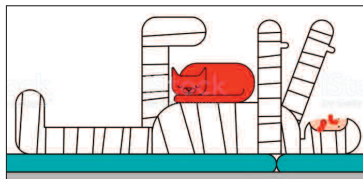


Nature Notes

From STEVE, Newbold Pacey

Well this Nature Notes is a bit different! Anyone who knows me knows I'm up and down ladders all day. The one thing you must never do if you're up and down ladders is to fall off! So - what do you think I went and did...



Oh you're ahead of me, yes, of course I fell off and found I didn't bounce as well as I used to! Nice clean break down the pelvis. So after a few days in Warwick Hospital and more in Walsgrave I'm home! Those nurses aren't paid enough! Just saying. . .

So I'm having to do something that's very alien to me - stop - sit down or lay down? I've never really learnt how to do that. Having said that I have the views of magnificent old trees, many over 100 years old through the cottage window.



There's a Hawthorn tree on the little green outside the cottage and a companion - the giant Cedar tree. It's currently totally covered in flowers. Its hard to see any leaves. The flowers are a gentle pink and I reckon it could be a Midland Hawthorn. Their stronghold is right here. The other name for Hawthorn is Quickthorn. That's

why they're so often used as hedges. The Anglo Saxons had a word 'Haga' which meant both hedge and Hawthorn and if a farmer planted a single Hawthorn tree in a field it was known as the 'Fairy Hawthorn'. Now our pink Hawthorn is alone so it could be a Fairy Hawthorn. It does have a secret. Not very far from the ground it has a split in its trunk that you could just about wiggle a few fingers in. Now inside here, hidden away each year is a Blue Tits nest and occasionally its been Great Tits, no one knows.

Talking of Blue Tits nesting - for the first time in five years we've got a pair of Blue Tits nesting in the box high up near the bedroom window. So now I've got a brilliant view from my bed and as I've got time on my hands so to speak, I've been watching them and logging their activities. The pair clock on at about 5.15am and their incredibly long day begins. Now there really is 'fast food' deliveries of caterpillars, grubs and insects to their ravenous young at a rate of approx 120 feeds an hour. This continues until soon after 7pm so that's 14 hours of flying and food gathering, unless they have breaks. That adds up to 1,680 trips per day between them. No wonder some adult birds look so raggedy and run down - that's because they are!



The box on the outhouse is also in full swing so I'm hoping we've helped put at least 15 more Blue Tits into our habitat. Sadly not many survive to get to Winter but we won't dwell on that one.

Its glorious down Church Lane that runs passed the cottage with Cow Parsley (or Keck) and Comfrey, Damson trees, Hawthorn and Elder.

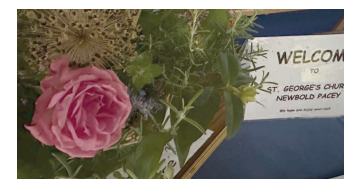
I hope to see something from the windows or the next notes will be from memory and made up!

THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 165, July 2023

Bloomin' Brilliant Flower Festival

Scores of local people and visitors flocked to St George's to enjoy the spectacular Newbold Pacey & Ashorne Flower Festival, which raised nearly £550 for the church.



Talented flower-arrangers Pam, Purdie, Liz, Linda, Margaret, Shelagh, Kate, Pauline and Edna produced a fascinating variety of arrangements on the theme of 'House names - your own or another parishioner's'. These included Whiteways, Victoria Cottage, which Liz interpreted as a dainty Victorian tea table scene, Purdie's rustic creation Greenlands with miniature cats among wild flowers and grasses and Shelagh's



interpretation of Crane Hill with exotic orange crane lilies, cow parsley and teasels.

Our visitors voted on their favourite arrangements, producing joint-winners: Pam's

'School House' which decorated the altar and Linda's 'Sycamore Grove', a riot of pink and white blooms festooned around the font.

Pam had also created 'Park Cottage', a charming, tea party-themed window arrangement in honour of our longstanding parishioner Pat Tarver who sadly was too ill to come to the Festival but still admired a photo of the display from her hospital bed. We served refreshments throughout the weekend: cups of tea and coffee, delicious cream teas plus home-baked biscuits and cakes which proved a particularly hot ticket.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Pam for organising the event, to all our dedicated flower arrangers and bakers, to everyone who cleaned, served and did the washing up and to Richard for providing atmospheric music throughout the Festival. Everyone oohed and aahed over the different arrangements but also praised the friendly atmosphere - and the delicious cakes!

More from St George's - Back Page

Village Hut Events

**Please save the following dates:
Gin Tasting 4th November 2023**

The Warwickshire Gin Company will be bringing samples of their gins which are made using the traditional copper pot method.



