

Magazine covering news on local events including a directory of local traders



Gnosall Parish News - March 2024 - Issue No.743 - New Subscribers 80p per copy





Cover Story

Primroses are a cheerful sign of spring. They are one of the first woodland blooms and an important nectar source for butterflies. Look out for their friendly yellow in shady areas such as old railway banks and woodland clearings.

USEFUL FACTS & NUMBERS

POLICE: (non emergency) 101

ROADS, PAVEMENTS AND STREET LIGHTING ISSUES: report online at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit

STREETSCENE:

(litter and dog mess) 01785 619401

GNOSALL SURGERY: 01785 822220

GNOSALL PHARMACY: 01785 822228

GROSVENOR CENTRE: 01785 822685

GNOSALL VILLAGE HALL 01785 823303 (L Malone)

GNOSALL & DISTRICT VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME

Co-ordinator: Jenny Hodkinson Contact 01785 823425 Mobile 07583 390363 only between 9am-5:00pm

VET - SHIRES VETERINARY PRACTICE 01785 823713 or emergency only Eccleshall 850218

PEST CONTROL - STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL 01785 619000

STAFFORD RECYCLING CENTRE

St Alban's Road - Opening Times Every Day 9am to 5pm (Except over the Christmas Period) Close: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police:Telephone 999 in emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in

progress.
Telephone 101 for non - emergencies where police attendance is required, to report any other incidents. Calls to 101 have a fixed cost of 15p per call.
Fire & Rescue Service: 0300 330 1000
Ambulance HQ: 01785 253521
Electricity: 0800 6783105 or 105
Water: 0800 7834444

- Gas: 0800 111999

HOSPITALS

- County Hospital (Stafford): 01785 257731
 Cannock Chase: 01543 572757
 St George's: 01785 257888
 University Hospital of North Staffordshire: 01782 715444

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A Gnosall Cookbook

Gnosall Parish News

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Local Trade Directory

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Jambusters WI

The Arts Society Stafford

Gnosall Charity Quiz Night

Royal British Legion

Saint Patricks Day

Phoenix Club

Healthy Walks Number 2

Gnosall Methodist Church

Clerk To Gnosall Charities

Beetle Drive With Fish & Chip Supper

Classical Guitar With William Hudd

Friends Of St Lawrence Church

Gnosall & Newport Lions Club

Gnosall Towpath Restoration

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www.gnosallparishnews.com

Contributions for the GPN must be received by the 15th of each month by 5pm for inclusion in the next edition, please send details to the Editor. All contributions are welcome, but publication is at the Editor's discretion.

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GPN Diary 2024

March:

- 2nd Gnosall Quiz Night at The Grosvenor Centre doors open 7pm starts 7.30pm.
- 9th Gnosall Comedy Club at The Grosvenor Centre doors open 7pm show starts 8pm.
- 16th Craft Fair, 10-2pm free entry at Gnosall Methodist Church.
- 16th Join the wonderful Devils Chair Ceilidh Folk Band as we celebrate St Patrick's Day! at The Grosvenor Centre starts 8pm.
- 30th Ultimate Madnezz No* 1 Madness Tribute band at The Grosvenor Centre 7.30pm

April:

- 12th Friends of St. Lawrence Church Beetle Drive starts 7pm.
- 13th ACP Music Bingo event at The Grosvenor Centre doors open 7pm starts 8pm.
- 14th. Church Eaton Tennis Club Open Morning, 10.00am-12.00pm
- 27th. Spring into Summer evening concert with Gnosall Singers, Moreton Millennium Hall.

May:

5th. Adbaston Community Concert Society, present Manchester Camerata. St. Michaels and all Angels, Adbaston, ST20 OQE, 5.30 pm.

June:

8th Gnosall's Barn Dance - fish and chip supper at The Grosvenor Centre doors open 7pm - starts 8pm

22nd Gnosall Carnival

July:

6th Friends of St. Lawrence Church Tower Opening. 19th-21st Gnosall Canal Festival.

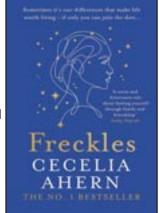


Freckles by Celia Ahern.
Publisher: HarperCollins.
Published: 13/10/2022

Cecelia Ahern is an Irish novelist, born in Dublin. She was first published in 2004.

Her novels include PS, I Love You, and If You Could See Me Now. Two of her books have been adapted as films.

The protagonist in this story is Allegra Bird, who has the nick name Freckles. These are a legacy from her father, and she sees them as a constellation of stars on her arms. Her mother, who did not bring her up features in the story and adds to Allegra's troubled background.



Allegra leaves her home on the island of Valentia to work as a parking attendant in Dublin. Her reason for moving to Dublin becomes clear as the story progresses. Allegra means well but seems to get some things wrong in her approach to other people.

Ahern's description of the characters and insight into their social situations creates an interesting read. Allegra unwittingly becomes influenced by a gaming mogul, who states that we are the product of five people in our lives. Allegra sets out to find her five, not realising they were there right in front of her all along.

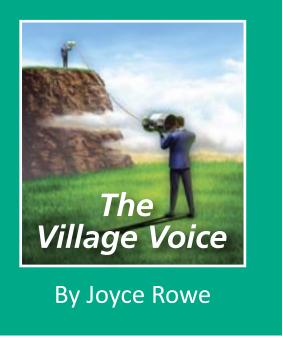
The book raises questions about whether the people around us have the power to change us, what makes us fit in and accepting ourselves for who we are.

Ahern writes a good story with humour and warmth. Who would the five people in your life be?

VILLAGE AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

- Gnosall Allotments and Gardens Association. Shed open every Sunday during Spring/Summer at Allotment Car Park. More info at: www.gnosallallotments.org.uk email: gnosallallotments@gmail.com
- Gnosall Memorial Village Hall Committee Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Mags Yeo on 01785 822862
- Newport Chess Club every Thursday at 7.30pm at the Royal British Legion Audley Road Newport, call Daniel on 01785 823329 www.newportchessclub.com
- Gnosall Crochet, Knitting & Craft Group. Time: 10-12 Mondays Location: Gnosall Methodist Church.
 Contact: shazzaransom@gmail.com 07580 045166
- Gnosall Lions. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at The Swan, Forton at 7.30pm Contact Pat on 01785 780032
- Gnosall Handbell Ringers Grosvenor Centre Tuesdays 8.00 - 10.00 p.m. Contact 822592
- In Door Bowling , Gnosall Memorial Village Hall, Every Monday & Thursday 14.15 - 16.15
- Bingo Friday 7.30pm at Village Hall
- Bridge at the Grosvenor Wednesday 7.20pm contact Pat & John on 824203,
- Phoenix at Grosvenor Friday 10am -12noon
- Healthy Walking Group Wednesday & Sunday 10am Various Venues.
- U3A Newport. Meetings, third Tuesday the Royal British Legion Club, Audley Road, Newport.
- Gnosall Painting Group Friday afternoons
 1.30pm 3.30pm at the Methodist
 Church. Contact Carol Perry tel.824917
- Gnosall Toddler group Thursdays 9.30 11.30
 School Room in the Methodist Church
 Contact 07816 100 068
- Church Bell Ringers Practice Friday evenings
 7.30-9pm at St. Lawrence & ring at 9.45am most
 Sundays. Contact Phil on 07913 757512
- Gnosall Jambusters WI 1st Wednesday GMVH 7.30
- Royal British Legion, Family Sports Club, 7.30 pm, 1st Monday in the month.
- Gnosall Art Class, Gnosall Grosvenor Centre, Thursday 7 pm – 9 pm
- Bradley Mixed Media Art Class, Bradley Village Hall, Mondays 10 am – 12 noon. Contact: Debbie Chatfield, 01785 781075 or 07727216523; debs@ debbiechatfield.co.uk
- Newport Photographic Club ,Tuesdays 7.30pm
 The Weston Building at Harper Adams University,
 Aynton Road, Edgmond. Information at
 www.newportphotoclub.com
- Friday night youth group Gnosall

