

# The Cidder Press

April 2020



Photo: Bill Morgan

## Covid-19 Bringing the community together (at safe social distancing)

Looking out at the sunshine, Stoke Lacy seems very much as usual today, but along with the rest of the nation and indeed the world this community is fighting a deadly virus. Covid-19 has engulfed our world in a way few could have envisaged just a few months ago, when we were all so concerned with the outcome of a divisive general election and Brexit. Now the NHS is at the forefront of a national emergency, as are numerous key workers to help with the most basic function of society, survival. None of us knows when this nightmare will be over or what kind of society will be left after Covid 19 has wreaked its havoc. Optimism is in short supply.

But like most areas of the country the Stoke Lacy community has risen to the challenge of supporting the elderly and vulnerable members of the community starting with an initiative which is being co-ordinated by **Ruth Hickmott**. So far, 21 volunteers have come forward to offer help to those in need of shopping, prescription collections, dog-walking and other errands, or just a chat, since being in isolation can be a very lonely time. **The volunteers are already helping several people but if you know of anyone who might appreciate some help or just a phone call to keep in touch please contact Ruth :** [ruth.hickmott@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.hickmott@btinternet.com) or 07462 883650.



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## Stoke Lacy and the Coronavirus pandemic

A week is a long time in the Coronavirus pandemic. The first draft of this article was written on 15 March, when the death toll in the UK stood at 101; seven days later the figure was 281. Confirmed cases told the same story: 163 to 5,683. The Prime Minister told us to expect worse, much worse.

Sadly, rumours and misinformation are rampant, making it hard to know exactly what is going on and why. This article aims to explain what we do and don't know about Coronavirus (Covid-19), what to expect next and what aspects of the illness will most affect you, your friends and neighbours.

**Question: I've heard that Covid-19 is no different to flu. Is that true?**

**Answer:** No. Before the Coronavirus appeared in early winter 2019 not one of the 7.7 billion humans on this planet had any experience of, or resistance to, the virus. A flu vaccine has been available for several years, as yet none exists for Covid-19.

**Q: Ok, but I've also heard that the number of fatalities from Covid-19 might only be the same as from flu. So the risk is the same, isn't it?**

**A:** Again, no. The single most important thing to understand is that the fatality rate is not set in stone. If the number of Covid-19 cases rises too quickly the NHS will be overwhelmed: there will be shortage of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds; there will be too few ventilators, not enough trained nurses and doctors.

To understand what this will mean, look no further than the current situation in Italy. Because of the shortages described above, doctors are having to make impossible decisions about who gets care and who does not, between life and possible death. On 22 March, the Italian death toll stood at 5,476, a jump of 5,243 in just three weeks.

**Q: Are cases rising so quickly that this dire situation will soon be reached here?**

**A:** Left to its own devices, Covid-19 infections increase very, very rapidly. In Italy, the first Covid-19 case appeared on 31 January; by 22 March there were 59,138 confirmed cases. At the same time, the number of confirmed cases in most European countries, including the UK, was **doubling** every three to four days. Were this to continue, in 20 days the number of confirmed cases in the UK would hit one hundred and eighty thousand. Even with a slowing of the infection rates we are still likely to see tens of thousands of cases.

**Q: Who are the most vulnerable to the disease?**

**A:** First the good news. Parents of young children will be hugely relieved to know that, for some as-yet-unknown reason, no children have died in the current pandemic. The risk to healthy adults increases slowly with age. However, beyond 50, the threat to health grows rapidly. Over 80s are very vulnerable.

**Q: Is age the only factor?**

**A:** No. Anyone, whatever their age, with existing conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, hypertension (high blood pressure), and cancer are more vulnerable, as are individuals with a weakened immune system, such as can be caused by chemotherapy.

**Q: I'm young, fit and healthy. I've no need to worry then?**

**A:** Not so fast. Firstly, you and every human that has ever lived has parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles. If you behave irresponsibly by failing to follow government guidance it could have fatal implications for any one of them. Secondly, if the NHS is overwhelmed by Covid-19 and you or a family member has a sudden medical emergency or an accident, the chances of receiving the best treatment will be at great risk. We're all in this together.

