

# CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



The collection for Pershore Food Bank, May 2020

## JUNE 2020

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

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic has witnessed the first complete closure of all churches in England since 1280. For more than 800 years, the churches of our nation have been physical symbols of faith, prayer and stability. So, what happens when they are no longer available?

The answer is one of both unexpected joys and serious challenges. The speed at which church communities have adapted to social distancing has been nothing short of remarkable. Groups of like-minded people have formed from both within the church and in the wider community to care for the most vulnerable in our villages. People have organised themselves to do shopping for neighbours; to telephone those who are on their own; to create worship resources that can be shared on-line; to pray for our nation and key-workers. The ingenuity of what can be accomplished with a smart phone and an internet connection has opened more doors for the Church of England than could possibly have been imagined 6 months ago. And yet, for all the amazing things that are taking place, we have also been shown that there is no substitute for sitting with a neighbour or friend and sharing a cup of tea.

For me as a vicar, these times have required swift adaptation. I am reminded that it was during the Babylonian Exile that the Jewish people, in spite of the horrors they suffered, rediscovered the depths of their relationship with God. This time of exile for the Church has been a time of deepening prayer, of space for study and reflection. We are discovering how to separate the necessary from the superfluous. And yet, the restrictions on visiting the sick or the dying or the bereaved weigh on my heart like a stone. What is a parish priest if they cannot bring solace to those in distress?

The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the real needs of our communities and turned upside-down the expectations of society, so that those who were once not as valued as they should have been are now called 'key workers'. Within the Church, too, we have had our priorities challenged and been reminded of our core purpose: to share the love of God. Priests may celebrate the Eucharist on behalf of the wider community at home, but to share it again in church with the people of God will truly be a celebration of God's gifts to humanity. Absence, indeed, makes the heart grow fonder.

I am left wondering whether these changes will leave a more permanent mark on our lives. For those who have been left bereaved by this terrible virus, the answer is obvious. I pray that their loss will be remembered, especially those that have died helping and caring for others. On the battlefield, such bravery is

recognised with medals. On the wards and in public services I hope their bravery is remembered with a real commitment to maintaining the positive changes we have discovered during this time.

In these uncertain times when church buildings are closed, please remember that the people of the church are still praying for our communities. May God bless you and your families. Keep safe and keep well.

*This is a shorter version of a piece written for the Badsey Society. The full version is available on the Society Website.*

*Revd. Philip Morton*

## **Saint Andrew's Church**

**Vicar** Revd Philip Morton, The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey,  
WR11 7EJ 01386 832599

### **Churchwardens**

Rod Carless 01789 773357    Lis Hughes 01789 772578

### **Safeguarding in our Benefice**

Benefice Safeguarding Officer – Lisa Farmer Tel. 01386 40401

Safeguarding Advocate – Elizabeth Spencer Tel. 01789 720078

For enquiries concerning **Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals** contact the Benefice administrator, Wendy Stafford, Tel 01386 424728

### **From the PCC, Some notes on our past!**

While browsing through some old historic documents recently I came across some paperwork which rang a distinct chord with our present roof and tower problems. The paper was put together by the Revd Alfred C Style, who was vicar at St Andrew's in 1904. It is headed by the following introduction: "A description of the Ancient Parish Church which is urgently in need of Restoration" and is followed by the architect's notes.

The chief points found to be defective are The Tower, The Nave and the Roof. There are certain cracks from the belfry to the ground, partly the defective condition of the South West corner and partly through the defective bell framing! The pointing of joints is becoming very defective and the tower will soon become ruinous and beyond restoration. The iron straps and stays in the battlements should never have been used as the stones are being split by rust! The four corner pinnacles are unsafe, the pinnacles on the centre of each side

are missing. The battlements are very decayed and some of the stones must be renewed. The tracery of the belfry windows, as it might at any time blow out! The walls of the nave are generally good but the roof is causing serious damage. The roof has the old oak timbers but the joints are defective although the themselves are in excellent condition. Etc, etc.

And we thought we had got it bad! Proposed cost £700 (£115 already subscribed).

The saga continues next month.

