

CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



The Paschal Lamb from the Church of S. Pudenziana, Rome

MARCH 2024

The Benefice of the East Vale and Avon Villages

Dear Friends,

How connected do you feel with your village community? Is this something that is important to you? For some of us, that sense of connection is really important – for others, not so much. Very often, it is that sense of being known, belonging -being recognised or heard in some way by people around us, that helps us thrive. It can be key in giving us a sense of purpose in our lives. We get it in so many different ways, sometimes major things like going to special events – or contributing to them (like the Christmas carol singing or the Big Help Out in summer) – but we can feel connected with each other in really straightforward, apparently minor ways – like simply saying hello to someone we recognise in the shop or on the street on the way to the Rec.

I've been thinking about how this sense of connection can be so important, since someone asked me if I had A Big Vision for our churches in the local area. I thought about the book on my desk which has "THRIVE" in big multi-coloured letters splashed across its front cover. How do we thrive? How do we feel encouraged? How do we feel that our life has a purpose and is worth something?

The Bible says that God loves everyone, that God cares about us, and it also reminds us that we should love our neighbour as much as we should love ourselves. That tells us that God is all about connection - a relationship based on love and care - between God and the world, and between one neighbour and another. Every week in our church services, we hear words from "the Gospel" (of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) -and we listen, remembering that "Gospel" means "Good news". For me, that good news is based on the belief that life **does** have a purpose (to learn more about God's love, and to get better at showing that love and kindness to others in any way I can). The "good news" is that every single person in our community is valuable, that we do belong, and that we are connected to each other in some way because we are all loved by God.

So, I invite you to explore that sense of connection further if you would like to. There are lots of things going on in our villages where people come together to make some brilliant events happen within the community. And we also have quite a bit going on, events planned within our church congregations too over the next few weeks and months – watch this space! But whatever you do, I hope that you feel known, valued and cared for, whether you have lived here all your life, or if you just moved in last week.

God bless you,

Rev. Jo Fielding

Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com Tel 07561 823135

St Andrew's Church Services for March 2024

Fri 1 st	2.30pm World Day of Prayer at Cleeve Prior
Sun 3 rd	11 am Matins, Rod Carless
Sun 10 th	11 am Mothering Sunday Family Service for all the family
Sun 17 th	11 am Holy Eucharist, Revd Joanna
Sun 24 th	11 am Palm Sunday Benefice Eucharist at Bretforton
Holy week	
Mon 25 th	Compline, 7.00pm Cleeve Prior Revd Joanna
Tue 26 th	Compline 7.00pm South Littleton
Wed 27 th	Tenebrae 7.00pm Bretforton
Thur 28 th	Maundy Thursday Eucharist 7 pm Offenham
Fri 29 th	Good Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm Solemn Eulogy of the Passion at Cleeve Prior Revd Joanna
Sat 30 th	Easter Vigil Badsey 7.00pm
Sun 31 st	Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist 11 am Cleeve Prior

Churchwardens Rod Carless 01789 773357; Lis Hughes 01789772578
Safeguarding in our Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Farmer
Tel.01386 40401
Safeguarding Advocate – Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078
For enquiries concerning Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals contact
Faith Quin eastvaleavon.churches@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

March 2024

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 peterwilson@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

CLLr Mary Smith: Vice Chair marysmith@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

CLLr Ian Robinson: ianrobinson@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

CLLr Kevin Mellor: kevinmellor@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

CLLr Bryan Eden: bryaneden@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

CLLr Sandra Vincent: sandravincent@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

CLLr Nicky Marshall: nickymarshall@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

The first signs of spring are popping up in the village with the daffodils rearing their heads to some occasional sunshine. They are getting a good watering with the rainfall at the moment and, unfortunately, the flooding has been causing a few problems in the village. Flooding and drainage issues can be reported to Worcestershire County Council (worcestershire.gov.uk) and many issues such as potholes via the Wychavon site (wychavon.gov.uk/report-it).

To keep up to date see cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk, our village website cleevepriorvillage.co.uk and our village Facebook page facebook.com/cleevepriorvillage.

Stacey

Stacey Smith, Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council
clerk@cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

Quarry Lane, Cleeve Prior

The current severe damage being inflicted upon Quarry Lane by tanker lorries is causing distress to many people.

