's sure to be popular is the Six Nations rugby, which has scheduled matches starting in early February, through to mid March, and we will be also celebrating St Patrick's Day here at The Mill, with live Irish music and plenty of Guinness too!

We always welcome ideas and suggestions for future events, so if there's a local band you'd like to see, you fancy a game of bingo or a virtual horse racing night in your favourite local pub, be sure to let us know!

As always, your continued support of our lovely village pub means so much, and if not before, we hope to see you at The Mill at Leighton this Spring.

Gareth Penny, General Manager at The Mill at Leighton

MUCH WENLOCK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Although Christmas became a difficult time for us all due to the fresh COVID strain, the choir did manage to perform on two occasions. The first, which was a debut for our new MD, Richard Fox, was under the Corn Exchange at the Wenlock Christmas Fayre. It was great to be back singing and also entertaining an appreciative audience with Richard adding an extra dimension with his distinctive brand of humour.

We also sang at the Cavalier Centre to help them bring some Christmas cheer to their lovely community. They work so hard to provide a breadth of physical and well-being enrichment activities, with especially, Riding for the Disabled, that it was a pleasure to sing in their state of the art indoor arena. We hope to return for a longer concert in the future.

Rehearsals resumed in January and we have a number of concerts to work towards. The first of which will be a joint concert with Ludlow Male Voice Choir in Much Wenlock on **Saturday 2nd April**, put it in your diaries. We have begun to work on some new pieces for that event to supplement some old favourites.

It's a good time to join us. We have a few new members, come and be part of what promises to be a new and exciting chapter in our ongoing story. Please ring me for more information.

Dick Langford

Website www.mwmvchoir.org.uk
Facebook facebook.com/mwmvchoir
Instagram [mwmalevoicechoir](https://www.instagram.com/mwmalevoicechoir)
Email mwmvc1969@gmail.com
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EATON CONSTANTINE VILLAGE HALL

- here for you (with a few hiccups)

If you came to December's Punch Pies and Carols you'll know the hall was full and bursting with joy. The family group seating, table service and reduced capacity provided the social distancing which enabled this eagerly anticipated community event to take place this year. Many thanks to the local St Mary's organisers.

Then with a view to avoiding the rapid Omicron surge we decided to cancel the New Year's Eve Party - anyone for socially distanced Auld Lang Syne, Conga or Hokey Cokey? I thought not. And could we properly sing and dance along to Kerry Young masked up and sat down?... We'll rebook Kerry when we feel more like putting aside our masks and mingling on the dance floor. Look out for this!

For now, we've still the popular coffee mornings, Come and Join Us and book/drop in sessions. We are planning another vintage tea afternoon for the Queen's Jubilee and we would welcome more local pictures and memories of the village to add to those previously contributed.

You may notice an increase in comings and goings at the Village Hall. This is the result of bookings being transferred from Cressage Village Hall which is temporarily closed whilst its floor is checked out. Let's welcome our guests from across the water. It's good to have the Hall used.

And we've a new cooker - same as the old one - but new!

Geoff Dawes 01952 510309

Sheila Woodfield 01952 510566

Email: gmdawes@btinternet.com

Facebook: Eaton Constantine Village Hall



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IN MY EXPERIENCE

by Jancis Mander

Hearing and reading so many stories recently about the length of time some people are having to wait to see a doctor, especially their own doctor or one of their choice, I am reminded of our experience when we lived at Leighton from 1941. Four years later, mother bought a car from the School Attendance Officer (a little Austin Seven 1933 'matchbox'). There was a Surgery at Cressage but there was no easy way to get there with no public transport or chemist's shop, so we became patients of Dr Charles Whitney at Ironbridge, whose surgery was in a quaint little cottage at the bottom of his garden at Severn Lodge.

There was a Midland Red Bus service 975 which ran twice a week from Shrewsbury to Broseley, via Ironbridge, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It gave us just enough time to pull ourselves up the steep path to the Surgery, where Dr Whitney practiced on his own. There was seldom anyone waiting to see him, so we were always back at the bus stop outside the Tontine Hotel when the bus arrived on its way back to 'Salop' – the local name for the County Town. We were always waiting – otherwise it would have been a four mile walk back to Leighton. The bus cost 1d a mile – 4d to Ironbridge and 8d to Shrewsbury – children aged 5 to 14 were half fare.

Some years later, after his father died, Tony Whitney became our doctor and was joined by Doctor Lionel Stretton, still in the same little cottage, until well into the 1960's, when a new surgery was built at Woodside, part of the New Town of Telford.

Back to Ironbridge – by this time more people were visiting the surgery and Doctors Whitney and Stretton visited in turn, so you did not know until a voice said 'Next please' – there was no receptionist or secretary. Dr Tony would be sucking on an unlit pipe and wrote out prescriptions upside down. Dr Lionel was a fanatical supporter of motor racing.

When Dr Robertson was the doctor at Cressage, I would collect prescriptions for Mrs Lee of Leighton School on a regular basis. When the surgery was closed, prescriptions were left in the porch, so I had to sift through a pile for the one I wanted – not a good idea because, if I had been nosey, I could have read every one.

Dr Robertson's house was built on the site of the old Severn Valley Railway line, which had closed under Dr Beeching in 1963 and, looking back, what a mistake that was!



The modern Cressage Medical Practice

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATE

New Winter Support Service launched

Shropshire Council, in partnership with its health colleagues has commissioned a Winter Support Service to help residents across Shropshire who are vulnerable, and potentially vulnerable during the coming months. The service can offer assessment and ongoing support to people identified as needing help, including: Transport returning home from hospital; Settling people in at home following discharge from hospital; Fitting of low-level equipment e.g. key safes and pendant alarms ; Collecting and delivering medications; Shopping and delivery; Wellbeing home visits; Hot meal delivery; Companionship for isolated or lonely people

The service cannot offer a crisis response or personal care, but it will work as part of the health and care system to ensure that people get the support that they need through appropriate referrals and signposting.