*Rod Carless*

## **Food bank collection - Thank you again Cleeve Prior**

Well done and thank you to everyone in Cleeve Prior who donated food and essentials to the Pershore Food Bank on 7 May.

A total of 255 items were collected in Cleeve Prior, this was up some 160 from the collection in April. The items were delivered to the food bank the following day and used for food packages for single people and families who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

A special thankyou to Mandy English for her help collecting donations on the day. There will not be a collection in June.

Please see message from the Food Bank below.

*Gordon Davidson*



Thank you very much to all the residents of Cleeve Prior who have generously donated food to the Food Bank. Your donations make a huge difference to our clients in coping with the current situation.

It is hardly surprising that demand has increased dramatically since mid-March and we are seeing an increase in new clients. There has been a significant increase in the number of families seeking help from the Food Bank.

Once again thank you very much.

*Lynne Raymer Project Leader Pershore Food Bank*

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Until further notice the Council will meet the second Monday of each month, except for August, at 7:30pm **via Zoom**. The Zoom link will be provided on each agenda which are always posted on the Council website prior to meetings. If a parishioner has any comments or concerns please contact the Clerk or a councillor.

Chairman Peter Wilson: [wilsonatparkbourne@btinternet.com](mailto:wilsonatparkbourne@btinternet.com)

Cllr Ian Robinson: [irobinson773805@gmail.com](mailto:irobinson773805@gmail.com)

Cllr Mary Smith: [marysmith.message@virgin.net](mailto:marysmith.message@virgin.net)

Cllr Ron Solomon: [ron.priorhouse@gmail.com](mailto:ron.priorhouse@gmail.com)

Cllr Kevin Mellor: [kevinjohnmellor@gmail.com](mailto:kevinjohnmellor@gmail.com)

Cllr Douglas Carr: [austin.carr@talk21.com](mailto:austin.carr@talk21.com)

Cllr Iain MacDonald: [ismacdonald@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ismacdonald@yahoo.co.uk)

The May Parish Council meeting did not have any attendance by members of the public. In the current 'lockdown' environment, the Parish Council is holding its monthly meetings on-line by using the 'Zoom' tele-conferencing system. If you have internet access it is very easy to join these meetings. Find Zoom using Google and then, using the prompts, join the meeting at the scheduled time by using the Meeting ID number and Password. The meeting ID number and password will be found on the Agenda for the meeting. Alternatively, you can simply click the link. The agenda is always posted on the notice board and on the Parish Council website, three working days before the meeting. We hope you will join us.

If you run a local community organisation and need a modest grant for vital equipment or service, please feel free to apply for one from the Divisional Fund by contacting WCC County Cllr Adams at [adams.pebworth@gmail.com](mailto:adams.pebworth@gmail.com).

Due to flood damage the Parish Wharf facilities such as the steps to the river and the seat are dangerous. Please avoid using these parts of the Wharf and any other sections deemed unsafe as determined by personal inspection.

The Council is aware the Parish Wharf picnic table was stolen. The issue was reported to the police and an insurance claim was filed.

The School Playing Fields playground area is closed until further notice.

Please be aware that during the lockdown local authority services will likely be slow to respond. For Cleeve Prior this means situations on footpaths, bridleways etc will not be resolved quickly.

For a complete picture of Parish Council activities please see the Minutes on the Council website: [www.cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk/](http://www.cleevepriorparishcouncil.co.uk/)

*Sean Arble*, Clerk to the the Council  
01789 490 50, [clerk.cleeveprior@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.cleeveprior@gmail.com)



## CLEEVE PRIOR GARDEN CLUB

Unfortunately our June meeting has now had to be cancelled. After all the hard work we have done in our gardens, maybe relaxing in the sunshine with a glass of Pimms could be the best idea for June.

