

# Village Views

April 2020

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

Welcome to the first Virtual Village Views, which will be replacing our usual printed version during lockdown. We hope it will prove informative and entertaining! As well as our usual mix of articles on local history, wildlife and walks, we have tried to include some information which may be particularly useful during these challenging times. All information has been checked as far as possible, but please let us know at [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) if you spot any errors, or if any information needs updating. Please feel free to print out a hard copy to share with your neighbours if you wish.

We hope to produce a Virtual Village Views at regular intervals during the lockdown, so please let us know if there is anything special you would like to see included. And if you would like to put pen to paper and submit something to be featured in a future issue, please let us know! Keep an eye on the Acton Burnell Community Facebook page for more information. New Facebook group members always welcome – all you need is to be a resident of Acton Burnell, Pitchford, Frodesley, Ruckley or Langley. Go to [www.facebook.com/groups/2692845937668879/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2692845937668879/) to see what we are getting up to and to keep in touch with your friends and neighbours. It is a members only group, so you'll only see posts from other local residents.

Stay safe!

## LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIERS

Obviously the situation is changing day by day as companies adapt to government advice and restrictions, so this information is only a guide. Please contact the company involved before making any shopping trips or placing any orders. As with all information contained in our Virtual Village Views, if you have any updates, corrections or things to add, please post on the Acton Burnell Community Facebook page, and we'll update our information for the next edition.

### BUTCHERS

**Paddy Ryans of Much Wenlock** are open for collection of orders, and can also deliver. Please call them on 01952 727409 or email using the 'contact' link on their website at [www.ryansofwenlock.co.uk](http://www.ryansofwenlock.co.uk).

**Battlefield Farm Shop** is open and can deliver to our area. They can offer a range of items, including meats, vegetables, dairy items and prepared meals. To place an order for delivery, call 01939 210905 or email [orders@battlefield1403.com](mailto:orders@battlefield1403.com).

Also still open (according to reports!) are:

**Bradley's**, London Road, Shrewsbury offering both butchery and delicatessen products. Contact them by calling 01743 622989 or email [shop@bradleysbutchers.com](mailto:shop@bradleysbutchers.com)

**Sadd's**, Dorrington (01743 718215)

**Hough's**, Church Stretton (01694 722386)

**Emsdon Farm Butchers**, Church Stretton (01694 328137)

### VEGETABLE BOXES

**Rowlands** can deliver fruit and vegetable boxes (also including milk, bread, butter and eggs), and offer a £20 or a £30 box. Gammon ham and yoghurt can be added at a cost of £5. To place an order please call 01743 462244.

Please see above for details of **Battlefield Farm Shop**, who are also able to deliver orders of fruit and vegetables.

### READY MEALS

**Oakapple Catering** have a large selection of ready meals available to deliver, from simple suppers to fine dining. Please see their selection at [www.oakapplecatering.co.uk/sample-menus/covid-19-menus/](http://www.oakapplecatering.co.uk/sample-menus/covid-19-menus/). Call 01694 731305 or email [enquiries@oakapplecatering.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oakapplecatering.co.uk).

**Battlefield Farm Shop** are also offering ready meals (please see above under Butchers).



## NHS VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS

The NHS has temporarily paused recruitment of NHS Volunteer Responders so that the existing 750,000 applications can be processed. Further information on the scheme will be posted on the NHS website at [www.england.nhs.uk/participation/get-involved/volunteering/nhs-volunteer-responders/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/participation/get-involved/volunteering/nhs-volunteer-responders/) in due course.

NHS Volunteer Responders is a new group that will carry out simple, non-medical tasks to support people in England who have been asked to shield themselves from coronavirus because of underlying health conditions. They will be used by healthcare professionals to make sure people who are highly vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19) are able to stay safe and well at home.



Good advice from Isabelle Page in Acton Burnell

## IF YOU NEED HELP...

(The information below was correct as of 8th April)

### Information from the NHS

If you need medical help for any reason, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus/Covid-19 (a high temperature or a new, continuous cough), use the 111 coronavirus service ([www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)).

If you need help or advice not related to coronavirus:

- For health information and advice, use the NHS website or your GP surgery website
- For urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service ([111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk)) – only call 111 if you're unable to get help online
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance

Local medical practices are asking patients to use the E-consult on-line advice service wherever possible (you will find details of this on your GP's website), with telephone appointments or face-to-face appointments being offered only where necessary. E-consult can link you to general NHS advice on your condition or problem, or can be used to get personal advice from your pharmacy or GP.

**Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Teams (CRT)** can be contacted if you need emergency support, are classed as vulnerable, need help with accessing food or medication and are not able to find any other support. Please call **0345 678 9028**, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. All callers will be required to explain their need and, if required, this information will be passed on to the appropriate support.

