

# Village Views

February 2020

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF ACTON BURNELL, PITCHFORD, FRODESLEY, RUCKLEY AND LANGLEY



## NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

### 'We Don't Buy Crime' and 'Smartwater'

The Parish Council is now in possession of the Smartwater marking solution. They will be delivering a bottle to those who requested it over the next few weeks.

Smartwater is a water based solution with a unique forensic code. It is invisible to the naked eye but can be seen under UV light. Only a small amount needs to be applied to an item and left to dry. From then on, the item is permanently marked and if found can be returned to the owners registered address.

### POLICEMAN KILLED AT THE STAGS HEAD, ACTON BURNELL

On 2nd January 1849, PC Micklewright was tragically killed in an incident outside the Stags Head Inn\* in Acton Burnell, only the second time in the County's history this has ever occurred.

On that night, PC John Micklewright received a message at his home in Crosshouses Police Station to say trouble was expected at the Stags Head Inn, Acton Burnell. He walked to Acton Burnell and arrived at around 6pm. He had taken his supper with him and consumed it in the pub's kitchen during the evening with half a pint of ale. At about 11pm trouble started in the inn and continued into the street after Micklewright cleared the premises.

Local labourer Charles Colley (40) was very drunk and quarrelsome and would not go home when told. A struggle ensued between the two, resulting in Micklewright breaking his leg. This was, of course, long before the days of telephones and ambulances. Micklewright was treated by a local doctor and eventually admitted to Shrewsbury Infirmary where he died of his injury 15 days later.

Colley was tried with murder with manslaughter as an alternative. The jury took two minutes to convict Colley of manslaughter and the judge commented that they had taken a very favourable view of the case. Favourable of not Colley was sentenced to ten years transportation.

There was no compensation, social security or pension in those days and the officer's wife had to go into the workhouse where she subsequently died.

FROM THE SHROPSHIRE STAR ARCHIVES

\*NOTE. The upstairs rooms of the Stags Head was used as a community hall with regular dances during the war years. The downstairs was converted into the Village Stores run by Thomas Perks, Muriel's father-in-law, from the 1890's – 1912.

## CAN YOU HELP

We are still looking for one or more people to help with identifying and contacting possible advertisers for Village Views and the Village Directory. This important role is essential to help fund Village Views, and to make sure that we can continue to make the newsletter and the Directory available free of charge to all the local community.

If you would be willing to help out, then please speak to Karen Fisher, John Glover or Chris Harrison, or email [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com).

We look forward to hearing from you!

## VE CELEBRATIONS 2020

This year sees the 75th anniversary of VE Day, which marked the end of the war in Europe in 1945. Celebrations will be taking place over the weekend of 8th to 10th May, with the annual May Day holiday being moved from 4th May to 8th May for the occasion.

Events will be taking place in Shrewsbury, and the weekend also coincides with the annual Shrewsbury Regatta on 9th May.

## A SUMMER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY....

The Acton Burnell Annual Fete will be taking place on Saturday 13th June 2020. This will be followed as usual by the ever-popular Burnell Bash.

Ideas and volunteers welcome. Contact Jill on **01694 731363** or [jillfaulkner@btconnect.com](mailto:jillfaulkner@btconnect.com)

The closing date for contributions to the next edition will be 19 April 2020

Would you like to advertise your business in Village Views? Contact us on [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) for more information.



# What's on



## **Thursday 6th February, Friday 21st February, Thursday 12th March, Tuesday 21st March & Saturday 4th April**

Spend 125 minutes celebrating 125 years of the National Trust looking through the eyes of those who give up their free time to look after the wonderful and wild landscape of the Long Mynd. The walk leaders will chat about the work they carry out to look after the Long Mynd for everyone to enjoy forever. All walks will start at the Chalet Pavilion. There will be tea, coffee and cakes to eat at the halfway point at Pole Cottage. The ground is uneven in places and there is one long steady climb. Tickets cost £10. Please book by calling 0344 249 1895 or online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events).