Roger has a few ideas to keep us busy:

- Some of us have lost plants in May due the late frost I mentioned last month, but it's not too late to sow another crop such as runner beans.
- Hoe regularly to keep the weeds down
- Pinch out the small side shoots on tomato plants.
- Harvest lettuce, radish and other salad plants.
- Position hanging baskets outside
- Mow lawns little and often
- Stake tall floppy plants
- Shade your greenhouse to keep it cool as the sun gets hotter
- Continue to earth up your potatoes
- Water early and late in the day to get the most out of the water
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Finally, it's not too late to plant sweet peas, they don't need a lot of heat, 10-15c, but can take some time to germinate so don't give up on them. Soak the seeds for 24 hours before planting to give them a good start.

Keep safe and happy gardening.

*Jan Stewart*

# Volunteers and local services

## 19 May 2020

The volunteers are still here to help you. So far, we have mainly been collecting prescriptions, taking parcels to the post office or collecting essential provisions.

The volunteers are working to all the government directives so will stay a safe distance from you and collect from or leave items on your doorstep.

If you know of other services that would be of interest to the community, please give the details to Susan Robinson so that they can be added to this list – thank you.

**To access help from the volunteers** please contact either

Susan Robinson: call 01789 491380; text or WhatsApp 07880 493600;

Email – paulj.robinson@btinternet.com

Iain MacDonald: 07826 866775 call, text or WhatsApp

Email – [ismacdonald@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ismacdonald@yahoo.co.uk)

## LOCAL SERVICES LISTING

New or updated listings have an \*. Included are a number of web links – to make these live please go to the electronic version of the newsletter on the Cleeve Prior Parish Council website. If you want help because you do not use the internet or do not have access to a computer, please call either me, Susan Robinson, or Iain and we will help if we can.

**\*Specialist cheese producers** - this site lists all the small cheese producers in the country who are struggling due to restaurant closures there are links to their websites within this list. <http://www.specialistcheesemakers.co.uk/>

**\*A note on Supermarkets** – many of you are managing to get slots but for others it seems impossible. Marks and Spencer have worked with Deliveroo to develop a delivery service using an App. If that is a step too far you can order food boxes for delivery. There are several, a selection of ready meals, a mixed fruit, two vegetable boxes, a meat one and a gluten free box – go into hampers at <https://www.marksandspencer.com/>

**\*Iceland** delivers here too – again there is high demand now but they do essentials and a range of slimming world produce should you need that. Slots are released at 11 am and it is free for orders over £30.

<https://www.iceland.co.uk/>

**MEAL TAKEAWAY/DELIVERY** This is neither an exhaustive list nor a list of recommendations, merely some I found by searching so I cannot

guarantee quality and hope they are working to good hygiene and social distancing rules.

\*This website has several local providers for takeaway/ delivery – you can check the delivery costs by clicking into the pictures, the menus are there too. You need to refresh the link as it gives live information by the time of day:

<https://www.just-eat.co.uk/area/wr11-evesham>

\***Raj Indian Evesham**, 01386 49258 takeaway or delivery if over £10 order <https://rajofindiaevesham.co.uk/>

**Balti Hot Bidford**, 01789 773283 takeaway service order by phone or online - 01789 773283, <https://baltihot.co.uk/>

\***Food Genie Fish & Chips**, 01386 834693, 07737 326183, [info@food-genie.co.uk](mailto:info@food-genie.co.uk). Delivering to Cleeve on a Friday night. You phone in your order and pay by bank transfer or cash left in an envelope on your door step. They do a chip shop menu so fish, scampi, halloumi, homemade pies, chicken Balti pie, Tandoori chicken pieces, chicken nuggets and goujons all with chips. I have had good reports from some of you and apparently, they do lovely puddings!

\***The Frog Bidford**, all the details are here they deliver from an extensive takeaway menu: <https://www.just-eat.co.uk/restaurants-the-frog-warwick/menu>

\***The Round of Grass Badsey**, 01386 830206:

<https://www.roundofgras.co.uk/> Are providing takeaways and will deliver here. They have a good menu on the website and will deliver here free on Sunday 12 - 12.30 or 3.30 – 4.00. Friday and Saturday 5.00 - 5.30 or 7 – 7.30. Any other time there is delivery on a minimum order of £25 but you can order a hot meal and perhaps one to heat next day or you can get basic provisions like flour, fruit and vegetables to reach that amount. Details of the “shop” are on Facebook. If you do not use the internet call them and they will talk you through what they offer and put a paper menu out with your first order.

