

# Nature Notes

From STEVE,  
Newbold Pacey



As I scribble this, through the bedroom window comes the sound of our very chatty **Raven** still proclaiming his territory as evening draws near.

Well! I for one am glad the heatwave has gone. Sorry if you were a fan of the hot weather. It took its toll on wildlife. **Bumble Bees** stop flying when the temperature rises to around 30C. Not surprising with a fur coat on. Honey Bees cope better but hive communities can suffer. Wild flowers and even nettles can wilt and get scorched. Caterpillars may then die, so less for the birds to eat and less pollinating for the Bumbles.

Badgers and **Hedgehogs** (not the best of friends) suffer with the soil being baked. Worms dig further down to escape the heat and find moisture so less food and dangerously less water available. Whenever there's a hot or even a warm spell, if you put out a shallow dish of water and

keep them topped up they will be a lifeline to Hedgehogs, small mammals and birds. Perhaps keep them away from bushes to stop cats planning an ambush of the birds.

Once we arrived at the first day or two of August the **Robins** began to sing as always. Their moulting was done, fresh new feathers were in place to keep them warmer in the Winter. The kids were on their own now, so territories were being established to space themselves out to give enough area to find food.

**The Tawny Owls** are still having their evening chats. There was a lovely encounter a couple of nights ago. An adult approached the often mentioned Cedar Tree. It gave a very soft 'Whooh'. It was answered by another adult with a 'Keik Kreik'. The first adult replied with an even softer 'Whooooo' this time with a wobble to it. Now if that wasn't a heartfelt 'I'm glad to see you' call then I don't know what was.



Going back to pre heatwave and pre accident - I was on the veg plot as the light was beginning to fade. Something small moved over to my right. A **Hedgehog** bustled through the open gate and walked straight towards me. It climbed onto my boot then froze and so did I. As the Hedgehog stood on my boot I could imagine it thinking, processing the alien smell of what must be potentially dangerous. We stayed there for what seemed ages until the little Hog lost its nerve and dashed into the Rhubarb. It wasn't to know I was a Hedgehog fan!

## Brook House Dental Practice to close

The dental practice in Moreton Morrell is sadly closing with effect from 30th November 2023 as it is no longer financially viable to keep the it open. This means that patients will need to find alternative NHS dental care going forward.

Other NHS dental providers can be found online using: [www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist](http://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist) and for information purposes Nuvo Dental Warwick (formerly Westgate Dental Practice), 13 West Street, Warwick, CV34 6AB, 01926 494300, [www.westgatedentalwarwick.co.uk](http://www.westgatedentalwarwick.co.uk) have confirmed that they are welcoming patients from Brook House.

## In Memoriam

Ashorne has also recently lost a long-standing resident with the death of **VIC HOBDAY**.

We send our condolences and best wishes to **Maureen and family**.

# THE NEWBOLD PACEY & ASHORNE VILLAGE HUT NEWS

ISSUE 166, September 2023

## Farewell to Village Stalwart Pat

**St George's was packed as many of friends and family members gathered for a moving ceremony to say goodbye to PAT TARVER, who died aged 90 on July 19th, having been at the heart of village life for over 70 years.**

**Sally Jones has written this tribute which really sums up why Pat will be so very missed.**

After working as a carpet weaver in Warwick as a young woman, she did a variety of jobs at Warwick School for nearly three decades – but volunteering was her real passion.

With her much-loved husband John, Pat gave decades of unstinting service to the church, on the flower and cleaning rotas, helping care for the churchyard, organising the fete and raising thousands for church funds in her inimitable style. Her forceful technique for selling raffle tickets was legendary and few escaped without being 'persuaded' to buy a strip. She also supported numerous charities, particularly the RNLI and the Warwickshire Air Ambulance, the joint-recipients of the donations at her funeral.

An enthusiastic WI member and accomplished needle-woman, she knitted scores of exquisite Nativity scenes, many now proudly displayed in the parish and around the world. For much of her life, she helped to organise "everything that moved", according to one friend, founding the Ashorne Youth Club which generations of local children enjoyed, selling vast numbers of poppies for Remembrance Day, and baby-sitting many children in the district.

