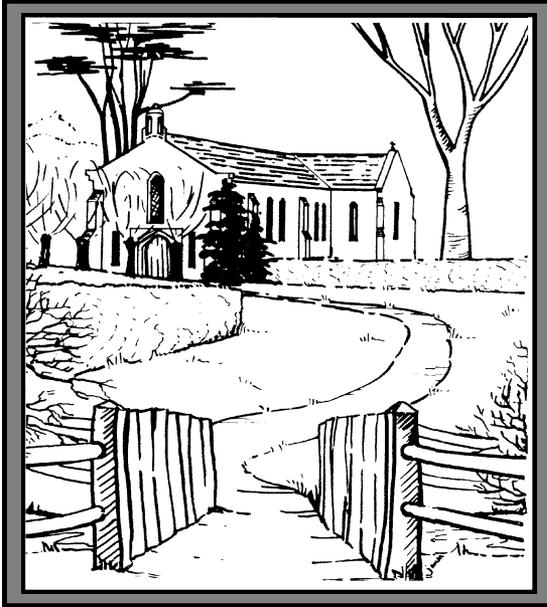


The Bridge



**Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine**

May 2021

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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins editorofthebridge@gmail.com

WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

It is with great sadness I have to inform you two of our members passed away recently. Joy Stokes on Sunday 11th April and Primrose Wright on Tuesday 13th April.

Both Prim & Joy were two valued members of Ladies Group. Prim was there at the start of the group 50 years ago then named 'Young Wives'. As the years went by, the Young Wives reached a certain age and it was decided to change the name to 'Ladies Group'. In the early days Prim was instrumental in putting on shows and pantomimes in the village hall, with the help of some members who are still in our group today: Pat Barton, June Mason and Lorna Phillips; each performance a sellout. Prim, as many know, was known as the 'Pam Ayres of Worton'. She was so talented every occasion prompted a new poem.

Joy joined Ladies Group when she moved to the village. She was an enthusiastic member, full of energy, always ready to help when Ladies Group were involved with Jumble Sales, Christmas Bazaars etc., and you could always rely on Joy to produce a cake.

Our village has lost two special ladies who have given so much over the years to this village. They will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with Keith and Nick.

Pam Woods

Annual Subscription

The distributors of The Bridge will be collecting the annual subscription when they hand out the June edition of the magazine. As we all use much less cash than we used to, please can you set aside £3 in advance so that it is ready for them.

Many thanks.

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SERVICE CALENDAR for MAY 2021

Sun 30th May TRINITY SUNDAY

10.00am CHRIST CHURCH
Holy Communion

We will be strictly adhering to covid regulations and there will be no singing. Please wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. If you are shielding, vulnerable or anxious about the risk of covid, please do not attend. Booking is essential for this service. Email sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com or contact either of the churchwardens to reserve a space. This service will also be available on zoom using the usual Wellsprings Benefice link.

There were no weddings, baptisms or funerals
at Christ Church during March.

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk
for service updates

Christ Church Team

Rector: Rev'd Ali Bridewell
01380 739064 07847 952868
alison.bridewell@gmail.com

Churchwardens: Jean Lane 01380 722069
Heather Walker 01380 725785



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Pastoral Letter

Happy Eastertide from your local church!



I love Easter, quite possibly even more than Christmas! I love the light, the long-awaited revealing of new life and the message of hope that Easter brings.

The Christian community has been marking and celebrating Easter for over 2,000 years but that doesn't mean that the church hasn't changed and adapted during that time. The basics of everyone being valued and transformed by a loving God, the God that we got to know first-hand through the life of Jesus hasn't changed. That is why some of us gather each Sunday to "Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)

How we 'go about' church though has changed over the

years, maybe not quite at the speed of Google or Apple but we do and have changed. We are at a point in history where we are reevaluating what we do and how we do it. This is nothing new as we only need to look back to see how the church was involved in establishing the education, legal and health systems in the UK. And more recently we quietly led the way for some of the Covid community support work.

The church is different to almost all other organisations. We have been present in each one of our five villages for a very very long time. Take a look – St Mary's at Potterne is 800 years old and Christ Church at Worton & Marston is 180 years old! This '*perseverance of presence*' has placed our Parish Churches at the heart of the English landscape, enabled Christian fellowship and provided a focal point for the spiritual heart for the community.

We would like our churches to be here in another 800 years, but we can only achieve that if we understand your attitude towards your local church building and church community.

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This understanding will help us to stay relevant to the village community and to better meet your needs in 2021 and on into the future.

In this month's magazine there is a quick and simple questionnaire to help us get a better understanding of your views. If you complete the questionnaire by 5:00pm on Friday 29th May we will enter you into a prize draw to win a £20 M&S voucher (enough to buy a nice bottle of bubbly or 6 packets of Percy Pigs!)