 Methodist Church. The junior club 6.15 7.45pm
- Gnosall Community Library: Monday 4:00 6:30 pm, Tuesday 10:00 am 12:30pm,
 Wednesday 3:00 7:00pm, Thursday 2 4pm,
 Friday 2 4pm Saturday 10:00 am 12:30pm
 phone No. 01785 895750
- Gnosall Singers Wednesday mornings 10.30 to 12.30 Methodist Hall and Wednesday evenings, 7.15 to 8.15 St Lawrence Church.
 Contact secretary Kathleen Ingram, 01785 822082 kvingram@gmail.com
- Gnosall Over 55s Friendship Group 2nd Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30pm Community Room Impstones.Tel: 0800 111 4554
- Gnosall Scouts: Beavers Thursdays 5.30-6.30;
 Cubs Thursdays 7.00-8.30; Scouts Tuesdays
 7.30 9.00; Pegasus Explorers Fridays 7.30-9.00pm. Email: lesley_worsley@hotmail.com
- Newport Probus Club: first Monday in the month unless Bank Holiday at 1.00 pm. at The Edgmond Lion, contact Gwyn Jones on 01952 813433.



Did you hear the Phoenix talk

Did you hear the Phoenix talk on Friday 12th January 2024? It was about regenerative farming and was very interesting. The aim is to restore land to establish a looser, less compacted soil, which can then absorb more water and reduce flooding. It also increases the number of worms to fertilise the soil and thus increase yields. It starts with no ploughing or weeding or artificial fertilisers, but covering the soil with compost, and planting seeds in the compost mix. Also, this reduces costs and increases income. The talk was quite technical, at times way above my head. He has given lectures all over the world, but did not say how many farmers had started regenerating their land. It got me thinking about how I could apply it a bit in my garden. I have a small, not very productive vegetable garden, where I try to produce some peas, beans, lettuce etc. First thought, no digging and no weeding - good. I have been

covering some of the ground with old pieces of carpet, probably not a good idea. I do have some, maybe not very good compost which I can spread before planting seeds. Maybe my best way of starting would be divide the space into two, use the compost on half, and plant in the other half this year and then swap them over next year. As for weeds, I think I must remove thugs such as dandelions, bindweed, and things which may grow tall and suffocate the plants. With some seeds I can start them in compostable pots and plant them out when they are growing well. At present my flower beds are covered with leaves waiting to be raked up. I think I will rake up most of them to make it look tidier and take out some of the weed thugs. Thinking that I should try to confirm or disprove my ideas, I started googling Regenerative gardening. As usual, there is lots of info. Here is a little bit:

Regenerative, organic gardening is an accessible solution for addressing global concerns at home — every day — by playing in the dirt, planting seeds, and thinking like an ecosystem. First, it's important to remember that every garden, green space, park, and city block counts. We can restore ecosystems by restoring the spaces closest to home and giving nature room to breathe and do what it does best — grow!

Basics of Regenerative Gardening Feed and protect the soil., Support and celebrate biodiversity. Increase environmental and community resiliency by working with nature and thinking like an ecosystem So, roll on spring and the weather and soil warming up. Any comments, or offers of help gratefully received.

Adbaston Community Concert Society. (ACCS) A new year, a new programme!

In 2023 we hosted 4 super concerts; — Manchester Camerata principals, a quintet comprised of violin, 'cello, viola oboe and piano performed in May. — A baroque organ, and solo double bass recital in July. — The Keyboard Trust supported a virtuoso Bulgarian pianist in September, — a duo performing with viola, violin and piano entertained us in November.

Our concerts are all held at the beautiful church of St. Michaels and all Angels, Adbaston, ST20 0QE, 5.30 pm on the 1st Sunday of May, July, September and November. The programme is in 2 halves, with interval refreshments, drinks and socialising! Free parking is available nearby. Ticket price is £10. Always available 'on the door'.

Dates for your diary! 2024's concerts will be; 5th May, 7th July, September 1st and November 3rd.

We already have booked Manchester Camerata for May, and an exciting Wind Trio from the Birmingham Conservatoire in July. To be confirmed are performers for September, November.

We are proud of our contacts and the superb performers we are able to bring to this rural venue. We are supported by Stafford District Arts Council, our generous patrons, and loyal audience, helping us realise our mission statement of giving musicians a platform, and our audience great music at an affordable price.

Do please add the above dates to your diary and try one or more of our concerts!

Gnosall Schools Log Books now online! By Bob Johnson

In 1862 Parliament agreed a 'Revised Code of Education' in an attempt to improve standards in grant-aided schools. This included the requirement for the principal teacher to make a brief daily entry in a log book on progress and other relevant facts. In 1871 this requirement changed to a minimum weekly entry.

Gnosall's Parochial Junior School was built on the site of the old Workhouse and opened in 1874, and its three log books are now available to view online. They cover 1874-1906, 1907-1939 and 1939-1970. Also online are the log book for the **Infants School**, 1915-1961, and **Heronbrook Secondary School**, 1957-1976.

The log books are a fascinating read, covering anything from accidents (a boy fell in the brook in the lunchbreak and was sent home), absences for potato picking and haymaking, frequent closures on account of epidemics of scarlet fever, measles and mumps or bad weather, to a half-day holiday to celebrate a pupil's scholarship or a whole week's holiday to celebrate the king's coronation. The principals frequently logged, with temperatures, the coldness or heat of the buildings, the bad lighting and the dilapidation of the boys' playground. In the 1870s the boys were unruly – throwing stones (a child was reported blinded) and chasing Mr Hargreaves' carriage.

Some examples:

On 6th October 1875 the headmaster wrote "Reproved several boys for letting off gunpowder on school premises".

On 26th May 1939, nearly 4 months before the outbreak of World War 2 the entry states "the gas masks belonging to the children were re-fitted and we held our first air raid drill".

And on 6th June 1940 there is a detailed description of 563 children and 26 adults evacuated from Ramsgate arriving in Gnosall by train, walking up to the Parochial School for refreshments and being billeted throughout the local villages. Subsequent log book pages set out the teaching arrangements to deal with the additional pupils.

- For the **Parochial School** by the church there is almost 100 years of unbroken information from when it was first built in 1874 through to 1970. The **Infants School** (Grosvenor Centre) log book from its opening in 1915 to 1961.
 - Heronbrook Secondary School log book from its opening in 1957 to 1976.

The log books can be seen at my website: http://www.gnosallhistory.co.uk/logbooks.htm

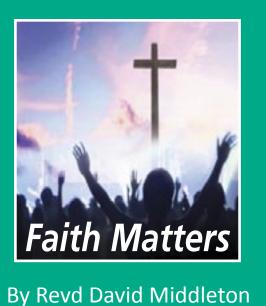
Church Eaton Tennis Club Open Morning Sunday 14th April 10.00am-12.00pm

Church Eaton Tennis Club is a small friendly club located at the cricket ground in the lovely village of Church Eaton. Established in 1984 the club has two recently refurbished courts and we are LTA affiliated. The courts are available to members every day and we have two regular playing sessions for members on Tuesday and Thursday mornings plus Tuesday evenings in the summer and hope to add more. Many of our players come from Gnosall and surrounding villages.