**Q: Overall, you're painting a very worrying picture. Is there nothing we can do?**

**A:** On the contrary, if everyone heeds medical, scientific and government advice we can avoid the worst outcomes by slowing the spread of the virus to take the strain off the NHS and to buy time for the development of a vaccine. We need to acknowledge that Stoke Lacy has a fairly high proportion of older citizens. If we carry on as normal those individuals will be at great risk.

First and foremost every one of us should follow current medical, scientific and government advice. This is changing almost daily as the crisis develops so keep up to date by visiting the NHS website, the gold standard for accurate, well-written information: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). If you do not have the internet, ask a friend to do so for you.

**If you develop a fever and dry cough, call the NHS on 111. Do NOT go to your local surgery or A&E.**

**Q: Where did the data used in this article come from?**

**A: The sources, correct at 22 March, were:**

**Our World in Data:** [www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus](http://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus)

**The World Health Organisation:** [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

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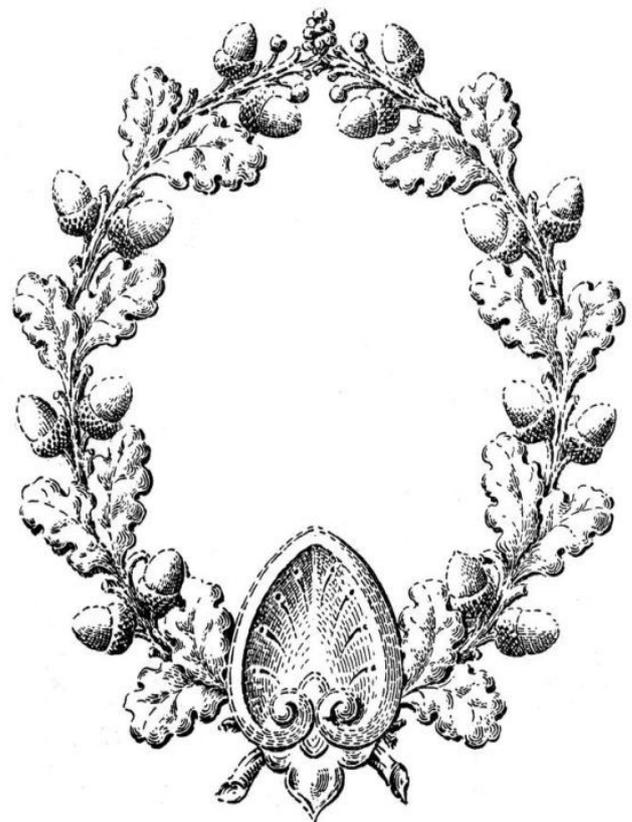
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## Village Hall News

The village breakfast on 18th April is cancelled as is the VE Day celebration on 8th May

### UPCYCLING/RECYCLING TABLE TOP SALE

The Upcycling/Recycling Table Top Sale will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Sellers from 2 pm, Buyers from 3 pm. £10 per table. To book a table call 01885 400601. Refreshments will be available. Time to have a good sort out and a chance for you to make some spending money for your holidays. Everyone loves to find a bargain!

Due to the current situation regarding the Coronavirus we are planning for this event to still take place unless we are advised to cancel by the relevant authorities.

**Janet Ivison, Chairman of the Trustees**

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### Stoke Lacy Hundred Club

#### Stoke Lacy 100 Club

The 100 club results for February and March are as follows. For enquiries please contact Tina Lively on 01432 820154

#### February 2020

- 1st Avril Morgan £20
- 2nd Kate Ainsworth £10
- 3rd Brenda Harper £5

#### March 2020

- 1st Esmee Collier £20
- 2nd Hugh Nicklin £10
- 3rd Tony Harris £5

\*\*\*\*\*

**Stoke Lacy Church is not holding any services at present because of the Coronavirus pandemic.**

**If you wish to speak to Reverend Kina Robertshaw please contact her on :**

**admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk**



## “What’s that Bright Thing I can see in the Evening Sky?”



This is a question I have been asked a number of times over the last couple of months, and, for those who don’t know, the answer is the planet Venus. It is often called the “evening star” (or, if it appears before dawn, the “morning star”) but decent binoculars will show that it is obviously not a star, as there is a definite disc. Stars are so far away that they only ever appear as pinpoints of light; if they don’t, your binoculars are either out of focus or not very good! At its best, such as now, Venus is the third brightest object in the sky after the Sun and Moon. In really dark conditions it can even cast a shadow.