From the 1st of November Shropshire residents and those who support people in the community will be able to call the **Winter Wellness helpline on 0345 678 9012** in order to find out more and be referred where appropriate.

Healthy Homes Shropshire

Keep Shropshire Warm is your trusted energy advice service here to help residents stay warm and comfortable at home. Our expert energy advisors are on hand to support those in our community who are struggling with cold homes and high fuel bills. We can help with:



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COVID-19 information, advice and support

For local advice and support during the pandemic (especially if you are self-isolating or shielding), visit the Shropshire Council website at

www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

or call Shropshire Council's COVID-19 Helpline on 0345 678 9028

MUCH WENLOCK YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

Much Wenlock young farmers have been busy over the Christmas period doing lots of festive activities. Members were invited to look around Farlow Farm Nurseries with Brown Clee and Cleobury Mortimer YFC. It was a very interesting tour about how they grow and sell Christmas trees and great social. Another club night was making Christmas wreaths with Jenny Dale from Valley Blooms, at Harley village hall. It was a very enjoyable evening with a good turn out by members and advisory.

The week before Christmas members spent a night carol singing to the Wheatlands nursing home, spreading the Christmas cheer singing through the windows to ensure we were all socially distanced. It was a lovely evening singing along with residents and staff. Thank you also to the Heath family for having us round for carol singing at their Christmas party. The total amount raised during carol singing this year was £196.56 – thank you all for donating!

Well done to Richard Ratcliffe, our Club Treasurer, for coming second in the 'After Dinner Speaking' composite team with Brown Clee YFC at the start of December at Walford College. Richard and the team will be going through to the next round of competitions.

Members are also looking towards other YFC competitions coming up such as Bowling and Drama. We always look forward to the Drama competitions as Much Wenlock YFC are a club full of Drama Queens and Kings and take the One Plus very seriously! The SFYFC drama competition will take place from 23rd to 26th February at the Whitchurch Civic Centre.

As we mention every month, MWYFC is looking forward to hosting our 85th anniversary celebration in 2026! If you are a past member and would like to come along to the 85th, please get in touch with Millie Preece 07484 243185 or Ami Bower 07530 727880 to book your place or email muchwenlockyfc@gmail.com.

We would love to welcome any new members to our club. If you are 14 - 28 and would like to become a member or have any questions please contact our Chairman - Ami Bower 07530 727880 or Secretary - Beth Jones 07813 468346. Alternatively, visit our Facebook page or Shropshire YFC website (www.SFYFC.org.uk) for more information. We are a friendly bunch who are keen to get back to regular socials, club nights and competitions - remember you do not have to be a farmer to join!

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UNDER THE WREKIN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Contact event organisers for more details and to check that events are still being held.
Email underthewrekin@outlook.com with details of your events!

February 2022

Sunday 6th – Six Nations Rugby starts – The Mill at Leighton - see page 11 for details of other dates

Monday 7th – 10.00am – Midday – Coffee Morning – Eaton Constantine Village Hall

Wednesday 9th – 2.00 - 4.00pm – Come and Join Us – Eaton Constantine Village Hall - all welcome. Call Chris Tough 01952 510530

Thursday 10th - Saturday 12th - 7.30 - 10.00pm (including a matinee on the Saturday 2.30 - 5.00pm) - The Buildwas Players panto 'Puss in Boots' - Buildwas Village Hall - £8.00 adults (aged 18+) / £4.00 children. For more details and to book tickets, visit www.trybooking.co.uk/BHQX or call 01952 432497 / 07870 883238

Saturday 19th - 10.00 - 11.00am - Book Swap / Borrow / Buy Drop-in - Eaton Constantine Village Hall - all welcome

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Buildwas

www.buildwasparishcouncil.org.uk

Meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of every other month:

21st March, 16th May, 18th July, 19th September & 21st November

Leighton & Eaton Constantine

www.leightonandeatonconstantineparishcouncil.org.uk

Usually meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of every other month

(ECVH = Eaton Constantine Village Hall; LVH = Leighton Village Hall):

Tuesday 1st March (LVH); Tuesday 3rd May (ECVH); Tuesday 5th July (ECVH);

Tuesday 6th September (ECVH); Tuesday 1st November (LVH)

Wroxeter & Uppington

www.hugofox.com/community/wroxeter-uppington-parish-council-12859/home

Meets at 7:30pm on the second Monday of every other month

UNDER THE WREKIN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2022

Tuesday 1st – 7.30pm - Leighton & Eaton Constantine WI Beetle Drive - Eaton Constantine Village Hall - entry fee: £2.00 including light refreshments. Prize for the winning team. For further information, contact Sandra on 01952 510535 or email sandrasayfritz@icloud.com or Merle at merleburr@gmail.com

Monday 7th - 10.00am - Midday - Coffee Morning - Eaton Constantine Village Hall

Wednesday 9th – 2.00 - 4.00pm – Come and Join Us – Eaton Constantine Village Hall - all welcome. Call Chris Tough on 01952 510530

Saturday 19th - 10.00 - 11.00am - Book Swap / Borrow / Buy Drop-in - Eaton Constantine Village Hall - all welcome

April 2022

Tuesday 5th – 7.30pm - Talk: The History of The Mill at Leighton - Leighton Village Hall - Mark Thorn will be talking about the history of The Mill and how it became a community venture.

May 2022

Wednesday 11th – 10.30am - Berrington League of Friends Coffee Morning - at Wroxeter and Uppington Cricket Club - cakes, jams, chutneys and plants. Raffle.

June 2022

Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - watch this space and see article elsewhere in this edition for details of national events and local events being planned in our villages

November 2022

Saturday 5th – Leighton Ball at Morrells Wood Farm



For details of events at The Mill at Leighton for February & March 2022, see page 11

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UNDER THE WREKIN DISTRIBUTION

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I would also like to give a big thank you to all the distributors of the magazine. I know it is only six times a year, but they do it on a voluntary basis, all year round. It could be snow, rain, wind or sunshine and they never complain.

