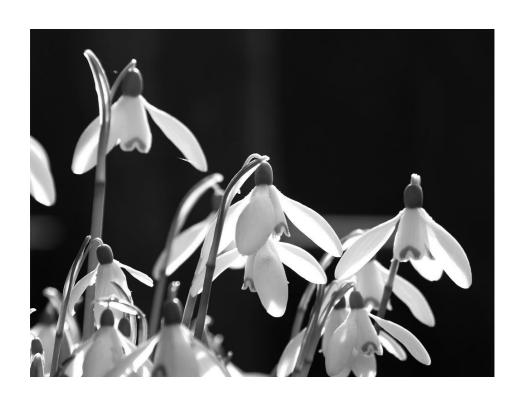
## CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2023

#### The Benefice of the East Vale and Avon Villages

Our calendar year is punctuated by various special days, some of them are holidays which are familiar, but others are not so.

This year Easter is early so we start our period of Lent on 22 February which is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday's service is where we receive ashes along with communion. The ashes are the burned ashes from last year's palm crosses. The cross of ashes on our foreheads is symbolic of Christ's death. Ash Wednesday follows Shrove Tuesday which most of us know as Pancake Day. As a child we had whip and tops at this time. They were sold in my father's shop. The tops were then coloured with chalks making pretty patterns when spinning around. We also used to take the tops to the cobblers and have a metal stud tapped into the bottom, so it spun even better, the winning top was the one that spun for the longest time. An old-fashioned tradition and one that no longer happens at Shrovetide.

Lent gives us time to reflect. Yes, we often give up a treat for Lent, a discipline to remind us of why we are taking time to reflect over the 40 days. It reminds us of the 40 days Christ spent in the wilderness. As a Benefice we can join in with the Lent course in Evesham and share our time and fellowship with others too. After all the fasting and reflection, we come to Easter, the most special time in our Christian calendar.

Margaret Pye

#### **Notice from St Andrew's PCC**

The PCC and the Board of Governors of the Cleeve Prior First School wish to appoint a Foundation Governor. If you feel you may be able to give of your time, please contact one of the Church Wardens for more information.

Mrs L Hughes 772578 Mr Rod Carless 773357

#### St Andrew's Church Services for February 2023

Sun 5 Feb 11 am Matins Rod Carless

Sun 12 Feb 11 am Morning Praise Rod Carless

Sun 19 Feb 11 am Holy Eucharist Revd Clive Leach

Wed 22 Feb 7.00pm Ash Wednesday Benefice Service at Bretforton

Sun 26 Feb 11 am Holy Eucharist Revd Clive Leach

Sun 5 March 11 am Holy Eucharist Revd Clive Leach

Churchwardens Rod Carless 01789 773357 Lis Hughes0178977257

Safeguarding in our Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Farmer Tel.01386 4040 Safeguarding Advocate – Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078 For enquiries concerning Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals contact Faith Quin eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

#### **Call for volunteers**

There are several vacancies on both the flower arranging and cleaning rotas for St Andrew's Church.

We would be very pleased if you felt you had a little spare time to help out on either or both of the above activities.

Please contact us if you can help or require more information:

Church Cleaning Lis Hughes

772578 or <u>lis\_hughes@hotmail.com</u>

Flower Arranging Annette Carless

773357 or annettecarless@gmx.com

Thank you

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS January 2023

The Council meet on the second Monday of every month at 7.30pm, and we allocate time on the agenda for your views, questions, and issues to be raised. You can see full details on our website cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk.

Cllr Peter Wilson: Chairman <a href="mailto:peterwilson545@btinternet.com">peterwilson545@btinternet.com</a>

Cllr Mary Smith: Vice Chair 47mary.j.smith@gmail.com

Cllr Ian Robinson: <a href="mailto:irobinson773805@gmail.com">irobinson773805@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Kevin Mellor: <a href="mailto:kevinjohnmellor@gmail.com">kevinjohnmellor@gmail.com</a>
Cllr Douglas Carr: <a href="mailto:austin.carr@talk21.com">austin.carr@talk21.com</a>

Cllr Bryan Eden: <u>bryaneden@btinternet.com</u>

Since the December newsletter the village enjoyed the festive season with our Seniors' lunch, the Christmas light switch on and the annual Boxing Day treasure hunt. Thank you to all those who volunteered and contributed to these well attended events. We are of course very sad to see Donna and Henry leaving and the sale of our beautiful village pub, The Kings Arms. Times are very tough for businesses, and we hope there will be a way for the pub to resurrect.