Venus is closer to the Sun and slightly smaller than the Earth, and its year is roughly 225 Earth days long. This means that Earth and Venus are closest together about every nineteen months. However, sometimes Venus is east of the Sun and so appears before dawn (good for early risers or insomniacs), whereas at present it is west of the Sun and so is visible after sunset. Also, the time of year of the closest approach affects the height of the planet above the horizon. So the present apparition of Venus will be the best evening one for quite a few years.

Because Venus is closer to the Sun than we are, it shows phases rather like the Moon. (Use a little imagination and two concentric circles with the Sun in the middle and you will see why). At present it is showing something like a half-disc, but you will need very good binoculars or a telescope to observe this.

At its nearest approach, Venus is easily the closest planet to Earth. But if you are wondering why the focus on the next phase of manned space exploration is Mars, well, the atmosphere on Venus is a nice mix of carbon dioxide and sulphuric acid, and the temperature on its surface is well above the melting point of lead.

**Neil Walters.**

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*Any contributions for the February edition of the Cider Press should be submitted by 15th January, please.*

*Letters, articles, advertisement of events should be sent by email to :*

*jjpw.davies@gmail.com or contact the editor, Jo Davies on 01432 820732.*

*Many thanks*



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## Stoke Lacy Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Stoke Lacy Village Hall

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester, PCSO Jack Davies and 4 members of the public.

Unfortunately, Mr Ian Baker, Manager, Health, Safety and Resilience officer, Herefordshire Council, was unable to be present due to new flooding emergencies in the area, but his presentation will be re-scheduled for a future Parish Council meeting.

PCSO Davies reported that police had stopped 6 people for speeding by Stoke Lacy church in the last few days.

Ward Councillor Lester gave a report on the recent meetings of Herefordshire Council, particularly the Finance Committee meetings.

NDP: notes on the latest meetings held by the NDP Standing Committee were received and approved by the Parish Council. The appointment of an NDP Planning Consultant was held over pending further investigation.

Finance: The draft accounts from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 were approved; the invoice payment to HALC was approved; cost towards repairing the car park by the church was refused.

Planning: Stoke Hill driveway: retrospective planning REFUSED with no way forward; other retrospective permissions for use of outbuildings at Stoke Hill still valid; New Application The Hop Kilns, HR7 4HQ: listed building consent for proposed installation of new eco efficient and secure window & doors SUPPORTED

The Parish Council appointed the Clerk and Councillors Ivison and Morgan to represent it at Planning meetings if required.

Highways, Flooding & Footpaths: All issues had been noted; anyone flooded had been sent the appropriate information and asked to contact the clerk. Thanks extended to John Thompson for his detailed notes on footpaths.

Stoke Lacy's GDPR Policy was approved and signed.

VE75 Celebrations: anyone interested in providing refreshments, be part of the entertainment or help in any other way was invited to attend a meeting to be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

The full draft Minutes of this meeting will be available on Stoke Lacy Parish Council website.

NB: THE DATES OF ALL FUTURE SCHEDULED MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE CORANOVIRUS OUTBREAK .RE-ARRANGED MEETINGS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND ON THE PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

## Stoke Lacy Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group—Update



The steering group has continued to work towards developing the framework around which to base Stoke Lacy's NDP even though at present a second public meeting which had been earmarked for June or July may have to be postponed until the early autumn, due to the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions in place.

However, the group, in consultation with the parish council, has been establishing contact with our liaison officer from Herefordshire Council and planning consultants who will be engaged by the parish council to advise on the plan and give professional guidance in its drafting. The steering group is also working on vision and objectives for the project.

It was hoped that in their April meeting the parish council would be able to approve one of the planning consultants after which the clerk would be able to apply to Herefordshire Council for grant funding to finance the NDP.

At time of writing government legislation has been approved that will allow parish councils to hold virtual public meetings and we understand that the parish council is exploring the best available platforms to use for this purpose, but a new date for the next parish council meeting is yet to be decided upon.