On Sunday 14th April we are holding an open morning for anyone to come and join us, meet some of our players and ask any questions you may have. All abilities are welcome and if you're new to tennis or haven't picked up a racket for a few years our coach, Steph offers lessons on Saturday mornings.

Any questions please feel free to drop us an email or otherwise just turn up on Sunday 14th April!

Email enquiries@churcheatontennisclub.org.uk Postcode ST20 OAT Free parking at the Institute.



As a new seconded Minister to the Stafford Methodist Circuit, I have been putting a lot of effort (and worry) into... **COPING**.

As a new seconded Minister.

'Coping' seems to have a bad reputation, a bad connotation, don't you think? It sounds like something we have to do when a better option is unachievable. Coping seems to be a second best approach. It is not overcoming, it is not having victory over something, it doesn't suggest excellence, it is more of a 'getting through'.

However, coping is very central to the Christian walk! When I talk to people in pastoral care conversations it is one of the most frequent questions I ask, "how are you coping with the burden you have?" That question was often on my lips during my 16 years as an NHS Chaplain. Because if Psalm 23 v 4

(written below) describes the normal Christian life and experience, and if what James 1 vs 2-8 says about trials is also a normal experience for the believing Christian; then we should expect to go through suffering and difficulties in our lives on a reasonably regular basis.

If as believing, committed Christians we are to expect trials, suffering and difficulties; then I would argue that the language of victory and winning in and over the situation is redundant. What is not redundant, but utterly needful when we hurt and suffer, is 'getting through' and 'coping'. When we go through trials and times of suffering we often can't do any more than get to the end of another day, still holding onto our faith in Christ, and still being there for the people we love and who depend on us. If Psalm 23 v 4 and James 1 vs 2-8 are normative for the Christian life (and I believe they very much are), then God will allow us to go through the vale of suffering in our life. Have a read of the two scripture passages I have mentioned. Here is the Psalm 23 passage:

Psalms 23: 4

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Though God will allow us to go through times of difficulty and trial, the point is in the words of the Psalm; when we suffer and hurt God will be close at our side (His rod and staff) enabling us to walk through that valley and not do so alone. God promises to strengthen us and enable us to cope and get through. God doesn't necessarily promise to take our hurt and anguish away. But God does promise His very real presence alongside us, close to us, His strength in us, until that valley has ended and a different open landscape is before us. Hopefully as we come out of that difficult valley and into a new open landscape, it is free from the hurt we have had to endure before.

So if 2024 looks like it will be a one of difficulty and anguish for us, we can know we are walking the normal Christian life, following a suffering Saviour in Jesus Christ: walking on holy ground so to speak. I trust that God, who just asks us to cope and endure in that valley, will strengthen and comfort us and come close to us in an incredibly real and meaningful way throughout 2024 and beyond.

Revd David Middleton. Authorised Minister in the Stafford Methodist Circuit February, (2024).



Marching Towards Mental Wellness

Five tips for Self-Care and Connection. Following the darker months, as March unfolds it is a great time to prioritise and top up your mental well-being, and so here are five tips that will help you to boost your wellbeing and nurture your mind.

1. Embrace nature: With the arrival of spring, take advantage of milder weather and longer daylight hours by spending time outdoors. Whether it's a leisurely stroll in the park, a hike up the Wrekin, or simply pottering or sitting in your garden, connecting with nature can uplift your spirits and reduce stress.



- 2. Practice mindfulness: Dedicate time each day to mindfulness meditation or deep breathing exercises. These practices can help calm the mind, improve focus, and cultivate a greater sense of awareness, allowing you to better manage stress and anxiety.
- 3. Engage in creative activities: Tap into your creativity by exploring activities like painting, writing, crafting, or playing music, maybe re-discover something you used to love and have let slide, or try something new. Engaging in creative pursuits provides an outlet for self-expression and also promotes relaxation and enhances overall well-being.
- 4. Prioritize self-care: Make self-care a priority by establishing a routine that includes adequate sleep, nutritious meals, regular exercise, and time for relaxation. The mind and body are connected and so taking care of your physical health is essential for supporting your mental well-being.
- 5. Connect with others: Foster meaningful connections with friends, family, or support groups. Whether through in-person gatherings, phone calls, or virtual meetups, maintaining social connections can provide a sense of belonging and support to boost your mood and mental resilience.

Karen Hemmings at The Healing Mind offers private therapeutic counselling, clinical hypnotherapy, emotional freedom therapy, walk and talk therapy, and Reiki healing. In September 2023, Karen and her family moved from a village in Cheshire to Gnosall, where she now practices from her dedicated therapy room.

Karen specialises in supporting people with anxiety, fears and phobias, low self-esteem and confidence, and helping people to make personal change. If you would like confidential support, or to find out more, you can call or message 07939 865111, email karen@thehealingmind.co.uk or visit www.thehealingmind.co.uk where you can book a free 30-minute telephone consultation.

Gnosall Wellness Circle 18th May 2024 12:30 - 17:00 Aroma - Pilates - Sound

Following the success of my holistic therapy practice, I'm launching the Gnosall Wellness Circle to welcome fellow therapists to join forces to create wonderful afternoon experiences with the first event on Saturday 18th May.

Join us at the Grosvenor Centre to nurture your mind body and soul. Surrounded by likeminded people and professional therapists, you'll have a unique experience and blissful time:

• Welcome: Connect and relax with your fellow attendees (hot and cold drinks and fruit will be provided). • Aromatherapy workshop: Led by myself, you'll explore the wonders of essential oils to design your unique aromatherapy body lotion blend – using the finest quality essential oils. • Pilates: Led by Sarah, a true expert! You'll enjoy gentle and relaxing movements to re-connect the body and mind. • The Grand Finale, an Immersive Sound Bath: Cosy up on your mat whilst Becky captivates you with her beautiful instruments and sensational voice.

Admission £30*Payable in full at time of booking and non-refundable.

Contact: Kelly Aston - email: naturaltherapieswithkelly@notmail.com - mob:0796 817 6658

Introducing the Therapists: Kelly Aston, Aromatherapist and Neal's Yard Remedies Consultant. I specialise in massage with a passion for women's health and hormones. Practicing since 2019, I'm energised by the amazing results achieved by using natures wonders. Benefits of Aromatherapy (to mention a few) • Calms central nervous system • Relieves irritated skin conditions • Promotes deep restful sleep • Awakens the body and mind • Soothes sunburn / insect bites • Balances hormones

Sarah Black has worked in the health industry for her whole career. For the last 17 years, worked as a professional physiotherapist with 8 years specialising in the area of Pelvic Health. With a passion for women's health and wellness, Sarah is also certified Clinical Pilates Instructor where she merges her extensive experience and knowledge with Pilates principles to offer an all-round holistic experience. Benefits of Pilates: • Creates or strengthens a mind & body connection • Improves circulation • Strengthens muscle groups • Realigns the body • Boosts energy

Becky Cresswell of Grounded Peace is a qualified Integral Sound Healing Practitioner, Teacher/Tutor with the Sound Healing Academy International and has been a highly qualified, accomplished musician for over 20 years. Combining her natural love for the power of sound, music and healing work she creates intuitive and powerful soundscapes to aid the body's energy to unblock and rebalance through the vibrations created by the beautiful healing instruments such as Tibetan and crystal bowls, shamanic style drumming, gong work, ocean drum, Native American flute and what has also been described as her 'haunting, 'ancestral' and 'ethereal' voice. Here are just a few examples of the benefits of sound healing: • Eases anxiety and depression • Meditation aid • Improves memory function • Improves sleep • Rebalances energies.



Letters & Announcements

Purchase of the GPN

Single copies of the current GPN can be purchased at several places in the village at the full retail price of £1 each.