\***Broom Tavern**, 01789 778199, <https://broomtavern.co.uk/> The pub offers an extensive menu and non-contact collection; order pay online and collect or they will deliver for small cost.

\***The Blue Boar**, 01789750010, <https://www.theblueboar.co.uk/takeaway.html> This Pub has an extensive takeaway menu – order, pay and collect at the side door. Deliveries within 5 miles so Cleeve is just too far away unless you are a regular or do a large order.

\***The Cottage of Content** 01789 772279, varied takeaway menu

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCottageofContent>. Phone your order, pay and collect from a designated area.



\***The Fleece Inn**, no food other than a delivery within Bretforton, however they do have a virtual pub! <https://thefleeceinn.co.uk/whats-on/>

\* **The Bell Inn**, Binton Road, Welford-on-Avon, SoA, CV37 8EB, <https://www.facebook.com/TheBellWelford/> Telephone 01789 750353 open for takeaways Friday – Sunday, menu on their Facebook page

## **READY MEALS**

**Cook**, <https://www.cookfood.net> , 01732 759000, minimum order £40 free delivery over £85.

**Wiltshire Farm Foods**, <https://www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com/> . Order online or call 0800 0773100 free delivery of over 300 dishes.

### **Oakhouse Foods**

<https://www.oakhousefoods.co.uk/ready-meals-delivered-uk>. Call 0333 370 6700, they have over 400 dishes and this provider is particularly good if you have specific dietary needs.

**POSTAL SERVICES** – just a small selection who will collect a parcel from you and you can pay online.

DHL <https://parcel.dhl.co.uk/> Call 0844 248 0828

DPD <https://www.dpd.co.uk/index.jsp>

Hermes <https://new.myhermes.co.uk/send.html>

## **TOILETRIES etc.**

**Bidford Pharmacy**, 01789 772433. If you need non- prescription medicines and toiletries you can order over the phone and pay and get a friend or volunteer to collect them for you.

**Loo paper: Potty about m planet**, recycled bamboo.

Email: [Hannah@pottyaboutmyplanet.com](mailto:Hannah@pottyaboutmyplanet.com)

## **FOOD SUPPLIES**

**One Acre Farm Shop**, Pete Smith, Froglands Lane, 07795 447184

Our in-Village shop, Pete has a range of essential items including eggs and fresh veg, pet food, meat, etc. Please ring in advance.

\***Wayside Farm Shop**, Wickhamford, 01386 830546: good selection of local produce, some meat, bacon sausages and chicken, milk, bread eggs and basic groceries they also make quiche and scones. They will deliver to Cleeve Prior on Monday and Thursday for the over 70's and vulnerable groups; call 2/3 days in advance and pay directly. Orders can be made for collection 24/48 hours in advance. The shop is working on full opening hours 9 – 5.30 and only

2 people are allowed in at one time. The shop has been rearranged so that there is a one- way system to stop people getting too close.

**Hampton Farm Shop**, 01386 41540: fresh produce including fresh fruit, veg & milk; deliver to Bidford-on-Avon, Minimum spend applies but they might deliver here if there is demand.

**Hillers Farm Shop**, Dunnington, 01789 773057: good selection of fresh food and cupboard staples. Phone your order and pay, then collect from a collection point – they will come and place the items in your boot.

**Ellenden Farm Shop**, Harvington, 01386 870296: offering to take orders over the phone or internet which you can pay for online and collect either from outside or inside the shop. They are open from 9 am to 6 pm. They are not delivering here. They have a good selection of fruit veg and meat as well as bread milk etc.

\***The Wixford Smokery** <https://www.facebook.com/TheWixfordSmokeryLtd> you need to look on Facebook and message an order – all the information is on the page and they will deliver here. Aimee Russell-Davis is the contact on 07817 848681

**Maypole Butchers**, Bidford, 01789 750213, [maypoleorders@gmail.com](mailto:maypoleorders@gmail.com).

2 standard meat boxes:

£30 for 1lb bacon, 1lb sausage, 600g beef mince, 600g braising steak, 2 rump steaks, 4 chicken breasts, 4 burgers or equivalent extra mince.