The steering group hope therefore to be able to do much of the background work towards the NDP and be ready to hit the ground running once restrictions are loosened and if possible to take advantage of virtual public meetings in the meantime to continue the involvement of the public. The steering group was very encouraged by the support of 60 members of the public at the meeting on 5th February, the success of the NDP relies on public engagement and support. If you wish to find out more information about the Stoke Lacy NDP including notes of meetings and details of future meetings please take a look at the website : [stokelacy.co.uk](http://stokelacy.co.uk) where all this information may be found or contact the clerk at [parishclerk@stokelacyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@stokelacyparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Stoke Lacy NDP Steering Group**

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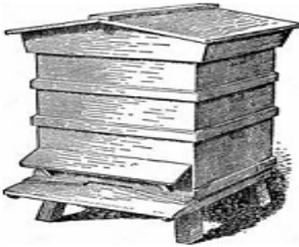
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## Stoke Lacy and District Garden Club

Our first event of the year was a talk on 'Geraniums and Friends' by Julie Richie of Hoo House Nursery. She has been growing and selling hardy geraniums for 30 years and knows a thing or two! There's a huge range of cultivars available now, but Julie stressed that gardeners need to know what they are buying - some are 'a bit naff', some are the same plant under a range of names, and some are thugs. And they need different conditions - some even do well in dry shade. The talk was an illustrated guide to the flowering times, growth habits and conditions needed for Julie's recommended varieties, and ended with some images of gardens, showing how geraniums can form part of planting schemes. If you missed the talk and want to know what to plant, you need to go to the nursery and talk to Julie. She grows lots of other things too, and has been totally peat-free for many years.

In February Roger Umpelby gave us a talk entitled 'Plants need a balanced diet too'. Serious stuff, and a lot of information, covering plant requirements in terms of soil texture and structure, pH, organic matter, major and minor nutrients. All the stuff we used to know but need reminding of. Soil testing, mycorrhizal fungi, recognising nutrient deficiencies.....just when we were starting to panic, Roger gave a reassuring summary: it doesn't have to be complicated! Follow the general rules, plan in advance, monitor plant growth and health, but don't be tempted to over feed, especially with established plants. A balanced diet is best, but most plants are tolerant of less than perfection. Phew.

We have decided to CANCEL THE MARCH MEETING as a public health precaution. A decision on Helen Picton's talk on 'Clematis, different varieties and pruning', scheduled for 28th April, will be taken nearer the time. After that we have our summer programme of garden visits. We hope!

Talks start at 7:30 in Stoke Lacy Village Hall, and cost £5 for visitors (it's cheaper if you join!), including refreshments.

For more information contact David Preece on 01885 490604 or [dj.preece@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dj.preece@hotmail.co.uk)



## Ditch and Drain Responsibilities

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that some of the roadside ditches and drains are not functioning as they should be. We know that there has been an unprecedented amount of rainfall this winter and therefore this has overwhelmed some of the ditches, drains and roads in the Parish, which has caused destruction to the surfaces. We have had a meeting with the locality Steward Paul Hunter and logged with him the worst affected areas for attention as soon as possible. With the loss of the Lengthsman scheme, the responsibility now passes to all property and landowners to ensure that boundary ditches and drains are maintained to allow excess water to flow away and not onto the carriage way. We are encouraging all residents, businesses and landowners to consider the information leaflet <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ditches-and-drainage-guidance>

issued by Herefordshire Council, on ditch and drainage responsibilities and thank you for your cooperation

**Janet Ivison Chairman Parish Council**

**Who is a Riparian Owner?** The owner of land or property that adjoins a watercourse, such as a roadside ditch, is known as the Riparian Owner. Although the Highways Authority is responsible for the highway, we do not own the 'sub-soil' of the highway. The owner of the land or property adjoining the highway is normally the sole Riparian Owner.

- ◆ For more information (Riparian Owners) visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse).

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## VE Day 1945

VE-Day was a Tuesday. Churchill checked that there was enough beer for London before speaking on the radio: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead" (because the war against Japan was ongoing: already at 3.a.m every US gun on Okinawa had fired one shot at the Japanese in celebration).

The German surrender was expected, so parades, thanksgiving services, street parties and even commemorative mugs had been hastily organised. Social conventions were broken, as people spoke to and hugged people they'd never even met before. 'It was noticed that a large number of 'extraordinarily pretty young girls', had appeared, joining American soldiers in a conga down the middle of Piccadilly. The day 'had a flavour of its own, like a vast, happy village fete'. Licensing hours were extended so that people could toast the end of the war with a drink (or two), and dance halls stayed open until midnight. In St Paul's Cathedral ten services were held consecutively to give thanks for peace. Crowds outside Buckingham Palace chanted 'we want the King' until the Royal Family appeared on the balcony, which they did eight times. Later the two princesses were allowed out among the crowd.