## **Friday 7th to Sunday 16th February**

The Shrewsbury Darwin Festival kicks off a week of special events, celebrating the life and work of Charles Darwin, with events ranging from guided tours of Darwin's old haunts to brain-teasing lectures, and inspirational workshops for children. For more information, please go to [www.originalshrewsbury.co.uk/darwin-shrewsbury-festival](http://www.originalshrewsbury.co.uk/darwin-shrewsbury-festival)

## **Saturday 15th February**

Attingham Park hosts a 'Show the Love' environmental day, with a focus on what individuals and families can do to help protect the natural world, looking at everything from bogs to hedgehogs, and involving organisations from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust to the Women's Institute. From 11.00am to 3.00pm. Normal admission charges apply.

## **Saturday 15th February**

Join fellow stargazers at Carding Mill Valley to find out about discoveries made with The Hubble telescope, and the Birr Leviathan. Bring along your own binoculars and telescopes. Tickets are £11 per person, to include soup and a roll. Please call 0344 249 1895 or email [cardingmill@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:cardingmill@nationaltrust.org.uk) to book a place.

## **Tuesday 18th February & Thursday 20th February**

Join the Wild Craftist at Attingham Park to create and take home your very own willow heart to decorate your home or garden. Suitable for all the family, although under 7 year olds will need some adult help. £5 per heart, payable on the day. Workshops run from 11.00am to 3.00pm and booking is not needed.

## **Thursday 20th February**

Join the Rangers at Carding Mill Valley to make a bird box for your feathered friends. All materials supplied. Please book a place by calling 0344 249 1895 or online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events). Cost £7.50.

## **Friday 21st February**

Cheer up a dark February evening with a trip to Pitchford Village Hall for Pub Night. Doors open at 7.30. Everyone welcome, including children and well-behaved dogs.

## **Saturday 29th February**

Come along to Attingham Park to take part in a Night Run through the mansion grounds. Choose from a 2.5k or 6k route to suit your ability and energy! The short 'Explorer' course is open to anyone over 6 years, and the longer 'Adventurer' course is open to anyone over 14 years (please note that under 16 year olds must be accompanied by an adult).

Call 0344 249 1895 to book a place or book online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events). The charge is £14 for the long course and £7 for the short course.

## **Monday 2nd March, Monday 6th April & Monday 4th May**

'Willow for Wellbeing' at Attingham Park offers the chance to learn some basic willow weaving skills in company with others. Craft is said to alleviate the symptoms of anxiety, depression, loneliness and even dementia, and is a great way to relax and spend time with others. The usual admission charges apply. Sessions run from 10.00am to 12 noon. Please book places by contacting [info@wildcraftist.com](mailto:info@wildcraftist.com) or by going to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events).

## **Thursday 5th March**

Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman will be performing at Carding Mill Valley Chalet. These award-winning folk artists will be taking the stage at 7.00pm. Tickets are £15 each, bookable by calling 0344 249 1895 or online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events).

## **Saturday 7th March**

Concord College hosts a Concerto Competition and charity concert in aid of the Anthony Morris Foundation, showcasing musicians from across the school. The concert begins at 7.30pm. Tickets £10, available by contacting [emily.purvis@concordcollege.org.uk](mailto:emily.purvis@concordcollege.org.uk).

## **Saturday 7th March & Sunday 8th March**

Wenlock Olympian Society Live Arts Festival kicks off at The Edge Arts Centre, William Brookes School, Much Wenlock. Competitions in dance, drama and music are open to young people aged 18 and under. For more information and to download entry forms, please go to [www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk/live-arts-festival/](http://www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk/live-arts-festival/)

## **Monday 9th March**

Join Dave the Ranger at Carding Mill Valley as he celebrates 35 years as a National Trust Ranger. Talk begins at 10.30am. Tickets are £11 (to include a bowl of soup). Please book by calling 0344 249 1895 or online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events).