In the past the Parish Council has had long-running negotiations with Severn Trent about the use of this lane which leads to our local sewage pumping station. Last year the lane was repaired to a good standard but the unusually

wet weather we have experienced over recent months has seriously exposed the inadequate capacity of the pumping station. This has necessitated the greatly increased use of tankers and led to the rapid deterioration of the lane that we now see.

We are pressing Severn Trent for short and long-term solutions.

It transpires that a number of people have taken to abusing the tanker drivers and our local farmers who need to use this lane for essential access to farm buildings and lambing fields.

This is unfair to the drivers and our hardworking farmers and of no constructive use at all.

If you feel strongly then contact Severn Trent and join us in demanding action to correct the situation.

Cleeve Prior Parish Council.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH, make a difference, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Community Speed Watch is a community-driven road safety initiative which enables volunteers to address concerns about inappropriate traffic speeds in their area.

It is supported by the Police & Crime Commissioner and coordinated by West Mercia Police Road Safety team. The scheme is run by volunteers in the community and is in place for areas that do not meet criteria for speed enforcement.

The scheme involves police trained volunteers from the village monitoring speeds of vehicles with speed measurement devices. Volunteers do not stop speeding motorists.

Letters are sent out by the police asking the driver to reduce speeds in the future.

We now have the opportunity to help make a difference to speeds in our village as other communities have in the surrounding area.

We need at least six volunteers in order for a Community Speed Watch to be approved.

If you are interested in being part of the CSW team please contact me and I will give you more details.

Mary Smith

Tel - 01789 772928, email: marysmith@clevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

Be part of History and help save our beautiful 16th Century Pub as the heart of our community for generations to come!



Image by Sarah Gallucci

Monthly Update, March 2024

Thanks to everybody who supported and attended our Open Day on 10 February and the photo-shoot with our MP, Nigel Huddleston. in the rain on the previous day! Over 100 people came to the Memorial Hall, and it was hugely encouraging to the Steering Group to see the amount of optimism and enthusiasm that was displayed by 99.9% of those attending. Over £1,100 was donated on the day towards our fighting fund. A brilliant effort, thank you! Great interest was shown in the ideas for remodelling the bar area and for the options for developing the barn. In the latter case 43 out of 62 responses favoured the option including a shop with pop-up post office and café/teashop. One of the outstanding grant applications covers the costs of commissioning feasibility studies and costings for the various options we

have open to us. Ultimately, however work on the barn will depend on the funds available to us.

In reference to our financial outlook, the pre-launch marketing of the Share Issue has provided positive feedback that when the official Share Offer document is launched, we will be able to reach our minimum targets of £200K. We are currently finalising the document and share purchase processes with our solicitor before submitting these for independent accreditation to receive the Quality Standard Mark. A second Open Day/Share Offer Launch Event is planned for early March.

We received the excellent news that we were successful in our application for £50,000 from the Wychavon UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This sum must be used for refurbishment and is an important step towards the minimum sum we require for the project.

We are waiting for the outcome of our major grant application to the Community Ownership Fund which was submitted before the deadline of 31 January 2024.

Our website, www.cleevepriorcommunitypub.co.uk is now live where you can find copies of all our recent correspondence. Also live is our Facebook page [Save The Kings Arms, Cleeve Prior](#) and our Crowdfunder page www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-the-kings-arms is open for donations to our fighting fund. At the time of writing, we have received £2,546 from 34 donors from as far afield as Germany, Spain and France! Again, thanks to all our supporters!

Closer to home, we have received excellent press coverage in the Evesham Observer, Evesham Journal, Stratford Herald, and Country Life magazine!

Brian Williams

Chair, Cleeve Prior Community Pub Limited



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Dear Villagers,

As I said previously, spring term is always a busy and productive in school and the last few weeks have absolutely proved that. On the last day of half-term we were delighted to welcome Nigel Huddleston MP to our school to officially unveil our very hard-earned Green Flag for being a sustainable and ecologically-minded school. During his visit he had a tour of the school, said how lovely our school was and how well-behaved our children were. We were very proud of our children and Mother Jo was present to share our special day.

On a sporting front, we are still also in the process of rehearsing a dance in KS2 to perform at the Henrician theatre on 28 February as part of a dance festival. We are performing a Viking Longship dance and are all looking forward to the big day.

