

Shotteswell Newsletter

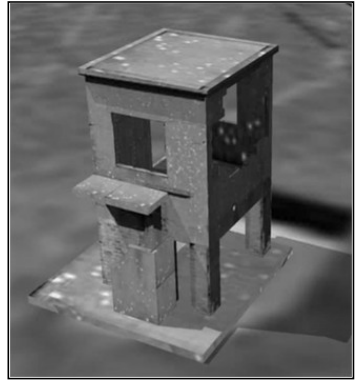
April 2021



Issue 34

The Heroes of the Skies

During the 1970s growing up in a sleepy, pre-M40 village my days often included re-enacting WW1 war battles with my mates on the farm. I was particularly intrigued by a story my dad once told me about a Wellington bomber that had crashed near the farm whilst on a bombing exercise. Indeed we were aware that the valley had acted as a practice bombing range and until the eighties there stood a concrete observation tower opposite Valley Farm which was home to many machine gun battles¹.



(1) Image of an observation tower

However, it was only many years later when our son was doing a school history project we unearthed considerably more facts regarding the fateful demise of Wellington BK261 and all her crew. The Wellington was a twin engine, predominantly night time bomber and was produced in greater quantities than any other British-built bomber². Over 11,400 were built and it was the only British bomber manufactured throughout the war. During 1943 its bombing capacity was superseded by the larger Avro Lancaster, but it still continued to be used especially as an anti-submarine aircraft.



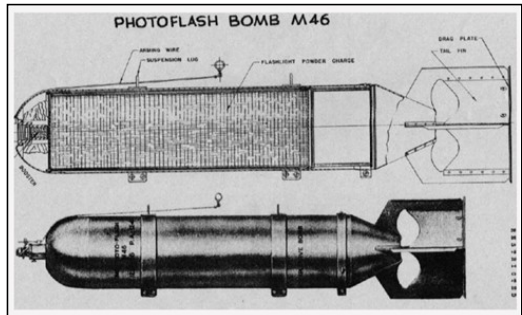
(2) A Wellington bomber.

BK261 crashed when a photoflash exploded in their aircraft³. This device was the size of a small bomb and was inserted into the bomb chute by one of the crew or sometimes dropped automatically

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amongst the bomb load. In effect, it was a huge magnesium flare which emitted an extremely powerful white light as it exploded. When the bomb aimer pressed the bomb release button a timer started and shortly after the aircraft's camera opened. As this was normally at night the flash would highlight the target area triggering a photo and, if all went to plan, the aircraft would return with a photograph⁴.



(3) A photoflash bomb.

The photoflash certainly helped the effectiveness of bombing raids and also negated the need for very risky, low flying surveillance. However, the device was essentially a pyrotechnic and extremely volatile. Sadly, if a photoflash exploded inside the aircraft, it would have had tragic consequences and in the case of BK261 the explosion must have wrecked the cabin causing the aircraft to disintegrate in the air.

Sgt R.H. Church, Sgt H.W. Bristow, Sgt F.P. Nettleton, Sgt T.W. Haver and Sgt B. Hillberg all lost their lives on the 22nd November 1942.

Research reveals this was not an uncommon event and there were over seven hundred aviation incidents that occurred in the region alone. 1942 seems to be a particularly grim year, with tragedies involving Wellingtons occurring locally at Compton Wynates, Gaydon, Edge Hill and Bodicote.

The crash at Bodicote is well documented and is believed to have happened when BK517 hit a tree in bad weather killing all six of her crew.

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A memorial stone commemorating this can be found approximately 400 m south from Wykham Lane in Bodicote.

Shotteswell also remembers two more aviation heroes. Pilot Officer William Proffitt White (23) lost his life when Halifax LK709 failed to return from a bombing raid on Berlin 28/01/1944.



(4) A bombing raid over Berlin. Note the photoflash bombs in the bottom of the photo.

At the age of 22, Flight Engineer Fred Spencer completed his first tour with Lancaster 106

Squadron and conducted an exceptionally long tour with 630 squadron – November 1943 to October 1944. Subsequently, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) awarded for exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy in the air.

A memorial plaque at the church entrance remembers those in the local area who died serving the armed forces in both wars.

Remembering our fallen

Fred Spencer was an interesting character who had an eventful 2nd World War. He flew many different types of aircraft, Avro Ansons, Whitleys, Wellingtons and Lancasters and completed 97 missions over 3 tours, on Fred's first tour of 36 missions only 4 pilots survived.

Later in the War Fred was awarded a bar to add to his Distinguished Flying Cross.

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Sources

Murray Peterson – A Thousand Shall Fall

Mark Evans – Midland Aircraft Recovery Group

<http://www.aviationarchaeology.org.uk/research/>
www.SJbradley.com/memorial/aircrash.htm

Additional Notes on “Heroes of the Skies

There is no evidence of the exact location of the crash but it is believed to be near the 9 acre field on the left hand side of the Mollington Lane past the Riding Stables.

The Pages (who previously owned the land) never found any evidence of the crash whilst working the land.

Ben Page

Advertising Rates

Rates are for two editions of the A5 size Newsletter which are published in April and October.

¼ page £13

½ page £20 Full Page £30

These new rates are the first increase since 2008

The advertiser on first advert also allowed up to an A5 free page to write about his or her product.

Editors

Tony Tarrant - Mount Stuart - 730687 / Keri Holman - White Cottage 730326

Advertising - David Holman - White Cottage 730326

Produced by the Tuesday Club shotteswellnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk

Shotteswell During the Pandemic (2)

When we produced the October edition of the Shotteswell Newsletter we thought or hoped optimistically that by spring 2021 the Pandemic would have receded or be under control, but this was wishful thinking, so we have decided to produce part 2 of the article "Shotteswell during the Pandemic".

All the items mentioned in this article are produced in more detail under individual reports.

Church Services, Village Hall Library and some village functions were activated in the 3rd and 4th quarters but all of these events were cancelled in November due to the 2nd Lockdown.

The Breakfast Club with "Master Chefs" Ben Zammet and Claire Jeffrey and team once again produced some amazing breakfasts. The launch of "Warm Hub" breakfast was on December 13th sponsored by the Warwickshire Rural Community Council and Cadent Gas working together in partnership to support Warm Hubs in Warwickshire, 126 meals were provided free for villagers and further breakfasts were provided in January and February for 58 and 56 people, respectively. On all occasions the meals were either delivered to your house or you could pick them up from the Village Hall. A further breakfast was held in March. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and committed Village Hall Committee.

Although the Village Library was unable to function after 5th November due to the Lockdown the Mobile Service of the Warwickshire County Council continued a system started in October, whereby books could be ordered from the library which were delivered once a month to the bus shelter, all safety regulations being applied, more details in a separate report. This service has been a great help to many people in the village. Thank you and well done W.C.C Mobile Library Service.