There will be eight varieties of gin to taste [and purchase] with information about ingredients and production.

Christmas Disco with an '80s theme
8th December 2023. Begin the festive season with Smash Hits from the 80's !

PAT TARVER

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS TO REPORT THAT PAT TARVER PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY. A WONDERFUL LADY, VIBRANT CHARACTER AND SUCH A BIG PART OF VILLAGE LIFE FOR OVER 60 YEARS. SHE WILL BE VERY MUCH MISSED. SHE AND HER BELOVED HUSBAND JOHN ARE NOW REUNITED AS SHE HAD ALWAYS WISHED. WE PASS ALL OUR SYMPATHY TO PETER AND FAMILY.

St George's Newbold Pacey



Scarecrow Walk The theme is FILMS

We are holding our Scarecrow Walk around Ashorne and Newbold Pacey on Sunday 10th September from 11am to 4pm, with a slap-up Tea and

Cakes at the Village Hall. Everyone is invited to make a scarecrow, however offbeat and quirky, to display in their garden or elsewhere and the theme this year is Films.

There will be leaflets showing the position of every scarecrow, including a section where you can vote for your favourites: the most popular will win a prize. Also, could you bake a cake or two, help serve teas or just come along, admire the different straw men (and women) and tuck in?

If you would like to make scarecrow, bake a cake or help with the teas for an hour or so, please contact our organiser and PCC Secretary Pam Cook on 01926-651508. All volunteers are very welcome.

Items for the next edition of VHN...

If you have news or views (that are printable) along with our regular contributors – please send (including pictures) to: Chris Thornton at jimandchris@gmail.com by 15th September.

Calling all Budding Veg Growers

Would you like to grow your own fruit and vegetables? There are several vacant plots available in our Ashorne allotments.

Allotments are a great hobby. They're cheap, you get healthy exercise without having to pay for a gym or run around in circles and you get to eat healthy fruit and vegetables without all those pesticide residues. We hope to develop a friendly and thriving community of growers! If you're interested then please email or chat with Paul Darnell (cilrpauldarnell@gmail.com) at Appletree Cottage.



SAD GOODBYE TO OUR POSTIE JOE

As you are probably aware Joe, our postie, retires at the end of July. He has always been a friendly face and so helpful, we shall miss him. We wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.



A great family day out at the cricket field recently. Did we win? Don't know.

theWI Report

We welcomed Erica and Pam from Hats & Co as speakers for our June meeting. Pam gave an interesting history of the British hat industry then Erica took over with style tips. Using our committee members as models, Erica showed how differing styles and colours can flatter and tipped us off on some of the rules for headwear and clothing for Ladies Day at Royal Ascot.



Later that month, on a warm evening, eight of our number exercised our grey matter participating in the Warwickshire Federation Annual Treasure Hunt around the streets of Henley in Arden. Later that week group of us travelled to Tutbury Castle, Staffordshire to enjoy afternoon tea and an enlightening talk from BBC historian Lesley Smith in the persona of Anne Boleyn.

In July it was all about flowers when Christine Ramsey came to give a fascinating talk and demonstration about how to dry flowers and create long lasting and beautiful floral displays. Christine gave tips on how to make

environmentally-friendly arrangements by re-using glass jars instead of oasis and drying home-grown plants to reduce the air and road miles that most retailers flowers have travelled.

In August we will get together in a Moreton Morrell member's garden for afternoon tea. In September we have Martin Williams from Warwickshire & Solihull Blood Bikes coming to talk about the work of this hard-working charity. For October, we'll be in full ghoulish mode with Eddie Smallwood in the persona of the Barber Surgeon in the War of the Roses – not for the faint-hearted!

Our community coffee mornings continue in Ashorne Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month – open to all and there will always be toasted teacakes and homemade cake.

Our walking group meets regularly, the craft and chat group continue to meet every week and the garden group are looking for gardens to visit whilst the weather is so good.

Why not come along and give WI a try?

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30pm – 10pm in Ashorne Village Hall.

Contact Trish by phone for a chat or email: npandawi@gmail.com if you want to find out more. Trish Handsley 01926 651978. Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI Npandawi@gmail.com. Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashorne

FRIENDS OF OAKLEY WOOD



We hope you are enjoying Oakley Wood in all its summer splendour!

The paths laid earlier this year have settled in nicely and the general feedback is that they are very welcome and increase the accessibility of the Wood for everyone. It was rather a shock when the paths were newly laid but a few months on the benefits can be seen.

The Friends have canvassed opinion on seating in the Wood and the general view is that seating would be welcomed. The seating would be very simplistic, such as fallen tree trunks, with perhaps 3 placed around the Wood. This is an ongoing project which we hope to complete during the rest of this year.



Alan Murray-Rust