If you are feeling stressed and anxious, then take a look at the NHS **Every Mind Matters** website ([www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/)) for help and advice.

If you desperately need a confidential listening ear, then the **Samaritans** will try to be there for you. They can be called day or night on **116 123**.

For any women who may be worried about their safety, or the safety of someone close to them during lockdown, **West Mercia Women's Aid** can offer telephone support and advice. Call **0800 783 1359**. The National **Domestic Abuse helpline** can be reached on **0808 2000 247**. Similar services for men can be accessed by calling **Respect** on **0808 8010327**, or **Mankind** on **01823 334244**.

**Childline** has helpful hints for children suffering from anxiety or fears. Take a look at their website at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk). They also offer a confidential telephone advice line on **0800 1111**.

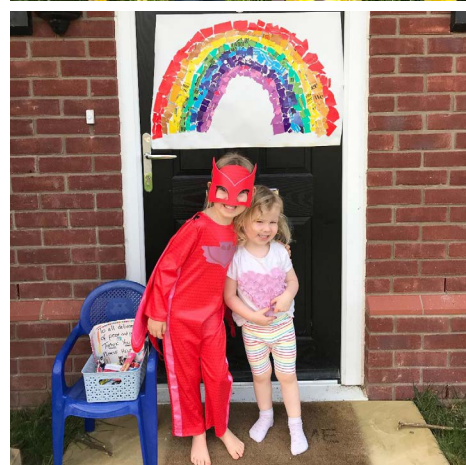
**Silverline** offers a helpline and friendly listening ear for older people, and can be contacted on **0800 4708090** at any time. **Age UK** also has useful information on its website regarding coronavirus and hints and tips on how to cope with the current situation.

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY:** we all need to look out for each other at this challenging time. If you think someone may be in need of some help, or perhaps would just welcome a friendly chat, then pick up the phone and give them a call, send them an email, or pop a note through their door. If you need some practical assistance then post a request on the [Acton Burnell Community Facebook page](#).



## News from Pitchford Village Hall

The Village Hall in Pitchford is clearly closed and events such as Pub Night and others have been put on hold. The "Onion Competition" has been kept open and all 38 onions generously donated by Alan Hotchkiss have now gone into local homes where they will be encouraged to grow to inedible sizes ready for what we hope will be "judgement day" in September assuming the current situation eases by then.



*Ella and Molly in Acton Burnell being creative in lockdown!*

## CHANGES TO CHURCH STRETTON LEISURE FACILITIES

Shropshire Council is in the process of taking over the running of leisure facilities in Church Stretton previously managed by Teme Leisure. The change of control took effect on 1st April.

Stretton Pool Action will continue to support the transfer of the whole centre through close liaison with Council officers and centre staff and on-going fund raising.

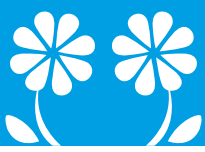
Discussions have taken place with Church Stretton Town Council and Church Stretton Schools regarding future support, management arrangements, and programming.

As the first part of a programme of updating and maintenance, repairs are being carried out on the swimming pool roof, and new spin bikes will be installed in the gym.

Along with all other leisure centres, Church Stretton Leisure Centre is currently closed.







# 'Whats on' in Lockdown



## TIME TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW?

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY** provides over 1000 free courses through their Open Learn programme. Course materials can be downloaded from their website, and courses range from history and the arts to science, maths and technology, and from money and business to nature and the environment. Something here for everyone! Go to [www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue)

**COURSERA** offers an amazing 1523 free on-line courses from universities and other institutions worldwide. Name a subject and you will probably find a course to suit you. Courses are ranked by difficulty (beginner, intermediate or advanced) so that you can choose the right level for you. Go to [www.coursera.com](http://www.coursera.com) and search for free courses.

**JACKSON'S ART blog** has links to a number of on-line art courses, and articles on various artists and art techniques. Explore their website at [www.jacksonsart.com/blog](http://www.jacksonsart.com/blog).

**THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** has hints and tips on jobs to be getting on with in your garden this month, with advice on pruning, taking cuttings, sowing seeds and potting on. Go to [www.rhs.org.uk/advice](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice) and start exploring from there!

**ALLFREEKNITTING** has a free on-line knitting course which takes you from novice to expert! Go to [www.allfreeknitting.com/Knitting-Tutorials/Knitting-Class](http://www.allfreeknitting.com/Knitting-Tutorials/Knitting-Class) to see what they can offer. (Most on-line knitting suppliers are still operating, although deliveries may be a little slow). Free knitting and crochet patterns can also be downloaded from [www.ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com).