David Holman

Lunch at the Hall

Sadly, we still have nothing to report about the **LUNCH AT THE HALL**. Due to the current restrictions, we have been unable to even think about starting the meals again for the time being, but hopefully things will improve before too long and we can get back to some degree of normality, perhaps by the summer.

Many thanks to all our loyal supporters.

Any further details from **Christine Pym (738948)**, **Elisabeth Gilchrist (730213)** or **Pauline Tarrant (730687)**

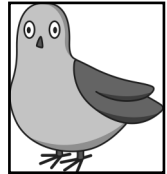
It's OK dear, I have solved the problem of having to pay for green bin collections!



Notes from the Potting Shed

I am writing these notes right at the end of February which is the end of our meteorological winter. We have had some light snow on 2-3 occasions this winter which fortunately caused little inconvenience to getting out of the village and anyway had thawed within 48 hours. More of a problem has been a very wet December and January (8 inches of rains in these months together), which has saturated the land and has damaged several of the stone walls in our steep village together with some flooding down in the valley. To put this in content, there was a measurable amount of rain on 21 of the 31 days of January.

During the now seemingly interminable lockdowns due to Covid, I am sure that many, if not all of us, have spent more time than usual in our gardens. Not always pleasant in mid-winter, but at least all the wildlife seem quite unaffected particularly the pigeon population!



There are more and more reasons now to garden in a more eco-friendly fashion which means minimal use of chemical sprays, no bonfires, and not cutting back borders or shrubs until the Spring. In other words, a less controlling use of nature and as a result slightly less immaculate and formal gardens.

With Spring coming, there is again a feeling of hope that is a result of the seasons moving through the year. We tell ourselves that we will do things differently this year because we have learnt from last year's mistakes and may be it will. Perhaps a lot of the joy from gardening is in the trying and letting nature have final control. I am starting to think that consequently hoping that things will be better this time around is not a bad way to go through life, and this year in particular. I have already therefore started sowing seeds in the greenhouse with the bulk of them to go in to the propagator in March. Here we go again!

Mike Palmer

John le Carré

19 Oct 1931 - 12 Dec 2020

Quotations which some might think are appropriate for the World in 2021

A desk is a dangerous place from which to view the world.

All men are born free: just not for long.

The fact that you can only do a little is no excuse for doing nothing.

The cat sat on the mat is not a story. The cat sat on the other cat's mat is a story.

There is a terrible alienation in the ordinary man between what he is being told and what he secretly believes.

By repetition, each lie becomes an irreversible fact upon which other lies are constructed.

I used to think it was clever to confuse comedy with tragedy. Now I wish I could distinguish them.

I think bankers will always get away with whatever they can get away with.

When the world is destroyed, it will be destroyed not by its madmen but by the sanity of its experts and the superior ignorance of its bureaucrats.

I think the greatest single enemy is the misuse of information, the perversion of truth in the hands of terribly skillful people.

SHOTTESWELL CHARITY BREAD

We are pleased to say that we shall be delivering HOT CROSS BUNS to each house in the Village this GOOD FRIDAY. As we were not in a position to do this last year, owing to the lockdown, you will be receiving (or may have already received, depending on when this Newsletter goes out) extra 'yummy' BUNS this year.



Valerie Ingram and Pauline Tarrant.

Shotteswell Fete

Saturday 3rd July 2021

1.00pm – 5.00pm

Following the recent announcements giving details of the gradual easing of lockdown we remain hopeful for this year's fete.

Arrangements are in hand – so make a note on your calendar now! The ambition is to hold an event consistent with any guidelines that may be in place at the time, but the precise nature of things will not be apparent for the moment, so please watch out for further announcements as things become clearer.

We rely heavily on volunteers to help with setting up beforehand and on the day so please contact Mike Pearson, Ben Zammett or Alan Reilly if you are willing to help. Even if you can't be present on the day you can contribute both by donating goods for the stalls or prizes or setting up beforehand or clearing up afterwards.

Watch for further details.

Alan Reilly



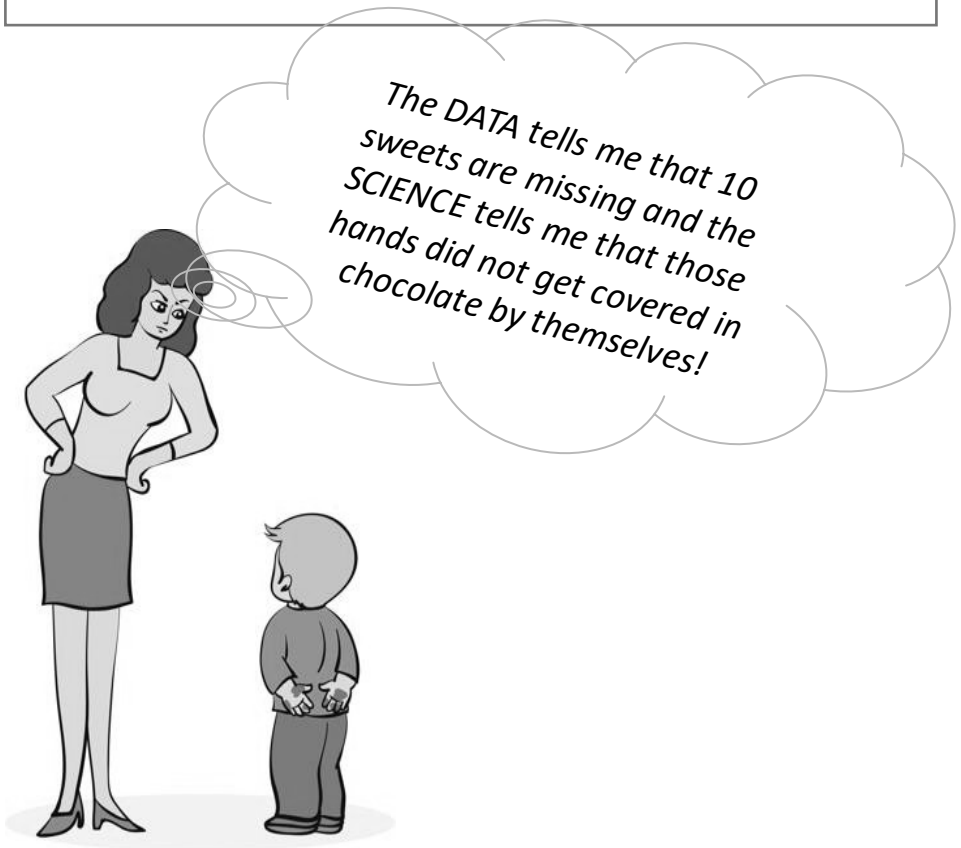
Tuesday Club

Unfortunately owing to the Pandemic we have been unable to hold any meetings. I believe that all our members have received their first dose of the vaccine; perhaps some have received their second.