There are no right or wrong answers, but we would very much appreciate your complete honesty and frankness. We are particularly keen to hear from younger people during this survey.

If you would prefer to send us an email or write a letter with your thoughts, rather than complete the questionnaire, then please feel free to do that instead. If you would prefer that your completed questionnaire is collected, please contact one of your local churchwardens, who will arrange this. You can also get further copies of this questionnaire by emailing sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com

We are deeply committed to our village communities. We now need to understand your views, whether a churchgoer or not.

Rev Adrian, Wellsprings Family of Churches

From Christ Church:

It was good to be in Christ Church again on Easter Day, following other services on-line through Holy week, a Tenebrae service at Seend and a Sunrise service at Bulkington. The decorated cross by the Village Hall over the Easter weekend was appreciated by many.

Still being aware of safety of all, Christ Church will be holding some services through the next few months, increasing towards late summer as restrictions are eased. Church is now open every Sunday for private prayer from 10.00am - 5.00pm.

Please continue to pray for Rev Ali, Stu and family, and the families who have lost loved ones in our villages over the last few weeks.

Heather & Jean, Churchwardens

FIVE LANES WI

At the first Committee Meeting to be held in person for a year, we spent a quiet moment remembering Joy Stokes, who was a loved and valued member, and died very recently.

On a happier note we also spoke of another member, Babs Stockwell, who celebrated her 90th birthday in March. She has also chalked up 60 years of WI membership! Well done, Babs.

The Committee had prepared Easter gift bags for all the members, and delivered them round the villages. They contained beautifully crafted cards, a felt heart, a brownie, Fair Trade chocolate eggs and home-made Easter biscuits and were very well received.

The gradual easing of restrictions will not be in time for us to hold a May meeting, but we plan, in June, to have a garden meeting as the numbers that can meet outside will have gone up by then.

Sarah Devine has kindly offered her garden at no 1 Cedar Close on June 8th at 6:30pm. Please bring your own glass and plate and light refreshments will be served.

We hope that will be a turning point and that it will not be too long before we can meet again in the Village Hall. A good number of members have rejoined and we have had interest shown by several potential new ladies.

Don't hesitate to give me a call if you are interested in joining us.

Jean Lane 722069



Obituary

Joyce (Joy) Stokes



It is with great sadness that we confirm that our dearly beloved Wife, Mum and Nannie, Joy, passed away on Sunday April 11th, aged just 69, after a short battle with a very aggressive cancer. Joy was a very popular and involved member of the local community and she will be sadly missed by all.

Joy, and her husband Nick, moved into Worton in November 2012 when Nick retired. Joy spent a lifetime as a highly respected teacher, including 7 years teaching PE in the 1980s at the then George Ward School in Melksham when they lived in Seend. Joy deliberately chose to return to the area as she loved it so much to enjoy their well-earned retirement together, and along with their golden

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retrievers (firstly Flynn before his early death, and latterly Bailey), they quickly became heavily involved with the village despite them both enduring periods of ill-health.

Joy's first thought in life was always to help others rather than herself, and she threw herself into village life, exhausting her friends with her commitment and energy. She always operated at 100mph, multi-tasking with great skill and being famous for her lists of 'things to do'. She was a very active member of the WI, the Ladies Group and the Gardening Club, a committed supporter of the church, the village hall and the pub, whilst also devoting many hours to playing golf at North Wilts Golf Club where she had many friends.

Joy will be best remembered in the village for her involvement with the Church's 175th anniversary celebrations in the summer of 2016. She organised all the church displays, including the village history over the years either side of the aisle and an exhibition of wedding and christening dresses (shown below) around the altar. Together with the Open Gardens, led by her husband, the weekend raised significant funds for the church and Dorothy House.

Joy will be sadly missed in the village. Right to the end, she was always the first to volunteer to help to organise events, provide refreshments, man stalls, seek fundraising and come up with ideas. She was first to design and make her own masks for charity with the initial lockdown and the display of hearts produced for her by the village ladies recently (pictured with the funeral arrangements) was a fitting tribute to her own skills.

We would like to thank the residents of Worton and Marston for all the support we have received over the past three difficult months. Nick has had countless offers of dog walking and caring for Joy, and has been amazed by the generosity and help he has encountered. Our thanks to you all.

The Stokes family

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Summer 2016 display - Church's 175th anniversary celebrations



Funeral Arrangements for Thursday 29th April

Joyce Stokes

It is very clear from the large number of cards and messages that we have received that there are many people who would have attended Joy's funeral and cremation which will take place at Christ Church at 1.30pm on Thursday 29th April, followed by committal and blessing at Semington Cemetery.