She made the Ashorne Cricket Club match teas for years and was overjoyed to be given Life Membership for her loyalty to the club. A deeply patriotic royalist, she delighted in decorating her cottage with bunting for every big occasion, from jubilees and anniversaries to weddings and christenings, and she made the nearby old telephone box a shrine to her favourite royals. She was astonished when the WI and local villagers threw a surprise 90th birthday party for her at the Church last summer, in glorious sunshine.

Her longstanding friend Kryz Pietrecki affectionately remembered her great generosity, outspoken, quirky character and determination bordering on stubbornness.



It was this that enabled Pat, with care and support from her devoted neighbours Steve and Krysta and from Kryz herself, to remain living at picturesque Park Cottage until a couple of weeks before her death. Thanks to such loving support, she survived potentially lethal tumbles into her garden pond and hazardous journeys, hauling herself upstairs on her hands and knees to fetch crucial items from her bedroom and then denying she had made the illicit climb. Only the bathroom light left on revealed the truth.

During her final few days, her friend Pam Cook who was organising the St George's Flower Festival, created 'Park Cottage', a dainty, tea party-themed window arrangement in her honour and Pat smilingly admired a photo of the display from her hospital bed.

At her wake in the Village Hall, the reminiscences continued with friends and family taking comfort from the thought that Pat was now reunited with her beloved John. Our thoughts and prayers are with their extended family.

**NEWSFLASH!** The Cottage Tavern, Ashorne's treasured Pub, reopens October 13th in the care of new landlord Scott Pemberton.



Spooky  
goings on  
in the area

See Back Page...

### Village Hut Events

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



Saturday 4th November 7.30pm Ashorne Village hall  
£25 per ticket

Gin tasting evening hosted by Warwickshire Gin Company in collaboration with Ashorne Village events

Includes welcome drink, 7 tasters and 3 full drinks of your choice, 10% off any purchases on the night  
Cheese board included

Limited availability. Please book with Jane Reading:  
[mrsnowyowl@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsnowyowl@yahoo.com) 07900924580 / 01926651521  
Payment required on booking.



Christmas Disco with an '80s theme

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

## St George's Newbold Pacey

### Farewell to Lynda

Warmest congratulations from all at St George's to our vicar Lynda who will be taking up her exciting new post as Rector of Broseley in the Hereford diocese in December. The parish, which is in South Shropshire, has three historic churches and All Saints, Broseley is a beautiful Grade 2\* Listed, building known as the county's finest early-Victorian church. One recommendation on the website said it was 'a great place for a funeral', but no doubt Lynda will be officiating at plenty of weddings, baptisms and regular services as well!

Her last service in the Mid-Fosse Parishes will be on November 19th and there will be details of her send-off where we can say our goodbyes, in the next couple of weeks. The whole parish would like to thank Lynda for her hard work, pastoral care in the community and everything she has done in our churches, schools and at Bromson Hill Care Home during her time here – and we wish her the very best in her new job.

During the forthcoming interregnum, while we wait to hear the diocese's plans for the Mid-Fosse Parishes, Ruth Worsley, the Bishop Suffragan of Taunton, part of the diocese of Bath and Wells, will be coming to oversee and advise on the running of our parishes.

### Harvest Festival

St George's Harvest Festival will be held on October 8th during our 10.30 am All-Age Communion service. All donations of non-perishable goods: tinned meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, pasta, sugar, flour and dried foods gratefully received. If you are dropping these off before Harvest Festival, could you leave them in the box by the font, please. These will be donated to the local food bank.

If you would like to help decorate the church on Saturday October 7th, please ring our Secretary Pam Cook on 01926-651508 for details – and we'd be thankful for any



### 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](mailto:jimandchris@gmail.com) by 15th November.

gifts of fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables for our Harvest display.

### Scarecrow Walk

A huge thankyou to everyone who made our recent Scarecrow Walk such a success. Scores of visitors and locals came to goggle at the amazing variety of beautifully-crafted scarecrows, from 'Grease' to 'Batman and Robin' in and around the village. These included Pam and Ray's picturesque 'Little Mermaid', Steve and Krysta's sinister Fagin on the green in Newbold Pacey, Nigel and Lisa's slinky 'Haywatch' ensemble up at the Ashorne allotments and Nicola and Rob's spooky little Ghost at Park House. Well done to all our scarecrow-makers! What a lot of talent, wit and inventiveness we have in our area – and particular thanks to everyone who baked cakes and served the delicious teas at the Village Hall, which raised £150 for church funds.