We would like to thank the staff of the new Morrison store for agreeing to sell the GPN for us. You can also buy copies at the Post Office/Express or the Bakery in Wharf Road and in the Community Library.

If you live in the village and would like to receive the magazine every month, contact Bob Colman at

subscriptions@gnosallparishnews.com or phone 01785 823955.

Magazines will be delivered to your door each month and the subscription rate is just 80p per copy (paid for the year in advance).

Reminder to current subscribers: most subscribers have now paid for the year, but if you have not, please pay your distributor as soon as possible or drop money off at Holly House, The Rank.

Regrettably we will have to assume that you no longer want the magazine if we do not receive your payment soon.

The GPN Team

Llangollen & Llandudno

Day trip to Llangollen and Llandudno Thursday 2nd May 2024

Leaving Gnosall at 8.00am Leaving Llandudno at 6.00pm

One pick up only in Stafford f25

If interested please contact Vivien on 0791 080 5532

Vivien

GNOSALL OPTOMETRISTS

In view of the recent notification patients will have received regarding the closure of the Optometrists in Gnosall and the transfer of business to a sister practice in Stafford or alternative practices in Eccleshall or Penkridge, Jenny and Peter Mincher-Lockett would like to thank all patients and staff who supported us from our initial opening of the Gnosall practice in February 1985, to our sale of the business and retirement in 2011.

We opened our first Opticians practice, from scratch, at 18, Stafford



Street, Stafford in 1969, followed by the purchase of Newbolds Opticians, Stafford in 1970 and another practice in Market Drayton in 1975. We needed a location to accommodate a workshop to serve all our practices, so our home village provided us with an ideal venue to open another business and house our workshop. We were very fortunate to engage David Garside as our workshop manager and his wife, Ann Garside who became our first receptionist and both remained with us until our retirement. Helen Bundy was also a well-respected member of staff, joining us in 1996 and continuing for several years beyond our retirement. Subsequently, both Stafford and Gnosall practices were sold to a long-standing employee of ours, Sarah Edge and her business partner, Jan Goodwin, and traded under the name of Goodwin & Edge Ltd, even though the Mincher-Lockett name was retained, both in Stafford and Gnosall. This continued for 10 years until they, also, wanted to reduce their commitments and sold both Stafford and Gnosall in 2011.

We are assured that all Gnosall patient records, together with Emma and Kellie, the present Gnosall staff, will be transferred to Stafford, or, if more convenient, Eccleshall or Penkridge. We wish the new owners, since 2021, every success for the future.

We retained the ownership of the entire Old Forge building, throughout, but it will now be placed on the market. The end of an era.

John Pooler - an undesirable Elizabethan neighbour

We get glimpses of Elizabethan anti-social behaviour from the manorial courts records of the 16th century. A particularly undesirable neighbour was John Pooler or Poler of Cowley.

In 1574 the Podmores and John Po(o)ler were all fined for ploughing up boundary strips in Highfield (Coton End) and taking the land for themselves. In addition 'Thomas Podmore ... lopped and felled an oak of John Pooler in Highfield near Manymarlpits to the grave damage of him John' – and was fined. This seems to have been the beginning of enmity between the two men.

Things escalated and four years later in 1578, Thomas Podmore complained at the manorial court of 'the evil demeanour of John Pooler' and elaborated at length:

Fences and cattle

A major problem was that Pooler wouldn't fence his own land and then sowed oats on it. This meant Podmore had to tie up his own cattle otherwise Pooler would 'mischief' them. In addition, everyone else's cattle were wandering onto Podmore's land via Pooler's.

Pooler also refused to fence between his land and a Besscote [Befcote] cornfield, which meant Thomas Podmore had to confine his cattle otherwise they would be impounded. In addition, Pooler had kept his pigs and geese in the cornfields at harvest time and they had eaten Podmore's corn. Podmore wanted the court to force Pooler to fence his land.

The following year John Pooler was fined again for allowing his beasts to 'consume the grass and corn in the field called Highfield at Coton End, to the grave damage of his neighbours'.

Clogged up stream & assault on a child

He was also in trouble for not having 'scoured and cleansed his water course at Lampyttes flat in the field called Little field at Coton End' as ordered.

In addition he had beaten a boy of under 10 - he had 'assaulted and made an affray on Richard Astley within the age of ten years with a bill worth 8d, and then and there beat and maltreated the said Richard against the peace of the Lady the Queen'. For this he was fined and the bill was confiscated. A further complaint was that he had 'not repaired his hedge between Highfield and a parcel of land called le Pyngle'.

It was his enemy Thomas Podmore who was elected constable for the following year.

Stile destroyed and stream diverted

John Pooler was still misbehaving in 1585: 'John Poler has thrown down a stile lately set up on a path there, between the land of said John called 'The Cleys' and the land late in the tenure of Thomas Podmore in Coton End, to the damage of his neighbours'. He had also 'diverted a stream out of its right course in a field called Highe Field in Cotton End, to the prejudice and grave damage of the lord and his tenants'. He was fined again.

And so it went on

Seven years later in 1592, 'John Poler has driven his beasts into the fields where he hath no common'.

The following year, the three local surveyors of watercourses reported that 'John Poler of Cowley hath a water course unsecured in a meadow called Allyne More in Gnossall'. He was fined.

At the same court, along with another local man, he was fined for keeping unrung pigs 'which subvert the land of their neighbours to the great damage of their neighbours'. (Rings in pigs' noses stopped them grubbing up the land.)

John Astley, a local 'tithing-man' (law-enforcer), and possibly the father of the boy Poler had beaten, reported that 'John Poler of Cowley hath driven his beasts on and upon the lord's waste called Coton Wood in Gnossall where he hath not common, to the prejudice of the lord and his tenants'.

A John Pooler was buried at Gnosall in 1608 (to everyone's great relief). Thomas Podmore had been buried in 1603.

Post Script: in 1834 the Gentleman's Magazine reported the death aged 90 of Mr Podmore of Coton End, near Gnosall: 'the last of a line of respectable agriculturalists who had lived on the same spot, according to family tradition, for five centuries and ultimately purchased the whole farm'.

GNOSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Belief
- 5. Before a noun
- 8. Sea Vessel
- 9. Seven
- 11. Darkish wood
- 13. Designer
- 16. Male Sheep
- 17. Wildebeests
- 19. Six
- 20. Condition
- 23. One or other
- 24. Phone company
- 25. Longer record
- 26. Arts society
- 27. None
- 29. Emergency Room
- 30. British Rail
- 32. Sweet dessert
- 34. Fixed look
- 36. Manganese
- 37. Sicilian volcano
- 39. Noise
- 41. Connecting tissue
- 43. Concur
- 45. Green vegetable
- 46. Vend
- 47. Broad inlet
- 48. Non-believers

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February Gnossword Answers

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DOWN

Cultivated grass

- Opposite
- 2. Mystery

1.

3.

- 4. More green
- Musical sound
- 6. Dried grass
- 7. Alien
- 8. Body Odour
- 10. Inborn
- 12. Injury marks
- 14. Example
- 15. Tree type
- 18. Beginning
- 19. War end day
- 21. Tight
- 22. A letter
- 28. Merciful
- 30. Salt water
- 31. Charters
- 32. Baby jab?

- 33. Not off
- 35. Experts
- 38. Gold
- 40. Repulsive
- 42. Skin complaint
- 43. Battery size
- 44. Church Education
- 46. Antimony

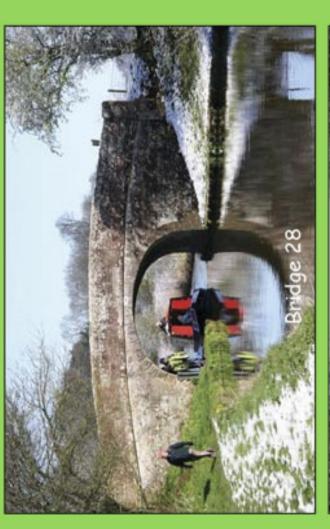
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I am not afraid of death, I just don't want to be there when it happens....".