I hope by the time the October issue of the Newsletter appears we will be back in the Village Hall for our regular meetings.

For further details please contact: Keri Holman (730326) or Mavis Palmer (730901).

Keri Homan



Shotteswell Village Hall



Activities at the hall continue to be severely restricted by the ongoing restrictions but there are at least tentative signs of some degree of normality returning. We were once again forced to cancel the majority of bookings in November with only extremely limited use allowed by central Government.

Committee meetings continue to be held remotely and for the first time in the history of the hall last year's AGM was held via Zoom on 18th November. With the workload on the committee ever increasing the decision was taken to recruit additional members and we were pleased to welcome Harriet Jordan, Emma Bowers, George Nell and Eloise Upton to the team at the AGM.

Back in January 2020 we were approached by two external stakeholders to discuss the launch of new scheme aimed at supporting rural communities and providing a focal point for people to access support from different agencies. Work on the project continued throughout the year and launched at a much scaled down launch event in December.

Warm Hubs are a concept that originate in Northumberland and whilst Shotteswell is the first outside of the North East it is hoped the concept will spread to many community venues, not only in Warwickshire but nationally.

The Warm Hub is a simple concept that aims to bring an affordable, inclusive activity run by the community for the community, in a

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warm, safe space like a village hall. Warm Hubs come in many forms. They can also be dementia cafés, cookery classes, repair clubs or any other regular social activities that meet residents' needs and help to create closer communities.



The Warm Hubs project is supported by Cadent Gas and provides light touch energy related and fuel affordability advice, as well as more general practical support and advice to keep people warm and safe at home.

The Village Hall committee continue to explore multiple events and opportunities for our Warm Hub, but our primary event is the monthly breakfast which has continued to go from strength to strength throughout the last twelve months. The Warm Hub launch took place on Sunday 13th December, owing to the ever changing restrictions we were forced to change the plan several times, but we held our regular breakfast event in the form of a takeaway and delivery service with breakfast being supplied free of charge to everyone, thanks to the generosity of WRCC and Cadent Gas.

Despite the atrocious weather on the day the event was well supported with over 120 breakfasts being made in under three hours. Our MP, Rt Hon Jeremy Wright, attended and even delivered breakfast to two villagers. Our thanks go to everyone who supported the event.

One piece of feedback that has been received many times over the years has been the lack of a dishwasher in the kitchen. The committee spent last autumn exploring options and ways to overcome several complexities. We are pleased to be able to announce that there is now a commercial spec dishwasher in the hall. The commercial element facilitates a fast wash cycle which will enable the machine to be used and emptied again multiple times, if required, during an event.

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The purchase and installation of the dishwasher is part of a much larger capital project which is still in its infancy, but we hope to be able to announce more in the coming months – watch this space!

Irrespective of any closures maintenance of the building continues and in January, after securing the relevant planning permission, we had the two side windows in the main hall replaced. The old frames were beginning to rot and were only single glazed panes with retrospective secondary glazing. The new double-glazed units not only look better but will further help to keep the building insulated. We are currently obtaining quotes to repair some of the stonework which has degraded after years of weathering.

The monthly 100 Club continues to grow in popularity. Numbers cost £5 each per month and are entered into a draw which is held at the monthly breakfast event. Fifty per cent of the monthly subscription money is paid back to members in three prizes. Details of every draw can be found on the website. New members are always welcome and the more numbers that are in each draw – the higher the winnings! To join please email info@shotteswellvillagehall.co.uk

At the time of writing, we have all just heard the Government's plan for reopening the economy and returning some degree of normality to our lives.

Currently we hope to be able to make the hall available for very limited use from mid-April, at the moment this is limited to our regular child classes and COVID secure events run by the Village Hall committee as a registered charity, all of which fall into the exemptions from central Government. Provided the goalposts do not move again we hope to be able to make the hall available for all external bookings from mid-May onwards.

The committee are keeping all the guidance under review and will make the building available for events as soon as we are able to do

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so. Information will be published on the website, www.shotteswellvillagehall.co.uk along with our social media outlets.

Hire cost - Hall – £9 per hour.

(includes all facilities, heating and Wi-Fi)

Equipment for individual hire:

Go-Pak folding tables.

Chairs

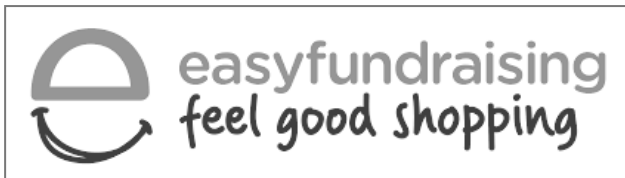
Cutlery and crockery

Skittles and Coconut Shy

Trestle tables

Hot Water urns

Ben Zammett



I am delighted to say that in 2020 the Village raised **£62.66** for Church Funds by using **EASYFUNDRAISING**. Very many thanks to those Villagers who use the website for purchasing goods on line. If you feel that you would like to help our lovely Church in this way, please contact me for further information.

Pauline Tarrant (730687) or pauline_tarrant@hotmail.co.uk.

VOWELS ONLY FOR A FEAST

1. E _ _ _ A _ _ _ A _ O _
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Compiled by John Boyes from Saffron Walden

Answers in the October issue or ring David Holman 730326

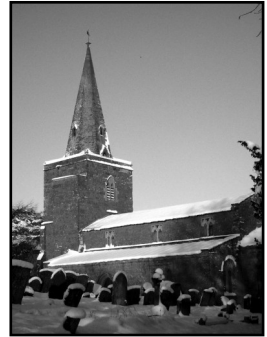
Mobile Library

All libraries were closed from the beginning of the first Lockdown in March 2020. In October Library Card holders were notified by the Warwickshire Library Service that they would start delivering ordered books to Shotteswell and surrounding villages. Since the beginning of November we have had a monthly visit, which is a lifeline for the avid readers. Previous to that house deliveries were arranged for housebound people.

Keri Holman

View from the Vestry

A year ago it would have been impossible to predict that one year on we are still in a position of having a church not being used for its primary function – that of public worship.



