

Footprints

Issue No. CCXXIV

April 2021.

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Copy by 15th of month, please.

Attention all keen Photographers.

Spring is here and the Parish Website needs your pictures. Please send any photos (a maximum of 5) that you have taken in March for publication on the website:

<https://www.broadwas-cotheridge.com/>

To: eric.dale.qmt@btconnect.com

Parking at Cotheridge Church

The branches that keep appearing on the grass verge outside the church apparently could be considered fly tipping. Anyone who knows who is putting these out, could you please warn them that they could be fined.

It is hoped that this problem of the road edges being chewed up when the ground gets wet will be resolved, soon, by the use of open heavy-duty matting that will reinforce the surface without destroying the “green-look” of the verge.

This is a necessary and “busy” parking area both for visitors to the church and dog-walkers.

Parishioners you are warmly invited to :

the **Broadwas and Cotheridge Annual Parish Meeting**
immediately followed by the AGM of the Parish Council
on **Sunday May 2nd at 4 pm**

This is when we hear from all organisations and groups in the parish about the past year and their thoughts about what’s important for them and the Parish Council in the coming year.

See page 7 for details of how to join the Zoom.

Church Words by Rev. Canon David Sherwin

Life will never be the same again. I am sure that would have been the conversation of the disciples after that first Easter. They had seen life changing events with the trial and crucifixion of their leader, Jesus. Now they had seen him risen from the dead, a cataclysmic world changing occurrence. Life would never be the same again. The resurrection would give them the confidence in their beliefs that would be fully realised when the Holy Spirit was given to them at Pentecost. But for now they could contemplate the significance of what they had seen and heard and realise what it meant for their lives.

Maybe we have said that very same phrase, 'life will never be the same again', in light of having lived through a year like no other, a year when a viral pandemic changed the world and changed our lives. But maybe unlike the disciples of Jesus we are not sure where the hope is coming from. For the disciples whatever they faced, and times ahead were not easy, they had seen that Jesus had conquered death and so what had they to fear? That fact did not take away life's difficulties but it did mean that their risen Lord would be with them, and as he said, "I am with you always", was to be their strength and comfort.

Where do we find strength and comfort? It's been hard being away from our loved ones, not having those hugs and kisses we are used to having and just being with them. Yet the Christian message of Easter means that there is one who is always there to reach out to, our risen Lord Jesus. I recall an old Gospel song I used to sing that sums this up

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

Because He lives, all fear is gone

Because I know who holds the future

And life is worth a living just because He lives.

None of us knows quite how this time in our history will pan out but having been a follower of Jesus since I was a child I do

know that the reality of knowing that he is by my side whatever I face has been a reality for me and so it is I trust him now to lead me on and continue to give me hope. As Paul would say to Timothy, may those same words encourage us;

‘For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.’ (1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10.)

I finish with the Easter acclamation that has rung through the centuries and still rings true for us today,

‘Alleluia Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia’

God Bless and Happy Easter

Services for April 2021

April 4th – 9.30am **Broadwas Holy Communion**
11.00am Martley Holy Communion
Easter Day 10.30am Wichenford HC by extension

April 11th - 10.30 am Broadwas – **Holy Communion**

April 18th 10.30 am Wichenford – Holy Communion
4.00 pm **Zoom service**

April 25th 10.30 am Martley Morning Prayer
10.30 am **Broadwas Morning Worship**

May 2nd 10.30 am Martley Holy Communion
6.30 pm **Cotheridge Evensong**

This month we again joined a zoom meeting, enjoying a quiz provided by Jay and showing each other our decorated face masks. It was good to see each other and share news and discuss future events.

Hopefully we will soon know when we can resume our normal meetings.

We will have a Coffee chat zoom meeting at 2pm on Wednesday March 31st and our April meeting will be two weeks later on April 14th at 2pm and if we feel inclined, we can wear an Easter bonnet! Invites will be sent out a few days before each event.

Susan Reeve

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Poppy appeal for Worcestershire raised £246,000 an amazing total with all the restrictions THANK YOU. The national total stands at £24 million which again is truly amazing. Contactless payments raised around £1 million. The Sun newspapers readers raised £10 million. They were saluted by David Beckham one of a host of celebrities who backed the campaign. David also took poppies to the Chelsea Pensioners. The Centenary will be celebrated with a special service in Westminster Abbey and recognition of the 100 year will be made at The Festival of Remembrance. A book has been published containing stories and images that demonstrate the role the legion has played in society over the past 100 years.

Farewell to Sir Captain Tom. He epitomised the spirit of our wartime generation and was a true inspiration to millions of people worldwide. He was passionate about the work of the Royal British Legion.

Tomorrow will be a better day

Stay safe

Ed & Sue (PAOs R.B.L. Knightwick & District)



Broadwas Green for Go!

It's that time of year again here at Broadwas Croquet Club! New grass to be cut, lawns to be rolled and marked up, mallets to be repaired and re-waxed and hoops re-painted – all set for the opening of the 2021 croquet season, hopefully in just a few weeks' time. We want to be ready to roll as soon as the Government gives us the green light - and the weather becomes a bit warmer.