**GREAT BRITISH HOME CHORUS** offers the chance to develop your singing skills with Gareth Malone. Go to [www.decca.com/greatbritishhomechorus/](http://www.decca.com/greatbritishhomechorus/) and register to take part in this free opportunity. You will be emailed all the information you need.

## FOR CULTURE VULTURES

**THE NATIONAL THEATRE** is broadcasting recordings of live performances free on their YouTube channel, releasing a new production every Thursday. Each play will be available for one week. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for National Theatre.

**THE ROYAL ACADEMY** offers the chance to enjoy a virtual video tour of some recent exhibitions. Go to [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk), click on 'news and blog' and select 'videos' from the menu.

**THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** will be streaming opera and ballet performances via YouTube, at [www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse](http://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse). New performances will be available every Friday evening as part of their 'Our House to Your House' programme.

**SADLER'S WELLS** is broadcasting ballet performances on their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SadlersWells/](http://www.facebook.com/SadlersWells/)). Each performance will be available for seven days.

**ANDREW LLOYD-WEBBER's** musicals will be streaming for free on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) every weekend. Search for 'The Shows Must Go On' to watch a different musical each weekend.

**THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** will be streaming a concert every Sunday and Thursday on their YouTube channel, starting at 7.00pm on Sundays and 7.30pm on Thursdays. Find a list of the planned programme at [www.lso.co.uk](http://www.lso.co.uk).

**SHROPSHIRE LIBRARY** has ebooks and audiobooks to download free of charge via Cloud Library. If you are already a library member then you can get started by going to the Shropshire Library website at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/) (you will need your library card number and pin number). If you aren't yet a member, it is very easy to join on-line. Please note that you will need to download a free Cloud Library app to receive and read your books on your phone, tablet or laptop. Once downloaded, you can keep your ebook for 21 days.

## FOR NATURE LOVERS

**THE RSPB** has lots of information on its website on bird behaviour, how to encourage birds to your garden, and help with identifying the birds you spot. Go to [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).

**COUNTRY LIFE** is offering a free wildflower guide as a pdf download. Go to [www.countrylife.co.uk/gardens/a-simple-guide-to-the-wildflowers-of-britain](http://www.countrylife.co.uk/gardens/a-simple-guide-to-the-wildflowers-of-britain) to find the link, and get ready to identify all those flowers you spot on your daily exercise!

**JODRELL BANK** gives hints and tips on what can be seen in the night sky this month, including when and where to spot the International Space Station as it passes overhead. No telescope required, but sharp eyes or binoculars will be helpful! Go to [www.jb.man.ac.uk](http://www.jb.man.ac.uk), select Explore Astronomy and then select 'The Night Sky This Month'.

## FOR ALL THE FAMILY

**THE ROYAL ACADEMY** has family friendly 'how-to' guides available on-line, including vegetable printing, how to make your own recycled sculpture, how to make an animated film, and how to make your own coloured slime! Go to [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk) and search for 'family how-to'.

**THE RSPB** has fun activities and on-line games for children at [www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning](http://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning). Try a bug safari in your garden or make a mini-pond to encourage wildlife to pay you a visit.

**SADLER'S WELLS** is offering Family Dance Workshops on its YouTube channel. Aimed at 2 to 6 year olds, there is also plenty to challenge older children (and grownups) too.

## KEEPING FIT WHILE STAYING SAFE

In addition to your daily exercise outside the home, you might want to try:

### YOGA

Queen of the on-line yoga community is Adrienne Mishler, who has a wide range of yoga classes available via YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene](http://www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene). Sessions range from quick 5 minute classes up to a full 45 minute class.

Another popular teacher is Cole Chance, who also offers a choice of on-line classes. Go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for Cole Chance.

Not a free option, but local yoga teacher Suzanna Brander is offering interactive on-line classes via Zoom. The advantage of using Zoom is that Suzanna can see what you are doing and offer suggestions and support. Contact Suzanna on [suzanna.brander@gmail.com](mailto:suzanna.brander@gmail.com) or call 07860 308542. Suzanna comes highly recommended!

### WORKOUTS

Jonathan Van Ness (of Queer Eye fame) has a free, light-hearted dance based workout app (FitOn) which can be downloaded via YouTube at [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com).

For fans of fancy unitards, Mr Motivator is back on the BBC as part of BBC One's Healthcheck Live programme (weekday mornings at 10.00am), providing a ten minute workout and advice, or try his 'daily dozen' available on YouTube for a 12 minute workout.

### FAMILY FITNESS

Designed for kids, but increasingly being enjoyed by whole families, Joe Wicks offers a daily workout on YouTube. Go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for 'PE with Joe' for a half hour session. Joe also offers a 10 minute workout for 'seniors', a 15 minute 'fat burner', and a more demanding 'HIT' home workout, all available from YouTube.