£40 for 1.5 lb topside, 1.5lb pork joint, whole chicken, 4 chicken breasts, 600g mince, 600g diced beef, 1lb sausage, 1lb bacon.

£5 mixed veg. £1 per kilo potatoes. Individual orders also taken.

Shop open to buy or collect, 9.30 - 3 pm. They will also deliver, but ask all who can visit shop to do so. Website: [maypolebutchers.co.uk](http://maypolebutchers.co.uk) being updated to give details above.

**AP Meats**, 01789 400115, email: [apmeatsdelivery@outlook.com](mailto:apmeatsdelivery@outlook.com). Happy to take phone orders for delivery – preferably larger orders - but need 2 days advance notice at the moment.

**Budgens**, 01789 773352 or e-mail [bidford@warnersretail.co.uk](mailto:bidford@warnersretail.co.uk). Orders need to be placed by 12pm for the same day delivery. Deliveries to CP Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 1 pm and 3pm. Free delivery on orders over £50. £5 delivery charge applies on orders under £50. Payment will be taken over the phone.

**ValeFresco**, local grower/packer. 01386 45867, or email:

[simon@valefresco.com](mailto:simon@valefresco.com) with your name, address & telephone number to place an order for a box of fresh salad & vegetable delivered to your door. Minimum of 12 items per box £10 delivered. Deliveries to Cleeve Prior on Fridays.

**NEWSPAPERS** - News Team, Sarah Collier Customer services  
Telephone: 01782 959530, <https://www.newsteamgroup.co.uk>  
Already delivering to Cleeve Prior.

## **FLOWERS**

**Vale Flowers**, Mill Lane: Jayne will deliver flowers which she will leave near your doorstep, call her on [07542 004101](tel:07542004101) and pay over the phone. Jayne is donating 50% of any money they take during this time to The Shakespeare Hospice.

## **Plants and Hanging Baskets**

\***Mill Lane Nursery**, 01789 773231 are now open.

\***New Inn Lane Nurseries** Salford Priors 01386 870073, <https://www.newinnlanenurseries.co.uk/> taking online orders for click and collect and delivery only. They are not open to the public.

\***Blenheim Nurseries** Bidford – now open to the public with social distancing rules.

\***Station Nursery**, Blackminster, 01386 832698: now open to the public.

\***Woods Plants**, Cleeve Prior, 01789 778205, are staying open next to Field Barn. They only take cash that you put in a bucket. They are planning to open up the frontage to allow parking as the road is very busy.

\***Stratford Garden Centre** is now open to the public.

## **CHURCH SERVICES**

Churches are starting to create some online services that people can access through websites if they are self-isolating. Follow the link to the new Benefice YouTube channel for the first service, which is Compline (Night Prayer):

<https://eastvaleavon.com/online-services>

[www.ConnectionInIsolation.blogspot.com](http://www.ConnectionInIsolation.blogspot.com)

## **SUPERMARKETS**

This incredibly long link takes you to a list of what supermarkets are doing – it is being updated by Good Housekeeping on a daily basis. Remember to refresh the page by clicking the refresh button top left like a circular arrow to get the latest information.

[https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/consumer-advice/a31915146/coronavirus-supermarkets-updates-news/?utm\\_source=crm&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=GHI\\_N\\_2020\\_0325&utm\\_content=na&utm\\_term=na&HearstNode=35350D782E67652D688605DD1E334BD6A9CC7FE777D8D3A8B06A33C92FC5CEF6](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/consumer-advice/a31915146/coronavirus-supermarkets-updates-news/?utm_source=crm&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GHI_N_2020_0325&utm_content=na&utm_term=na&HearstNode=35350D782E67652D688605DD1E334BD6A9CC7FE777D8D3A8B06A33C92FC5CEF6)

## **Walkers' Walks**

Mike and Bridgett have kindly outlined two walks from the Village Green, both between 1 and 1<sup>1/2</sup> hours. They ask that walkers leave all gates as they find them. When walking permissive paths and when they pass people's gardens, please respect the owners' privacy. During the 'shut down' no maintenance work has been allowed so they are often overgrown. It might be worth taking secateurs with you!