## **Friday 13th March**

Shropshire's Young Musician of the Year competition takes place at Concord College. Tickets and more information available from [admin@shropshiremusicsservice.org.uk](mailto:admin@shropshiremusicsservice.org.uk)

## **Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March**

Wenlock Live Arts Festival continues at The Edge Arts Centre, William Brookes School, Much Wenlock.

## **Friday 20th March**

Pub Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Beer, wine and soft drinks available at the bar; good company and lively chat also available! Doors open at 7.30pm.

## **Saturday 21st March & Saturday 25th April**

Full day workshops to guide you through the creation of a willow obelisk for your garden or allotment or a kitchen serving platter and egg basket. Each workshop costs £45, and will run from 10.00am to 3.00pm at Attingham Park. Please book places by contacting [info@wildcraftist.com](mailto:info@wildcraftist.com) or by going to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events).

## **Friday 27th March**

Quiz Night at Pitchford Village Hall. Please see Facebook for more information (search for @pitchfordvillagehall).

## **Saturday 4th April, Sunday 5th April & Friday 10th April to Monday 13th April**

Enjoy the woods at Attingham Park as they spring into life after the cold winter, follow the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt trail to find out about our native animals, complete the challenges and receive a chocolate prize at the end. Cost £3 per trail. No need to book.

## **Friday 17th April**

Pub Night comes around again. Join your friends and neighbours for a convivial evening at Pitchford Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm.

## **EASTER SERVICES AROUND THE CHURCHES ALL ARE WELCOME**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY (9th April)**

7.30pm Holy Communion at CONDOVER

### **GOOD FRIDAY (10th April)**

2.00pm Service of Reflection at ACTON BURNELL

### **EASTER DAY WORSHIP (12th April)**

9.00am Family Communion at FRODESLEY

10.30am Family Communion at ACTON BURNELL

11.30am Family Communion at PITCHFORD



## COMING SOON FROM FLICKS IN THE STICKS....

**Red Joan** (rated 12A). The true story of a retired widow who is unexpectedly arrested on spying charges. The film looks back at her life at Cambridge and during World War II.

**Cardington Village Hall** on 5th February, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.

**L'Homme du Train** (rated 12A). In a sleepy French backwater, a train pulls into a deserted station carrying an ageing criminal. Within minutes he bumps into a retired poetry teacher, and the film follows the developing relationship between these two apparent opposites, who both have an important event looming on the horizon. Starring Jonny Hallyday.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 11th February, 8.00pm. Tickets £6.

**All is True** (rated 12A). Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench star in film about the final days of William Shakespeare, as he returns home to Stratford and to Anne Hathaway following a fire at The Globe in London.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 24th February, 2.00pm. Tickets £4.

**Stan and Ollie** (rated 12A). A tribute to comedians Laurel and Hardy, as they begin their gruelling farewell tour of British holiday towns in 1953. Old tensions and resentments surface when they are joined by their wives, and as they struggle to cope with TV appearances and planning for their big London finale.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 28th February, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.

**Judy** (rated 12A). The story of Judy Garland's visit to London in 1968. Featuring many of Judy's best-loved songs, with Renee Zellweger in the starring role.

**Cardington Village Hall** on 4th March, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.

**Cound Guildhall** on 3rd April, 7.30pm. Tickets £5.

**From Time to Time** (rated PG). A haunting ghost story set at the end of World War II, and featuring performances from Maggie Smith, Timothy Spall, Pauling Collins and Hugh Bonneville.

**Cound Guildhall** on 6th March, 7.30pm. Tickets £5.

**The Farewell** (rated PG). Comedienne Awkafina stars in this funny and poignant true story of a New Yorker who returns to China to say a last farewell to her ailing grandmother.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 10th March, 8.00pm. Tickets £6.

**Saving Mr Banks** (rated PG). Walt Disney (played by Tom Hanks) struggles to persuade P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to allow him to make a film of her classic book, Mary Poppins. A light-hearted and heart-warming story.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 23rd March, 2.00pm. Tickets £4.