All churches were closed by law on the 24th March 2020 and, in spite of considerable disquiet, remained firmly locked until restrictions were lifted in July. As the summer progressed and the pandemic seemed to be easing there were hopes of a reasonably rapid return to some sort of normality, but unfortunately that turned out to be a false dawn. We had a number of services through the Autumn, including a modified harvest festival, but with no singing and cautious social distancing. We were fortunate to be able to enjoy some music, however, as Robert and Sue played voluntaries and hymn tunes adding some breadth to the services. As Christmas approached it was increasingly evident that our modest gatherings were at risk as the virus began to spiral out of control. In spite of this we determined to decorate the church as usual for the festive season and were able to hold a Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. We then felt obliged to cease public worship once again. Hopefully many parishioners took the opportunity to visit the church over the Christmas period and appreciate the decorations and experience the endless tranquillity and atmosphere of our beautiful church. At least we have been permitted to keep the church open during these latest restrictions so it remains available to all who wish to visit. Unfortunately, it is cold at the best of times but with no regular use or heating it will be some time before any level of comfortable temperature can be achieved.

As Spring progresses we have hopes that some kind of normality will soon return. As infections decrease and the vaccination programme

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is extended even more widely, public worship will again take place. Our current plan is to begin services on Easter Day, 4th April, with a celebration of Holy Communion at 8.30am – subject to social distancing being maintained and with no singing, though there will be some music. At around the same time we should be able to reinstate our regular Monday evening service of Compline. Let us hope that this cautious approach allows for a secure progression of relaxation through the rest of the year. Further setbacks are the last thing we need.

In 2020 the periodic architectural survey was due. The PCC is obliged to commission a full survey every five years, and this was carried out in October 2020. The PCC has always been diligent in this responsibility and does attempt to address important issues that are raised in the report. In my last article I explained that we had tried to anticipate potential problems when Tom and Andrew Pick inspected the lead roofs and applied sealant to a number of cracks that were allowing rain to leak through. On this count I'm delighted to report that there has been no subsequent penetration of rain through any area of roof – and it has been a wet and cold winter, so any weakness would surely have been revealed. It is worth pointing out that over most of the roof area the lead sheets are laid on to planks, and you can actually see the lead between the boards as you look up from the floor of the nave. This means that there is virtually no insulation in the roof. At this time of year this can give rise to condensation, particularly when the church is in use. Warm, moist air rises and condenses on the inside of the ceiling leading to drops of water falling on the congregation, followed by claims that the roof is leaking again!

The survey report runs to 42 pages, and it makes interesting reading. There are copies available from members of the PCC or from me if you are interested in examining it. Alternatively, I can forward it to you as a pdf file if you let me have your email address.

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Within the mass of detail it is p32 that is the one that is immediately prominent because it provides a summary of recommendations. These are categorised as A (Urgent repairs to be carried out within 6 months), B (Repairs to be carried out within 18 months), C (Repairs to be carried out within 5 years) and D (Desirable). Naturally it is the A list that is of primary concern and at first sight it looks alarming! However, a closer inspection reveals some mitigating issues. The survey was undertaken under socially distanced restrictions, meaning that some of the 'urgent' issues could have been resolved on the spot. For example, the architect was keen that we should commission an asbestos report, but the PCC has addressed this issue and feels it would be a waste of money because we believe there is no asbestos present within the church building, and if we can't find it then a specialist survey won't either! There is a remote possibility that the old coke fired boiler may have some asbestos lagging but the access to this is deep under the tower floor which is now covered with a carpeted wooden floor. We see no point in a major disturbance to the fabric only to find that there is the unlikely possibility of the presence of some deeply concealed asbestos, and then being told that the safest course is to leave it in situ! In a similar vein we are instructed to test the fire extinguishers – something that is already undertaken on an annual basis. Likewise, the architect could not locate an ancient and dilapidated coat of arms that used to hang over the tower arch. It is listed in the inventory. It is actually rolled up and safely stored in the vestry awaiting potential restoration. He was also keen that we should clean the tower parapet gutter – a truly awkward job at the best of times. In fact, Ben Zammett had very helpfully arranged for a survey from the ground using a camera equipped drone, and that had revealed almost no debris behind the parapet – certainly not enough to warrant the challenge of gaining access to the gulley from the inside of the bell chamber. Some things we do need to address. It is suggested we continue monitoring cracks in the masonry and decay in the

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stonework. We need to review regularly security and things like risk assessments and access audits. Mercifully there is nothing that at present would appear to compromise the structure. At least the architect has now given up suggesting we should investigate the installation of a lightning conductor. The spire has survived for over 800 years without incident so we are hopeful it has proved not overly vulnerable!

Unfortunately, most work proposed requires finance, and cash is one thing in short supply at the moment. The PCC paid its parish share to the diocese for 2020 in full, but with the caveat that cash was likely to be short for 2021. We rely heavily on fundraising events for our income and these have almost totally dried up in the last twelve months. We have some income from regular givers and this will keep us afloat for the time being so that we can pay the electricity bills, insurance costs, roof alarm costs and the like, but extra projects are not likely to be viable in the immediate future. We manage largely through the generous support, freely given, by parishioners, without whom we would be in a far more perilous situation.

Let's hope that Easter does promise a new dawn and that we can soon bring our church community back together again.

Alan Reilly - March 2021

Farnborough Garden Centre is open as per the details on page 40. Please note that the Garden Centre is now offering 10% discount on plant purchases using the voucher in their advertisement on page 43. Home delivery can be arranged, there is a charge for this service. For those who do not wish to have contact with other people at the centre, a "Call and Collect" system is in operation.

John Prickett

RIP

St Laurence Church has lost one of its most dedicated supporters. It was with great sorrow that we learned of the death of John Prickett in February, and we say farewell to a person who has served the church in the village for decades. It is sad that John was not able to come to church regularly over recent times, being obliged to shelter in his home during the period of the pandemic, though we were able to welcome him back in his 'usual' pew when restrictions were briefly lifted last year.

When Sue and I moved to Shotteswell in 1969 the Prickett bakery was in full swing. John's father Leslie was still baking and I can't quite remember whether he was still churchwarden, but he had certainly held that office for quite a long period up until that time. John and Carole lived at Willowbank opposite the Bakehouse, with John baking and delivering bread in Shotteswell and the surrounding villages.

If my memory serves me correctly, I think that John followed in his father's footsteps when he took over as churchwarden from Charles Gilkes who lived in Lane House. It was the beginning of our partnership as co-wardens, a joint responsibility we shared for many years. It was around that time that the parishes of Warmington and Shotteswell were united with Ratley and Radway, and John's knowledge of the villages in the benefice and the families who lived in them proved invaluable to us all. John knew everyone – he had been a pupil at Shotteswell School and knew the area and its people as friends neighbours and customers. From him I learned something of the ways of the village and its people.

John always had a zest for life. A very early riser, he was always around and available and never complained about evening meetings

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or activities even though he was getting up before 4am to bake the bread each morning. As we ordinary mortals struggled to get to the early morning service on a Sunday John would be there, having eaten breakfast hours earlier and with lunch already in the oven. John's contribution to worship was unique. He joined in with gusto and enthusiasm and although he might not always have been in time or totally in tune in the singing Sue said she really valued his presence because she could readily hear which verse she was playing. For many years it was the custom to auction the harvest produce from church at the harvest supper held in the village hall. John was the auctioneer to beat all others. It was one of the highlights of the year, and I can remember 80+ people crammed into the village hall, going home after the meal carrying huge bunches of beetroot and marrows that John had somehow managed to persuade them that they needed!