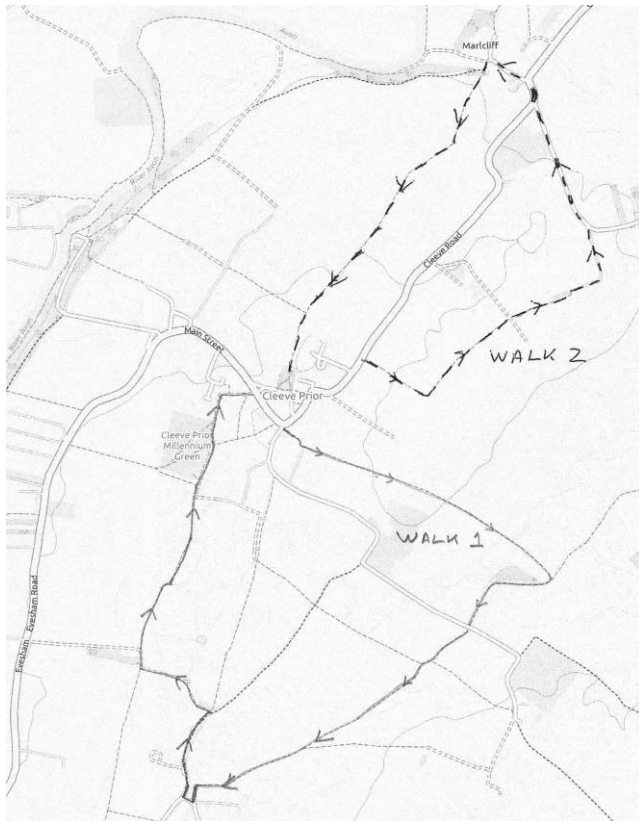
### **Walk No.1**

Leave the Village Green on your left and walk down past the school, cross Hoden Lane to a waymarked footpath through a five barred gate beside The Mill House and straight on to a gap in the stone wall. Follow the path to a gate on to a track beside the field to the top. Turn right over a broken down stile, then left and left again through a gate. Turn right with the hedge on your right follow this up a slight incline (there may be sheep in the field so keep dogs on the lead). Stop at the top and admire the views all around. Keep in the same direction and go straight down the hill to a small field gate into another field (there may be sheep) and look ahead for a marker post; keeping this to your left head for a field gate. Cross a wooden bridge and turn right along a grassy track beside a brook, cross an open ditch, to another footbridge and a tarmac road (Hoden Lane). Bearing slightly to the left, cross the road, and through two straw bales, follow the track with the hedge and brook on your right to a footbridge and gate in the corner of the field and continue along the right hand hedge (there may be cows in his field), over a little footbridge, until you reach an awkward stile into an orchard. At the second stile out of the orchard, turn left onto a track. At the tarmac road (signed Eastside) turn right and right again on to a signed bridleway. Carry on along this until you come to a wooden bridge. Cross it and turn left, follow this hedge until you go over a concrete bridge and through a large open gateway onto a farm track. At the T junction turn right and follow the track until you reach a kissing gate and bridge, and footpath between two fields, at the end of which is Quarry Lane. Continue on until you arrive back at the Village Green.

### **Walk No.2**

From the Village Green go through the churchyard following the tarmac path straight through and down the narrow passage to the main road. Turn left and straight on, to a permissive path through The Manor (respect the residents' privacy). In the centre follow the gravelly area to the right to The Manor's vehicular entrance onto the main road and turn left. After about 20 yards cross over a stile on the other side of the road and walk beside the field to the top corner, and turn left, keeping the hedge on your right, to a large gap. Look