We welcome our new Councillor Bryan Eden and are grateful to have his expertise on board. If you are interested in the remaining Councillor vacancy, please do contact us.

Local elections will be held in May and there is a new Government directed requirement for photo ID in order to vote. This includes a range of photo ID including Passport, Driving Licence, Older Person's bus pass and more. However, if you do not have these then you can register for FREE ID on the following website.

www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

You can see events and updates on our village Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/cleevepriorvillage">www.facebook.com/cleevepriorvillage</a>. The new village website will be available from **1 February** and we hope you feel it represents our village well: <a href="https://www.cleevepriorvillage.co.uk">www.cleevepriorvillage.co.uk</a>

Stacey Smith

Clerk to the Parish Council clerk@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

#### An update from the Chair

#### **Crime Matters**

Concern is regularly expressed that we are experiencing a rise in neighbourhood crime. The Parish Council meet regularly with our Police representatives for a two-way exchange about recent incidents and to hear about Police activity. We are told by the Police that there has been something of an upsurge in recent weeks involving break-ins to business premises and targeted thefts of certain types of vehicles. This is in addition to increased crime such as speeding, dog attacks and low level 'opportunity' crime. The message from the Police is that this is currently affecting a wide area and is no worse in Cleeve Prior than elsewhere. They are doing their best to deal with it and several recent arrests and recoveries of stolen goods have happened. It is a sad fact that much of the country is seeing more of these problems. There is only so much that the Police can disclose about their investigations and pro-active initiatives, but I do believe that a great deal is being done behind the scenes to identify perpetrators and deal with them. One problem the Police do have is in the (understandable) reluctance of witnesses to come forward and help in prosecutions. We all have a responsibility to maintain the highest practical levels of security regarding our own property and to report instances of crime in progress or the evidential aftermath. Calling 999 should only be used for real emergencies such as serious crime in progress and 101 should be used for all other Police reporting. By all means, inform a Parish Councillor at some stage if that is appropriate but the initial reporting of a crime should be made to an official number. The website

'Neighbourhood Matters' is very useful for news about recent local Police activity: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

#### **Evesham Road development**

Most people are aware that the proposal for re-development of the Evesham Road traveller site has been a long, drawn-out process. The original developer, 'West Country Development' is still pursuing their plan, albeit there seems to be a number of issues with Wychavon Planning that need to be resolved. A new developer 'Malvern Estates' appeared on the scene early in 2022 and has been constructing an alternative plan and this also has now been submitted to Wychavon Council for consideration. Malvern Estates have asked for the opportunity to address a public meeting to talk about their plan and provide an open discussion on the subject. The date of **22 February** has been agreed and this would take place in the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm. This will be advertised elsewhere for widest coverage.

Peter Wilson, Chairman Cleeve Prior Parish Council.

#### Thank you and farewell

On behalf of the village, I would like to express our sadness that Donna and Henry are leaving the Kings Arms for pastures new. They have lifted the reputation of the pub with magnificent food, good beer and, more importantly, a warm welcome for everyone. They have thrown themselves into village life, helping to prepare the Seniors' Lunch, providing barbecues at cricket matches and refreshments at the very popular village quizzes.

Donna, Henry, good luck for the future. You will both be sadly missed, and remember you leave behind many friends and fond memories.

Best wishes, Ian Robinson



#### NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Villagers

Happy New Year everyone! 2022 was a very busy time for the school and 2023 has begun in much the same way.