Have you ever wondered how the Under The Wrekin arrives on your doorstep?

- The editors do a wonderful job and send the information to the printers.
- I then receive a phone call when they are ready to be collected.
- I collect 600 (at present) copies of the magazine and then my job starts.
- I sort them into 25 parcels, one for each distributor.
- I then deliver to 4 main people, who do door to door deliveries and distribute to 11 other distributors. I also deliver to 10 other door to door distributors.

The magazines are delivered to, hopefully, all homes in Longwood, Leighton, Buildwas and Buildwas Caravan Park, Eaton Constantine, Charlton Hill, Wroxeter, Garmston, Rushton, Uppington, Aston, and some to Cressage shop. If you know of anyone who doesn't receive UTW please let me know.

Also they go to France, Canada, Wolverhampton, Bridgnorth, and Much Wenlock. It would be interesting to know if you post a copy to anyone. We could see how far and wide the magazine travels.

When delivering the magazines I have made many new friends. It takes a varied time to deliver and if people are at home we have to have a chat!

In all the years I have been doing this things have worked well. If people are out I know where I can leave the magazines. This did not work recently as I left a parcel and before the distributor arrived home, someone had taken the parcel. Imagine their shock when they found they had stolen 32 Under The Wrekin magazines. We never found them so had more printed.

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and find the information in it useful.

Sheila

Sheila Woodfield

Editorial Team note:

Do please email us at underthewrekin@outlook.com to let us know how far your magazine travels! Do you send it to a friend or relative abroad?

If you want to have UTW delivered abroad, please see the details about postal rates on page 4.



Practice News

Dear All,

Happy New Year! Although by the time of reading this, I expect New Year and the Christmas celebrations will feel a long time ago! We would however like to start our first newsletter of the year by thanking you all for the kind and generous gifts and words that we had from so many of you at Christmas. I want to assure you that as a practice we are incredibly grateful and your support means a huge amount to all our team.

As I write this the Omicron variant is taking effect with growing numbers of cases across the country and more locally. Hopefully by now you will have completed your vaccination course in addition to having a Booster. If you have yet to have these, please look at the NHS website or contact 119 where you will be able to access a vaccination. Also, if you are one of the most vulnerable and were advised to have a Third Primary Dose and then a Booster dose, you will need to have a Booster dose 3 months after your third dose. Having your vaccinations reduces your chances of developing severe symptoms from COVID, however we wanted to offer some help and guidance on what to do should you have any signs or symptoms.

If you develop any signs or symptoms or symptoms, in the first instance take a Lateral Flow Test. If this is positive, you should start self isolating. If the Lateral Flow Test is negative, you should arrange a PCR test, which you can do on the government website or by calling 119. You should continue to isolate until you have a PCR test result. At the time of writing this, the current rules are that you should isolate until Day 7, but can stop isolating after day 7 if you no longer have symptoms and have negative Lateral Flow Tests on Day 6 and 7.

For further details on symptoms, treatments or testing, please visit the government website which has lots of useful information:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

We are aware that things have been difficult with the dispensary over the past month or so and have done our best in terms of communications throughout. We have a team now in place who are working hard to improve the service we provide and appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Once again, can we take the opportunity to thank you for all the kindness shown over the past few months. It is very much valued by all of our team at the practice and keeps us going through the challenging times.

Wishing you all the best for 2022

**From Dr Jess Harvey,
on Behalf of All at Much Wenlock and Cressage Medical Practice**



Events

*Local draft as at 17/1/22,
final schedule to be published
in April / May UTW*

Jubilee Day	National Event	UTW Event	Venue	Organisation
Thursday 2nd June	The Queen's Birthday Parade			
	Platinum Jubilee Beacons	Beacon on the Wrekin	The Wrekin	Telford & Wrekin Council
Friday 3rd June	Service of Thanksgiving			
		Local Services of Thanksgiving	Various local churches	Wrockwardine Deanery
		Wrekin Summer Festival including 'Down Memory Lane' (see Leighton Village Hall news for more detailed information)	Leighton	Leighton Village Hall
Saturday 4th June	The Derby at Epsom Downs			
	Platinum Party at the Palace			
		Vintage Afternoon Tea including 'Down Memory Lane'	Eaton Constantine	Eaton Constantine Village Hall
		Saturday Night Live Music – Soul Agenda	Leighton	The Mill
Sunday 5th June	The Big Jubilee Lunch			
		BBQ	Leighton	The Mill
		Local Village Street Parties <i>Photos requested for posterity</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>

Important information about your recycling service

You can now order a new bin to replace your black recycling boxes.

The new bin – which is optional – will make it easier for you to recycle your plastic, cans and glass. But it is not for paper and cardboard, please continue to use your blue sack for these materials.

The bin which will have a purple lid is being introduced following requests from residents and will help us all to recycle more.



How to order your new bin

Visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste

Please only call us if you cannot access the online request form as we anticipate that our phone lines will be very busy.

The number to call is 0345 678 9007.

When will I get my new bin?

Deliveries will start from **Spring** and will gradually be rolled out across the county over a number of months.

What do I do with my black boxes?

Please keep them – Veolia's collection crews will collect the mixed recycling from both boxes and bins.

Use them for other purposes - for example for storage or planters for the garden. Be imaginative with them!

If you don't want to hang onto your black boxes, please return them to your nearest Household Recycling Centre to be recycled.

Thanks for recycling



To find out more information about recycling please visit:

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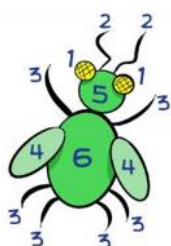
LEIGHTON & EATON CONSTANTINE WI

Are you interested in joining the WI, we would love to meet you..

The ladies of Leighton & Eaton Constantine WI would very much welcome new members to join the group.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm, except for the months of February and August, when we have our annual Birthday Party and Outing.