John was ever a huge presence and a wonderful example of commitment and service in our church community. As warden, as treasurer and as a member of the church community John gave his time and talents without reservation, and we will miss him greatly.

If any of our readers have any historical or sentimental memorabilia that they would like to share with villagers in future issues please let me know.

Keri Holman - 01295 730326

Parmesan and Rosemary Shortbreads

These are delicious with a glass of wine in the evening!

Ingredients

150g plain flour

75g finely grated parmesan

100g soft unsalted butter

1 large egg yolk

1 tablespoon freshly chopped rosemary



Makes about 30 biscuits

Preheat oven to 180°C, 350°F, 160°Fan, Gas Mark 4

Mix all the ingredients together – using a bowl and spoon, electric mixer or food processor, until the ingredients start to clump together into a dough. Turn the dough onto a clean surface and knead briefly. Split into two and roll each half into a cylinder approximately 3 cm (1¼ inches) wide. Wrap each cylinder in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least an hour. Alternatively, you can make the dough ahead and chill it for up to two days before baking.

Remove the dough cylinders from the fridge and cut into slices approximately 0.5cm (¼ inch) thick. Arrange on a baking sheet lined with baking parchment, and put in the oven for approximately 15 mins, or until turning golden at the edges.

Remove from the oven, leave to cool on the tray for a couple of minutes before removing the biscuits to a wire rack to cool completely. They freeze beautifully.

Mavis Palmer

Report from County Cllr. Chris Williams

After 23 years serving on both the District and County Council, it is time for me to step down in May. Unfortunately, I have not been well for a couple of years and I will miss my many friends in Shotteswell but please give me a ring on 01295 770792 if I can help in the last couple of months. I am sure you will support my successor in the future.

Parish Council Guidance

The pre-election period for the 2021 Council Elections in May.

Council elections commence on 19th March 2021 and will end at the close of Poll on 6th May 2021. This period is known as being in Purdah.

During this period the County Council will continue to operate on a business as usual basis but will avoid matters which are potentially politically contentious. This means that the number of formal public meetings will be kept to a minimum necessary for the County Council to fulfil its functions. The County Council will meet on 16th March 2021 when a full council meeting will be held.

Budget 2021/22

On 8th February the Council set the budget for 2021/22. This time last year the Council set a budget which put us in a financially secure position, had good reserves and austerity was a word from the past. Now that seems a life-time away and the Warwickshire has changed. On 25th March 2020 the crisis had taken hold and we went into lockdown most of us expecting that the problem would be over in 4–5 months. The government has helpfully pumped significant amounts of money into Warwickshire to support the economy and into WCC in the form of Covid emergency funds. This support was both vital and welcome but despite the support of central government our overall income has dropped.

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As a result, extra funding for Adult Social Care provision will be through a 3% precept on our Council Tax over two years. We have elected to take 1% in 21/22 and 2% in the following year. This will be on top of the 1.99% already budgeted for in last year's MTFs. So, for the year 21/22 we intend to increase the Council Tax by 2.99% in total which represents an increase of 86p per week on an average Band D property.

One word describes this Budget – Recovery. We are confident of our approach which will mean that Warwickshire's communities and economy will be able to recover more quickly. Here are some of the major items we are funding in the budget:-

1. £9.1m into our Children's Social Care Services;
2. £8.2 million to protect the Elderly and Vulnerable;
3. £3.8 million to continue support for children with disabilities;
4. £1.5 million into Home to School Transport;
5. £1.3 million to offset the lower interest return on our investments

We have a plan for an even better Warwickshire in the future. This includes:

1. Leading the COVID recovery across Warwickshire – Distributing millions of pounds across Warwickshire in grant funding to hundreds of local businesses.
2. Protecting Warwickshire's most vulnerable residents – Throughout the pandemic the Conservartive-led County Council has protected and supported our most vulnerable residents.
3. Giving our children the best start in life – by working closely with Warwickshire's nurseries and schools.
4. Building safe, vibrant, local communities throughout Warwickshire – The last year has been tough for everyone but local communities have come together to support each other.
5. Millions more in funding for Warwickshire's vital infrastructure

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)

- we are investing in our essential services to ensure Warwickshire remains the best place to live and work.
6. Facing the challenge of climate change – Warwickshire Conservatives are committed to helping make our county a greener and more environmentally friendly place to live, work and raise a family.

After a lengthy debate the Conservative proposal for the next year was passed by a majority of 35. This proposed that the increase next year should be set at 2.99% for the Warwickshire County Council budget allocation

I thought you would be interested to see the latest update provided by the NHS Warwickshire.

Covid-19 Update 13th March 2021

Another encouraging week but I hasten to stress our infection rates are at a similar level to what they were in September so we still have a way to go and with the schools having gone back and some restrictions being lifted at the end of the month, we still need to be vigilant and keep doing what we have been doing in terms of hands, face and space.

The figures over the last seven days are down to 45/100,000 from 68 last week, and the over 60's rate has slightly decreased to 48/100,000 (53 last week) (with 20 cases over the last seven days) – which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 80/100,000, North Warwickshire 84/100,000, Warwick 58/100,000 and Rugby 77/100,000. So Stratford and Warwick Districts still have the lowest case rates across the county.

(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from page 27)

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds continues to improve and is now 17 (22) confirmed cases of COVID-19 but there are 4 (2) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 5 March). Capacity levels have decreased with 76 unoccupied general and acute beds as there has been an increase of non-Covid patients for elective surgery etc.

Sadly, the cumulative deaths across Stratford District have increased by three over the last week and now number 133 from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) 37 occurring in care homes, 87 in hospital, one in a hospice and seven at home and one in a communal establishment, out of a total of 797 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now increased to 620 from 599 last week within a total of 3314 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 301 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1220.

The locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people WITHOUT coronavirus symptoms in Stratford has now carried out 18,556 tests with 65 positive results. If you are returning to a busy workplace environment it is important to use this facility and get tested on a regular basis.

Thank you for all the support you have given me over the years.

CLlr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton & Red Horse Division - WCC
March 2021

Footpaths and Nature Special

It's lucky that the village footpaths have been well cared for over the years by the 'old' and then the 'new' footpaths groups, because Winter 2020 has come and gone, sadly without the chance of a work party.

Whatever the Spring and Summer brings, it should be possible to keep the paths clear, though, since mowing, strimming and pruning back can be done in ones or twos, and even – should it come to this – as part of a daily exercise routine. The increased use of the paths which we've seen over the last year, will help to keep them open too, which is great.