As we are now in Lent and our liturgical cloth is purple, I have set the children a challenge. They have been asked to perform good deeds for those around them. If they perform those deeds and acts of kindness, they are to ask for pennies to fill a smartie tube. All of the children were given a full tube of smarties which they could eat and then refill with money. All proceeds will be donated to Comic Relief later in March. I will let you know how it goes!

On 20 February our KS2 children visited the Heritage Trust to plant some trees near to the Secret Garden. During our visit the children drew maps and these will be going on display there. Thanks to Mrs Carr and the other members of the team for allowing this to happen. It is so important for our children to be a part of this key part of the community in Cleeve Prior and we hope to revisit the Heritage Trust later in the year.

On 7 March it is World Book Day. This is a celebration of books and reading and is an opportunity for our children to dress up. This year we are asking our children to dress up as an adjective and we look forward to seeing the Wow words they come as! On the day we will be holding a Readathon where we are inviting families and friends into school to read to our children or with them all day. If anyone from the village would like to join us, please let me know.

Best wishes, *Mrs Laughlin*



An update from your local policing team...

Who are your local Neighbourhood Officers for the 'Rural North' area?

Your local Neighbourhood Officer is PC Alex Prentice and PCSO Bradley Sansom. They can be contacted by emailing eveshamrn.snt@westmercia.police.uk. Sadly, PCSO Sansom will be leaving his role as a PCSO in

March to work in a different department, still within West Mercia. We are actively now more than ever involved with our Evesham SNT Facebook page. Please follow Evesham SNT to keep up to date with our activities and to see when our local drop in/engagement sessions are.

Engagements

As you may know, we do weekly engagement sessions in each of the villages across the Evesham Rural North patch. We are always open to listening to the public if they believe the engagements with the public should be done differently. Please, if have any ideas on how we can better engage with the public, please let me know by emailing the above email address.

E-Scooters

We are receiving an increase in reports of use of e-scooters. Can we please remind everyone that the use of electric scooters and hoverboards is illegal on public roads – except those that are part of an official government trial (we do not have any of these locally).

Although you can lawfully buy an e-scooter, they are currently illegal to use on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes and pedestrian-only areas unlike part of an approved trial. As we do not have any of these trials locally, e-scooters and hoverboards can only be ridden on private land with the permission of the land owner. E-scooters are classed as a Powered Transporter as fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles in terms of requiring insurance, tax, MOT, license and registration. Anyone found using them in public areas risk having them seized by the police. Enforcement operations are being planned along with sessions to educate young people.

What have we been up to?

Various schools have been visited with regards to parking. Again, can parents please park sensibly when dropping off/picking up children and, if you can, please walk! Be mindful of junctions, dropped kerbs and people's driveways and please do not drop children off whilst in the middle of road.

Drop-in sessions/engagement sessions are attended throughout the month on various days including weekends. Please attend these if you feel the need to. Various coffee mornings have been attended and crime prevention presentations have been provided to the local residents.

All of the above is sent through Neighbourhood Matters. We are encouraging people to sign up to this service as it's a great way of finding out what we are up to and where we will be. Please ensure you sign up to this free service.

Take a look at the website for further information:

<https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

PC Alex Prentice 21115

Safer Neighbourhood Officer | Evesham Rural North | West Mercia Police

Evesham Police Station, Abbey Road, Evesham, WR11 4SS

Mobile: 07811 973304 **Direct Dial:** 101 or 0300333300

Personal email: alexandra.prentice@westmercia.police.uk



Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust

News from Noel and Gina

It's been a bit of a battle with the elements just lately but our volunteers turn out cheerfully in all weathers. Why not come and join us Tuesdays 9.30 – 1.

SCHOOL VISIT

We welcomed pupils from our very own Cleeve Prior Primary School in February. The children planted Medlar and Quince trees in the Perry Pear Orchard. They learned all about the history of fruit trees, their blossom, the fruit and the spread of mature trees and of course the contribution trees make to our ECO system providing both food and shelter to birds and insects.

THE SANCTUARY AND SANCTUARY WOOD

Our volunteer team have cleared out nest boxes, skimmed green algae off the pond, brush cut and strimmed unwanted plant growth and cleared some of the Black Thorn.

PRUNING

Pruning on the main site is done and we will shortly be moving over to Earls Lane Orchard to tackle that. Another challenge for the Team!