Just before Christmas, we held our Christmas Fayre and raised a fantastic £350. This money is being used to treat our KS2 pupils when we visit The Houses of Parliament in London in March. Thank you to all those from the village who came to support us on the day.

Last week, to support our learning in RE, we visited the Worcester Central Mosque with Oak Class. We were shown around by the Imam Sadiq and were able to really understand what prayer and worship look like for Muslims. The children were immaculately behaved and praised for the knowledge of Islam.

The next day, we were visited by the Wonderdome which is a enormous inflatable tent that houses a planetarium. The whole school and preschool (as well as toddlers from Stay and Play) were able to learn more about the universe. It was lovely to see the joy on the childrens' faces when they saw the tent being inflated and deflated!

We have recently recruited two new sports coaches, Mr Kabran and Mr Green from Get Fit Sports to lead our PE lessons as well as run lunchtime and after school clubs on a Monday and Tuesday. The children are really excited about their sessions and joined in happily.

On the 26th January, Luke Mountney from USKO Karate is coming into school to offer taster sessions for all children. I know they will really enjoy it and hopefully it will encourage some of our children to take up this fantastic martial art.

Finally, I would like to invite any member of the village who would like to come into school to hear our lovely children read to contact the school office to speak to Mrs Ellison or myself.

Best wishes



#### CLEEVE PRIOR WAR MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

email: cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

#### Mr & Mrs quiz evening postponed

This event planned for Saturday 18 February has been postponed until a later date. The revised date will be annouced in the Newsletter.

#### Coffee in the Hall

Wednesday 8 February at 10:30 am JOIN US FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT. WALKERS AND DOGS WELCOME

The lending library will be open – check our large selection of books.

#### **Newcomers - join the mailing list**

For the information of those new to the village, the Hall Management Committee maintains a list of email addresses and regularly sends out information about village events, news, etc. If you would like to have your email address added to the list, please let us know at the address above.

#### Lost property

A number of items of clothing seem to have been abandoned in the Ladies' cloakroom at the Hall. They include a navy jacket and scarf, a warm maroon jacket, a navy zipped jacket, a pair of gold laced shoes and a pair of short black boots and a couple of scarves. If they are not claimed (via email address above) by the end of February, they will be disposed of.

#### **Keys**

A bunch of keys has been found in the churchyard. There's a mortice key, a Yale, a bottle opener, and a crucifix. Claim them by emailing the Hall address above or ringing 07778 188655.



Volunteers are now back at work after a short break for Christmas and the New Year. We enjoyed a Christmas party in December and Wassail Night on the traditional Twelfth Night followed by supper at the pub. If you went for a walk through the Community Orchard on 7 January and saw the bread hanging from one of the apple trees, that is why! Managing a traditional orchard involves a lot of work and the pruning season is upon us. If you could spare a few hours on a Tuesday morning to help it would be much appreciated. Training will be given if you are a novice.

Talking of planting, the 420 wild wood saplings will arrive in March for planting at Sanctuary Wood. So watch out for information on that. We don't yet know the date the trees will arrive. We are still looking into a tree dedication scheme for the wood and, as promised, will keep you posted once we have a better idea of how it will work.

Sanctuary Wood is proving to be rather a challenge, clearing the 40 years of hawthorn scrub! It is very hazardous underfoot with glass and tree stubs pointing up out of the ground. Work will continue until the end of March when we stop for the bird nesting season. Our next volunteer day there is **Tuesday 7 February, from 9.30** am – weather permitting. Sturdy footwear and gloves essential. **Please note this** area is not safe for pedestrians or animals, due to exposed glass and trip hazards.

Despite the cooler weather our volunteers are busy on various projects and we would love to welcome new ones. There are endless tasks and every pair of hands makes the coffee break arrive sooner!!

Last season's cider proved very popular and has sold out. The new apple juice is still available at £2.50 a bottle and it is absolutely delicious. No chemicals or sprays are used on the fruit and there are no additives. The juice is pressed at the Trust and pasteurised and bottled for us in Pershore. It is great mulled too! Buy local and support your village heritage. We can deliver.