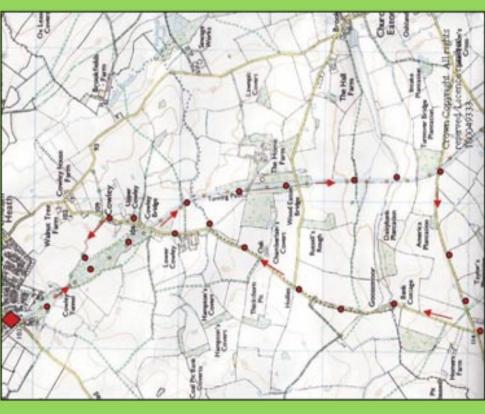
Woody Allen (Cultural icon)

Answers in next month's publication

Boat Inn to Turnover Bridge 5 miles Walk 2







A walk that follows the towpath from the Boat Inn, through Cowley Tunnel and along the Shropshire Union Canal as far as the Turnover Bridge 26. Here you turn right, taking the road towards Bromstead and Moreton. At the crossroads with the metal railings, turn right again towards Gnosall and follow the road through Goosemoor, Lower Cowley and over Cowley Bridge. In 250 yards turn left up Quarry Lane and walk back towards the Boat Inn.



Gnosall Methodist Church

"Welcoming All To Grow in Christian Faith and Love"

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

3rd March 10.30 am Jean Harrison

10th March 8.45 am Breakfast Church Local Arrangement

17th March 10.30 am Alice Dair

24th March 4.00 pm Afternoon Tea Rev.David Middleton Holy Communion

31st March Easter Sunday 9.30 am Rev.David Bintliff Holy Communion

Bookings: Mrs Pat Tweed 01785 822523
Friday - 6.15 – 8.00 pm Junior Youth Club
Tuesday - 10.00- 2.00pm Warm Space
Breakfast Church - 2nd Sunday in the month
Afternoon Tea Church - 4th Sunday in the month
Contact for minister through the Circuit Office – 01785 229973

We had a lovely afternoon on 27th January, rolling away the winter blues with our family Beetle Drive. We had 36 players across all age ranges, enjoying the fast-paced dice rolling beetle drawing game! 12 games of 'Beetle' were played - with a mid-way break for a light tea of tasty sandwiches, cake and refreshments.

Each game had a winner, and then overall prizes were given for the highest score and also the lowest score. On a dreary winter's afternoon it provided some much needed all age fun! Keep an eye out for the next one.... Thanks to Emma and Paul for organising!

At the end of March, we celebrate Easter. Our Easter Morning Communion service will be at 9.30 am instead of our usual times. As in recent years we will be attaching a bare and empty cross on the gate on Good Friday, which on Easter Sunday will become filled with daffodils. These are brought and added by each member of the congregation as they enter the church on Easter Morning to represent new life, hope and our joy in the risen Saviour. Please feel free to add a daffodil on Easter Sunday as you pass, and of course everyone will be most welcome at our celebratory service.



(Light tea of tasty sandwiches & cakes)

VACANCY - Clerk to Gnosall Charities Gnosall United Charities and Cartwright & Hudson Foundation

The role of Clerk to two local charities has become vacant. This is a part-time, paid position requiring approximately 8 hours per month to carry out administrative and accounting duties for both charities.

The main duties will include being first point of contact for tenants of the four properties that belong to the charities and managing any maintenance requirements, ensuring rents are paid correctly and on time.

You will be required to act as secretary at meetings of the Trustees, 2 or 3 times per year for each of the two charities, ensuring insurance is in place and relevant for the charities involved, following up on any actions agreed at Trustee meetings. You will also be required to make annual returns to the Charity Commission on behalf of the Trustees.

A knowledge of the local area and being a resident in Gnosall Parish would be advantageous.

For further information, please contact Jayne Cooper

Tel. 01785 822685 or E-Mail jaynecooper@sky.com

A Gnosall Cookbook



Many of us have family recipes which we fall back on time and time again. Why not share one of yours with the readers of the GPN by sending in your favourite to the newseditor@gnosallparishnews.co.uk Help us create a Gnosall Cookbook

This month's submission is for Joan's Yogurt Cream... a delicious sweet treat that can be made the day before you need it.

Ingredients for Yogurt Cream

½ pint Double Cream 18oz plain yogurt Demerara Sugar

Fresh or frozen fruit (if using frozen fruit allow to thaw first)

Suggested fruits - raspberries, strawberries, pineapple.

Cooking Method

- 1. Place the fruit you want to use in a dish
- 2. Whip the cream until it stands in peaks
- 3. Fold in the yogurt
- 4. Pour the mixture over the fruit
- 5. Cover the top with the sugar
- 6. Put into a fridge and allow to stand for 24 hours (the sugar will caramelise)

CONTRIBUTIONS

"Contributions to the GPN are welcome from all members of the community."

Please send copy and any photographs to: the Editor Victoria, email: newseditor@gnosallparishnews.com

tel: 077 9321 2791

The Gnosall Parish News

The Gnosall Parish News is designed, edited and distributed locally by volunteers. We do however contract out the printing. We are non-profit making. Each year a donation is made to one or more local voluntary or charitable organisations if we have a surplus.

The Editorial Team takes utmost care in creating this newsletter each month. Items and articles received are included as accurately as possible within the available space constraints. Nevertheless, the Team are only human and cannot guarantee that Gnosall Parish News is free from errors. If you spot an error please let the Editor know.

Gnosall Parish News cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any losses resulting from incorrect or outdated information. We very much welcome letters and contributions to GPN which, if published would normally be a tributed to the author.

We reserve the right to publish without a name, provided the contributors name and address has been supplied.

If supplying text and photos please note the following: Please supply text and photographs as separate files. All photographs must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (dots per inch). Images with a resolution less than 300 dpi will only result in poor reproduction on press (images will look fuzzy and/or pixelated)

Accompany any photographs with full detail of people's names and places in the photographs if you wish for them to be included in the article.



St. Lawrence Church Gnosall

Part of the Benefice of the Staffordshire Border Group of Churches.

Rector: Rev Alison Hudson - 01785 822820 rectorstaffsborder@gmail.com (Day off Thursday) Associate Minister: Rev Cathy Dakin - 07971 101259 cathy.dakin@outlook.com

For all enquiries, including those regarding funerals, weddings & baptisms, please contact Victoria in the church office using the telephone number or email address below. Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-12.30pm and Friday 9am-12noon: churchofficegnosall@gmail.com tel: 01785 822820



OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

can be found at www.achurchnearyou.com and enter Gnosall as the location.

We are also on Facebook www.facebook.com/GnosallParish

Services in March

Sunday 3rd 8am Holy Communion, 10am Benefice Zoom Service; **Sunday 10th** 8am Holy Communion, 10:30am Holy Communion; **Sunday 17th** 8am Communion by Extn, 10:30am Holy Communion; **Sunday 24th** 8am Holy Communion, 10:30am Morning Worship. Easter Services **Thursday 28th** March Maundy Thursday 7:30pm Moreton Benefice Service; **Good Friday 29th** March 10am Messy Church, 2pm Walk of Witness, 9-10pm Zoom Reflections by the Cross **Sunday 31st** March Easter Day 8am Holy Communion, 10:30am Holy Communion.