It's the project work that's more of a pandemic problem. You cannot put in a new bridge or ditch crossing single-handedly: such tasks require a team of people working at close quarters. We will just have to keep patient, and look forward to being able to resume work on the footpath hardware, when the time is right. When it is, top of the list is the replacement of the ditch crossing on the D'Arcy Dalton Way, and upgrading the steps on the County boundary between Shotteswell and Horley parishes.

Meanwhile, life under lockdown has provided a little additional time for many of us, to observe the natural world around. I saw the first brimstone butterfly of 2021, big and yellow, out from hibernation, on 26 February, and wondered what it was finding to feed on. There were drifts of snowdrops everywhere and plenty of crocuses, providing nectar and pollen for the village honeybees, and a couple of large queen bumbles (*Bombus terrestris* and *B lapidarius*) out in the two rogue days of sunshine.

Insects numbers in the UK are falling. It's true that a few species are doing well -they tend to be those that are already common – but most are in decline. The issue needs to be taken seriously – not only

(Continued on page 30)

(Continued from page 29)

are insects of value is their own right, they provide us with a number of vital 'ecosystem services' including pollination, pest control (ok, yes, the 'pest' is often an insect too!), and decomposition, clearing up and recycling dead organic matter. Additionally, insects, high in protein, make good food: many of our wild bird species live off insects, particularly the broods of our summer visitors (swifts, swallows and house martins, chiffchaffs, flycatchers, blackcaps, and cuckoos to name a few). All struggle to survive if insect numbers are low. Small mammals including bats, shrews and hedgehogs are also insectivores, as are the amphibians, frogs and toads. Lose the insects and the knock-on effects are drastic.

Those of us lucky enough to have gardens can do our bit to provide habitat for insect life. Why not:

- * choose nectar and pollen rich flowers and shrubs when planting up the garden (the RHS website gives plenty of guidance);
- * make a pond, however small – adding a pond is considered to be the single biggest contribution to wildlife you can make in your garden (detailed guidance on Warwickshire Wildlife Trust website);
- * Abandon the quest for a level green sward (how boring and retro! The bowling green look is best reserved for bowling greens...) and embrace instead the joyful colour, variety, interest and life that come with the 'No Mow May' approach (see the Plantlife website if you need convincing). Don't forget to join in with the citizen science project 'Every Flower Counts' and bank your own mini-meadow's personal nectar score.
- * Curb the desire to give the domestic mower a weekly spin, and bring that down to a monthly cut to let the wildflowers bloom.

With time saved in making space for nature, why not come along and join the Footpaths Team?

Contact: Harriet (730464), Philippa (738491)

Harriet Jordan (March 2021)

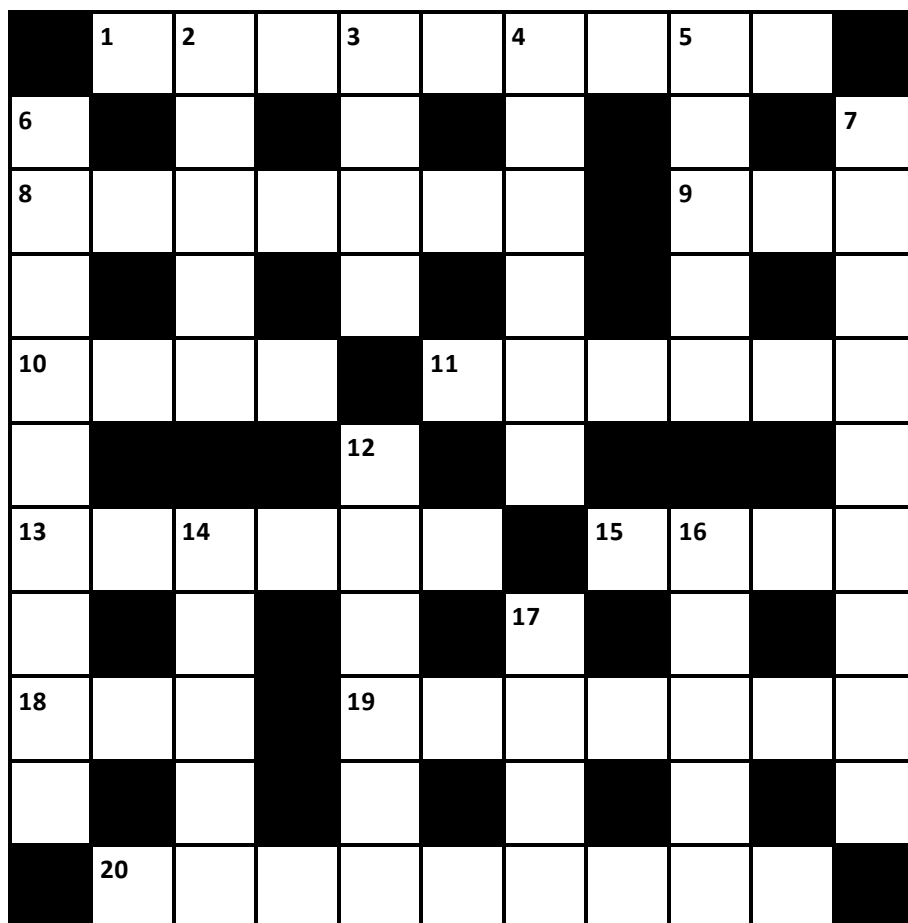
Junior Puzzles

Up till now most of the puzzles we have set have been aimed at adults, but in this issue we have included some which juniors may wish to try.

If you think that this is a good idea please let the editor know and we will include similar puzzles in future copies of the SNL.

In this issue there is a CROSSWORD, a MIND GYM and a FUTOSHIKI.

Junior Crossword



Clues on next page.