Revelry spread across the world, though in Halifax, Nova Scotia it degenerated into looting and rioting, and several died. The Canadian Prime Minister, in San Francisco with Lord Halifax of Appeasement fame for the founding of the United Nations, wrote in his diary: "This has been a good day." It was President Truman's birthday, and celebrations continued in New York while flags remained at half-mast out of respect for President Roosevelt who had died a month earlier.

With hindsight, History knows things that few revellers knew. They did not understand that the Appeasers had correctly foreseen that war would bankrupt Britain: only American money had allowed us to continue fighting after 1941. Europe, after centuries of world domination, had already been divided between the USA and Russia and would soon lose its empires. It was a fortnight since the Americans had revealed conditions in Ohrdruf, the first concentration camp about which news had been broken. After an hour googling, I can't find when people knew about the gas chambers. On VE Day they didn't know that the Allies had kept quiet about them since 1942 because they didn't want to be seen to be fighting 'a war for the Jews', as Hitler had accused them of doing. Revellers didn't know about the Communist spies from Cambridge University in MI5, or about the Italian Stalinists, released from Mussolini's prison on Ventotene Island and already

planning to build a Communist European Union. Despite having said: "This is a victory of the great British nation as a whole, not of a party," the war-hero Churchill was defeated by Labour in an election in July, provoking a financial crisis when the American loans were suspended. Two weeks after that the US tested its nuclear bomb.

Russia celebrates 'Victory Day' on May 9<sup>th</sup>, because on May 8<sup>th</sup> they lost 600 more soldiers in Silesia before the Germans surrendered. Russia had more widows and orphans than anyone else. A Russian poet wrote 'This joy has tears in his eyes'.

Your correspondent reports that on that day, aged two years, six months and a day, his parents lifted him up to the window of his house on the east side of the Malvern Hills, to see the searchlights at the Malvern radar establishment down in the valley making a V-sign in the sky.

**Hugh Nicklin**

### VE Day celebrations London 1945—Press Association



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**Cider Press June 2020**

**Please send contributions to the June Cider Press to [jjpw.davies@gmail.com](mailto:jjpw.davies@gmail.com) by 15th May. All articles, letters and notices will be gratefully received .Any opinions expressed within the articles contributed are those of the individual contributor.**

**Thank you for your support**

## “What no loo paper?”



### School handwashing station -the soap has run out

This current lock down reminds me of my trip to Tanzania last autumn with nothing to do, nowhere to go and loo paper at a premium! Difference being that it is the way of life over there.

Majawanga is a village of around 1000 people in a semi-desert area. They are primarily subsistence farmers growing maize and sugar cane with one or two noticeably scrawny cows, a handful of goats and endless chickens roaming wild. (Watch your feet or you'll stand on that egg!) Majawanga boasts 2 shops and a cinema although I use the terms rather loosely.

The shops sell bottled water (for those who can afford it), soap, rice, peanuts, cigarettes and what seem to be 30 year old soggy biscuits. If you fancy something sweet you could go to the sugar cane shop which – you guessed it sells sugar cane – metres of the stuff which you can just sit and chew on for days.

No one in the village has ever seen an apple. The staple diet is rice, beans and cabbage although the breakfast mama who fed our volunteers is adept at cooking mandazis – heavyweight deep-fried doughnuts.

The cinema is a walled off area with a satellite dish, no roof and rather a lot of stray dogs. The head teacher was the only person with a TV. Signal is good all over the village but ironically you have to pay a man with a bicycle to deliver water from some miles away. The water is clear-ish but very salty.

Everywhere I travelled loo paper was our favourite item – our must-have — not least because of the poor water supply. Unlike most, our house, in the town of Morogoro, had running water but woe-betide you if you used it to clean your teeth let alone make a glass of squash. I shared a house with 14 others, we had three toilets and our need for loo paper was immense!