We hold services of Night Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 9.30 pm via Zoom, and also Morning Prayer each Tuesday at 9.30 am. Everyone is welcome to join any of these informal services: please get in touch if would like to join us via your laptop, tablet, smartphone or even your landline.

Please do join us for any of our services. You will be very warmly welcomed.

Regular events at St Lawrence Church

Coffee & Chat, 1st Saturday of each month at 10:30am-12:30pm in the Vestry. Drop in for some company and refreshments in a warm and friendly place

Messy Church, Good Friday 10am.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SAINT LAWRENCE CHURCH 2pm 1st MARCH 2024

Each year the service for World Day of Prayer is written by women representing a particular country. Those who gather in prayer across the world pray for all people of that country. Many months before the present crisis the women of Palestine prepared the service for 2024. Where are those women now? Do join us in prayer and peaceful contemplation here in Gnosall on this day.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SAINT LAWRENCE CHURCH 2PM 1ST MARCH 2024



AN EVENING of CLASSICAL GUITAR with WILLIAM HUDD

Raising funds for the refurbishment of the clock faces on St Mary's Church, High Offley



Saturday 6 April 7.30pm

Woodseaves Village Hall, High Offley Road, ST20 OLF

Tickets £10 include a glass of wine/soft drink

Available from Margie Haslop 01785 280080, Celia Payne 07976683742 Hey Jude in Newport and Gnosall Church Office 01785 822820

Licenced bar and bar snacks

The performance will include a wide selection of music from William's classical guitar repertoire including well known compositions



Friends of St Lawrence Church

Membership Appeal



The Friends of St Lawrence is a non religious charity whose sole aim is to maintain the fabric of the historic church of St Lawrence. By fundraising events such as the Victorian Christmas Market, the Friends are able to support projects within the church which help to maintain the structure and integrity of the building. Without the help of the Friends, it is unlikely that the church would have been able to restore the West Door or to renovate the clock faces.

If you would like to join us and continue our work to help maintain the building, why not consider joining the Friends. Membership costs just £15 for a family and £10 for an individual. Members get reduced ticket prices for some events.

Details on membership can be obtained from the Secretary, Mike Redfern at mikeredfern 135@btinternet.com





Gnosall Phoenix Club Diary

The Club meets on Friday mornings in the Grosvenor Centre from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We offer a wide range of activities, speakers, walks and outings. Everyone over the age of 50 is eligible to join. So why not come along one Friday when you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. Even if Friday mornings are difficult, you could still join the Club and take part in some of the activities.

Friday 1st March Club Morning

Mon 4th March Indoor Bowling at the Village Hall 10am to 12noon

Mon 4th March Table Tennis in the Main Hall 2pm to 4pm

Fri 8th March
" M.A.S.E. - Monthly
Alzheimer's Support Evening "
Talk

Mon 11th March Indoor Bowls at Gnosall Memorial Village Hall 10am to 12 noon.

Mon 11th March Board Games in the Brearley Room 2pm to 4:00pm

> Wed 13th March Book Reading Group in the Brearley Room. 10 am to 12 noon

Wed 13th March Skittles at the Royal Oak 7pm

Thurs 14th March Walk on Cannock Chase

> Fri 15th March Club Morning

Mon 18th March Indoor Bowling at Gnosall Memorial Village Hall, 10am to 12 noon

Mon 18th March Table Tennis in the Main Hall, 2pm to 4:00pm

Thurs 21st March
Visit to Shrewsbury Flaxmill
Maltings

Fri 22nd March"The Countryside Charity and their Hedgerow Heroes" Talk

Sat 23rd March " 60's Social Evening" Grosvenor Centre, 7pm

Mon 25th March Indoor Bowling at Gnosall Memorial Village Hall, 10am to 12 noon

Fri 29th March GOOD FRIDAY - NO Club

Gnosall Catholic News

Parish Priest: Canon Michael Neylon St Austin's, 82 Wolverhampton Road, Stafford ST17 4AW. Tel: 01785 223553 email: staustins_rc@btinternet.com Parish Website: www.saintaustins.org.uk

Local Mass Times:

Sunday Masses in St. Austin's, Stafford are; Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.00pm and Sunday Morning at 11.00am. For those unable to attend Sunday Mass at St. Austin's in Stafford there are Masses at SS Peter & Paul, Salter Street, Newport on Saturday at 5.30pm or Sunday at 9.15am. At Eccleshall in Sacred Heart Church, Stone Rd, on Sundays at 9.15 am. Also at Penkridge on Sundays in the Anglican Church of St. Michael and All Saints (ST19 5AW) at 9.00am. You can



go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk for other services in the Deanery.

Ecumenical Services in Gnosall:

Several times during the year representatives of the Christian Communities in Gnosall meet together, along with local Church Ministers, to arrange Services which allow us to worship together on an Ecumenical basis as we walk a common path, while respecting our differences. This group, known as "Churches Together in Gnosall", recently met to arrange the following:-

Friday 1st March: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER;

The annual service is no longer known as "The Women's Day of Prayer" although women of different nations continue to write it. This year the service is significant as it has been written by the women of Palestine, many months before the present crisis. Wherever those women are now they need our prayers. The service is at St. Lawrence Church at 2.00pm and will be led by members of the Catholic Community who are joined by members of the Methodist and Anglican communities as they portray the themes and aspirations of Palestinian religious life. Everyone, both male and female, will be made most welcome to join us in this prayerful service.

On Maundy Thursday 28th March: Reverend Alison is leading an evening service in Moreton Church. Everyone is welcome.

On Good Friday 29th March: There will be an Ecumenical 'Messy Good Friday Workshop' at St. Lawrence church, between 10.00am and 12 Noon run by the Messy Church Team. All are welcome to attend.

Also on Good Friday, The Christian Communities will join together for a Walk of Witness around the village at 2.00pm. They will meet and finish at Chapel, this allows for the route to penetrate further into the estates. Carrying the Cross makes a very visible statement to everyone in the Village as we contemplate the real meaning of Holy Week approaching Easter Time, with hymns and bible readings at various points on our journey. If the group is in your locality please feel free to step outside and join in with the short reflection or just observe the occasion. Light refreshments are available afterwards. On Easter Sunday separate services will be held at Chapel and St. Lawrence Church, please see church notices for appropriate service times.

News From St. Austin's and St. Anne's, Stafford:

All are welcome to St. Anne's Parish Hall on Friday 15th March at 2.45pm to celebrate the forthcoming Feast of St. Patrick (which is 17th March). Children from St. Anne's school will provide entertainment. Fish & Chips at a cost of £6.00 will be served. Call Liz on 07305936716 to register.

Lenten Soup Lunches are held at St. Austin's on the Fridays of Lent in the Parish Room after midday Mass, to support the mission of Loreto Sealdah in Kolkata, India. All are most welcome to attend and donations to the mission are appreciated. **Rosary Prayer Group:** All are welcome to join the Rosary Prayer Group who meet every Monday at 2.00pm in the Chapel of St. Joseph's Convent Nursing Home.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



GNOSALL & DISTRICT

A number of announcements this month firstly, congratulations to Branch Chairman Neil Bartlett who has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the RBL Staffordshire for his determined efforts in resurrecting Gnosall Branch and building relationships in the Branch area.

At Cannock Chase War Cemetery on Sunday 28th April 2024 at 10.45am there will be the annual ANZAC Drumhead Remembrance Service. Now organised by Stafford RBL, apart from the Second World War and Covid this service has been held every year since 1920.



(Neil Bartlett receiving his certificate)

A football tournament is being hosted by Gnosall Family Sports Club on Saturday 29th June. On this day, at the Sports Club we will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day and also Armed Forces Day.