**The Keeper** (rated 15). The story of a love affair between a young English woman and a German prisoner of war.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 27th March, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.

**Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon** (rated U). A glorious comedy for all the family, featuring Shaun the Sheep on a mission to protect a mysterious intergalactic visitor.

**Cardington Village Hall** on 1st April, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.

**The Chambermaid** (rated 15). A Mexican film following the life of a chambermaid working in a luxury hotel in Mexico City as she struggles to improve her life.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 14th April, 8.00pm. Tickets £4.

**A Private War** (rated 15). The story of renowned journalist Marie Colvin as she uncovers the truth behind events in some of the most troubled areas of the world.

**All Stretton Village Hall** on 24th April, 7.30pm. Tickets £4.

Tickets for all films available in advance via the website [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk), or by calling **01743 761451** for Cound, **01694 771295** for Cardington and **07812 583113** for All Stretton.

Performances also take place at Church Stretton School and The Edge Arts Centre, Much Wenlock. Please see the website for more details. These two venues also often host live broadcasts of ballets, operas and plays from London theatres.



On Saturday March 7th, Concord College will be hosting a Concerto Competition in aid of the Anthony Morris Foundation. Top instrumentalists from across the school will be performing and the musician who most impresses the independent adjudicator will be announced as the winner. The Anthony Morris Foundation aims to raise funds to enable young people to attend Concord whose families might not otherwise be able to afford the fees. The performances begin at 7.30pm, and tickets are available by contacting [emily.purvis@concordcollege.org.uk](mailto:emily.purvis@concordcollege.org.uk). Admission is £10.

### SHROPSHIRE'S YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Concord College will be hosting Shropshire's Young Musician of the Year on Friday 13th March. Young people from all over the county compete to be the best in Shropshire! Tickets can be bought from the Shropshire Music Service [admin@shropshiremusicservice.org.uk](mailto:admin@shropshiremusicservice.org.uk)

### Want to have a go at something new in 2020? Why not try yoga!

Local teacher Suzanna Brander is a British Wheel of Yoga qualified teacher with 18 years' experience. Her method of teaching is focussed on alignment and can help you to build strength and flexibility. Why not give it a go and see for yourself. Supportive, friendly weekly classes during the daytime and evenings in Stapleton. All levels welcome including beginners.

For more information or to book a class, please contact Suzanna Brander on **07860 308542**.

# 10 THINGS YOU (POSSIBLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT FRODESLEY

The second in a very occasional series on our villages by John Long



Did you know that:

1. The old Roman road, Watling Street, was turnpiked in 1764 and there was a tollgate on the Acton Burnell boundary.
2. The village is one of the few never to have had a school.
3. There used to be a direct road all the way from Longnor crossroads to Ruckley via Bentley Ford Farm and Lodge Farm.
4. There were early settlements with evidence of several burial barrows and a perforated stone axe, which was found in the 19th century in the garden of the Rectory.
5. Up to a dozen houses were built in the early 19th century on the road to Conover to accommodate workers at the adjacent brick works and coal pits, but few now remain.
6. The imposing stone Grade 2\* listed Frodesley Lodge was built in about 1590, probably as a hunting lodge, and was extended in 1750.
7. Fields called The Romps to the east of Lodge Farm probably mark the site of the deserted village of Ramshurst.
8. At its peak in 1861, there were 261 residents in the parish, but this figure had dropped by almost a hundred by 2011.
9. Siward, who owned the manor before 1066, managed to remain as a tenant under the overlordship of Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury and even passed it on to his son.
10. The manor house, consisting of 3 projecting wings, was built in 1594, but was demolished in 1882.
11. Coal from near Rowe Farm was mined in the first half of the 19th century and for a short while produced over 300 tons pa, one tenth of which went as a tithe to Conover to be distributed to the poor.
12. In 1856 the village had a carpenter, a cooper, 2 shoemakers, a shopkeeper and a tailor, but by 1926 only the village shop remained and this finally closed in 1941.