Strictly Come dancing star Oti Mabuse and her partner, Marius Lepore, offer dance classes for older children (and adults), teaching routines from famous films. This is your chance to learn how to dance to Let it Go from Frozen! Find them on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search for Oti Mabuse dance class.

### REFINE YOUR DANCE MOVES

Get ready to hit the dance floor and show off your new moves when we can all go out again with bite-sized sessions from [www.learntodance.com/online-dance-lessons/](http://www.learntodance.com/online-dance-lessons/). Select free dance lessons, and try a range of styles from ballroom and latin to hip hop and belly dancing. Something for everyone here!

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

In this month's column I'm going to focus on development in Shropshire and why it is an important topic for one village in particular in our ward!

Shropshire Council is required to keep under review any matters that affect the development of the county. In the latest local plan review, which is to provide a development framework until 2036, it is thought that the County needs to build 28,750 new houses. Approximately 72.5% of this need will be planned for in the main market towns, and sites like the old Buildwas Power Station and the Clive Barracks. In wards like ours in Burnell, little in the way of development is envisaged.

There is a village in Burnell however that has been defined as a 'Hub' because of the facilities it has. As a hub, the village of Dorrington therefore needs to find land it can develop for future housing needs. The need was set by Shropshire Council as a minimum of 69 new homes up until 2036.

Condover Parish Council (CPC), which includes Dorrington within its boundary, is undertaking a Neighbourhood plan so that decisions about where development should take

place are made locally where residents most affected can have the most influence and input. CPC has been consulting extensively on how and where it sees its villages developing to feed into the neighbourhood plan.

An independent assessment of sites put forward for development in Dorrington was commissioned by CPC. The conclusions of the assessment will have taken into account the impact of development on highways, drainage and ecology amongst other things. As a result of the independent assessment, there are 3 sites in Dorrington thought by CPC to be the most suitable (of those put forward) to have some housing development. The details of these sites can be seen at the following website: [www.condoverpc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/](http://www.condoverpc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/)

The Neighbourhood plan being written by CPC, which includes development as an integral part of that plan, will need to be agreed locally by residents of the parish- this is done by a referendum which needs a simple majority. The decision is then ratified by the national planning inspectorate. The Neighbourhood plan then has legal weight in any future development decisions.

Should the sites now identified receive an application to be developed, there will still need to be the normal Shropshire council planning processes and all residents of Dorrington will be consulted again to have their say through the normal channels. Any issues that arise as a result of development will be dealt with by the normal planning process, and that includes measures to deal with drainage issues, mitigate highway problems and wildlife disruption. It is of course possible that the planning process uncovers things that stops any development at the locations chosen by CPC.

CPC is doing what it is obliged to do by national government. Had CPC not put forward sites for development, the necessary development would have happened anyway with less local input.

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), on Facebook (dan4burnell) or by phone (07902408400).

Dan Morris

### THREE SONS OF FRODESLEY

This is the story of three Frodesley brothers, all orphaned before the age of 5. In the article below, Ron Repath tells the tale of the eldest brother, Henry, and the youngest, Francis. The story of the middle brother, Herbert, will be featured in the next edition of Village Views.

Four generations of the Edwardes family served as rectors of Frodesley between 1760 and 1822. The last, Benjamin Edwardes, became rector in 1816 but died in 1822 aged 31. His wife had died not long before him, possibly in childbirth.

The oldest of their three sons, Henry, was born in 1818 and the youngest, Francis, was born in 1822. After the death of their parents, the three boys were brought up by relatives. They were given a good education but then they all went to seek their fortune with the East India Company as officers in their private army,

which was, in the early 19th century, twice the size of the British army.

By the time the 3 brothers reached India the British government had begun to severely curtail the power of the company particularly by an act of 1833 which included the provision that no Indian subject of the company should be debarred from holding any office in the company by reason of his religion, place of birth, descent or colour. As we know passing an Act and putting it into practice are two quite different things. The 1835 Education Act reallocated company funds to spend on education and literature in India. The East India Company was finally nationalized in 1858, to give way to the British Raj.

Henry (the oldest brother) became a Lieutenant in the 15th regiment of the Bengal Native Infantry. He died in 1848 having been thrown

from his horse on his way to join his regiment aged 30. His youngest brother, Francis, became a Lieutenant in the Madras Native Infantry. He was serving as an Adjutant in the 2nd regiment of the Punjab Irregular Infantry when he died of fever in 1847 at the age of 25. These two brothers and their father are commemorated on plaques in Frodesley church.

The third brother (born in 1819) landed in Calcutta in 1841 at the age of 22 to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Bengal European Regiment. He left the military after just 5 years. He is commemorated in Westminster Abbey and had several pubs in Shrewsbury named in his memory. His portrait is to be found in The National Portrait Gallery. I hope to tell his story in the next edition.