### Come and get involved...

Our beautiful church and its peaceful eco-churchyard are great places to enjoy a moment of calm and reflection whether or not you are a believer or a regular churchgoer. Everyone is welcome and we'd love it if you could spare an hour or two a month, perhaps taking part and helping to run social activities or doing readings and prayers at our services, arranging flowers or taking an occasional turn on the cleaning rota – and there's always a friendly welcome plus good coffee and home-made cake!

Please contact Pam on 651508 if you're interested.

## theWI Report

### We have enjoyed the summer months and now look to the mellow fruitfulness of autumn.

In August we enjoyed afternoon tea on a very warm day in the lovely garden of our vice president, Sarah Castle. Members also joined Federation **days out in Cambridge and Ludlow** and our walking group stretched their legs around the local countryside.

In September we welcomed Martin and Pete from Warwickshire & Solihull **Blood Bikes** whose stated mission is 'riding to save lives.' This hard-working charity provides an emergency, free of charge, out of hours motorcycle courier service for blood products, premature baby milk and urgent medical equipment for the NHS around Warwickshire and Solihull.

Martin arrived into our village hall on his brand-new liveried BMW motorcycle, complete with heated seat and handlebars! He says both will help beat the cold on a 3am January shift! We were fascinated to hear how many volunteers are involved, how much fundraising is needed to run the service each year and that since its inception 11 years ago, the charity has saved the NHS around £2 million.

For our October meeting, 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!



We'll also be at the **Moreton Morrell Craft & Local Produce Market** on Sunday 8 October

between 11am and 2pm at the village church. We'll have a fun toiletries tombola, come and have a go and a chat.

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.



### 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](mailto:npandawi@gmail.com) if you want to find out more.

Trish Handsley 01926 651978. Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI [Npandawi@gmail.com](mailto:Npandawi@gmail.com). Facebook: Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashorne

Trish Handsley 01926 651978. Newbold Pacey & Ashorne WI – Warwickshire Instagram: @Newboldpaceyandashorne

### Emily's Blog News from your Medical Practice, Hastings House



I'm back with a proper blog this month, although the first thing I need to do is offer you all a massive apology for the **disruption to the Flu clinics**. We were very proud of ourselves for having everything set up and publicised and then Covid jabs came along. Unfortunately NHS England made the decision that it needed to bring the vaccine programme forward and therefore it was more sensible to give both the flu and Covid at the same time.

**Please keep your eye on the website and face book page for the most up to date information.** As well as particulars for local events and important surgery information, like the flu clinic, I often post real time updates on our Facebook page, so it is well worth joining so you can keep abreast of what is going on, for example if our computers go down I would post to let you know.

**We have a lot going on this month.** As you are all probably aware, it's **StopTober**. I think smoking and drinking are

probably the main vices that people try to give up this month. Unfortunately, we can no longer offer smoking cessation advice at the surgery but you can get free help by visiting [quit4good.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://quit4good.warwickshire.gov.uk), call 0333 995 00952 or text QUIT to 60777. They offer a 12 week programme with support from specialist stop smoking practitioners.

On October 20th we will be **'Wearing it Pink' for Breast Cancer Now**. This is a charity that is extremely close to my heart, and I will be sporting pink hair again for the day. I try to persuade all the Hastings House Staff to wear pink and make them pay to do so. Last year we raised over £150 and I'm aiming to beat that this year, so if anyone wants to donate any spare change then it will be most welcome.

In September we wore our **'Jeans for Genes!'** On Friday the 22nd September we wore denim to raise money for children affected by genetic conditions. According to the UK Rare Disease Framework, 1 in 17 people will be affected by a rare disease at some point of their life. Every year, new genetic conditions are discovered. Jeans for Genes works to support the genetic conditions community by providing essential grants, signposting and practical help to grass roots organisations.

I wanted to thank the people that give me lovely feedback for my blog, its very satisfying to know that I am making a difference. Along those lines, I would love to know if there is anything you would like me to write about. Please email me if you have any suggestion [emilytaylor33@nhs.net](mailto:emilytaylor33@nhs.net)

**See you next month**