As you will know, we are sadly limited to 30 people and, therefore, the service will be a private family affair with very limited local participation. Accordingly we have endeavoured to give Joy's many local friends the opportunity to pay their respects by participating in one or more of the following events planned around the funeral:

1. The funeral procession will walk through the car park at North Wilts GC at 12.10pm on April 29th.

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2. A similar procession will take place in Worton along the High Street from Sandlease Court to the church commencing at around 1pm.
3. If possible, a streaming of the church service on Zoom, or a recording which will be available subsequently.
4. Following a short family blessing and burial of Joy's ashes on the morning of Saturday 1st May, the flowers and wreaths will be displayed alongside the burial plaque in the churchyard from 12noon Saturday through to 5pm on Bank Holiday Monday. All are welcome to go along and pay their respects in their own time over the weekend, and the church will also be open for private prayer on Sunday.

The family would welcome donations to Dorothy House in memory of Joy as they provided wonderful support to her in her final days. There will be donation boxes available, or alternatively donations can be made to the funeral directors, AP McDonald at C/O McDonald Funeral Services, tel 01380 698188. They will also be happy to order flowers in advance of the funeral.

The family hopes that there will be an opportunity for a proper service of thanksgiving for Joy's life, together with a party (which she would have loved organising – as she did for our 40th wedding anniversary at the pub) to coincide with what would have been her 70th birthday in late November. Watch this space!

Nick Stokes

Chain of Hearts created for Joy by villagers



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Words from the song 'Missing You' - a personal tribute from Nick to Joy

I've been missing you
 I've got the roses, I've got the wine
 With a little luck she will be here on time
 This is the place we used to go
 With romantic music and the lights down low
 And as you stand there amazed at the door
 And you're wondering what all this is for
 It's just a simple thing from me to you
 The lady that I adore, 'cause there's something
 That you should know, it's that
 I've been missing you, more than words can say
 And that I've been thinking about it every day
 And the time we had just dancing nice and slow
 And I said now I've found you
 I'm never letting go

(Missing you, Chris de Burgh)

Shop online and raise money for Worton & Marston Link Scheme

'Give as you Live Online' is the easy way to shop and raise money for **Worton & Marston Link Scheme**. Simply sign up for an account and start raising when you shop through **'Give as you Live Online'** at any of the 4,500 retail partners including ebay. Just click on the retailer you want to buy from and you'll be directed to their website where you can continue to shop as normal. Your purchase will automatically generate a donation for **Worton & Marston Link Scheme!** From holidays and travel, to clothing and gifts, you can raise hundreds of pounds just by shopping online with **'Give as you Live Online'**.

As I am sure you know by now just ring **Lyn** on **07413912828** if you need any help regarding important transport journeys especially if you are shielding. With the reduction in covid cases perhaps there will be more hospital and doctor appointments available.

Alun Newman



MAY BOOK SWAP



Saturday May 8th

Hoping vaccinations continue apace & road map likewise. Plan to have Book Swap in the garden at **Park Farm House**, 39 High Street, Worton, from 10.00 – 12 noon (hosted by Judy Shercliff)

Saturday June 12th

similarly in the garden at **Westview House**, 109 High Street, Worton, (hosted by Sally Collins)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

It's a shame that no ladies have put in for the PC. We desperately need an alternative version of things that are going on. It looks like we have the same view on where things are going. I would like to say that if anyone has a problem they can contact me personally and I will get back to them as best I can.

Roger Wilshire
rogerldw1950@gmail.com

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Gerald



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*subject to eligibility

Edington Arts

With the Roadmap now unfolding according to plan, wind and brass playing has been given permission to resume in church. Edington Arts is therefore confident that the first concert of their 2021 season, on Saturday June 12th starting at 7.30pm, will go ahead. The excellent international brass quintet Fine Arts Brass will be performing a lively and varied programme of works written or arranged for brass quintet, including by Bach, Piazzolla, Malcom Arnold, de Falla, Rossini and songs from the 1920s. It will be a wonderful evening of actual live music in performance – a first venture back to normal musical life.

The safety of everyone is paramount. Seating in the Priory Church will be socially distanced, meaning that numbers will necessarily be very constrained, and that tickets will be allocated to specific seats. If you would like to come as a group of up to four people, please arrange for a single transaction so that seats may be allocated appropriately. All tickets will need to be paid for and will be issued in advance; regrettably there can be no walk-ups on the day, and even worse, there will be no bar in the interval!

Should there be a glitch in proceedings, Edington Arts will need contact details to communicate any changes of plan as well as fulfilling test and trace requirements, so please be prepared to give your details when you order your tickets. Please either ring Chrissy on 01380 831256 or email sue@edingtonarts.org.

Edington Arts recommends that you buy your tickets as soon as possible (£20/15/10 as usual with 18 and under free). If demand is heavy, a waiting list will be in operation.

Full programme information will be at www.edingtonarts.org as soon as it is confirmed.



Village Hall News

Nothing has actually taken place in the Hall but Trustees continue to review the situation and plan for a time when we can all get back to normal use. At the moment although some groups would be able to resume use, the constraints put on this are such that it makes it almost impossible. It will, however, be used in May for the local elections. We had to have an inspection to see what we had put in place to make the Hall 'Covid-19 Secure' and to allow the electoral officials to work out how they could run a safe election process and they were very pleased with the outcome.