2024 will also see other special WWII anniversaries including the Great Escape, and the major battles fought at Kohima, Monte Cassino, Anzio and Arnhem.

Gnosall Branch with gazebo will be at the Carnival on 22nd June and during the Canal Festival 19th - 21st July we will be based at The Navigation public house.

In the late summer of 2023 a new team came together responsible for arranging the November Poppy Appeal. We know that in the past there have been volunteer collectors in the village, if that was you and you would like to continue or if you would like to become a Poppy Appeal collector please contact me; my details are below.

Social meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month beginning at 7.30pm at Gnosall Family Sports Club off Brookhouse Road, the next social is on Monday 4th March 2024. Everyone is welcome, do come along for a pint and a chat.

Committee meetings are held at The Royal Oak public house commencing at 7.30pm, the next meeting is on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

As a member of Gnosall branch you should receive regular RBL updates and notifications of upcoming activities. To be certain that this happens would members please contact our secretary whose email address is gnosalldistrict.secretary@rbl.community

Anyone can become a member of the Royal British Legion there is no requirement to have served in the military, I didn't. If you are interested in becoming a member, my contact details are below; or if you prefer you can join on-line via https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/addmember/details? Cost of membership is £18.00 per year.

Alan Lewis PRO Gnosall & District Branch. Tel. 01785 823982. Email: staffsbiker@btinternet.com

Gnosall & Newport Lions

Just a reminder of our P.S.A.Prostate Cancer event at the Cosy Hall Newport where we are holding it for two nights this being the Friday 5th and 26th April 2024. It will be from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Charge will be £15 per test appointment booked to be paid when making the booking online at https://mypsatests.org.uk/Events/ Instructions for booking appointments and what to take on the evening will be available on the website. Any problems booking through the website call 01964 19959 during office hours.



We have done our utmost to keep the costs down remaining the same as last year. We have been very busy in trying to raise money to help fund this very important event in our Calendar. Please come along. The results of the test usually only take a few days to come back to you.

If you are interested in joining our Club we would love to hear from you. We are friendly bunch of people(male and female) and need more members to join us and help us grow and be able do more as we are limited at the moment as what we can do. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at The Swan, Forton at 7.30pm you would be made very welcome so come and meet us and to see what we are about.

Give me a call if you need any more information ... 01785780032 Hope to hear from you soon Pat (Gnosall & Newport Lions) (Membership)

THE GNOSALL GLOBETROTTERS

LONDON MARATHON GNOSALL GLOBETROTTERS 2024

Running story of Michael Williams: Despite running for years, I have learnt there is a difference between running, and running a marathon. When I got lucky and managed to secure a ballot place for the London Marathon in 2024, I was already running consistently, at least one half marathon a month as well as about two runs each week. After being awarded the place though, my running has become a lot more serious. I decided I would do a full training program to run a marathon in

December, so London wouldn't be my first. This started out very well, I read multiple books, learning about strategies and diets and most importantly about training plans. All I did was run, early in the morning, late at night, in 3 different states in the US

whilst travelling with work, and boring everyone I spoke to about running distance and routes.

The plan unfortunately didn't go as well as I hoped. After a 19 mile run one weekend I had a pain in my left foot. If I was sensible, I would have rested and let it heal, but I was away and bored so did three runs that week. After the second I knew something didn't feel right and after the third I really knew it. This injury held me back from running for weeks only being able to do shorts distances and seeing a physio multiple times to try to correct it. I therefore didn't run my first practice marathon and London will be my first.

I have started the same training program again and although some illness at the beginning interrupted it, I'm now back on track. Perhaps being a bit more careful than I was the first time as I have seen how quickly an injury can come on and stop you in your tracks.

I've been saying for the last few years I wanted to complete a marathon before I turned 40, so I am very excited to have this amazing opportunity, but I do look forward to a rest in May already.

Running story of Maria Kershaw: Like many runners, I enter the London Marathon ballot every year without ever seriously contemplating running 26 miles, so I once again breathed a sigh of relief upon receiving the 'Not this time, Maria' email last July. Fast forward to December and the exciting news that the Gnosall Globetrotters had been awarded a London Marathon place...which I won! And then promptly burst into tears and believe me, they weren't tears of happiness!



(Maria and her running buddies)



(Globetrotters family)

I'm not a long-distance runner, I just enjoy a twice-weekly plod around the village catching up with friends. Having just turned 50, with arthritic knees and chronic Reynaud's, running 26 miles was surely an insurmountable challenge?!

It was a colleague at work a couple of days later who completely changed my mindset, reminding me that I had overcome far bigger challenges in life and this was simply a very long run. I thought back to this time 20 years ago when I was seriously ill, undergoing an aggressive course of chemotherapy to treat Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and it dawned on me that many people will never have the privilege of good health to be able to contemplate running a marathon.

And so my journey to London began. I'm taking it one day at a time and with the support and company of my wonderful running buddies, including many Globetrotters, training is underway. As expected, it's not exactly a walk in the park (excuse the pun!). My legs often feel as if they are about to fall off from the DOMS and I don't think I will ever relish a pre-work 6am run in sub-zero temperatures!

Slowly but surely, my distance is increasing and whilst 26 miles still feels totally overwhelming at times, you can rest assured that I am giving this my very best shot and one way or another, I aim to make it to The Mall on 21st April.

This will be the only marathon I will ever do, so I am fundraising for two wonderful causes, Blood Cancer UK and the Sam Myatt Memorial Fund:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/maria-running-london

The recent inclement weather didn't dampen or freeze our enthusiasm for towpath maintenance, with the volunteers wrapped up to brave sub-zero temperatures to start clearing overgrown vegetation on the bank towards bridge 35 (Navvy). Our aim being to plant daffodil bulbs in the autumn ready for their splendid yellow hues to shine brightly in spring 2025.

You'll soon be able to enjoy a daffodil spectacle on the banks by The Boat, Navvy and towards the railway, the bulbs planted last year are already showing through.

Whilst our amazing volunteers transformed the towpath last year, laying twenty plus tons of gravel between bridges 35 and 36, it has suffered from localised flooding during the winter months. This was due to a combination of settlement leading to an uneven surface, low spots and water accumulation, and the existing French drains becoming blocked.

Named not after the country but from the American agriculturalist and inventor Henry Flag French (1813-1835), a French drain is a land drainage system comprising a perforated pipe, called a weeping tile, laid within a back-filled shingle trench. The weeping tile is generally 100-150mm in diameter and installed to allow water to drain away.

CRT is the charity responsible for our canals and they have gifted us five tons of gravel for towpath upkeep. Our friends at Shrewsbury and Newport Canals Trust (SNCT) very kindly loaned us the use of Berkhamstead (built in 1927). Their enthusiastic volunteers joined GTR to assist in the transportation of the gravel from Norbury to Gnosall with Barry Witts towing the 'butty' behind his narrowboat "Hartwell".

You may have already seen our work with stone laying by the railway bridge and the widening of the towpath by the water points close to the Navvy. We're also addressing drainage to unblock where we can, create new run-offs and digging new shingle channels.

Wanted - Volunteers

We are a relatively small group of volunteers working mostly on Tuesdays and Saturdays, supported by those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Our people do what they can when they can but we're always looking for more people to join us and help.

If you're willing and able to help keep our canal looking beautiful and an amazing asset for our community to enjoy, then please contact Barry Witts at barry.witts@gmail.com or 07487 521065.

C'Fest Canal Festival

Keep your diary free 19th to 21st July and enjoy the spectacle of C'Fest 24. Working boats, trading boats, demonstrations, live music and much more.