The venue for our meetings alternates between the village halls at Leighton and Eaton Constantine, our next meeting is on Tuesday 1 March @ 7:30pm at Eaton Constantine Village Hall, Eaton Constantine, SY5 6RG



During the evening, we will be holding a Beetle Drive – which are always great fun! There will be a prize for the winning team. If you would like to come and join us, even if it is just for the Beetle Drive, you will be extremely welcome. We will of course be following any necessary guidelines for Covid-19. Entry fee is £2:00 which also includes light refreshments.



Coming up....

On Tuesday 5 April at 7:00pm in Leighton Village Hall, SY5 6RN, we will be welcoming Mark Thorn, who will be talking about the history of The Mill and the story of how it became to be a local community venture.

If you would like any further information, please contact **Sandra on 01952 510535**, email: sandrasayfritz@icloud.com or Merle: merleburr@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you.

WHAT A TREE CAN DO FOR YOU

Trees can help prevent you getting depressed. At least, you are less likely to be on antidepressants if you live on a tree-lined street.

That is the finding of a survey by the Forestry Commission, which looked for the first time at the mental health value of our forests and woodlands. Apparently, they save the NHS something like £185million in antidepressants each year.

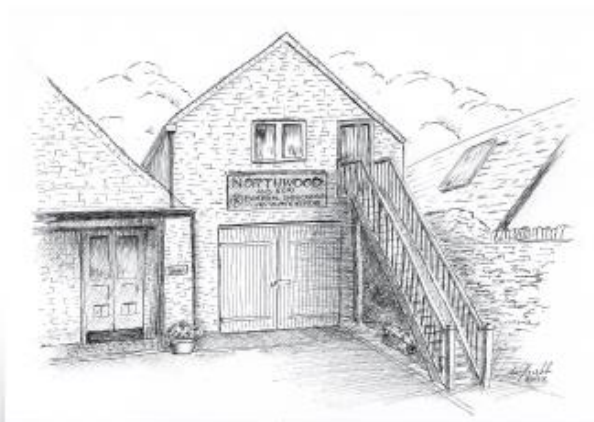
A spokesman at Mind, the mental health charity, said: “Although many of us feel like hibernating in winter, getting outside in green spaces and making the most of the little daylight we get can really benefit both your physical and mental health.”

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SAVING THE PLANET

via Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

Start in the KITCHEN

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gases are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Don't forget the BATHROOM

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath. Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive – it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

MR. B'S BUSY BEA

For a couple of years, around ten years ago, I was privileged enough to work for a lovely primary school called Apley Wood Primary School in Apley Telford, close to the Princess Royal Hospital. The classes I taught were both year three, one class following the other. As I was the only male teacher there at the time and children aged seven found saying my surname (Bradshaw) a bit difficult, it somehow got shortened to Mr. B. That was okay by me.

My youngest son, at the time around nine or ten, got a little gift toy in his happy meal which was a fluffy bee. He thought it a bit girly so discarded it; I took it to school with an idea. The child that had achieved to the best of their ability could take Busy Bee, as I'd called it, home for the weekend and the class got dubbed Mr. B's Busy Bees. It started with just a mention each Monday as to where the bee had visited, but then, one young lady wrote a little adventure story.

I have now written ten children's books about a clever collie dog called Barley (Barley's Biscuit) and have published two, they are selling okay. I wanted to write more, and still do, so set about doing a little thinking. I have many memories of primary school teaching and Busy Bee, whom I personified with a name (Busy Bea) jumped to the front of my mind and the stories of Mr. B and Busy Bea's magic flowed. I have written two so far, one called Queen Cloud Bee and the other called Buzz Off. I hope you enjoy the snippets of the first one printed by Under the Wrekin. Please give feedback.

Roy Bradshaw roy.bradshaw456@btinternet.com www.bit.ly/Barley59

MR. B'S BUSY BEA

Queen Cloud Bee

by Roy Bradshaw

NOW THEN...

my name is Mr. B. and I don't like being called 'Sir.' The teacher said, using a strong authoritative voice. The classroom went as quiet as a library. 'Good morning and welcome back to our lovely school, I do hope you've all had a wonderful summer holiday.' Mr. B. got up from his chair and walked to the front of his desk. 'Now it's time for some more deep and thorough learning.' The class of sixteen boys and fourteen girls, all aged seven, closed their lips together and said nothing. Mr. B. had a reputation around the school and everybody knew, except for one.

The classroom used by Mr. B. for the last ten years was freshly decorated. Not with pretty wallpaper, no, it was decorated with posters of information, hints, guides and

tips to do with all the topics he was going to teach that year. One thing never changed however, and that had pride of place dangling from the ceiling next to his teacher desk. ‘Before we start,’ Mr. B. said, ‘I want to draw your attention to this...’ Mr. B. gently grabbed what had been dangling on a piece of string from the ceiling next to him for the last ten years in that particular classroom, half-way up the corridor and on the left, of Alley-Wood Primary School.

Nobody really knew much about the item in his hand, but he could have had it even longer at other schools, perhaps much longer, Mr. B. raised his eyebrows and nodded slightly. ‘Busy Bea is her name. That’s B-E-A and not B-E-E, although she is a bee. She used to be much fluffier at one time,’ he said, using a low affectionate voice. Mr. B’s dark brown eyes jiggled around a bit in their sockets following the contours of the soft toy’s shape with absolute admiration. ‘The magic has worn her down a bit,’ he said, almost whispering. Mr. B. drew a finger across the dark grey and pale yellow, almost white hoops making up Busy Bea’s body, remembering with some joy, the pitch black and vivid yellow they used to be.



All of this year’s class knew about Mr. B’s magic toy bee. That is, all of them except for one, a girl called Elin Heath. Elin’s family had recently moved to the area, so she had only just joined the school. Other kids that had preceded this year’s class had passed down all sorts of weird and wonderful stories concerning Mr. B’s Busy Bea. Elin’s clear blue eyes fixed onto Mr. B’s eyes. His were looking towards the ceiling and slightly glossed over, as old, mostly happy, memories ran through his mind. Elin felt sad, she could tell somewhere deep down in her belly that Mr. B. loved this little fluffy toy.