In the meantime, our dishwasher is now installed as is the new, dishwasher safe, crockery. As I explained last time, we managed to obtain a grant from the Lotteries Recovery Fund for both of these. However, the big news this month is that we have finally ordered the new chairs and by the time you read this they should have arrived. They are upholstered with fabric and, for those of you who attend events at the Rose and Crown, they look very like the chairs in the skittle alley. We had obtained a grant from Worton Parish Council and had also earmarked some of the fund raising that we undertook in 2019 for these but put the order on hold when all Village Halls were advised to use plastic chairs for the duration of the pandemic as they would be easier to clean and sanitise. So now we are hoping that when the Hall does re-open the experience will be more comfortable and smarter looking.

As advertised last month, we are holding our AGM on Tuesday April 27th via Zoom. Hopefully some of you will have attended. We have written an annual report which we usually hand out at the meeting and post in the Hall. However, if any of you would like a copy please let me know on 726845 and I will ensure you are sent one. It outlines what we have been doing and what our future plans are.

200 Club - Renewal of tickets for the 200 Club has been very slow. We understand that some people will have been effected by the various lockdowns and restrictions during the last year and may not be able to join this year but if you plan to renew but just haven't got around to it yet then please do get in touch with me (726845). It

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costs £12 a year for a ticket and gives you the chance to win £50 each month. It usually provides the Hall with a good income which goes towards maintenance and improvements and is the only fundraising we can do at present.

Veronica Franklin

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Worton Parish Council

Recent days have been very sad ones, both on a national, local and personal level. It is not my role here to name individuals, and there will doubtless be tributes elsewhere from those much more qualified and skilled than me. Suffice to say, Worton has recently become a poorer and dare I say, duller place to live without the bright lights that have gone out. They cannot be replaced.

So - the last meeting of Worton Parish council as it is currently constituted has come and gone. I would like to take the opportunity to give my thanks and appreciation to the work that all of the councillors have done over the last five years or so.

As I write, it has become clear that there will not be an election as fewer than nine residents have been nominated as candidates. Whilst this is a good thing from the point of view of administrative costs and the continuing hazards linked to COVID, it is perhaps a little disappointing as there has arguably never been a better time to get involved in your local community as we look positively towards a post pandemic Worton.

In fact, although the 'Big' issues may seem to be the drivers of our existence, the pandemic restrictions have made it even clearer that it is the 'small', local issues that really make a difference to our day to day well-being and happiness. Essentially being a parish councillor embodies, to me, what it means to be a good neighbour. With this in mind, we will soon be in need of two new councillors to complete the team. Being a parish councillor in Worton does not involve political allegiance, though I, for one, have been tempted by the lure of the relative sanity of the Monster Raving Loony Party over the last year! Whilst we don't agree all of the time, and hail from a variety of backgrounds and locations, including I'm pleased to say, Worton, we have always worked well as a team where the variety of skills available has helped, even if in a small way, to keep our village life ticking over and make Worton the wonderful community that we all enjoy.

So please give some thought to putting yourself forward for co-option as a councillor. We currently need two. Whilst I cannot promise the 10 minutes of fame and notoriety experienced by the members of a council located further north than Wiltshire, you will

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be greatly appreciated and, if you are like me, get a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction from the experience.

By now it will be common knowledge that David Johnson and Mark Fisher will not be continuing in their roles as parish councillors. Both have given many years of service to the village and it is quite understandable why they might consider now is the time to take a step back (though I fully expect they will still play a prominent part in village life). They both embody the unsung hero; get things done, always have the time, and unlike myself, have brilliant practical skills. They never seek publicity or thanks and will be greatly missed. We residents of Worton owe them a lot.

With regard to what was discussed at the meeting.....

Having already given our response to the Wiltshire Local Plan Review, we returned to Worton's designation as a 'large' rather than 'small' village. At the present time this apparently trivial matter has some significance as it has been used to help to calculate a notional number of houses that would be expected to have been built within the next 10 years or so. We are aware that since the designation was applied Worton has lost facilities whilst the same has not happened in other nearby settlements which have retained their "small" status even though larger than us and with more facilities. We are raising the issue via a direct comparison with Cheverell Magma. It should be noted that this is unlikely to change our designation in the short term as, in fact, we still do fit the categorisation of "large" village which is rather vague to say the least!

The large amount of new housing being suggested in the recent review of the Wiltshire plan has apparently caused much consternation in rural areas and is, in all likelihood, far from being what will transpire. We have been in a period of initial consultation. However, we feel that it is important to establish as much control and influence as we can over this important issue. To this end, we have decided to re-activate a Neighbourhood Planning group which will draw on the work and experience of the previous one but be more directly under the auspices of the Parish council than had been the case. Expect to hear more about how we hope to achieve this in due course.