Ron Repath



## THINGS TO BE DOING IN YOUR GARDEN RIGHT NOW (EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A GARDENER)

Make a bee hotel for mason bees. These solitary bees are not aggressive, so there is no danger in attracting them to your garden. During the summer they will be looking for somewhere to lay their eggs, and you can help provide them with the perfect spot. You can find simple instructions on building your bee hotel at [www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/diy/how-to-make-a-bee-hotel/](http://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/diy/how-to-make-a-bee-hotel/). Have a root around in your garage or shed and you will probably find you have most of the things you need to complete the project.

Give your paths and patio a spring clean. Sweep up any fallen leaves, grit and mud. If you don't have a specialist patio cleaning product available, then you can use either bleach (mix with ten parts water to one part bleach) a mixture of washing up liquid or liquid soap (around one cup of washing up liquid to a bucket of water), or for very small stained areas try a mix of water and vinegar. Apply with a stiff brush (get the elbow grease working on any tough stains), leave for 15 minutes and then rinse with fresh water.

Now is the time to divide overcrowded perennials. If you have a perennial

plants that looked a little leggy last summer, or which have outgrown their space, give them a new lease of life by lifting and dividing them. Use a fork to gently loosen the earth around the plant, and try and lift it with as many roots as possible intact. Then tease into two, three or four good clumps, making sure each clump has a good network of roots. If the plant is large and the roots dense, you may need to use two forks (or a fork and a spade) back to back to lever the root ball apart. They can then be replanted around your garden or donated to friends and neighbours. Plants for free!

If you didn't cut back dead leaves and stems from perennials at the end of the autumn, now is a good time to do it. Makes the garden look much tidier and lets you easily see and enjoy the fresh young leaves as they begin to emerge.

Have a go at growing micro-greens. If you have a few packets of seeds (spinach, radish, broccoli and lettuce are particularly easy) or some dried peas or seed peas, then this is an easy and quick way of getting some extra fresh greens into your diet. Grab a seed

tray, or, if you don't have one, see if you have a shallow plastic tray waiting to be recycled. Fill with compost and sprinkle the seeds on the surface. Lightly cover with compost, water sparingly and then cover loosely with cling film. Place somewhere light and warm, and within a week you should be seeing plenty of young shoots. If you are growing these on a windowsill, make sure you turn the tray once or twice a day so that the shoots grow straight rather than leaning towards the light. These can be harvested once they are showing two sets of leaves. Simply cut with a pair of scissors and stir fry or add to a salad. Some seeds will shoot again, so wait a while before discarding the tray. More information can be found at [www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/how-to-grow-microgreens/](http://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/how-to-grow-microgreens/).

Got a good tip on how to make the most of our gardens? Post it on the [Acton Burnell Community Facebook page](#), or send it to [villageviews@hotmail.com](mailto:villageviews@hotmail.com) for inclusion in the next Village Views.

## KNOW YOUR ONIONS!

Taking part in the Pitchford Village Hall annual onion competition? We've gathered together the best advice from the country's gardening experts to help you produce a prize winning specimen.

Monty Don advises leaving the onions in their small pots until May, and then transplanting them to their final growing position outside. Plant them in 'lightish' soil without too much manure or compost – if the soil is too rich you'll get lots of leaves but a small onion, and you'll also run the risk of fungus!

Gardening Know How magazine advises that onions grown in pots need at least 3 inches of open soil around them, so make sure any pot is big enough to accommodate them as they grow. Pots should also be placed where they get six or seven hours of light. The Royal Horticultural Society however says that they should really be planted in open ground or at the very least in deep containers.

In 2012 Peter Glazebrook grew the world's heaviest onion at over 18lbs. He suggests always watering in the morning on sunny days, but keeping them on the dry side if cool and grey. Peter always uses tepid water from the kitchen mains supply. He does not recommend feeding, but suggests good quality compost and regular potting on into larger pots.

And from national champion John Trim comes the following advice. Onion seedlings should be planted firstly into 5" pots, before moving into 3 litre pots, and finally, by the end of April, your onion seedlings should be planted up into 20 litre pots (measuring around 35.5cm across the top). Support their necks with a couple of canes to avoid flopping. Water from the bottom of the pot, and six weeks before the competition date begin to give a high potash feed. He advises dusting the onions with talcum powder to help them ripen, which may be a step too far for most people!

Whatever you choose to do, the best of luck and good growing!





## LOCAL ROUTES AROUND ACTON BURNELL AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

We are going through unprecedented times. Never before have we been instructed to stay at home for fear of either contracting or spreading this terrible virus which is affecting us and the rest of the world.