There's lots to look forward to this season. As well as our normal games of singles and doubles and our internal tournaments, we very much hope to begin playing league matches against other Clubs again. And we still plan to support the Club's social activities which are always popular, so we hope the easing of lockdown will enable us to restart our weekly Roll-ups and Fun Days. Be assured that we will be socially distancing, hand sanitising and keeping Covid procedures in place until we are officially allowed to reduce them.

We're extremely fortunate to have two fully qualified coaches at Broadwas who run courses for beginners and for our more experienced players. Not only that, they're always happy to give anyone help and guidance whilst up at the Club.

Broadwas is a great Club for folk who like to play competitive sport with lots of fresh air and in idyllic surroundings. In fact, a common admission among new members bitten by the croquet bug, is that they spend rather more time up at the Sports Ground than they can really afford. Why? Because they love the Club's friendly, join-in atmosphere and the idea of playing a game that can be as infuriating as it is compelling!

Our season runs from April to October, so if you'd like some more information about this year's programme of events for members, or you've thought of booking the ground over an evening or weekend for a special event, please get in touch with our Club Captain and Secretary, John Guy on 01905 748192 for further details.

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

March 2021 Update

The parish council met on the 8th of March and you can look at the papers and draft minutes on The Parish website page **broadwas-cotheridge.com** and the Parish Council tab

Councillors continue to work together to make sure that our community is represented in the wider processes of local government including planning matters, the environment, making sure that people have the care and support they need, and trying to ensure that where we live remains special and sustainable.

There are presently 2 vacancies one for Cotheridge and one for Broadwas for councillors. So, we are looking for volunteers! See the website Home page <https://www.broadwas-cotheridge.com/>.

The Parish Council is acting as a Community Fibre Partnership to take advantage of a Government fund that covers the cost of replacing the old-fashioned copper connection with a fibre one. A full fibre connection means faster and more reliable broadband connection as well as greater volume. Rural areas often experience slow internet speeds, and the introduction of full fibre connections across the parish would be a significant step forward, especially as the cost of instillation is covered.

As a result of enough parishioners coming forward in Little Green and Cotheridge these 2 schemes are in progress and we expect to know the start and completion dates for these shortly.

Getting sufficient sign up in Broadwas main village has been a challenge, but thanks to the efforts of a number of volunteers we recently achieved the target. Unfortunately, due to changes in the government funding we are now having to wait for them to announce a new scheme which we hope will mean we can proceed. This will mean that with the other 2 schemes nearly 2/3rds of households and businesses in the parish will have a full fibre connection. The other 1/3rd is being looked at with the hope of including these in any new government funding.

Planning and other local developments continue to be an important area for the Parish Council and details of this can be found on the web address (broadwas-cotheridge.com) referenced above.

In other village news, progress continues with the extension of the Village Hall and it looks like this will be completed soon. The damaged gate at the access to Berryfields playing fields is soon to be replaced, and we were pleased that Severn Trent recently attended to the very noisy and annoying manhole covers at the eastern end of Broadwas.

Many of the things that contribute positively to our community happen quietly and as a result of people giving their time for free, for example making sure that our footpaths are accessible and used or the publication of Footprints.

Hopefully we can start to adjust to fewer restrictions as a result of Covid. The Parish Council will be consulting with parishioners & looking to the future. We already have some ideas of what is important to people and would welcome more suggestions. Of course, we cannot promise to act on all of these but do want to have a clearer idea about what we are trying to achieve.

You will shortly be receiving you Council Tax bills and you may note that the Parish Precept has not increased, this is as result of a decision taken to reduce the amount of money we hold as a parish council.

Finally, we are holding our annual parish meeting on :

Sunday 2nd May at 4:00pm using Zoom.

This meeting provides everyone with the opportunity to hear about what the many different groups and organisations who contribute to our community have achieved during the past year and how we might move forwards, especially as we look to recovery from the pandemic. The meeting is limited to the first 99 people.

Contact the Parish Clerk for information on how to join email:

parishclerk@broadwas-cotheridge.com

Village Information

Church Officials:

Priest in Charge - Rev David Sherwin 01886 888664
Assistant Priest - Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897
Churchwardens – Lower Teme Valley Parish
Rob Pearce 01886 821959
Peter Walker 01886 822137

Parish Councils

Broadwas & Cotheridge : **www.broadwas-cotheridge.com**
Chairman – Eric Dale
Clerk – Carole Hirst tel: 07903 377066 (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm)
Email : parishclerk@broadwas-cotheridge.com

Knightwick & Doddenham

Clerk – Geoffrey Brewin 01886 821386

Clubs and Societies

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - Gill Brooks 01886 821292
Croquet Club – John Guy 01905 748192
Royal British Legion – Sue Ganderton 01905 422711
W.I. – Barbara Lloyd 01905 333635

Schools:

Broadwas C of E Primary School - Secretary 01886 821347
Bumblebees : Pre-school/Out-of-School Care 07817637241

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