straight ahead for a yellow topped waymark post, and stile. Over the stile keep hedges and fields with (possibly) Annie's Highland Cattle, to your left. She does sell her beef and lamb. Pass some farm buildings and look for a gap in the hedge on the left, cross a little bridge and turn right onto a track and pass Clink Cottages. Follow this farm track to Sixteen Acres Lane and bear left along the lane to meet the main road on the Marcliff bends on the main road; keep right and cross, very carefully, at the right hand bend and down The Bank to the old village. Turn left at a thatched cottage onto a grassy track (where the road bends to the right), through a gate and up some steps (on the Marl Cliff). Go straight ahead and over three stiles, along a well trodden footpath to a small old orchard. Continue straight on to a field, and turn left and follow the hedge on the left of this field to a kissing gate, straight on until the next kissing gate into a field of ponies (very friendly), a kissing gate, bridge and the fields behind the Manor and thence into the churchyard.



If any other residents wish to recommend walks, please contact the Editor.

## Hedges & Hedgehogs

This month **hedges** will start needing a trim, if you care about our wildlife, then I would urge you not to cut them back hard at this time of year, as we are now in the middle of the bird breeding season. To trim pathways to your doors, use secateurs or hand shears, cutting the minimum possible and then giving it a proper cut back from September to March. Certainly, what you should not be using are petrol hedge cutters, petrol trimmers, chain saws and leaf blowers within approx. 20 meters of any nests. These noisy machines will most definitely cause stress and disturbance to nesting birds. All birds are protected, disturbance of an active nest with eggs or chicks or to intentionally scare off birds from building a nest is a criminal offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and can carry heavy penalties. It is the responsibility of the owner to check there are no active nests. If you use a contractor then both owner and Contractor have a responsibility to carry out a survey of the area beforehand and remember that disturbance can also affect birds on your neighbours' side of the hedge or fence. I would say there have been at least two incidents whereby contractors in the village over the past few weeks have not taken our nesting birds into consideration. Please consider leaving your hedges and shrubs until after the breeding season which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

By now, **Hedgehogs** have probably all given birth to their Hoglets. After coming out of hibernation in April, they will have found suitable nest sites, either a wooden box that you have provided for them or a nice pile of logs, twigs & leaves. They made their way into your garden in the autumn and now want to get out to explore further afield with their offspring. It is now that they may find that you have had work done repairing fences during the winter months and unbeknown to you, they don't have any holes to escape through. Please leave or make a gap in your fences, it only needs to be 125mm x 125mm in size. You can even buy concrete gravel boards now with Hedgehog holes built in, wouldn't it be a great idea if you could chat with your neighbours and all install a hole in your fences creating one long Hedgehog Highway across many gardens?

For more info. email Peter, [pjhconservation@gmail.com](mailto:pjhconservation@gmail.com)  
Twitter: @peterjohnhowe



# *Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust*

## **News from Field Barn**

Hi Everyone, I hope that you are all managing to keep safe and well in these challenging times. Now that we are all allowed as much exercise as we like, why not challenge yourself to take the circular Heritage Walk through Cleeve Prior. We have booklets available if you are new to the village and are not quite sure of the route.

If you are new to the village or even if you have been here some time you may not know much about us so I have extracted some details from our Annual Report which I hope you will find interesting. Please do come up any time for a walk in our beautiful orchards. Volunteers are always needed for a variety of tasks so get in touch if you are interested. Safe working practices with social distancing is being actively managed.

### **ABOUT US**

The Trust formed in March 1997 owns 12 acres. It comprises mainly traditional orchards but also woodland, open grassland, mature scrub and ponds as well as the Field Barn complex with its Community Garden.

*The Trust also manage a further 15 Acres for two Trusts, the Quarry Ground Millennium Trust (10 Acres) and Vale Landscape Heritage Trust (5 Acres).*

The various sites are linked by the Greenlink circular walk allowing flexible access to the countryside. Full details of the walk can be found on the website: <https://www.cleevepriorheritagetrust.co.uk/about-us/nature-walk/>

The work to be carried out by the Trust in summary is:

- Preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest;
- Conservation and preservation of plants, trees and wildlife;
- Education/Promoting greater understanding of the environment.