One of the few reasons we are (at the time of writing) allowed to leave our homes, is to take exercise, the most common form of which is to walk. Speaking personally, I am so grateful that I live in our area. People look out for each other; they chat; they are concerned and they help, all of which makes living in 'lockdown' more bearable than I imagine it may be in the inner city (or am I prejudiced?). Another reason I am so grateful is that there is a plethora of lovely walks we can amble along and all close to our front doors allowing me to keep my fitness up, keep me feeling (vaguely) sane and keep my dogs from nagging me. Clearly though, we have to be a little careful. I have to think twice about how many gates I open, not to rub my eyes or scratch my head. If I do see someone else, and let's face it, we are all now more likely to come across other folk on our local tracks than before, I am wary that they may not want me to be there and probably don't want to stop and chat! But then again . . . !

While many of us know the area inside out and have lived here for decades, there are some who have not been here long and don't know many of the local routes, or who possibly have lived here for ages but have never walked the local area comprehensively because they usually go elsewhere. Either way, the only source of exercise at present is going to be here, so I thought I'd come up with a couple of possible routes.

The route descriptions are extremely basic but if used in conjunction with the map (which can be printed off and used) then all should be clear enough. However, an OS map or similar will clearly have much more detail than mine. I've included a number of routes with significant road sections as these are clearly far less busy than they were before the lockdown and so far less of a hazard! All of these suggested routes can be part walked, combined with other routes or just ambled where you fancy!

We are, in our area, blessed with a farming community who do provide us with well-maintained paths, stiles and gates which give us access to our wonderful surroundings which are even more necessary in the current climate. Therefore, as you would normally, please be aware of grazing cattle and sheep on some parts of these routes. Even if your dog is like my larger one, aka the "Big Dog", who utterly ignores animals etc, the sheep (and the landowner) don't know that, so best to be sure and use a lead when near them. If your dog is like my small one, aka "The Rat", a lead is mandatory whenever there is anything in sight that's vaguely organic and moves e.g. sheep, cattle, horses, people, squirrels, birds, grass . . . you get the drift!. Farmers have also started to plough and sow, so keeping dogs off the crop in the fields is also a courtesy. Farmers are being encouraged to keep gates open in the current climate but obviously this is not practical around animals where gates need to be kept shut after you have passed through them. We also need to be alert where paths have been temporarily hidden by ploughing and sowing until the farmers have reinstated them as we could mistakenly take wrong routes which is in no-one's interest!

Clicking on the links below will take you to the archived copy of Village Views containing the detailed routes. Scroll through to find the relevant route description and map.

Enjoy and stay safe.

John Glover

### **BLUE ROUTE:** accessible from Pitchford (and Burnell) – 3.5 miles approx

Leaving Pitchford from opposite Goldings Lane, through the gate where the Pitchford Lake used to be (massive thanks to the local farmer whose engineering works have managed to keep the puddle to a low level allowing great access now!). Stile on the right by a tree and down into the valley where there are a couple of footbridges to cross (the first being one where you will have to lift your hound over if they are with you!), After the second bridge, the track climbs up through the edge of a wood but is extremely muddy and blocked by wind blown trees. However, a simple parallel detour through the trees to the left is no problem. The track leading away from Grove Farm is not clear, so just follow the edge of the crop and field and all will be well.

### **ORANGE ROUTE:** accessible from Burnell (and Pitchford) – 4.5 miles approx

Good route on good paths. The fields beyond the reservoir might not have the path marked yet as ploughing is taking place, but just aim for the single tree NW of the lake and you will find a small gate which marks the halfway point between the lake and the good track in the field beyond. If travelling in the opposite direction from the 90° bend in the track at the western most end of the walk, simply aim for Acton Burnell Hill and you can't go wrong! [Click here for detailed route information](#)

### **GREEN ROUTE:** accessible from Burnell, Langley and Ruckley – 5.3 miles approx.

Lovely route circumnavigating Acton Burnell Hill. Mainly road with a detour to Barn Cottage. Langley Hall and Langley Chapel worth a look as you pass but assume that the Chapel will be closed in the current climate.

### **RED ROUTE:** accessible from Acton Burnell and Frodesley – 3.5 miles approx.

All open countryside on good paths. [Click here for detailed route information](#)

### **LODGE HILL ROUTE:** accessible from Frodesley or Ruckley – 4.5 miles approx.

[Click here for Lodge Hill details](#)





## CHANGES TO CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### Acton Burnell Fete and Bash

The annual Acton Burnell Fete and Bash due to take place on 13th June will now have to be cancelled due to the current coronavirus crisis. We are thinking what else we might be able to do as an autumn event, but that will depend on ideas and how things develop with the virus situation.