In Majawanga the sanitation story was rather different. Most houses had their own outside loo, usually with no light, no proper door and sometimes no roof. Oh yes and no loo of course just a hole in the ground with a runaway. Instead of loo paper a plastic bucket of suspect water and a jug (and no operating instructions!)

I was in Majawanga with Raleigh International, and a team of 14 youngsters (international and Tanzanian), building toilets for the local primary school. In addition the volunteers ran hygiene classes teaching the children how to wash their hands properly (the irony!) albeit with dirty water and soap (if they could find any). As there is no running water in the village the school's handwashing stations were constructed of a water carrier on a string.

The school has about 800 children who attend either morning or afternoon classes as space is limited. They have access to 4 handwashing stations often with no soap as budgets are small. (Yes I do find the panic buying of soap and loo roll abhorrent – we really all need to get a grip!)

I stayed in Tanzania for 8 weeks. It is amazing how you adjust and how you can learn to live without. People manage without basics. Choice just isn't a thing! You can eat what is available or go hungry. You can drink the water with all its likely consequences or dehydrate. You can have signal but you only have a limited supply of solar energy to charge your phones. If you're lucky you won't get coronavirus or malaria, typhoid, diphtheria, rabies, cholera, hepatitis, yellow fever, mumps, measles, meningitis, rubella or a snake bite. These village kids might one day travel as far as Dar-es-Salaam but I guess they'll never fly abroad.

Lock down may be very frustrating – many of us have missed holidays, fun trips, family visits but it is short term and to protect us and our dear ones. We are lucky. It could be our permanent way of life.

**Ruth Hickmott**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Celebrating 75 Years of VE Day May 2020

For All Who Celebrated Birthdays Before 1940

A friend gave me this piece recently.....

#### AS WE ARE SURVIVORS!

We were before television, penicillin, polo shots, frozen foods, contact lenses, and the pill.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, and ball point pens, before tights, washing machines, dishwashers, electric blankets, drip dry clothes, and before a man walked on the moon.

We got married first THEN lived together.

We were before group therapy and day care centres.

We'd never heard of FM Radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, heart transplants, yoghurt or fellows wearing earrings; a chip was a piece of wood or a potato and hardware and software weren't even words!

We hit the scene when 3d and 6d stores were where you bought things for 3. or 6d.

The corner shop sold ice cream cones for 1d or 2d. For 2d you could make a phone call, or stamps to mail one letter or two postcards.

You could buy a car for £150 but who could afford one? Pity too, because petrol was only 1/3d a gallon.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, 'GRASS' was mowed, coke was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat, and 'pot' was something you cooked it in. A gay person was the life and soul of the party. Rock music was grandma's lullaby, and aids were assistants.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes were discovered, but we were surely before the sex change and we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby!

No wonder we were so confused, and there is such a thing as the generation gap today!

**BUT WE SURVIVED, WHAT BETTER REASON TO**

**CELEBRATE!**

**Janet Parker**

## What we did this weekend: a letter from a parent

This weekend crowds descended on to the beaches at Skegness and Brighton.

This weekend we waited for the results of our daughter's Covid-19 test.

This weekend saw the largest ever crowds to visit the Snowdonia National Park.

This weekend we waited.

This weekend a flower market saw large numbers of visitors, happily mingling shoulder to shoulder.

This weekend we waited.

Today we learned our 35-year-old daughter did not have the disease. She returned to her job as an NHS hospital doctor, to the likelihood of coming into contact with the disease again.

Today a 'fit and healthy' 36-year-old UK nurse is in intensive care with Coronavirus.\*

Today we are waiting.

**Name and address withheld**

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- ◆ NB since this letter was written the 36 year old nurse in question, Areema Nasreen, a mother of three young children has died with Coronavirus. In addition ,as of today, a further six frontline healthcare workers have died.





### **Evelyn James Bufton 1929—2020**

#### **Excerpts from his eulogy given by his niece Alison Champion**

Ev was a good farmer, an excellent stockman and a very unassuming, quiet and kindly man.

He was born on 18th April 1929 at Cowarne House (just up the road) to Elijah and Freda Bufton. In fact, his family have farmed in this area for generations. The family moved to Upper House in 1932 when Uncle Ev was 3 and remain there to this day.