Gina Carr, Chairman 778051

Registered Charity no. 1063291

#### **Cleeve Prior Ramblers**

Our first ramble of 2023 took place on 21 January. Led by Evelyn sixteen people, including two new ramblers, and five dogs assembled at the Childswickham Inn to start the circular route. The weather was cold enough to maintain a firm footing all the way round but, unfortunately, the temperature brought a heavy mist which obscured much of the views on the journey.

Nonetheless our intrepid hikers followed the path initially through Childswickham village with its characterful houses, river and church, and then through varied countryside towards Broadway. We had a coffee stop on Broadway Green where the mist cleared sufficiently to admire the beautiful Cotswold stone buildings and views of the surrounding hills.

Taking Springfield Lane near the Swan Inn, we left Broadway and crossed the railway which is the end of the GWR steam line that goes from here to Cheltenham. Gaining the countryside again, we had easy walking out to and alongside the A44 Oxford road where a short stretch led us to a turning back towards Childswickham. In clear weather one can enjoy substantial views over Broadway and across to the Malvern Hills. Regrettably not today! A timely phone call ahead meant that on arrival at the Inn, a most pleasant lunch was served in good time.

At this time of year one inevitably takes a chance with the weather but all agreed that a congenial, pleasant and bracing walk had prefaced a welcoming lunch. Not too bad for January. The next Ramble is scheduled for 18 February.

#### **Cleeve Prior Art Group**

The art group had its first meeting of the year on 12 January. This was well attended and we had a new member who was warmly welcomed by all.

We began by reviewing the progress of the group and results of the evaluation we conducted last year. It seems everyone was happy with the running of the group, especially the friendly atmosphere and chocolate biscuits! There were some constructive comments, which indicated the need for more resources. We are addressing this as we have a number of books and painting magazines which have been donated and can be borrowed. Further texts or materials would always be welcome to allow people to experiment and try out different media.

A little more structure to the sessions was also suggested. With this in mind we will have an agreed theme each week. This month we will begin by studying portrait sketching and painting, then move on to figure drawing, or any other topics agreed. Anyone preferring to continue with their own ideas would be free to do so

In February we will have our first taught session which will be led by a visiting artist from Bidford. Different topics to focus this session have been offered and we have decided how we would like to use the session. Hopefully we will be able to develop our skills in watercolour painting and apply it to our own work in the future.

It was lovely to see so many return and eager to continue to meet up and paint together. For any information please contact Louise Conneeley: louiseconneeley@gmail.com, Tel 07765 482722 or 01789 772749.

#### Visitors from Ukraine

Our family, Sergei, Maria and Irina, wanted to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Cleeve Prior for their warm welcome since we arrived in England on 18 October. Our journey from Kherson to the UK began on 5 September and included a trip first to Georgia, where we stopped for paperwork.

Weeks of waiting and finally we can go to the UK. Then we went to Istanbul and got on a flight to Stansted and bus to Birmingham Airport where Pete & Mandy kindly picked us up.

Resettlement in the UK was difficult. It was difficult to get out of the occupied territory, for this we had to cover a very long way. We miss our families in Ukraine, especially our parents and grandparents who currently have very limited supplies of gas, electricity and water. We talk to them on most days when there is an internet connection. Now Irina is in school and both of us are trying to use our skills to find a job.

In Kherson we had our own kitchen design and assembly business. We worked together with other merchants. Here we have to start over. We repaired ourselves our house in Kherson, and Sergei and I gained a lot of

practical skills. Please contact us if you have any odd jobs you need to do as we can help. My mobile number is 07493 527518 or contact Pete & Mandy on 01789 773623. Thanks a lot.

Maria Plyaskina

PS, Look out for a leaflet coming through your door soon, with details of work Sergei can do.

December saw some intrepid members of Cleeve Prior NWR, plus partners, visit Sudeley Castle's Light Spectacular. It was an extremely cold evening with the snow still very much in evidence, but its presence enhanced our experience considerably. The illuminated trees and the special lighting effects looked wonderful as we "Oohed and Aahed" our way round the frozen grounds.