The Fete and Bash is a major part of the church's income and without the income from that day we will find it impossible to meet our financial commitments this year. If anyone would like to make a one-off donation in lieu of the fete and bash that would be very welcome and as a one-off donation it could also be gift aided if you were able to do that. However, the fete and the bash are much more than a mere fund-raising activity and we will miss the very important community activity of holding the fete.

### Acton Burnell, Frodesley and Pitchford Harvest Supper

This is another important community date in the church calendar. We will have to wait and see how things progress as to whether we can hold this or not. The date pencilled in for this is 9th October.

### Church closures

By instruction of the Government and the Archbishop's of Canterbury and York, we have reluctantly had to lock our churches whilst the national social distancing is in operation, so are we not able to hold services. If you want or need to make contact with the churches please contact the Rector, Rev'd Geoff Garrett, The Rectory, Condovery, SY5 7AA (01743 872251 / [revgeoff@live.co.uk](mailto:revgeoff@live.co.uk)).

I have been asked about what people should do with their regular donations to our churches and this can be done either by setting up a standing order, or if you have envelopes to keep them going week by week or month by month and bring them to church when we are able to meet again.

We look forward to the time when we can come back in church to meet together and worship together again. In the meantime I am putting together a weekly worship sheet with links to YouTube hymns which you can join in with in your own home. If you do not already receive this but would like to, please email me on the above email address and I will add you to the contact list. I am also working out how I can add these to the Benefice website so that they can also be accessed there.

Rev'd Geoff Garrett, Rector

## NEW BEGINNINGS AS GOOD COMES OUT OF BAD

I have lived through a number of strange times during my lifetime. My younger years were filled with the, what seemed a real threat of nuclear war, often depicted as MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction. At the time it seemed to be a real threat, but latterly we have learned that it probably wasn't as real as we were led to believe. However, the almost constant threat of terrorism initially from the IRA and more latterly from Jihadist groups continues to cause concern. These threats though are only real by being in particular places at particular times. We have also faced the hidden threats of viruses such as Avian Flu and Sars over the last 20 years. Thankfully those did not develop to become world wide pandemics as feared at the time.

We are, of course, now in a very different situation – LOCKDOWN. Our movements and freedoms have never been so restricted in living memory. The price of Coronavirus is very high – as much as the government are trying to mitigate against financial loss, the help does not help everyone and the help others do get is much less than the amount they are losing. The greater and most distressing loss is the loss of life – money can be replaced, human life cannot be replaced and our thoughts and prayers are with all those who mourn the loss of a relative or friend from this very real and current threat.

At this time of year I am usually preparing for a number of church services over the next week, but our churches are closed. I am preparing services though which I sent out by email to those around the villages I have email addresses for and those who want to be included. If you want to be included, please contact me and I will add you to the list.

So what comfort can the Easter Message bring in these troubled times? Well, the message coming from Government and the Queen is that we will come out of this – rise if you like. There will be an end and a new beginning. That is exactly what the Easter Message is and is relevant to everyone of whatever religion or even of no religion at all and that is a message of ending and new beginning. In the Christian Faith it is framed in the events of Good Friday and Jesus's words on the cross – 'It is Finished' and then the events of Easter Day when Jesus rose and brought a New Beginning to the lives of many people. Whether we believe it or not, whether we believe or understand the

significance of it or not or however we interpret the story of Easter – the events are historical fact backed up by contemporary historians and any number of eye-witness accounts.

Another way of looking at how the Easter story can help us to think about the current situation is to see the good things which come out of something as bad and as deadly as this virus. It is so heartening to see how supportive people are of each other, offering help in so many ways. We are also so grateful for the staff of the NHS, care homes, social care in the community, shop and supermarket staff, teachers and many others besides risking their lives and livelihoods to keep vital supplies so that we can all have the basics of life and be kept as safe and well as possible – thank you to everyone keeping us safe well and fed! The Easter story reminds us of the Good in Good Friday and the new life that came into the world through the resurrection of Jesus.

I believe that once we are through this current crisis there will be a new beginning and we will recognise the good that has come out of it all. We had been living in what seemed to be a more and more selfish world and I think we were beginning to lose perspective. I hope that the world will be a different place, that people and nations will be much more prepared to work together for the common good and that everyone will be much more appreciated for everything they contribute to the lives of so many people.

On Good Friday the world was shrouded in darkness, on Easter Day there was a new light and a new hope. Today the world is shrouded in darkness, I pray that soon we may all (whatever our faith or none) can be messengers and contributors of light and hope.

Keep yourselves safe and well and we look forward to the day when our churches can be open again and our communities are restored to life in what will probably be a very different world.