Across	Down
1. Mollusc such as an oyster (9)	2. Animal ridden at a gymkhana (5)
8. Light brown colour; or, soft toffee (7)	3. Green citrus fruit (4)
9. Cereal grain similar to oats (3)	4. Bird such as a kestrel (6)
10. Summit (4)	5. Anagram of "trust" (5)
11. 12 parts of a year (6)	6. Trail bike (9)
13. Clasp on a belt (6)	7. Gazette, or a printed publication (9)
15. A bone in the arm (4)	12. Promise (6)
18. Organ of sight (3)	14. Pancake or a type of paper (5)
19. Hardy; long-lasting (7)	16. Sticker (5)
20. Carrot, for example (9)	17. Killer whale (4)

Solution on page 38

*What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
Frostbite!*

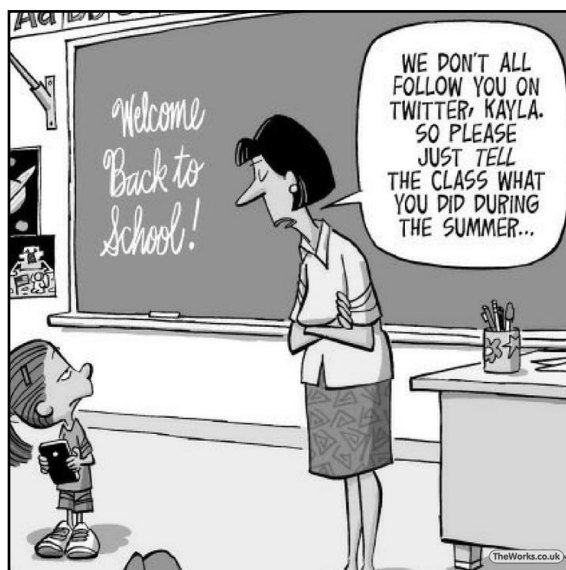
*What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?
A tuba toothpaste.*

Futoshiki

Insert the numbers one to five in each row and each column, making sure that no number is repeated. The only symbols to guide you are the "greater than" $>$ and "less than" $<$ signs.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	$<$	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
		\vee			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
			\wedge		
<input type="text"/>	$>$	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
			$<$	3	$>$
\wedge					
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	$<$	<input type="text"/>	$<$

Solution on page 40



Junior Mind Gym

Start on the left with each given number and work your way through with the instructions on each line.

*Your
answer*

Level 1 7	X 6	Triple it	- 54	4/9 of this	Double it	
Level 2 84	11/12 of this	Triple it	- 75	3/4 of this	+ 9	
Level 3 126	+ 9	X by itself	- 118	9/13 of this	Triple it	
Level 4 18	X 12.5	✓	X 8.6	Triple it	+ 175	

Answers on Page 38

These books are defective,
if I tap or swipe the pages
nothing happens!!



Zoo Fundraiser

My Favourite animal is a panda. In 2019, for my birthday, my family and I took a trip to Edinburgh to look around the zoo and see the pandas. I loved looking at the pandas and how big the enclosure was. I was very impressed with how the animals were looked after. I also went to Cotswold Wildlife Park and I really liked it. My favourite animals there were the penguins. But when lockdown came last



summer, I heard that Edinburgh and Cotswold wildlife park were struggling to feed all the animals and I really wanted to try and help my favourite zoos.

I love baking so I decided to make cupcakes and ask people around the village for a small donation to go towards the food for the zoos. Everyone was so kind and generous, so I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who helped me raise £500!

I split the money between Edinburgh Zoo and Cotswold Wildlife Park. They were both very grateful for the money and the owner of Cotswold Wildlife Park said it was one of the nicest letters and kindest gestures he had ever received. As a thank you, he invited me to go and feed the penguins which I did in October half term 2020. It was the best thing I have ever experienced.

A big thank you again, to everyone in Shotteswell village for your kind donations.

Libby Pearson (age 8)

Neighbourhood Watch



I would like to draw your attention to two recent articles from Warwickshire Rural Watch <https://www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk>. It is several years since we ordered SmartWater kits for sale around the village and I would like to know if there would be sufficient demand to order another batch.

Warning of Bogus Email Scam re Parcel Deliveries

Warwickshire Police are warning that more residents are reporting receiving bogus emails stating that Royal Mail has attempted to deliver a parcel to them without success and now requires 'additional details' in order to attempt to re-deliver the parcel, as the 'address appears to be incomplete'. The emails contain a 'book your delivery' link that directs you to a bogus website. Never click on a link in a suspicious email.

Crime prevention advice for property marking

Marking your property is a positive way to fight crime, it can act as a deterrent, it allows you to prove ownership and helps you to identify your property easily if it is offered for sale. Marking your property also provides a means for the Police to identify stolen goods and return them to their owners. There are a number of different ways to mark your property:

Visible Markers: Permanent marker pens; Waterproof paint; Stencils; Engraving; Specialised overt marking kits available on the market such as Cremark (being used for Rural Crime property marking events)

Invisible markers: UV Pens; Specialised forensic kits such as SmartWater, SelectaDNA, Red Web etc. (SmartWater kits are available through Warwickshire Horse Watch and Neighbourhood Watch at discounted prices).

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

What to Mark Your Property With: You can put any kind of mark on your property to distinguish it from other similar items. Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire Rural Watch, Warwickshire Horse Watch and Neighbourhood Watch recommend using your postcode prefixed with the number of your address, i.e. 23 B78 1XX. A post code is unique to your property, which most organisations recognise and allows the goods to be identified and returned to you. Just putting a name or symbol on the property makes it identifiable, but does not provide details to the Police of who owns the property and where it came from.

It is strongly recommended that you take a photo of all your valuables and make a note of any distinguishing marks, including where and how you have property marked it. You can then print the photographs off and keep in a safe place, load onto your computer or keep on a memory stick. By having these records if your property is stolen you will have as much information as possible to give to the Police and also pass to retailers and other organisations to help locate your property.

Local Neighbourhood Co-ordinators are:

Linda Clark	01295 738143 lindamargaretclark@hotmail.com
Anne Omer	01295 730312
David Holman	01295 730326
Ray Adkins	01295 730042
Emily Pearson	01295 730276

The police advice for reporting suspicious activities or incidents and crimes is:

If the matter is urgent you should ring 101, or in the case of an emergency 999.

Linda Clark

Answers to Junior Puzzles

	S	H	E	L	L	F	I	S	H	
S		O		I		A		T		N
C	A	R	A	M	E	L		R	Y	E
R		S		E		C		U		W
A	P	E	X		M	O	N	T	H	S
M				P		N				P
B	U	C	K	L	E		U	L	N	A
L		R		E		O		A		P
E	Y	E		D	U	R	A	B	L	E
R		P		G		C		E		R
	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	

Answers to Mind Gym on page 34

Level 1: 64

Level 2: 13

Level 3: 152

Level 4: 562

The Garage Warmington - Why is carbon cleaning necessary?

It's the combustion process, inside your engine, that is responsible for producing soot deposits **in cylinders, pistons, particle filters, EGR valves and turbos.**

Clogged parts prevent the engine from functioning properly. If **carbon deposits (soot)** are not removed regularly, faults can occur and the costs can soon mount up.

- **Difficulties starting the engine?**
- **Decreased engine performance?**
- **Increased consumption?**
- **Dashboard lights lit?**
- **Issues passing the MOT (pollutants)?**

What is responsible in more than 75% of cases? ***A clogged engine.***

How can the Hy-Carbon station help?

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Why choose carbon cleaning with hydrogen over chemical additives?

Hydrogen carbon cleaning is the result of the development of a **natural phenomenon - the enrichment of the air/fuel mixture** within your combustion engine.