## NEWS FROM ACTON BURNELL WI

After a very busy and successful year where we had successes with our entries at the flower show, and raised nearly £900 towards our chosen charities – the mental health charity MIND and Connexus, a local Women's Refuge- we start 2020 with a healthy balance sheet, an increase in membership and a certain degree of optimism. We also have a new slimmed down committee and a new agenda. The committee now is as follows:

**President:**

Sarah McIlhinney **01694 731265** | [goatland2@gmail.com](mailto:goatland2@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**

Beth Davies **01694 731657** | [beth.davies1@hotmail.com](mailto:beth.davies1@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Paddy Hall - **01694 731565**

**Committee members:**

Brenda Herod - **01694 731303**

Sue Shedden - **07773 161635**

Veronica Pryce - **01743 761480**

We have an interesting and varied programme this year with a cookery demo, craft workshops, and a garden outing to Viv Marsh's nursery at Walford. Viv has a large collection of alstromerias and is an expert on masonry bees. We are also doing an educational trip, possibly a trip on the canal in Ellesmere, and a plant

swop/sale in April as we have a lot of keen gardeners in our membership. Our next outing in March is our Annual Dinner at the Corbet Arms, Uffington. Our open meeting, also in March, will feature a talk we have had before, and which was so popular that members were keen to have a repeat visit. The title of the talk is Tax, Care and Toy Boys, and the talk was laced with humour and insight, bringing to the fore the importance of understanding the pitfalls that can be made when planning to make a will.

Our next outing in March is our Annual Dinner at the Corbet Arms, Uffington. Our open meeting, also in March, is a speaker we have had before, and she was so popular that members were keen to have her again. The title of the talk is Tax, Care and Toy Boys, and her talk was laced with humour and insight, bringing to the fore the importance of understanding the pitfalls that can be made when planning to make a will.

This talk is at Pitchford Village Hall on 12th March and open to anyone. The only thing I ask is that if you would like to come, please get in touch (number above) so that we can plan catering.

Beth Davies (Secretary, A Burnell WI)



## News from **Pitchford Village Hall**

The process of seeing how we move forward with improvements to the Village Hall is becoming long and drawn out, as these things tend to get! Several factors have given rise to pessimism over any future rebuild. Firstly, the landowners – the Pitchford Estate – have refused (under the current terms and conditions) to extend the lease. Had they granted our request, it would have allowed at least the possibility of seeking funds for the renewal of the Hall. After seeking further clarification in November as to what terms and conditions may be acceptable, we have, at the time of writing, heard nothing back. Regrettably therefore, we have made the assumption that the lease will end in 2044. As such, we are not able to consider seeking funding for changes to the Hall on the scale we would have wished for and which the local community stated they would have liked.

Secondly, we have tried on two occasions to hold a meeting to create a Steering Group made up of volunteers from the wider community in order to help us navigate the minefield of the creation of a better facility. Sadly, on each of these dates, we have had no one coming forward from the area to join this group.

We now feel that both of these factors mean that the wish which local residents overwhelmingly enunciated a year ago- that we need a new, or at least a significantly improved, facility- is now not going to happen.

The Village Hall Committee have therefore decided that we need to reign back our ambitions and look at more modest, but still vital, improvements. These include the stabilising of the ends of the Hall (which have moved under what appears to be subsidence in the underlying ground and which the insurance company have, after a long drawn out consultation, said they would not fund); the improving of the heating and insulation in the building, and the updating of the toilet area. In addition, we are looking at the possibility of purchasing new tables and curtains to replace the old and wobbly ones currently in use in an attempt to continue the improvement of the day to day use and ambience of the Hall following on from the new coat of paint in the interior which is now looking smarter and fresher! All the above works will, of course, require significant funding which still has to be sourced. Watch this space!