Rev'd Geoff Garrett, Rector





## RAMBLINGS OF A REMAINER

No ..... not the Brexit one - the stay at home in the middle of this health crisis. The first week of the lock-down I revelled in the non-conformity of it all and I found it strangely liberating and did what I liked, when I liked and how I liked. By the second week, guilt set in. Never being the one to enjoy housework, I decided it was about time I knuckled down so it looked like I'd being doing something useful. What seemed like hundreds of drawers needed sorting, business files needed updating, the shed was full of un-used paint and the garden was a wilderness. Where to start?

I was stopped in my tracks when I found a half remembered box full of old photos. Of course, that meant another day had gone by without getting any further. In it, I found many memories of my childhood. One especially traumatic one, when I was about four years old, was when I got scarlet fever and was rushed into an isolation hospital in an

ambulance driven by my uncle who second job was local taxi man with first aid thrown in - a far cry from today's fantastic paramedics! It was a weird experience, as I was isolated for six weeks over Christmas in a glass cubicle - one of twelve, in a long line and overseen by a nurse station at one end.

I saw few people at close quarters during that time, least of all my mum and dad, but I quickly made friends with the gowned, gagged and gloved nurse who came to give me endless injections until I had a posterior akin to a pin cushion, so much so I had to lie on my tummy. As I improved, I made friends in the next cubicle - through the glass - with a boy called Tim who had glandular fever. He was a bit older than me and was lucky enough to have a pile of books to read. It was through him holding them up to the glass that I became acquainted at a very young age with Rupert the Bear and his pals.

A highlight of my time there was when the matron came to tea with me. I had my own little table and crockery and a pretty lace tablecloth which I used in her honour. She was a lovely homely sort of person and she brought me a surprise - several sticks of barley sugar and wonder of wonders, a radio. My love of radio still survives to this day, and my parents were amazed on my return home just after Christmas that I could sing Rudolph the Reindeer right through. When I eventually went home, Father Christmas had actually visited and left me a whole pillowcase full of presents, and I also had a new baby brother! A strange but intriguing present that I have had cause to bless for many years.

In these truly strange times, it brings into focus those things that are most important - family, friendship and community.

Stay safe and well everyone.

## What's that bug: Bee-fly

The bee-fly is a true fly in the Bombylius genus of the insect order Diptera. They undergo complete metamorphosis (holometabolous), meaning that they go through the stages of egg-larva-pupa-imago. The Dark-edged Bee-fly (*Bombylius major*, pictured) is likely to be the one most spotted in the area, and potential sights of the Dotted Bee-fly (*Bombylius discolor*) could be seen too. The former can emerge as early as February, and both could be seen in great numbers from March to June.

### Do they sting?

Bee-flies are unable to sting. They do have a protrusion that looks like a long tongue sticking out. This is

called a proboscis that behaves similar to a straw and is used to feed on nectar from flowering plants.

### Where's their babies?

The eggs are laid into the nests of solitary mining bees by the female bee-fly. Once the larvae have hatched, they will proceed to prey on the bee larvae by sucking their juices. Some female species collect soil particles using their abdomens, which are used to coat the eggs. This action is thought to function as camouflage and/or increased weighted. The latter would be useful when aiming their eggs into the bee's underground burrows.

*Ana Natalio and Nick Antill*



*Dark-edged Bee-fly (Bombylius major)*

## GRANTS FROM THE GODOLPHIN EDWARDS TRUST

Just a quick reminder about the Godolphin Edwards Trust which exists to help people in financial need, particularly in the Acton Burnell, Frodesley and Pitchford areas. If you or you know anyone who would benefit from a grant from the trust in these difficult times please contact me, **Rev Geoff Garrett, The Rectory, Condover, Shrewsbury, SY5 7AA, 01743 872251** or the Secretary/ Treasurer **Michael McElhinney, Arbore House, Acton Burnell, Shrewsbury, SY5 7HR.**

Grants can be given for any aspect of financial need, all that needs to happen is for a letter to be written either to me or Michael and a grant can be issued very quickly. Please encourage anyone you know who is in need to apply or get their permission for you to apply on their behalf.

**DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT AND CHEER, CLAP, WHISTLE OR BANG A SAUCEPAN ON THURSDAYS AT 8PM TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE HEALTHCARE STAFF (DOCTORS, NURSES, PARAMEDICS, AMBULANCE DRIVERS, CLEANERS AND OTHERS) WHO ARE PUTTING THEIR OWN HEALTH ON THE LINE TO KEEP US ALL FIT AND WELL.**

**AND LET'S ALSO REMEMBER THE CARE HOME STAFF, SHOP WORKERS, DELIVERY DRIVERS, POSTMEN AND WOMEN, REFUSE COLLECTORS, POLICE, FIRE BRIGADE, SCHOOL STAFF AND FARMERS WHO ARE CARRYING ON WORKING TO KEEP THE COUNTRY RUNNING SMOOTHLY. THANK YOU!**