It should be noted that the project to renew the play area at What-

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leys has not been overlooked as we await clarification of what is desired and how funding can be achieved. We are also doing our best to push forward plans to improve footpaths, especially WORT 11/MARS 9. The pandemic continues to make communication difficult and things take longer than one would expect, so please be patient! Whilst mentioning footpaths it has been noted that adult cyclists have been using the footpath section of Back Lane, causing discomfort and danger to other users. We have decided to install signs discouraging this activity at suitable points, but would appreciate a ‘word’ if anyone is aware of who is involved.

Barry Devine

New Weekly Bus Service

There is a new weekly bus service, X88, operating to Bath on a Wednesday from Worton which commenced the week beginning April 12th

(information kindly provided by Bob Mitchell)

Service X88

Great Cheverell - Bratton - Steeple Ashton - Holt - Bath

Wednesdays only

Service no	X88	X88
Worton, opposite Village Hall	920	Bath, Royal United Hospital 1310
Worton, opposite Sandleaze	922	Bath Abbey, Orange Grove 1325
Great Cheverell, Post Office,	929	Lambridge, London Road 1332
Erlestoke, Victoria Park,	931	Farleigh Wick R
Erlestoke, George+Dragon	933	Bradford Leigh, Leigh Park Hotel R
Coulston Turn,	937	Woolley Green, The Triangle, R
Edington, Monastery Road,	941	Holt, Three Lion Mews, R
Bratton, The Duke	945	Broughton Gifford, Bell R
Steeple Ashton, Memorial,	955	Steeple Ashton, Memorial, R
Broughton Gifford, Bell	1010	Bratton, The Duke R
Holt, Three Lion Mews,	1015	Edington, Monastery Road, R
Woolley Green, The Triangle,	1020	Coulston Turn, R
Bradford Leigh, Leigh Park Hotel	1022	Erlestoke, George+Dragon then Victoria Pk R
Farleigh Wick	1028	Great Cheverell, Post Office, R
Lambridge, London Road	1035	Worton, Sandleaze then Village Hall R
Bath Abbey (set down only)	1043	
Bath, Royal United Hospital	R	

Key: R = Calls at this point only if required to set down passengers.

V E and V J Day Event

Please note the NEW 2021 dates!

A chance to celebrate peace in Europe

Aug 21st – 22^d Exhibition in Village Hall

Despite last years events being postponed we still need your family stories, photographs or war time artefacts to help us record this important event.

Keep them coming!

Was your family a member of the Armed forces, Land Army, Home Guard?
Were they evacuated or in a reserved occupation? Share your family stories.

People are interested.



Contact Chris Johnson 01380 720580 email cvs64@hotmail.com

ECO -CORNER**How many bees do you have in your garden?**

The Honey bee is the best known species of bee but according to *Friends of the Earth (FoE)* over 270 species of bees have been recorded in Great Britain. Sadly, in the UK, we have reportedly already lost around 13 species and another 35 are currently at risk. If you would like to see how many different species you can spot, the *FoE* guide will help you:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/bee-identification-guide>

Why is the bee population declining?

The biggest cause of decline apparently is the intensification of farming. The increased use of pesticides, especially neonicotinoids, has compounded the destructive impact on wild bees – although, in an historic turning point for their welfare, countries across the EU – including the UK – voted in 2018 to ban the outdoor use of three bee-harming pesticides and pollinators. Other causes of decline include habitat loss, pests, disease, pollution, invasive plant and animal species, and climate change.

FoE are looking to all of us to help save our bees.

Why is this important?

Bees provide the essential ecosystem service of ensuring pollination, and thus reproduction of many cultivated and wild plants, which is crucial for human livelihoods, biodiversity and particularly food pro-

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duction. Around a third of the food we eat relies on pollination mainly by bees. Without bees, it would cost UK farmers £1.8 billion a year to pollinate our crops, meaning our food would cost a lot more to produce and our economy would suffer.

Can we help stop the decline?

According to *FoE*, we can make a huge difference by doing a few simple things:

Planting trees and shrubs such as apple, lavender, honeysuckle and ivy which attract bees.

Bees need access to plants which flower so that they can access the food they need; pollen provides the protein they need, and nectar provides them with carbohydrates. The *FoE* website provides a guide to discovering which trees, shrubs, flowers, herbs, and fruit and veg we can grow to attract these important pollinators:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/bee-friendly-plants-every-season>.