We are always on the look out for potential new members of the Village Hall Committee. New blood is never a bad thing and people with new ideas and inventive ways of maintaining and taking forward the

Hall would be very welcome. There are four meetings a year and while some individuals have taken on specific tasks, others have a more general role. If there is anyone in the local community who would like to help / join / find out more, then please contact Mike Price, or indeed anyone on the 'team', or come along and chat at the monthly Pub Night. If anyone has any interest or ability in organising events, then that would be particularly welcome, but certainly not a pre-requisite!!

### **PUB NIGHT AND OTHER EVENTS**

Pub Nights continue to take place on the third Friday of every month. January's event was a quieter affair than the one just before Christmas where a very good crowd turned up to munch on the mince pies, sup the mulled wine and reduce the bar stock and all while being wonderfully entertained by new boy to the area Mark and his talented daughter Ruby and young friend Caleb, who performed their musical sets superbly. A massive thankyou to both them and indeed all others who kindly donated mince pies and served behind the bar to make a lovely prelude to the big day itself.

This coming year, we are looking at the possibility of food of some sort being available in the spring and summer while on the September night we have the traditional Giant Onion Weigh-in, Grand Draw and free food before Christmas comes round yet again at the end of the year. In addition, we are holding a quiz night on the 27th March extra to the usual pub night and details will be available on the Village Hall Facebook page and in the Benefice News. Of course, should anyone in the community wish to put on an event, we would very warmly welcome that – let us know if you do fancy this!

In the meantime, please do continue to support the Hall and if anyone is thinking of hiring the venue for a private (or even public!) function, please contact Mike Price (**price622@btinternet.com** or **07740 067955**) or Christine Jones (**csjay@btinternet.com** or **07538 744807**).

In addition, if you have any general queries or remarks, then you can also email us at **[pitchfordvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:pitchfordvillagehall@outlook.com)**. Costs are very cheap!!

Pitchford Village Hall Management Committee



## MESSAGE FROM **COUNCILLOR DAN MORRIS** SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR BURNELL

Shropshire Councillors unanimously agreed a new Climate Change Strategy Framework at the last Full Council in December setting a clear commitment and direction for the council and county as a whole.

The decision follows the creation of a Climate Change Task Force and will lead to the creation of a strategy and action plan. The aim of the strategy and action plan is to reduce Shropshire Council's carbon footprint and establish the council as a community leader in tackling the climate change crisis.

The decision means that Shropshire Council has committed to reducing its' own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net carbon zero by 2030.

The council would urge other organisations and communities within Shropshire to follow suit to help place the county – 'the' home of Darwinism and the Natural Sciences – at the forefront of the climate agenda.

An important measure to achieve this will be the preparation of an annual Carbon Impact Budget. This will identify the carbon impacts of Council services and major projects. It will report on annual performance trends alongside the Council's financial budget increasing accountability for carbon reduction.

The approved Framework identifies a number of key themes where both direct and indirect actions to reduce Shropshire's carbon footprint and improve its resilience to the climate and wildlife crisis will have the greatest effect, including: Transport and travel; Renewable energy generation and storage; Sustainable land management; Clean growth and investment in low carbon infrastructure; Service adaptation and resilience, and Energy demand management.

In recent years Shropshire Council has implemented a range of measures to reduce its carbon footprint, including resource and energy efficiency measures,

renewable energy generation and waste re-use and investing in technology and agile working, which have also generated savings for re-investment in council services and communities. The council has also recently agreed a roll out of LED streetlights.

There are now 41 solar energy arrays installed across 28 sites. The total carbon emissions avoided since installation of these arrays is nearly 3,000 tonnes with a financial saving to the Council of £1.36m. The best available data suggests that Shropshire Council's own carbon footprint has already fallen from around 31,000 tonnes in 2012 to around 23,000 tonnes in 2017.

As always, if you have any questions or matters you think I can help on, please do get in touch by email ([dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.morris@shropshire.gov.uk)), on twitter ([@dan4burnell](https://twitter.com/dan4burnell)), on Facebook ([dan4burnell](https://www.facebook.com/dan4burnell)) or by phone (07902408400).