Mr. B. looked at the class, his eyes seemed to knowingly sweep across all the children's eyes in the class and stop at Elin’s. ‘Ah, a new girl to the school,’ he said. ‘Welcome, yes welcome indeed, I know you’ll enjoy the magic of our school and especially this class.’ Elin’s eyes widened and an embarrassed grin crept across her face. Mr. B’s Busy Bea turned in his hand, apparently all by itself. A red eyelid slowly closed over one of Busy Bea’s jet black eyes. Elin didn’t know at the time, but no-one else in the class could see the wink... except for Mr. B. of course.

FRAUD UPDATE FROM WEST MERCIA POLICE - ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT - 4 JANUARY 2022

Share Sale and Investment Fraud

Fraudulent Share sales - This involves bogus stockbrokers, usually based overseas, cold calling people to pressure them into buying shares that promise high returns. In reality, the shares are either worthless or non-existent.

What is Financial Investments fraud?

There are many different types of investment fraud. They usually involve criminals contacting people out of the blue and convincing them to invest in schemes or products that are worthless or do not exist. Once the criminals have received payment, they cease contact with the victim.

How to protect yourself from Financial Investment fraud:

Investment opportunities: Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into investing on the spot.

Seek advice first: Before making significant financial decisions, speak with trusted friends or family members, or seek professional independent advice.

FCA register: Use the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

For more information about how to invest safely,
please visit: [fca.org.uk/scamsmart](https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)

What to do if you've been a victim of Financial Investment fraud:

You could be targeted again: Fraudsters sometimes re-establish contact with previous victims claiming that they can help them recover lost money, this is just a secondary scam. Hang up on any callers that claim they can get your money back for you.

Identity theft: If you suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit rating quickly and easily online. You should do this every few months anyway, using a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.

Legal advice: In many cases of fraud there is a close correlation between what may be

considered fraud, and the civil tort of deceit and/or breach of contract, for which there are civil litigation options. You should always seek professional legal advice or contact Citizens Advice to understand your options.

You can also contact the Financial Conduct Authority's consumer helpline on 0800 111 6768 or report suspicious businesses or individuals by using the reporting form on its website.

Useful links:

Citizens Advice: citizensadvice.org.uk/

Financial Conduct Authority (FCA): fca.org.uk

Source: Action Fraud

STOP: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE: Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

For further information visit:
www.actionfraud.police.uk
www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

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THE MUSIC YOU LOVE BEST – AND WHEN YOU LOVE IT

If you enjoy listening to music, ever notice how the kind of music that you like changes throughout the day? According to research published in the journal Royal Society Open Science, our tastes over just one day will vary in preference to a perceived tempo, loudness, bounciness, and danceability.

In late morning, we tend to go for loudness and energy in our music. By afternoon, the tempo begins to increase, and the beat and danceability also increase.

The highest tempo is preferred in the evening, between 8pm and 11pm. After that, we tend to prefer softer, slower music. But by 4am, the picture is muddled, as “the handful of people awake at this hour are often up to very different activities.”

According to a scientist at Aarhus University in Denmark, it all seems to point “to there being a circadian rhythm, even in our preference for music.”



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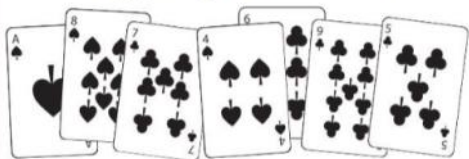
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Games Afternoon

Dee and Keith Jaynes from Buildwas would like to invite you to join them every Thursday afternoon, at The Mill at Leighton, from 2.00pm until 4.30pm.

Open to all ages, it's a chance to meet new people and catch up with friends, whilst playing favourites like Scrabble, cards and dominos.

To find out more, contact Dee on 07811 028251 or email deejaynes@btinternet.com



Buildwas Church



Having a clear out?

Good quality clothes and household items wanted for our church jumble sales to raise funds for our Buildwas Church 300 Restoration Project.

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“THERE’S A STICKER YOU CAN GET FOR THAT”!

Having been born and bred in London, I am still discovering new things about life in a rural setting.

I watch nervously as squirrels jump from tree to tree on very thin branches not expecting them to make it across safely, and yet they always do. I see how they have come so close to the house helping themselves to apples left on a bowl on the garden table. It has been fascinating just watching them, earlier today, I watched a small squirrel landing on top of a pile of apples, looking around and managing to pick up an apple and run away with it – it made better viewing than anything on TV!!



I see so many more types of birds - previously I was only ever aware of pigeons and sparrows, However, there was once an exciting time when a golden eagle escaped from London Zoo and was sighted quite near to where we lived.

One of the things that seemed to happen quite regularly, which was very worrying and nerve-racking, was how often birds have flown into the window with a loud thud making us jump. We often walked into the front room to see what can only be described like a crime scene, with perfect outlines of 2 wings left imprinted on the window. When I mentioned this to someone, I was told that you can buy some beautiful stickers to put on the offending windows, with pictures of butterflies etc., in order to protect the birds, as they see the images and fly past instead of straight into the glass. Whilst waiting to order some I put an ornamental cross on the window and this seems to have worked.

This has left me reflecting on the importance of protecting the wild life around us, leaving them natural habitats and remembering our responsibility as stewards of God’s beautiful creation.

The cross on the window also being a reminder of God’s love for us in Jesus.

Blessings

Chris Tough
Associate Minister, Wrockwardine Deanery

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LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Leighton Village Hall is open and available for use. Whilst there may be a number of measures that must be adhered to when using the Hall, as required by Government guidance, we would welcome your enquiries about using the Hall.

Whilst our committee is currently working on our programme for 2022, we can confirm our intention to run The Wrekin Summer Festival at Leighton Village Hall on Friday 3rd June – please see our poster.