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

We have been working with the Heart of England Forest (HOEF) who have provided two pruning courses for our Volunteers and a number of trees for the Orchards. Plans are now afoot for a Biodiversity Day when they will identify flora and fauna species as part of a study which

we will host and get an insight into what is going on in our own eco environment. We are also going to host a Heritage Day for them - more details when we know them!

If you would like to know more about our work have a look at our website www.cleevepriorheritagetrust.co.uk; cleevepriorheritagetrust@gmail.com

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CLEEVE PRIOR HERITAGE TRUST

SNOWDROP PLANTING

SATURDAY 6 APRIL, 10.30 - MIDDAY

Why are we travelling to visit snowdrop walks when as a community we can develop our own? Three years ago we had our first appeal. Walking through the Sanctuary you can now see snowdrops, and up at Field Barn. Once again we are asking for your help because we need many more to make it the show we would all like to see.

Do you have plenty of snowdrops in your garden? The end of March is the time of year to think about splitting them. Aconites would also be very welcome.

How can you help?

Come along with your snowdrops and a trowel and plant them. Volunteers will be on hand to say where. Bring a small bottle of water to bed them in. By then it might need it!!



Gina Carr, Chairman,

01789 778051 cleevepriorheritagetrust@gmail.com



The Art Club

February is proving and interesting month for the Art Club.

Our numbers are growing slowly with two new people wishing to come along and paint with us. It is always good to embrace new members and the ideas and experience they bring.

We have also been enjoying a range of still life projects, including pumpkins, a woodland scene (very challenging!), ceramic jugs and vases, a wooden hare and a mandolin. Those who want to take part in this challenge have risen to the task and produced some commendable work. Not all wish to engage but have used the opportunity of time and space to develop their own abilities in their chosen medium and subject. The lovely spring flowers which are blooming at present have inspired some lovely paintings of such plants as hellebores.

With February coming to an end, we are looking forward to welcome George again early in March to guide us and develop our expertise in using acrylic paints. This will be a very informative and enjoyable morning.

Our final meeting before Easter will be on 21 March. *We* plan to meet again on 18 April. All welcome if you would like to come along to sketch or paint and meet the group.

Please contact me for more details.

Louise Conneeley

louiseconneeley@gmail.com

Tel 01789 772749 or 07765 482722



Music seems to be forming a regular part of our meetings. Our February meeting started with us being taught a song from the Virgin Islands called “Four White Horses on a River” and I think we managed fairly well. We also ended the afternoon singing it again, this time with gusto and actions! This was the first of several contributions on the theme of The Caribbean – the country chosen by NWR HQ for branches to work into their programmes.

Members had done lots of homework and many fascinating things came to light. We heard about the Freedom Quilts made by slave women with any scrap of fabric they could find and the part they played in passing on information about escape routes and safe houses. Slaves were not permitted to learn to read and write so these artefacts were especially important.

This being about the Caribbean, food was also a subject and we tasted a super dish called Pineapple Chow and heard of the various cooking traditions of the Islands.

The Islanders have many religious practices and there is a great deal of tolerance for each other’s religions and customs. Some of these derive from the slaves’ African homelands and were incorporated into the more mainstream religions. Some of the faiths practiced include Rastafari, Islam, Bahai, but Catholicism is prominent. There are some 600 churches in Jamaica!

One of the things which comes to mind when thinking about the Caribbean is of course Rum and we heard how it came to be produced on the islands and that the now ubiquitous Rum Cocktail evolved to make the local spirit more palatable!

Another image conjured up by the word Caribbean is PIRATES and the effect they had on the islands with their various raids and plundering.

Several of us have visited these islands and there were some lovely memories, especially of cricketing trips with family playing with local youth teams and the lasting friendships formed.

It was, as usual, an interesting, stimulating and fun afternoon and the above is just a precis of members' contributions. I do have to apologise to one of our members for omitting to include her contribution on matters Legal and Political and, judging by her past contributions, this was certainly a great loss.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19 March at Sue Robinson's home, starting at 7 o'clock.

If you would like to know more about NWR, please email me – evelynwbw@btinternet.com or ring 01789 772814. Evelyn Wilson

Please contact me – Evelyn – 01789 772814
evelynwbw@btinternet.com if you would like more information about NWR.

Allotment garden vacancy

The Parish Council have 8 allotments in Froglands Lane that are let out to people who live in the village at a small rent of £52 a year.

An allotment garden has become available.