We try to keep core operating costs to the minimum and we are indebted to the dedicated band of volunteers who turn out each week in all weathers to look after what is equivalent to a small farm. In a typical year we need around £5-6k per annum to cover our overheads. This money comes from government grants which are fiendishly complex to apply for!!!; local grants, e.g. the Parish, our County Councillor and The NFU Mutual who support various Educational Projects. Events, sales of logs and cider and hire of Field Barn

also make up a substantial part of our revenue. So thanks to everyone who supports our events.

## **THE LANDSCAPE**

### **Community Orchard, Top Orchard and Top Wood**

These are permanently open for the public to enjoy on foot. In Spring the blossom and primroses and cowslips are a real delight. We have several patches of orchids in May /June and usually a feast of plums in August and plentiful apples in the Autumn, The Trust aims to protect the local environment where it can and preserve and enhance wild life, hence our strategy with Orchard Management. For two years we have left the grass to grow unchecked until July to encourage wild flowers and insects, but cutting was far more difficult this last wet Autumn.

### **The Ponds**

We have seven ponds in the Community Orchard, this winter full to overflowing. Although we understood their importance as a breeding ground for amphibians we have not given them a high priority. The arrival of a new volunteer with a specific interest in ponds and their environment has led to increased activity. This also ties in with our plans to offer pond dipping as part of our educational provision. Work has started to improve their surroundings by thinning the shading conifers and by opening up the access paths. There was a mound of spoil covered by brambles which we flattened two years ago and has since been sown with grass and wild flower mix and this is now beginning to look good.

### **Field Barn, Community Garden and Well Area**

Since we completed the toilets and the garden makeover we have been able to let the complex as a Summer Venue with more confidence, and have had a lot more interest. In the Autumn the Trustees decided to use more of the Dawn Wigley endowment to install new electric radiators and lighting in the meetings room and kitchen so that we can extend the hiring season. The new split level grass area with paved access paths and table spot has generated more interest and, with the new collection of bird boxes and new planting as well as the Bug Hotel, there is plenty to attract young visitors.

### **Plot 8**

This has a curious name and goes back to the time when the County Council first marked out the area into one and two acre strips 300 yards long. They allocated them numbers, and this was the last - Plot 8. This is now 4 acres and was part planted with apples in 2003 but had two large areas of scrub that was



unmanageable. The new Stewardship Scheme with Natural England has given us the opportunity of extending our orchards in Plot 8 and replacing 50 plum trees in the Community Orchard, but the scrub clearance needed on plot 8 proved too much this winter in spite of the help from villagers on special working weekends. We finally planted the apples and pears on 7 March with a fantastic band of volunteers from the village and it was such a nice day that we all enjoyed drinks in the Garden when we finished.

### **Quarry Lane: The Wildlife Sanctuary, and Quarry Ground (Perry Pear Orchard)**

The Trust maintains these valuable habitats near the centre of the village. The Sanctuary is a haven for birds, better now the hide has been moved and the pond cleared. There is a collection of English elm clones that are now old enough to attract the beetle carrying Dutch Elm Disease. In fact there are many hedgerow elms close by that are dying or dead, but several of the specimen trees are healthy this year and we hope that some may be fully resistant. We have continued to provide an area in the Perry Pear Orchard for Cleeve Prior First School to use as a Forest School area free of charge.

I hope you have found this article interesting. Next month we will tell you about the Sanctuary and update you on the plans for a poetry walk in the Top Wood.

*Brian Taylor, Chairman CPHT, 01789 773075*

### **Birchfield Vegetable Plot**

A big thanks to everyone who has had vegetable plants and contributed so generously to my fundraising effort for the Stratford Food Bank. In total we have raised almost £600.

I still have a few tomato, pepper and courgette plants left if anyone is still interested.

Thanks, Peter ([peterthomasbyrne@gmail.com](mailto:peterthomasbyrne@gmail.com))

## VILLAGE NOTICES

**The Kings Arms** is closed until further notice.

### **Tearoom and Lending Library**

The Tearoom and Lending Library will be closed until further notice.

**Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga and Movement to Music** classes are all suspended until further notice

### **The CP Bowls Club**

The three weekly sessions have been cancelled until the end of the season in May.

**The WCC Mobile Library** service is suspended until further notice.

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