The Wrekin Summer Festival will build on the success of our previous Beer and Cider Festivals, but because this year will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we wanted to integrate our 2022 Festival into the overall celebrations. Whilst we will still have food and drink, as well as local musical talent and a headline act, we also want to focus on our local communities too. So we are currently considering opening up the event to include stalls for local produce and skills, possibly some competitions, as well as a “gang show” type of show of local talent!



We anticipate starting about 2pm and running until 9pm.

UPDATE ON THE HALL

Whilst it has been challenging during Covid, especially the lockdowns, your village hall committee has been working hard on making improvements to the Hall. First, we unfortunately found that the floor of the Hall had woodworm, so have had to have that treated. We've also had to make repairs and improvements to the roof, which was showing signs of age. In addition, the heating and electrics in the Hall were proving unreliable, so we have had a new set of heaters installed and the electrics overhauled. Finally, we have also had a defibrillator installed.

All of this has cost a considerable amount of money, but we would particularly like to thank the 100 Club for their efforts and contribution. We hope you are pleased with these improvements.

CONTACT AND MORE INFORMATION

Please note that we have discontinued our website due to technical issues. For now please contact us via LVH55@outlook.com

Leighton Village Hall Committee
January 2022

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GLOW WORMS

Are there still glow worms 'Under the Wrekin'?

Writing about slow worms for the last edition reminded me of another worm that's not a worm, the glow worm. I wonder when and where you last saw the mysterious and magical glow of this beetle.

There were glow worms in Buildwas until relatively recently. Until twenty years ago walkers were delighted by their twinkling alongside the hedgerows of Saplings Lane. Some years earlier they were plentiful along the main road from the church to the school. This population disappeared around thirty years ago. Certainly the latter was the perfect habitat, crevices in the limestone wall full of snails, and, importantly, no street lights or security lights.

Facts - From Buglife - saving the small things that run the planet

'The male glow-worm looks like an ordinary beetle with hard wing cases; however, the flightless female has flattened body sections and no wings at all. The female is larger than the male and she can produce a bright greenish-yellow glow from the underside of the last two sections of her body. This glow is caused by a chemical reaction within the beetle and it is used to attract a mate. It's not unusual to find several male glow-worms trying to mate with the same female! The females glow for several hours at a time as soon as it gets dark but switch off their glow once they have mated.'

Of course, this has contributed to the glow worms' problems, how can the male spot a female's glow in a blaze of electric light? Maybe their demise coincided with the security lighting at the power station installed during the miners' strike; or the bright orange security lights at the school; maybe gritting and salt spraying from the road made the verge less hospitable to snails and thus to glow worms. Whatever the reasons, as far as I know, we no longer have this particular beetle in Buildwas.

I would love to hear of other people's experiences, or sightings of this now rare creature.

Jill Grainger, Buildwas



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There are services each Sunday (except if there is a fifth Sunday in the month when parishes join together for joint services).

At Holy Trinity, Buildwas, services take place each Sunday afternoon at 3pm. Services in church include Evening Worship on the first and third Sundays and Holy Communion on the second Sunday. On the fourth Sunday, worship takes place in the Village Hall.

St Mary's Church, Eaton Constantine holds Morning Worship on the first and fourth Sundays at 9.30am, Family Worship on the second Sunday at 11am and a Holy Communion service at 9.30am on the third Sunday.

St Mary's Church in Leighton has Holy Communion on the first Sunday at 11am, Family Worship on the Second Sunday at 9.30am, Morning Worship on the third Sunday at 11am and Evening Worship on the fourth Sunday at 6.30pm.

Holy Trinity Church, Uppington has a service at 9.30am each Sunday. On the first two Sundays they are Morning Worship services. Family Worship is held on the third Sunday and Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday of the month.

On Ash Wednesday 2nd March, the first day of Lent, there will be a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, Leighton beginning at 7pm.

The fourth Sunday in Lent is also Mothering Sunday and the services held on that day (at the usual time) will be Family Worship (Uppington: Family Communion).

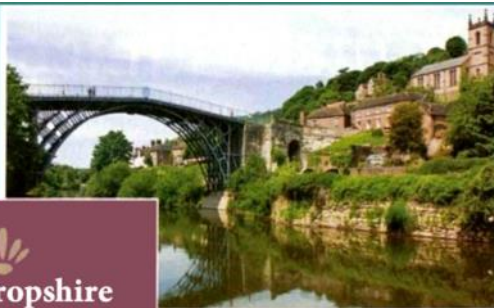
The benefice also offers collective worship using the online meeting platform Zoom. Morning/Evening Prayer is offered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8.30am and 9pm, and on Thursdays at 8.30am only,

To join one of these short periods of worship go to join.zoom.us and enter **meeting ID 882 0988 4611** and when prompted enter the **passcode 207731**. You can also **join by 'phone by calling 0203 051 2874**, entering the same details when prompted.

The benefice also produces a regular Worship Online video - half an hour of songs, readings, prayers and a reflection. This is hosted on the deanery's YouTube channel - search on YouTube for "Wrockwardine Deanery". There are also links on the deanery website and on its FaceBook page.

Please check with the website for information about the twelve parishes in the benefice, including full details of service times.