School was not his cup of tea and Miss Ingram, the headmistress, was inclined to send him out of the classroom to tend the garden. On the odd occasion that Uncle Ev WAS in the classroom he made sure he sat next to Eddie Probert who was top of the class and quite amenable to Uncle Ev copying his work. Betty Harper was also in his class and Uncle Ev remembered Betty and John Arnett (her future husband) holding hands under the desk.

Uncle Ev was a child during the War and two little evacuee boys came from London to the farm and school. Despite initially finding them a bit of an irritation, Ev really missed them when they left and one of them continued to visit the farm over the years. Life was tough though back then and Uncle Ev was expected to work very hard on the farm from an early age which he actually preferred to market days with his father. However, he often drove sheep and cattle along the road to Bromyard market and another job was taking sugar beet to the train station by horse and cart. He was the only person locally in the early days with his own baler and so consequently ended up doing quite a bit of contracting, which he enjoyed.

A lot of time was spent rabbiting - it was a serious and profitable business during wartime because of the food shortages. Uncle Ev could very clearly remember the VE celebrations in Bromyard and the euphoria felt that finally the war was over.

He was a keen supporter of the North Hereford Hunt throughout his life dating back to school days when he would nip off and follow the hounds on foot. He also attended on horseback as a young man and remembered an occasion when The Honourable Lady Bridget Deveraux was out, immaculately turned out as always. He noticed her giving him a look

( Evelyn Bufton eulogy continued)

and so chanced his arm by winking at her as she passed by, only to realise that her look was not one of admiration but astonishment at his hunting attire of a flat cap and wellies all through the day. He & Brenda walked quite a few hound puppies over the years and also hosted meets at Upper House which were very enjoyable. Ev would wander round with a bottle of whisky in his pocket and top people up..... and not only at the meet, but all through the day.

One hound they had walked called Grappler instantly recognized where he was on his arrival at the meet and rushed straight into the house through the back door and, in the kitchen, took a massive leap landing exactly in his old position on the sofa – this was after quite a long period of time back at kennels – he'd remembered his very good early home!

Ev and Brenda got married in 1956 and started off married life at The Mill in Stoke Lacy. They had daughters, Sally and Bridget and, by the time they had Cliff, had already moved back to the family home Upper House where Cliff lives to this day. Farming life at The Mill mainly comprised of chickens and pigs and then, later on at Upper House, sheep and cattle and he grew oats, barley, fodder beet and swedes for his own animal feed and wheat to sell

Sally, Bridget and Cliff all remember an idyllic childhood. Ev encouraged them all with their various sports, but he had to be banned from both football and gymkhanas after a while for his over-enthusiastic support! Cliff, in the musical sacks was thrown from his pony by Ev in a bid to get him to the sack first and instead of hitting the ground running, went splat, face first onto the grass and never rode a pony again.

Football was a great passion which he preferred as a spectator. If football was a passion, horseracing was beyond a passion. He loved racing so much and was also an extremely successful owner.

Uncle Ev, with Auntie Brenda, was a supporter of this church and he would happily mow the churchyard and then would retire to The Plough with the Reverend Malcolm Turtle, John and Neil Parker, Rocket Ron Powell, Charlie Biggs and Henry Hodges to name a few. What happy times!

In his eighties, he was still trying to help on the farm and enjoyed feeding & looking after a small number of stock near Hillacre and was useful for standing in the right place whilst animals were being moved. He loved nothing more than zipping around the fields in the buggy with Cliff.

Following the death of Brenda, Ev kept himself going by continuing to walk around the fields and lanes, enjoying chats with his neighbours and passers-by and visits from very good friends, who brightened his days.

Although he had developed a degree of the dreaded dementia he carried on in a positive way, much assisted by his loving family.

In summary, Ev was a farmer through and through. He was a traditional, uncomplicated man whose word was his bond. He loved this village - in fact I don't think he ever lived more than 2 miles from this church. He loved this community. He had the happiest of lives with his beloved Brenda and with his family who all stayed close at hand. He will be very much missed by us all and now, in this churchyard and next to Auntie Brenda, may he rest in peace.

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### **EV BUFTON**

Dad would have been very touched at the number of people who took the trouble to attend his funeral. Many thanks to Nigel Montandon, John Davies and Simon Hickmott for their help on the morning of the funeral and also to those who took down the marquee later in the week in our absence. Dad was very lucky to have spent his life within this community. Thank you.