You can create a bee-friendly community even if you only have a small space like a windowsill. *FoE* suggest 10 ways to create a “bee paradise”:

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/10-easy-ways-help-bees>

Create a wildflower meadow. Wildflower meadows are natural habitats for bees but many of these have been lost. You can help to restore this habitat by planting your own wildflower meadow. *FoE* bee saver kit includes wildflower seeds which can help get you started: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/donate-save-britains-bees-get-your-bee-saver-kit-today>

There is no doubt our bees are facing an unprecedented crisis. As we emerge into our gardens and onto our patios this spring, please remember to give a thought to what you might do to support our bee population. It can even be a **fun family experience** such as building a bee hotel: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/bees-fun-facts-and-activities-children>

Anne Wilson mrsannewilson@gmail.com
and Sandra Gamble acanadiangamble@gmail.com



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School and Church Fete - Plant Sales

We are planning to have our usual plant sale on Saturdays 8th and 15th of May. Due to continuing Covid restrictions at the school, there will be a stall on each day in Gaisford Chase, Worton and another in Plough Lane, Marston selling a variety of plants.

Please do come along and support.

Bill Francis and Tony Walker



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The Village Show 2021

The date for this year's Village Show will be Saturday 4th September. We hope by then, assuming progress managing COVID continues, that we shall all be able to meet and mingle in the Village Hall as is required to make it work and be enjoyed.

Apart from members of the gardening club, entries can be made by any residents of Worton and Marston. And entries to the children's classes are open to nieces, nephews, grandchildren of residents as well as local children.

A heads up to entries in a couple of the classes.....

The Craft Section

Class 82 a handcrafted item using wood, metal, clay, glass

Class 83 a handcrafted item using fibre, e.g. knitting, crochet, weaving

class 84 a handmade garment

class 85 a handcrafted image using any including paint, embroidery, textile, collage etc

The photo section

Adults

Class 76 Water

Class 77 Farm machinery

class 78 Leaf/leaves

Children section

Class 79 An animal in the garden

class 80 an insect or bug

class 81 a garden building

Further details in due course. We aim to have the schedule published in the July issue of this magazine.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Finally, can we add our condolences in memory of those who helped with the show. To Hazel Rennie who judged the craft section last year. And to Joy Stokes, whose tireless enthusiasm and so much effort helped the show go on. Thank you and our sympathies to Dennis and Nick respectively.

Thank you, on behalf of the organising committee,
Bill Francis



Are you Crafty?

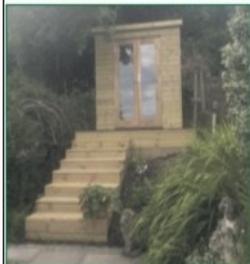
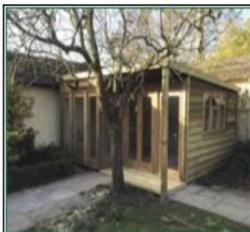
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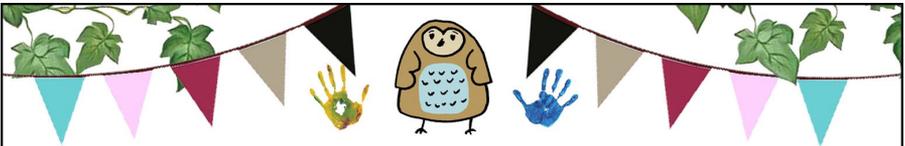
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Worton Toddlers

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Worton Toddlers



We have looked into various ways to restart Toddlers, but due to Covid related rules on using the hall we are unfortunately not able to return just yet. We really hope to see you soon, and we will continue to look for ways to get together. We will keep you updated here, on Facebook and on the local notice boards.
Stay safe. Worton Toddlers.



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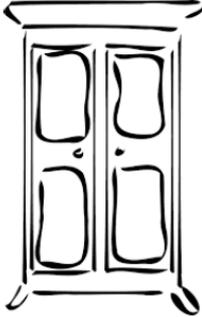


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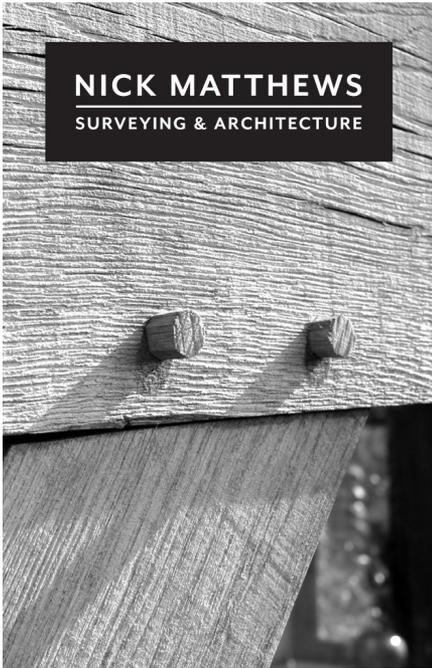
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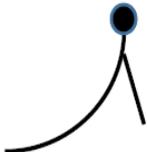
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**Worton & Cheverell FC (Youth)
'The Badgers'**

<http://www.wortonandcheverellfc.com>



We are back! After such a long lay-off, the teams are back training and in matches and loving every minute of it! No fees or further memberships are being charged for rest of this season, so contact a coach and come along and try, and see if you enjoy it, ready for next season.