Dan Morris

## LONGNOR CE SCHOOL NEWS

### Christmas

We had a wonderful Christmas at Longnor School. The celebrations started with the Frost Fair which we held in the evening for the first time this year, the twinkling lights and Santa's grotto really added to the excitement of Christmas. Three classes performed plays for their parents and friends of the school, all of which gave the children a chance to shine and develop their confidence. Christmas dinner was a lovely occasion. Everyone wore their Christmas jumpers and enjoyed a wonderful meal together. The celebrations were rounded off with our carol service in St Mary's Church where the children treated their parents to Christmas songs and readings.

### Topics

The children have come back to school refreshed and excited about their new topics. Class one have weekly topics, Class 2 are finding out about explorers, Class 3 are studying

the Egyptians while Class 4 are learning about the Mayans.

### Kindness

Kindness is one of the values underpinning all that we do at Longnor School. The School Council ran their reverse advent calendar again this year where we focussed on giving for each day in advent rather than receiving. The food that was kindly donated was then taken by the children to the Church Stretton foodbank. Class 2 celebrated random acts of kindness they saw happening around the school for each day in advent. A couple of classes wrote and decorated Christmas poems which they posted through the letter boxes of people in the village.

### Hygge

In today's busy world it is important we teach the children how to look after themselves and enjoy relaxing activities. We recently had a week where the whole school looked at the Danish idea of hygge. The children brought in blankets, cushions and soft toys to make

themselves comfortable, they were then given opportunities to get cosy and enjoy reading, doing art and relaxing with their friends. Class 2 had a lovely afternoon in our Forest school area toasting marshmallows, making dens and relaxing with a good book. It was a wonderful way to teach the children how to look after themselves mentally.

The website

**[www.longnorschool.org.uk](http://www.longnorschool.org.uk)** is continually updated and tells you about all the exciting and inspiring things we get up to at Longnor C.E. Primary School. To contact the school please email **[admin@longnorschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@longnorschool.co.uk)** or phone Rachel Reynolds or Louise Childs on **01743 718493**.



## CHURCH PREEN SCHOOL NEWS

Standing in the playground with a thin wind whipping around, surrounded by bare trees and hedges, it's easy to appreciate that we're in the middle of winter, yet schools do not have a winter term. September welcomes the students back after the summer break and welcomes fresh and eager little faces too. The Autumn term progresses and leads up the wonderful and memorable Christmas celebrations, changed little by the progress of time. The children leave full of excitement and glee at the prospect of what is to come, leaving behind the autumn term and returning a mere two weeks later for the Spring term.

It's marvellous how we seem to skip over the darkness of winter, and with bright and bubbly children quickly looking forward to Spring, meteorologically and metaphorically. Spring brings new life and the children breathe life into our school.

We are very fortunate to benefit from an idyllic setting, possibly showcased better in Spring than at any other time of the year. Our pupils have worked hard this year to enhance their school environment by planting dozens and dozens of bulbs, many of which we hope will soon begin to emerge and reward the children for their efforts.

In class the children are also working hard, studying the Egyptians, learning 'All About Me' and pondering science fiction: May the force be with you?! Topic work allows skillful teaching to connect concepts from across the curriculum, so the children develop meaningful skills in all areas of learning whilst engrossed in a subject that engages their interest.

By harnessing the forces of nature, we see great seasonal changes in our environment, year after year. By harnessing children's curiosity, we see greatly positive changes in them, readying them for the world beyond.

We are very proud of our children and our school, and we are always happy to show new faces around. If you'd like to see what's on offer, please give us a call on

**01694 771359.**

## A HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY – NOT ALL HEARTS AND FLOWERS!

### Who was Valentine?

Legend says that the original Valentine was a Roman priest who acted against the orders of Emperor Claudius the Cruel. Rome was fighting battles on a number of fronts, and Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the military because they were reluctant to leave their wives and families. In order to combat this, he banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine defied the law and continued to carry out secret marriages. When Claudius discovered this, he had Valentine tried by the Prefect of Rome, who ordered that Valentine should be beaten and then beheaded.