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100 Club Members 2021-2022



Leighton Village Hall 100 Club

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4	Ann Maclean	Ketley Grange
5	Susan Mansell	Leighton
6	Margaret McGregor	Leighton
7	Linda Preston	Eaton Constantine
8	Merle Burr	Much Wenlock
9	Chris Freshman	Telford
10	Ray Owen	Garmston
11	Andrew Davies	Upper Longwood
12	Viv Myatt	Admaston
13	Lisa Woodward	Leighton
14	Alan Bain	Garmston
15	Jean Harper	Leighton
16	Mary Huxley	Leighton
17	Christine Cowley	Garmston
18	Jean McCallum	Leighton
19	Caroline Gooder	Leighton
20	Betty Bolton	Garmston
21	Jason Mansell	Leighton
22	Steve Scurr	Leighton
23	Sheena Muldowney	Telford
24	Chris Freshman	Telford
25	John Butler	Leighton
26	Tricia Wilson	Broseley
27	Diane Thornton	Leighton
28	Barbara Atha	Leighton
29	Paul Hancock	Leighton
30	Alan McGregor	Leighton
31	Jane Houston	Little Dawley
32	Derek Harper	Leighton
33	Thomas Houston	Little Dawley
34	Joan Williams	Leighton
35	Mandy Thorn	Leighton
36	Elizabeth Dreeling	Cressage
37	Susan Jones	Leighton
38	Dave Elliott	Leighton
39	Christine Bain	Garmston
40	Mary Dixon	Cressage
41	Heidi Blackham	Leighton
42	Jean Walker	Leighton
43	Alan Burr	Much Wenlock
44	Derrick Blackham	Leighton
45	Tricia Evans	Garmston
46	Ian Parton	Leighton
47	Michael Gooder	Leighton
48	Lynn Wood	Homer
49	Julia Bright	Garmston
50	Karen Perry	Stirchley
51	Judy Astley	Garmston
52	Peter Jones	Leighton
53	Barbara Pearce	Wroxeter
54	Peter Davies	Upper Longwood
55	Liz Jordan	Garmston

56	Rosemary Corfield	Leighton
57	Mandy Thorn	Leighton
58	Margaret Davies	Upper Longwood
59	Rob Elliott	Leighton
60	Chris Probert	Leighton
61	Karen Ordridge	Garmston
62	Jean McCallum	Leighton
63	George Gooder	Much Wenlock
64	David Evans	Garmston
65	Webdy Whittaker	Leighton
66	Ken Allen	Much Wenlock
67	Sue Harper	Leighton
68	Pauline Brown	Garmston
69	Richard Mills	Leighton
70	Cecily Butler	Leighton
71	Ron Atha	Leighton
72	Ian Perry	Stirchley
73	Martin Corfield	Leighton
74	Jim Corfield	Leighton
75	Barbara Stokes	Garmston
76	Martin Brown	Leighton
77	Erin Gooder	Leighton
78	Brian Wilson	Broseley
79	William Beck	Leighton
80	Sean Jordan	Garmston
81	Chris Probert	Leighton
82	Norman Rudd	Richmond
83	Christine Batchelor	Garmston
84	Paul Comaish	Leighton
85	Christine Bolton	Garmston
86	Mervyn Dixon	Cressage
87	Alice Grieve	Leighton
88	Chris Freshman	Telford
89	Elaine Parton	Leighton
90	Jean Walters	Leighton
91	Lisa Woodward	Leighton
92	Lindsey Perry	Leighton
93	Carol Conway	Garmston
94	Sarah Corrie	Leighton
95	Theresa Withington	Leighton
96	Mitchell Cowley	Garmston
97	Helen Scurr	Leighton
98	Elie Elliott	Leighton
99	John Maclean	Leighton
100	Kyle Perry	Telford
101	Steven Batchelor	Garmston
102	Chris Freshman	Telford
103	Sarah Corrie	Leighton
104	Peter Mills	Leighton
105	Phil Connolly	Garmston
106	Elizabeth Dreeling	Cressage
107	Mary Huxley	Leighton
108	Shelagh Allen	Much Wenlock
109	Ben Muldowney	Telford

Leighton Village Hall
Leighton, Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY5 6RN

LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB

Hello and Happy New Year to you all. Apologies for not updating you on the 100 Club numbers you have been allocated and the winners so far from the start of the 100 club year.

Opposite is a list of those who have kindly rejoined the 100 Club again and welcome to those who have recently joined. Below is a list of winners so far including the bonus prize for Christmas draw.

Good luck for future draws.

Regards

Elaine Parton

Chairman of Leighton Village Hall 100 Club



100 Club Monthly Draws 2021-22

September	1st	£30	Mary Dixon	Cressage
	2nd	£20	Chris Probert	Leighton
October	1st	£30	Derek Harper	Leighton
	2nd	£20	Sarah Corrie	Leighton
November	1st	£30	Lindsey Perry	Leighton
	2nd	£20	Christine Cowley	Garmston
December	1st	£30	Helen Scurr	Leighton
	2nd	£20	Alan Bain	Garmston
Christmas	1st	£50	Sean Jordan	Garmston



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Whitchurch office: 45 Green End, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AD01948 663361

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WROXETER AND UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Brian Nelson

01743 761447

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Morris

07762 320664

wroxeteruppingtonpc@gmail.com

We held our first meeting of the year on 10th January and the issues discussed are summarised here.

Budget. We have set our budget for the 2022/23 year. With our precept (funding from residents), we will continue to fund mowing of the verges to improve visibility at two of the crossroads within the Parish and will insure and maintain the playground equipment at Uppington.

Road signage. We have carried out an audit of missing and faded signage along the B4380 and have reported these to the relevant team at Shropshire Council.

Norton crossroads. At our previous meeting, we noted concerns about flooding on the road at Norton crossroads as well as poor visibility due to overgrown verges. We have worked with Councillor Wild, Shropshire Council, the National Trust and residents to make improvements.

Uppington Play Area. Further to the annual inspection of the play area, we have surveyed the equipment and will make a plan for any necessary repairs and improvements over the year.

Bus shelters. In the December storms, a significant part of the Parish Council-owned bus shelters at Norton crossroads (south) and Bluebells crossroads were blown away. Since there is no bus running on this route anymore, the Parish Council took the decision to not reinstate these bus shelters as it was felt that this would not be a good use of the precept.

We continue to meet in the Wroxeter Vineyard meeting room with a risk assessment to manage the Covid risks. As we have said since returning to in person meetings, if you have an issue to raise with the Parish Council but do not feel comfortable in attending an indoor meeting, please contact the Chair or Clerk who will raise your comments at the meeting on your behalf.

Our next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 14th March 2022.