Under 6 – Badger Cubs – Up and running and welcoming new players all the time. Learning whilst having fun! Saturday morning 0900 -1000 Elisha Field.

Under 7's – Enjoying some good training and excellent performance in friendly vs Bishops Cannings.

Under 8's – Back in league action and progressing well. Aiming to play several tournaments. Training now Tuesdays 1800-1900 at Elisha Field.

Under 9/10's – Back in training and matches lined up for rest of season. Looking for additional players to join the squad.

Under 11's – Promoted in league and playing tougher teams. Good performance after slow start in first game back. Lots of matches scheduled.

Under 13's – Back into league matches for rest of season and potentially tournaments.

Under 14's – Back in to league action with victory away against top of table Bath Arsenal. Away trips to Bath City FC and Frome this month.

Under 15's – Back into competitive action vs Chippenham Youth and Alderbury FC in April.

Club Secretary fundraising update – Lighter nights and hope of runs in towns and cities soon. Now completed 8 runs at the time of writing (15th). Vicky is raising funds for a Secondary Cancer charity during the year has new target of 26 10K runs this year. Please look at the story on <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/VickyGoddard2>

(continued on next page)

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Contacts for 2020/2021 Season:

Badger Cubs - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

U7 - Pete Huntley - 07974 756131 U8 - Dave Kiddle - 07843 678781

U9/10 - Mark Goddard – 01380 813160

U11 - Neil Black - 07769 261750 U13 - Mark Goddard – 01380 813160

U14 – Dave Kiddle – 07843 678781 U15 – Aiden Allmark 07341 819154

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(No other pages are approved by the club)



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Saturday	12.00 - 2.30
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30

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6pm - 11.30pm
7pm - 10.00pm
7pm - 11.00pm (on Quiz Sundays)

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We have a quiz on the last Sunday of every month.

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Worton and Marston Gardening Club

I woke up this morning to see snow on our cars. Obviously Spring is well and truly here. True it was only a few flakes, and is thawing as I write, nevertheless a reminder that I shall need to wear a warm coat when I walk out with Scooby, our best friend.

I have spent many hours over the last month preparing our beautiful garden for Summer. We already have hellibores, daffodils, primroses, hyacinths, and tulips in flower. Add to that, a magnolia bush, and a couple of flowering cherries, you can imagine being in the garden is a good place to be. Having taken advantage of the excellent spell of warmer weather in the middle of March, I am proud to announce we have got four short rows of parsnips showing, and a couple of short rows of carrots. In order to keep them growing strongly we have been watering them regularly now for the last week or so because our sandy soil dries out so quickly. Where are those warm April showers when you need them? Apart from those small jobs, my main task has been mulching our many roses and shrubs with some well-rotted horse manure. I was lucky enough to get loaded and back home from Annie's pony paddock before the Winter rains made access to the muck heap impossible last Autumn. I weeded around each bush before adding a handful or so of blood, meat and bone meal around each one and some of the shrubs, before surrounding each with a liberal layer of manure. I hope this will help hold moisture in the ground should we experience a long hot Summer.

Apart from garden activities I have continued driving for Mole Valley, one of my recent journeys being another day drive through the Brecon Beacons, on a fine warm day about a week ago. What a contrast to a couple of months ago when during the big freeze week I photographed frozen waterfalls. I am pleased to report all waterfalls were flowing freely and blossom just beginning to bloom. I suspect the recent cold weather has slowed the advent of Spring up a bit, as it has here.

Dave

You should all have your sunflowers by now....do let us know if we missed you off the list.

Plans for meetings are being made...so fingers crossed we will meet up again soon!

Sally svwood90@hotmail.com

A Message from Richard Gamble
Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division
(until 6 May 2021)

This is my last Message as a Wiltshire Councillor (and I would quite understand if you breathe a sigh of relief).

It is 12 years since I was first elected to Wiltshire Council following two years with Kennet District Council. It has been a pleasure and a great privilege to represent (in alphabetical order) Erlestoke, Great Cheverell, Little Cheverell, Market Lavington, Marston, West Lavington and Worton, with the added pleasure of covering Potterne as well. I am only a little biased to say that these are the most excellent parishes of the best community area in the finest county of England.

My first role in Wiltshire Council was Portfolio Holder for Public Transport and I was particularly pleased to play a role in restoring train services on the TransWilts line through Melksham. For a time, that was the fastest growing rail service in the country and the operator had to find more capacious rolling stock to meet the passenger demand. Locally, we were able to direct the Wilts & Dorset service (now Salisbury Reds) via Market Lavington. I still hope that sometime soon the service will connect with Stonehenge and will be faster to Salisbury.