Following a thrilling car drive round the dark snow-bound lanes of Winchcombe – due to being misdirected by a parking official – we arrived at our supper destination, The Corner Cupboard, where we enjoyed an excellent meal. Certainly an NWR outing to remember.

For our January meeting, we invited a former stalwart member, Annette Careless, to give us a talk on her work with the Caring Hands Charity. This charity was founded in 2003 as part of the Vale of Evesham Christian Centre. Annette was inspired to become involved with the Charity following a talk by Philip Morton – our then Vicar. The Charity's remit covers everything from the supply of food parcels, the provision of hot meals to help to those who are homeless, troubled or just in need of some "Caring Hands." The Charity has expanded into new premises recently and has great plans for the future. There is lots of information on the internet and offers of assistance and donations are always welcome. Annette's talk was interesting and thought provoking and certainly made us all count our blessings.

Our next meeting will be on 21 February, not the 14<sup>th</sup> as originally planned.

From the December Newsletter, the answer to the clue '50-year-old Auric Headgear' is 'Golden Cap'.

Evelyn Wilson

#### Safe at Last - and in time for Christmas!

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who offered help and support in the search for Saffy. I feel very fortunate to have her home safely and to live in such a caring community.

Rosemary Perl

## Saturday 18 March 2023, 7.30 pm Elgar, The Dream of Gerontius Worcester Cathedral Worcester Festival Choral Society and Meridian Sinfonia

Tickets £15 - £27 From WFCS Online or 0333 666 3366

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Quinney's Lane, Bidford on Avon B50 4JL Parish Priest: Canon Garry Byrne

Telephone: 01789 773291 Website: sjtw-bidford.org.uk

#### Memorial Hall 200 Club Winners of the December Draw:

£100: Mrs Sue Taylor £50: Ms Sheila Debens Winner of the January Draw:

£50: Harry Burgess

#### **VILLAGE and LOCAL EVENTS**

Event	Time	Venue
Sanctuary Wood works	9.30 am	Quarry Ln
Coffee in the Hall	10.30 am	Hall
Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Hall
Ramble	9.30 am	The Green
Half term week		
Public Meeting, Malvern		
Estates, re Evesham Rd	7 pm	Hall
	Sanctuary Wood works Coffee in the Hall Parish Council Meeting Ramble Half term week Public Meeting, Malvern	Sanctuary Wood works Coffee in the Hall Parish Council Meeting Ramble Half term week Public Meeting, Malvern

**Cleeve Prior Art Group** meets in the Hall at 10 am on Thursdays. **Pilates** classes are held on Friday mornings in the Hall at 9.30 and 10.30 am.

**The CP Bowls Club** meets in the Hall on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings, from September to May. Contact Les Bratt on 01789 773651.

## EVESHAM RURAL NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Up-coming Cleeve Prior Drop-in Sessions with your Local Police Officers at the Village Hall:

Wednesday 1st February 7 pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 10am Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10am

PC 3838 Matt Beards / PCSO 40246 Bradley Sansom

The Rota	s for February	1
M.	Sidesmen	
5 Feb	Mrs M Greenwood	
12 Feb	Mrs J Taylor	4 1000
19 Feb	Mrs L Hawkins	
26 Feb	Mrs L Hughes	
	The second second	
5 Mar	Mr C Greenwood	
	Character Florida	Classic Classics
	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
5 Feb	Mrs R Perl	Mrs M Sylvester
12 Feb	Mrs S Taylor	Mrs J Davenport
19 Feb	Mrs J Stewart	Mrs M Taylor
26 Feb	No	Mrs S Mortimer
	Flowers	
5 Mar	During Lent	Mrs D Byrne
1		

Copy for inclusion in the **March** edition **By Tuesday 21 February please**Please submit copy by email to the following

email address: <u>cleevepriornewsletter@gmail.com</u>

or contact the Editor, Susan Mortimer (773453)

This Newsletter is published by St. Andrew's PCC