It has been left in excellent order making it ready for immediate planting

So, if you would like to grow your own fruit and veg. please contact the Parish Clerk or myself on the attached email.

clerk@clevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk
marysmith@clevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk

Cleeve Prior Ramblers

February outing

Our walk on Saturday 17 February had attracted a good turnout of some 20 Ramblers but sadly only two dogs on patrol (get well soon Dougal). We met at the village car park at the village of Snowhill, home to the famed National Trust property that was the home of the eccentric collector Charles Wade.

Snowhill is a classic specimen Cotswold village built on a steep hillside with a fine collection of traditionally pretty Cotswold stone buildings. At the start of the walk, we were slightly disappointed with visibility marred by an early mist or low cloud. With a fairly steep incline out of the village, the mist cleared and we eventually joined the Winchcombe Way, a well-marked Cotswold path which gives good walking and fine views over other local villages and way into the distance to the Welsh Black mountains. Thereafter, the weather stayed clear and temperate.

Mike and Bridgett Walker were our leaders and had planned a route which gave stunning views over Stanton, Buckland and on to the famous, prominent Tower on the ridge above Broadway.

As we walked, we joined the Cotswold Way with the light oscillating to give wonderful colour variations on the magnificent views over this lovely part of the country. Walking conditions were varied with some muddy sections to negotiate but mainly firm and steady. After some six miles, we circled round back to Snowhill to enjoy an excellent and welcome lunch at the Snowhill Arms.

Many thanks to Bridgett and Mike for a most memorable and sociable outing.

Our next walk is scheduled for 16 March.

Peter Wilson

Did you know?

This is the first of a series of facts, legends and points of interest about Cleeve Prior, which have come to light during research carried out by the Cleeve Prior Chroniclers.

Between Marlcliff and Offenham, on the left bank of the Avon, is a long, and almost straight ridge, which slopes down abruptly to the river and its meadows.

Along this brow runs an old road, and at the top of Mill Lane in Cleeve Prior there is a prehistoric barrow, upon which is a heavy mass of stone.

The presence of this stone is accounted for by a legend.

“Once upon a time, the Devil perched on Meon Hill and, looking towards Evesham, was annoyed by the sight of the Abbey, then in great prosperity. There being a big stone at hand, he kicked it at the Abbey with malicious intention but, as the Evesham Abbey bells began to ring, it swerved to the right, and fell where it now lies.”

The stone is still there (unfortunately vandalised). It may be the base of a fourteenth-century wayside cross although some think it might be the base of an earlier Saxon Cross.

If you want to know more about our village you should check out the Cleeve Prior Village website - <https://cleevepriorvillage.co.uk> - the Chroniclers' tab.

Douglas Carr

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VILLAGE and LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Venue
1 Mar	World Day of Prayer	2.30 pm	St.Andrews
12 Mar	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	Hall
6 Apr	Snowdrop planting	10.30 – 12	CPHT

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, Contact Les Bratt on 01789 773651.

Kings Arms Tavern Opening times to be announced.

Useful contact details:

To book the **Memorial Hall**: cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

To join the **village email list**: cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

To book **Field Barn**: garnettclarke@btinternet.com

EVESHAM RURAL NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Up-coming Cleeve Prior Drop-in Sessions with your Local Police Officers at the Village Hall will be displayed in the window of the Memorial Hall.

PC Alex Prentice / PCSO Bradley Sansom

St Joseph The Worker Catholic Church, Bidford

The Presbytery, Quinney's Lane

Rev Father Stephen Squires

07484 719463

The Church Rotas for March

Sidesmen

3 Mar	Mrs B Walker
10 Mar	Mrs A Carless
17 Mar	Mrs L Hawkins
24 Mar	No service at Cleeve
31 Mar	Mrs L Hughes

Church Flowers

3 Mar	No
10 Mar	Flowers
17 Mar	in Lent
24 Mar	
31 Mar	Mrs A Carless

Church Cleaning

Mrs D Byrne
Mrs L Murphy
Mrs E Wilson
Mrs J Taylor
Mrs L G-Clarke

Memorial Hall 200 Club

February Draw

£50: Merlin Mather

Copy for inclusion in the **April** edition

By Thursday 21 March

(early date to accommodate Easter bank holidays)

Please submit copy by email to the following

email address: cleevepriornewsletter@gmail.com

or contact the Editor, Susan Mortimer (773453)

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