The carbon deposits are simply dissolved in the engine and are **expelled naturally** with the exhaust fumes which are collected in a filter designed for this purpose.

Phone Adrian for further details - 01295 690415

Lockdown Humour

Mum said “you treat this place like an hotel” which she will regret when I give her a low score on Trip Advisor for “rude staff”.

What do you call a hen staring at lettuce? Chicken ceasar salad.

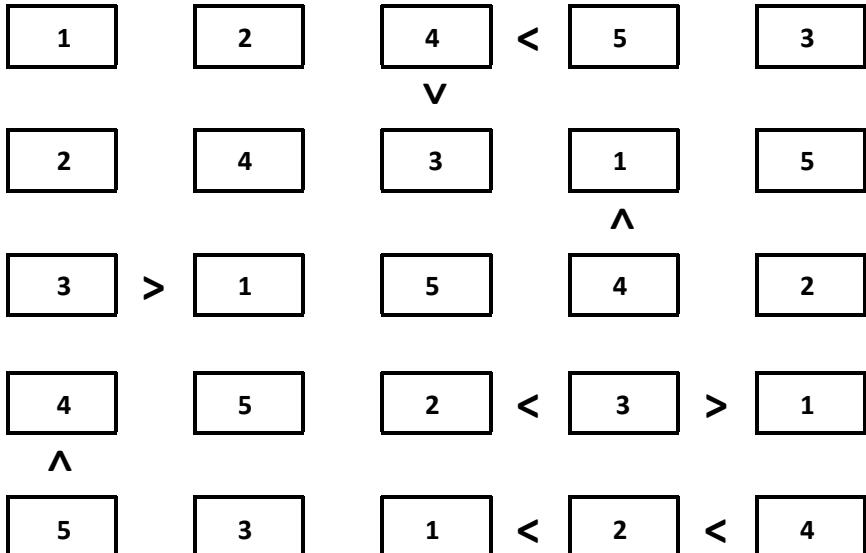
I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

Coffee is vital for survival. Dinosaurs didn't have coffee and look what happened to them.

To get something done, a committee should consist of no more than three people, two of whom are absent.

I bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

Answers to Futoshiki



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Sadly, due to the impact of Covid our Thyme for Tea Tearooms has now ceased trading, but with plans afoot to reutilise this stunning area of the shop into a conservatory-style extension this will be an excellent place to source gifts for all occasions- enabling you to shop safely and locally this coming season.

A warm welcome awaits ... we look forward to seeing you....

Flower Thyme

Flower thyme florist in Kineton, Warwickshire offer same day and next day flower delivery in Warwick, Banbury, Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon.

A warm welcome to any newcomers to the village since the previous newsletter.

Forthcoming Events: -
*Unfortunately owing to the current situation all events in the Village are now on hold until further notice. Although, with the support of WarmHub, the **Breakfast Club** operates on one Sunday each Month.*

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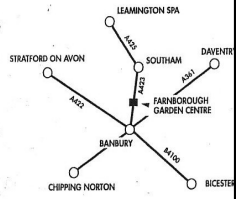
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gowns principally for the Japanese market. My experience includes ball gowns, prom dresses and alterations to day wear, also working for a bespoke furniture manufacturer as a precise fabric cutter and seamstress.

I am currently working for an interiors company making bespoke hand sewn curtains, blinds and soft furnishings.

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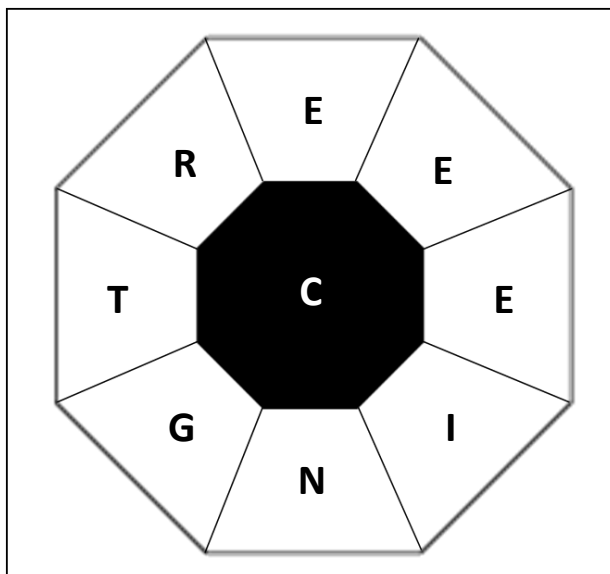
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Puzzles - David Holman

Below is a word puzzle. Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters which must include the central letter (no Capitalised words or plurals). There is also one word which includes all nine letters. 12 - Average, 15 - Good, 18 - Very Good, 21 - Excellent.





Bell Ringing

Andrew Jeffrey - Secretary 738729

Church St Laurence

Rector: -

Rev Barry Jackson 01926 640248

Rev Canon Dr Richard Cooke 690213

Church Wardens

Linda Clark 738143

Andrew Jeffrey 738729

Parochial Church Council

Alan Reilly—Chairman 730476

Godfrey Boulton—Secretary 738244

Pauline Tarrant—Treasurer 730687

Linda Clark 738143

Andrew Jeffrey 738729

Mary Jeffrey 738361

Christine Pym 738948

David Holman 730326

Fishman - comes round

Chris - - Wed 9.30ish 07981049348

Footpaths Team

Harriet Jordan 730464

Philippa Upton 738491

Milkman 0345 6063606

Mobile Library -
(Currently on hold) 01926 851031

Police Warwickshire 01926 415000

Police Wellesbourne 01789 444600

Neighbourhood Watch

Linda Clark 738143

Newspapers

S&G. Smith Banbury 268499

Riding School

Valley Farm - Denise Faulkner 730576

Tuesday Club

Keri Holman 730326

Mavis Palmer 730901

Parish Council

Chairman. Les Faulkner 730576

Vice Chair. Michael Pearson 730276

Valerie Ingram also Clerk. 730203

Jan Burgess 730443

Ben Zammatt 738564

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Valerie Ingram - Old Post Office 730203

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Sat 7.00 am

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Linda Clark - Secretary 738143

Terry Clark - Treasurer 738143

Claire Jeffrey 738729

Hilary Wareing 738750

Jeanette Coogan 738157

Anne Omer 730312

Harriet Jordan 730464

Emma Bowers 07794 218206

George Nell 730955

Eloise Upton 738491

Warmington & District Bridge Club

(Currently on hold)

Mike Palmer 730901

Pauline Tarrant 730687

Stratford District Council 01789 267575

Alternate Wednesday bin collections

Green Bins - Fortnightly for those who have paid for this service.

&

Recycling Bin - Fortnightly.

Grey Bin - Fortnightly

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