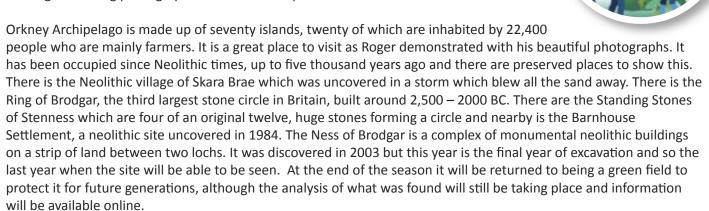
(Bagging Foliage)

(Loading the Boat thanks SNCT.)

M.O.B. Gardening Club January 2024

"Travels with My Camera"

The speaker this month was Roger Craven and he was talking about his visits to the Orkney Archipelagos and the Shetland Isles. Roger travels around in his motorhome and enjoys walking and taking photographs of the different places and wildlife.



There are approximately one hundred islands making up the Shetland Archipelago, fifteen of which are inhabited. Shetland, the main island is very different to Orkney as it is a bleak, treeless landscape. There are lots of physical remains of prehistoric eras on the various islands including the Mousa Broch. Brochs are a kind of Iron Age Roundhouse found only in Scotland.

Roger enjoys taking photographs of the wildlife which included little terns and razorbills. There were pictures of the guillemot and kittiwake colonies nesting on cliff edges. A favourite bird is the puffin which can be found nesting on grassy cliffs. There were pictures of shelducks with their dark green heads and red bill. They are known for nesting underground in rabbit holes. My favourite photo was of a gannet in flight but another photo showed the pieces of blue fishing net where the gannets were nesting on the cliffs. This highlighted the effects of marine pollution as some of the young birds can become tangled in the netting and it leads to their death. There was even a photograph of a Risso's Dolphin. These are predominately a deep water dolphins but occasionally one appears near the coast where Roger was able to capture it on camera.

Anyone interested in geology will be able to see the way the sea erodes the coastline of the islands to form various stacks such as the Old Man of Hoy. A stack is formed by the sea wearing away the softer stone leaving a tall tower separated from the coastline. The Old Man of Hoy is a red sandstone stack and is one of the tallest in the UK at about 450 feet high.

Roger's final comment was to talk about the results of avian or bird flu which had ripped through the various seabird colonies, killing tens of thousands of birds. Seabirds nesting on the cliff are particularly vulnerable to catching bird flu as they are in such close proximity to each other. In 2023 however, there was only one case detected in Shetland so maybe there is hope that the birds are starting to recover from the outbreak.

It was an enjoyable evening and Roger's photographs of Orkney and Shetland were amazing!

Our next meeting is on 19th March. The speaker is Frederick Barratt and he is talking about the Montgomery Canal restoration. We start at 7.30 p.m. at the Millennium Hall. It is £3 per month and includes refreshments, a quiz and a free raffle ticket.



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Lecturer Adrian Sumner

The title is Northern Lights - Edvard Munch and the Art of Scandinavia.

Contact our secretary Joan 01785 284629

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The Trio comprises:- Alice Braithwaite, a busy freelance bassoonist in demand throughout the North West; Beatrice Hubble, a music teacher and freelance oboist; and Tom Evans who divides his time between instrumental teaching, examining and performing as a freelance clarinettist. Individually they have worked with The Halle, Opera North, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Concert Orchestra, Northern Chamber Orchestra and National Festival Orchestra. They have a wealth of solo, chamber music and orchestral experience.



(Trio Volant)

It promises to be a delightful evening of music from well known works such as Mozart -Marriage of Figaro Overture - to lesser known compositions by Milhaud, Pierne and Bozza. Do come along and join

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Tickets are £15 adult/£5 child (cash or cheque) - available from 'Hey Jude' and 'Bobby's' cafe in Newport, or at the door on the day.

Contact the Music Club at newportmusicclubtickets@gmail.com or phone 07726 959233 to confirm the number of adults and children tickets you wish to reserve.

Newport Music Club returns to Cosy Hall on Saturday 11th May at 7.00 p.m. with 'Flutes and Frets Duo'







I was worried about this month's meeting. I was worried that it would be filled with unbearably sad stories, too hard to listen to. We were joined by Rachel and Mandy from The Samaritans in Stafford and I was afraid that sharing their experiences of telephone calls made during times of crisis and desperation would form too harsh a reminder of all

the pain and suffering that surrounds us. But this wasn't the case.

Mandy and Rachel gave us a history of the Samaritans, when it was founded (1953), by whom (Chad Varah) and for what purpose. It was the reasons as to why people called them however, that really struck another chord and made me think differently about the organisation as a whole. Yes, people call when they are at their darkest and lowest points but they are also encouraged to call before they reach that point, when they first feel lonely or despondent, to talk to a non-judgemental person and, hopefully, find a way to manage those feelings. They may work this out on their own or with the help of an organisation that the Samaritans' listener can signpost them towards. One thing the Samaritan cannot do is give advice. I wondered about this. When was the last time that I just listened to somebody without interjecting my own personal life experience or thoughts on what they should do? When was the last time that you did that for someone?

Of course, each Samaritan is highly trained and although there are 22,000 volunteers in the UK currently, sometimes a caller can hear a recorded message telling them to 'please call back later'. A heartbreaking thought.

To learn more about the Samaritans and how to support their work visit www.samaritans.org

Need support? Samaritans can be contacted on 116 123.

Join us next month for our AGM and a beetle-drive, which is always a firm favourite and can get very competitive, let me tell you.

Gnosall Jambusters meet at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month or we can be contacted via:

Email: gnosalljambusters@hotmail.co.uk

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(Loynton Moss Walk)

Daisy Heveron



(Mandy & Rachel preparing for their talk)





(June and her world famous raffle)

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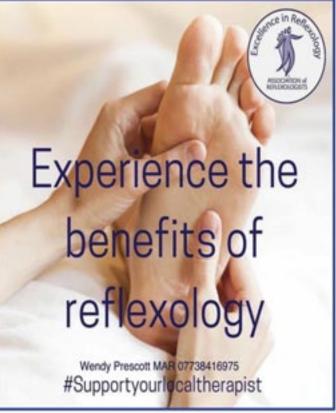
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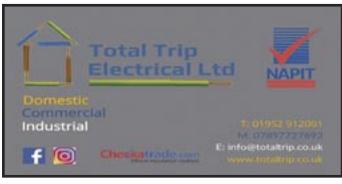


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- Gnosall St Lawrence CE Primary Academy
- Haughton St Giles CE Primary Academy Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and particularly welcome applications from volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds, and will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of any of the protected characteristics as detailed in the Equality Act 2010.

You will need:

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- An understanding of the education landscape
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We look forward to hearing from you.

Please note that in order for an individual to become a Governor, the Trust must undertake a number of legal checks. In addition, there are restrictions on who can become a school governor; full details are available via the Trust website here:

https://www.stbartsmat.co.uk/governance-vacancies/governor-opportunities-in-our-stafford-hub

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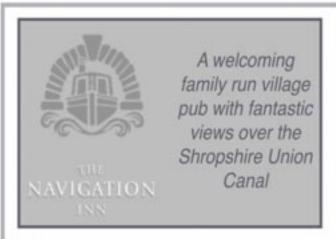
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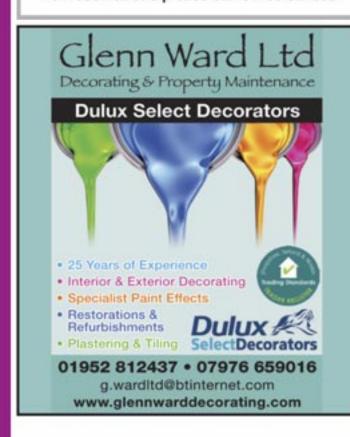
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