### The very first Valentine's card?

While being held in jail, legend has it that Valentine fell in love with the daughter of one of the jailers and cured her of her blindness. Before he was taken away to be beheaded, he sent her a final love letter, signed 'from your Valentine'.

### How did he become associated with love and romance?

Medieval Christian records record three martyrs, all named Valentine (or Valentinus) and all put to death on 14th February. The earliest was put to death in Africa, along with 24 soldiers, but no other information is known about him. The remaining two Valentines were both Christian priests who were put to death for converting Roman families, and, in both cases, apparently healing children who were unwell. Very little there to link the name of Valentine with love and romance.

However, 14th February was also the date of the Roman holiday of 'Lupercalia', which included a lottery in which the names of young, single women were placed in a jar to be drawn by local single men. The resulting liaison might just last for one day (or night!), but in some cases the couple went on to form a lasting romance.

### What did Chaucer have to do with it?

One of Chaucer's most famous works was his poem 'The Parliament of Fowls', in which birds flock together on St Valentine's Day to choose their mates for the year. The poem was very popular, and seemed to spark

the idea that St Valentine's Day was the day on which to tell your true love how you felt. Bards and troubadours took up the idea and spread it throughout society.

### What did the Victorians contribute?

The first Valentine's cards were home-made, and began to gain popularity in the 18th century. But with increasing literacy and easier access to printed cards, it was the Victorians who made it what we know today. In 1840, on the advice of Rowland Hill, Great Britain introduced the Penny Post, which meant that Valentine's cards could be posted anywhere in the UK for just one penny. In 1841, more than 400,000 Valentine's cards were posted, and postmen were kept so busy that they were given an additional allowance for refreshments to help them cope with the rush!

It was also the Victorians who came up with the idea of the anonymous Valentine, believing it was bad luck to sign their name on a Valentine's card (and opening the door to a lot of fun and intrigue for those who received an unsigned card!).

### Valentine's Day today

Valentine's Day is mainly celebrated in Europe and the US, but has also taken root in some unlikely places, including Singapore, where 60% of the population spend up to £250 on gifts, and Japan, where it is the women who give men gifts of chocolates to mark the day. Let's hope the men offer to share! In South Africa, women quite literally wear their hearts on their sleeves, pinning the name of their love interest to their clothes. In Ireland, the religious element retains its importance for many people, who make a pilgrimage to the shrine of St Valentine in Dublin to pray for romance. In Great Britain gifts and cards are at the forefront, and in 2019 it was estimated that the lovers of Great Britain spent around £853 million on cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts.

However you choose to spend this Valentine's Day, here is wishing you all the most love-ly day!



# What's that bug: Ladybirds

Ladybirds belong to the Coccinellidae family in the order Coleoptera (the order of beetles). They are holometabolous insects and not all carry the bright spotty colouration that they are commonly associated with.

## Are ladybirds toxic?

The bright colouration of ladybirds acts as a warning signalling system to predators called aposematism. Warning colouration allows predators to learn that eating such insects will lead to feeling sick and/or vomiting. This information will be then passed on to subsequent generations that will avoid feeding on the emetic ladybirds.

## Why the name ladybird?

It was said that the ladybird red colour resembled the cloak of the religious figure Virgin Mary. In the early days, Mary was painted with a red cloak and the name was first given to the seven-spot ladybird. This being because the spots symbolised the seven joys and seven sorrows of Mary.

## Where do they go in winter?

Ladybirds can overwinter in a hibernating state called diapause. They can do it individually or in groups, finding refuge in cracks and crevices of bark and rocks, under leaf-litter or in our homes. They will emerge starving

in early spring and proceed to furiously feed on soft-bodied insects such as aphids and/or scale insects.

*Ana Natalio and Nick Antill*



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