PARENTS HELPING FIRST TIME BUYERS

The so-called ‘bank of mum and dad’ hit a new high in lending last year. Parents who helped their offspring to buy a first home gave them an average of £58,000. Nationally, that meant that parents loaned out about £9.8 billion, according to the estate agent Savills.

The level of first-time buyers who rely on family funding is now at its highest since 2013.

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Become a Volunteer Master Composter

Garden Organic, in partnership with Veolia & Shropshire Council, are recruiting volunteers to become Master Composters.

Join our network of Shropshire volunteers giving composting advice at events, delivering online composting talks, supporting schools, talking to local groups, and writing tips and articles for social media, blogs and local newspapers.



Would you like to find out more about composting and help pass on the message to others?

- Free compost training—you don't need to be an expert!
- Ongoing volunteer support from Garden Organic and local network of volunteers
- Free Garden Organic Membership, regular newsletters and webinars
- Regular socials and talks concerning environmental issues
- Master Composters generally commit to around 30 hours of volunteering each year

Training is free and covers the basic elements of home composting and related environmental issues.

Training day Saturday 12th March in Shrewsbury

To find out more about joining the scheme or apply online at :

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/vacancies/volunteer-roles-garden-organic>

Or contact Rachel Phillips-Street at Garden Organic

E: rphillips-street@gardenorganic.org.uk or T: 07584 343 846

www.gardenorganic.org.uk

Garden Organic is the working name of the Henry Doubleday Research Association.
Registered charity in England and Wales (no. 298104) and Scotland (SC046767)





Leighton & Eaton Constantine
PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWS JANUARY 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !

Parish Council Tax Precept

Every January the Parish Council will set its budget for the year. The budget and number of council tax paying properties in the Parish help the Parish Council set its Precept. The Precept is collected by Shropshire Council along with the Council Tax.

The Precept for this year will be £43.53 per year for a Band D property. This is an increase of £10.19 over the year (85p/month). The reasons for the increase are listed below:

Highways Maintenance.

This year we have taken on board resident's communications with us and have agreed to spend more highways maintenance. We will continue to help maintain the vision splays at the Cressage Crossroads and Bennetts Lane on to the B4380 which we took on last year and we hope to also tidy up some of the areas in Leighton which we have received complaints about. This will not only help with road safety as it gives motorists better vision, but also looks cared for. We hope you agree and hope you will see improvements though the year. Your comments would be very welcome: leparishcouncil@gmail.com

Traffic Calming

We are due to get substantial Traffic Calming Measures in Leighton in the next few years from Shropshire Council and the developers of the former Power Station site in Ironbridge, Harworth plc. However, we have also had complaints this year about speeding traffic in Garmston. We recently asked residents to comment on this as we as a Parish would most likely have to pay for any measures. We have had several replies asking for some sort of traffic calming. We will consult on this later in the year and look at funding for some measures. Thank you to everyone who responded.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This is a very special year for the whole country. We are excited to be part of the celebrations which will take place from 2nd to the 5th June weekend. Please see

the report from the Jubilee Committee about events being planned. We have earmarked some money to help with community projects and events this year.

SMARTWATER - Home Security system

We still have several packs of SmartWater for residents in our Parish. It is a really good security aid and is free to all residents in our Parish to mark their valuable items. If you have not yet picked up a pack please get in touch and we can arrange for you to receive one: lecparrishcouncil@gmail.com

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors who give up their time freely and work hard on behalf of the Parish Council. Thanks to our clerk, Lorna Pardoe, who works hard on our behalf and gives us valuable guidance! Particular thanks go to our County Councillor Claire Wild who has put in an extraordinary effort this year working on our behalf, in particular with getting conditions for the planning application at the former Ironbridge Power Station. Thank you Claire!

Sue Jones (Chair)

For details of our meetings visit our website:

www.leightonandeatonconstantineparishcouncil.org.uk



New West Mercia Police Neighbourhood Matters alert service

Our local West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team attended a recent Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council meetings. They invited anyone in our community who wants to keep in touch with local policing teams to sign up to their free Neighbourhood matters initiative online at neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what they are doing in our community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, they assure us that they won't bombard us with every incident. You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

UTW Editorial Team note: We have signed up the UTW magazine to the alert service and will publish any relevant, local alerts in future editions of the magazine.

However, some alerts may be time sensitive or urgent, so we'd encourage you to sign up to the service individually so you don't miss anything!

Local Directory

Emergency services (Police / Fire / Ambulance)	Life-threatening emergencies: 999 Urgent police: 101 Urgent medical: 111 or 111.nhs.uk Police: www.westmercia.police.uk
Deanery website	www.wrockwardinedeanery.org.uk To find your nearest church, visit: www.achurchnearyou.com
Team Rector and Rural Dean	Rev Andy Ackroyd revandy320@btinternet.com 01952 252078
Associate Minister	Rev Chris Tough Christine.v.tough@gmail.com 01952 510530
Leighton and Eaton Constantine Parish Council Clerk	Lorna Pardoe 01743 718695 leparishcouncil@gmail.com www.leightonandeatonconstantineparishcouncil.org.uk
Wroxeter and Uppington Parish Council Clerk	Sarah Morris 07762 320664 wroxeteruppingtonpc@gmail.com www.hugofox.com/community/wroxeter-uppington-parish-council-12859
Buildwas Parish Council Clerk	Connor Furnival 07948 324085 buildwaspc@yahoo.co.uk www.buildwasparishcouncil.org.uk
Buildwas Primary Academy	Headteacher: Steven Tilley 01952 387827 Steven.Tilley@taw.org.uk www.buildwasacademy.com
County Councillor Severn Valley	Claire Wild 07582 002100 claire.wild@shropshire.gov.uk
Christ Church School, Cressage	Headteacher: Tracey Cansdale 01952 510383 admin@christchurch.shropshire.sch.uk www.christchurchcressage.co.uk
Much Wenlock & Cressage Medical Practice	Clifton Lodge, Sheinton Road, Cressage, Shrewsbury, SY5 6DH 01952 726011 www.muchwenlockandcressagemp.co.uk