**Sally, Bridget & Clifford**

## What to do when there's nothing to do , except—STAY AT HOME

Here we are in April 2020 in unprecedented times, apart from NHS and key workers, our responsibility is to stay at home and reduce the spread of infection. Some of us will be supporting children in their education at home too. Compared to what earlier generations have been asked to do in national crisis, to stay at home is a small sacrifice. Nonetheless, we all know that isolation with or without family can be a mental challenge, so what can we do to pass the time as we wait for the crisis to pass?

### Go High Brow

Arts and media organisations have been swift to come to the nation's aid with a plethora of choice in terms of theatre, music and the arts.

**The National Theatre** is streaming recordings of some of its best productions including *Jane Eyre*, *Twelfth Night* and *One Man Two Guvnors* via its YouTube channel where you can also have access to its education offering:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUDq1XzCY0NIOYVJvEMQjqw>

**The RSC** too is streaming one of its most highly acclaimed recent productions of *Twelfth Night* with Ade Edmonson as Malvolio on April 11th as well as the opportunity for a free 30 day access to Marquee TV **#AlmostLiveFromTheRSC**.

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/at-home-with-shakespeare>

If you're interested in art try the free access to over 2,600 paintings that are available on the **National Gallery** website <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/search-the-collection> . Zoom in for details of some of the greatest paintings in the world and find out about the artists who created them.

This year's **Hay Festival** of course is cancelled but fear not there's still the opportunity to tune into all manner of intellectual virtue signaling on their website or watch their podcast and weekly free film.

<http://www.hayfestival.com/home> .



### Fitness

With millions stuck at home the online and TV wellness industry is booming with offerings as wide ranging as Joe Wicks, The Green Goddess and even Mister Motivator has been resurrected with his alarming psychedelic range of lycra fitness wear. Take your pick the list is endless.

### Gardening

Local garden Stockton Bury Gardens has also joined forces with Orphans Press and produced the amusingly titled 'Fun in the Garden' a free downloadable guide to 30 days of fun activities for children.

[https://www.orphanspublishing.co.uk/30-days-of-fun-in-the-garden-this-april/?fbclid=IwAR33okksZEeIHCN5WKPN9pV5cTiPyiwqcFpy-ALC2Lc\\_ELVxZUvmFPxF9uM](https://www.orphanspublishing.co.uk/30-days-of-fun-in-the-garden-this-april/?fbclid=IwAR33okksZEeIHCN5WKPN9pV5cTiPyiwqcFpy-ALC2Lc_ELVxZUvmFPxF9uM)

### Bromyard Radio



The Coronavirus emergency has prompted local DJ Nicki Ivison and friends to establish a local Bromyard Radio Station **Bromyard FM**—follow this link to listen: -

[https://bromyardfm.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2IOW\\_N\\_QjqcfxsqgXNbhP36w\\_sJ3xOQ3cx72ZSxx6lmcEapJu-qlRyFxo](https://bromyardfm.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2IOW_N_QjqcfxsqgXNbhP36w_sJ3xOQ3cx72ZSxx6lmcEapJu-qlRyFxo)

### Other things to do

1. **Phone or facetime your neighbours, friends and family.**
2. **Support local businesses, WE NEED THEM, now and on the other side of lockdown.**
3. **Be grateful for the things we do have shelter, food, friends, community, the NHS.**
4. **STAY AT HOME. DO NOT MAKE UNNECESSARY JOURNEYS. IT IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.**

If you have a neighbour who might need your help or the help of Stoke Lacy 's Covid-19 volunteers please print off the form below and drop it into their letterbox.

## GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

These are very difficult times for everyone, especially the elderly and vulnerable. We all need to help and support each other, whilst keeping everyone safe and well.

My name is: .....

I live near you at: .....

I am very happy to talk to you and keep checking that you are OK.

If you would like me to do this, please either contact me by email, giving me your name address and telephone number:

.....

Or telephone me: .....

I will not be able to come into your home and will not ask to do so, but I am happy to keep in touch with you and offer any help that I am able to.

I will not ask you for money, unless I do any shopping for you.

I will also comply with all the guidelines regarding:

- Washing my hands for 20 seconds as often as possible and using hand sanitiser, when this is not possible.
- Isolating myself for 14 days if I get any symptoms or if anyone I live with has symptoms.

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