I then became involved with Education, Skills & Youth. I learnt that our local schools are some of the best in the county (and one is among the best in the country). I was delighted to see Wiltshire College rise out of troubled times and, *inter alia*, provide excellent support to young people with special needs. Unfortunately, financial pressures forced the closure of our youth services but we were able to set up Local Youth Networks for each community area, which have helped to fill the gap.

Next, my responsibilities covered Art, Heritage and Tourism which required visits to art galleries, museums and tourist attractions. It was a tough job, but somebody had to do it. Wiltshire has an outstanding offering in all these areas and the list of treasures and positive projects is too long to list here.

If that wasn't grim enough, I then became Vice-Chairman and, finally, Chairman of the Council. Even with the limitations of the pandemic, I have been privileged to attend some wonderful ceremonies.

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nial events. I have also chaired Full Council meetings on line and, each time, I have been grateful for the civility and constructive engagement from members of all political groups.

As I step down, I can only thank your community for allowing me to be involved and for being so supportive. I hope to continue some charity work and my involvement with the Devizes Gateway Station project among other things, so you're not completely shot of me yet!

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to richardgamble1310@gmail.com or by phone on 07762 018209.



(from The Times)

*Extracts from The Bridge (May 1991),
kindly provided by Tony Walker*

150th CELEBRATIONS - PAGEANT

The first event in this busy year, after the initial opening service and supper, will be the Pageant and Fayre.

The Pageant will be performed in the Church on Saturday, 25th May at 7.30 p.m. This will bring to life the history of our two villages from before the building of the Church to the present day. We hope to video this for posterity. Please come in costume if you'd like to, admission by donation. Following the Pageant at approximately 9 p.m. there will be a simple ploughman and cider supper (£1) in a marquee to round the evening off.

The Pageant Fayre will take place in the school grounds on Sunday, 26th May from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Attractions here include various craft stalls and demonstrations, souvenir mugs/tea towels and pictures, children's games, lucky dip and roundabout, a Punch and Judy show giving two free performances, Maypole dancing by our own Brownie Pack, Victorian style photographs (choose your own costume from a selection available), ice-creams, light lunches and teas all accompanied by music from a Dutch street organ.

Admission for this event will be £1 adults, 50p. children (primary school age) and OAP's.

If you had planned to go away that weekend - change your mind and if you've got visitors coming, bring them along - let's have a good old-fashioned village event! Car parking is opposite the school by kind permission of Mr. J. Cox.

P.S. offers of cakes for the teas would be much appreciated, please contact either Judith Rose ☎ 725053 or Jane Phillips ☎ 721854.

Primrose Wright
Pageant Committee

Extracts from The Bridge (May 1991),
kindly provided by Tony Walker

Worton and Marston
Christ Church
150 Years
1841-1991

Pageant

25th May. 7.30am in
Christ Church.
Followed by supper in
marston

Fayre

26th May. 11a.m.-4p.m.
in School grounds,
Worton

1841 1991

150 Years

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Extracts from *The Bridge* (May 1991),
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Who else would drop us by our door
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And always try to do their best
To run on time and cheerful too
Which means a lot to me and you
The times may vary day to day
But we'll be carried on our way
On Thursdays for our weekly jaunt
The market is our favourite haunt
On Saturdays too the bus will run
For some to shop and to have fun
Meeting friends from near and far
Especially those who have no car.
Although it won't suit everyone
Thank goodness that the battle's won
At least we still have public transport
And not on taxis have to resort.*

I. Hale

**WORTON & MARSTON
LADIES GROUP**

Our March meeting was very enjoyable. Primrose Wright generously invited all members to her house where we saw the video (made by John Vint) of our pantomime "Cinderfella". We also had supper, which included a 5lb fresh salmon provided by the Scottish Salmon Information Service and cooked to perfection by one of our members.

The May meeting will be a visit to the Market Lavington Museum, with refreshments at The Bridge Inn, West Lavington.

Lorna Phillips

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

In the Village Hall

(all currently suspended or on Zoom)

- **Gardening Club**
3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Pilates classes**
Thursdays 7pm-8pm & 8pm-9pm
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Alternate Tuesdays (term time only)
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston

(currently suspended or on Zoom)

- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
Last Tuesday (every odd month)

Various Venues

Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**
2nd Saturday 10.00 - Noon

Mobile Library

Location: The School, 1.10 - 1.50pm

Next Dates: 24th May

Call Wiltshire Library Services
on **01225 713727** for information

Forthcoming Events

- 8th Book Swap
- 12th Gardeners' Fair
- 25th Are you Crafty? (Zoom)

Kerbside Collections

Black box and Plastic and card recycling:

Tuesdays 4th & 18th

Household waste:

Wednesdays 12th & 26th

Garden waste:

Fridays 14th & 28th



Worton and Marston Link

If you need help with transport for hospital appointments visiting the doctor and dentist or other important journeys.

**Call W&M Link
on 07413 912828**

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15th May 2021
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