

THE BRADLING STONE

THE NORTON IN HALES MAGAZINE



Issue 14—May 2020

Life Under Lock-Down

No 'What's On?' this month for obvious reasons. Staying in has become the new going out, and this looks likely to persist for some while yet.

It's at times like this that you appreciate the value of being part of such a close community, with neighbours supporting each other in lots of ways. As many of you will know, the village is home to quite a large number of doctors, nurses and other essential workers, and I'm sure that our heart felt thanks and appreciation goes to them all. We should also remember all of the key workers who are supporting our village, including the refuse collectors, teachers, delivery drivers and, not least, Chris and the other posties.

A special thanks also goes to Donna and Steve from the Hinds Head, who are offering an invaluable service by providing fresh meat, vegetables and groceries through their on-line shop, which can be accessed via a Facebook page [Norton in Hales Village Shop](#) and a website—[nortoninhalesvillageshop.co.uk](#). People can order on either of these to collect from the pop-up shop on the pub car park between 11.00 and 13.00 on Wednesdays and Fridays. Buttercross have also launched an on-line shop at [buttercrossonline.co.uk](#), so people can order and pay with them and collect from Donna and Steve at the above times on Wednesdays and Fridays.

While the lock-down is presenting all of us with wide-ranging challenges, it's also giving many of us an opportunity to get around to things that we've been putting off. Personally, I've been in something of a bird box building frenzy, as those living in earshot of my chop-saw will attest to! Over the past couple of weeks, rather than burn several sacks of oak flooring off-cuts given to me by my friend Bazzor, I've made 10 bird boxes, two bird tables, one of which is so big that I'm confident that it will show up on the next Google maps image of the village, plus a single bug hotel. What have you been up to during the lock-down?

This month's cover photo was taken by Richard Jones, who stayed up way past his bedtime, two minutes past ten to be precise, to take an image that is unusual, iconic, and most of all, fabulous. Nice one, Rich.

Thank you to all those who have submitted articles and photos over the past month. I've not been able to fit all of them into this month's magazine, but I'll hold those I've not been able to use for future issues. Please keep sending your photos and articles to: editorbradlingstone@gmail.com and nature sightings and photos to IGGBradlingnature@outlook.com

Strange Days...a Poem by Nigel Passmore

Strange days, the world is upside down. Nothing's the same in your village, city or town
They're preparing us now for the long haul. Lockdowns and restrictions until the Fall

Strange days but humanity is good. When times get tough we knew it could
We're doing what we can for elderly neighbours. Those in need are grateful for our labours

Strange days when you go for your walk. Suddenly everyone wants to talk!

Safe distancing, there's only one thing to discuss. Makes a change from the weather but worth the fuss

Strange days when kids can't go to school. They're doing great at home as a general rule
Parents are challenged and forgiven their rants. Struggling for the best lessons and play balance

Strange days, every reason to be sad. When you see or hear the News, it's mainly bad
But at this time of great sadness. Let's all clap for the great workers of NHS!

Strange days but lucky if you can work from home. And find time to go out to roam
Just feel sorry for those living in the city. And who have to travel to work, more's the pity

Strange days but there's always hope. Mankind has a great ability to cope
Let's all express our love and care. To our fellow beings everywhere

Spring on the Farm with Mary and Roly



I am writing this on a mid-April evening looking out at a beautiful pink sun sinking slowly over the Peckforton Hills of Cheshire. The hedges are bright green with splashes of white blackthorn or damson blossom in the foreground but fade into a bluey grey hue into the distance as they criss-cross horizontally across the landscape. It's difficult to believe that we've come through a horrendously wet winter and early spring and we're now in lockdown and the unknown!

As a farmer, though, having to socially self-distance is relatively easy to adhere to, having a quite few acres to work in! The grass is growing exponentially now, having reached 'magic day', which was about 6th April. This means that the supply of grass in the fields equals grass consumed by our herd of cows. After this day, we hope to start saving some grass for preserving for the winter months into silage, which usually gets harvested around mid-May and hay which will be later in June.



On our farm, February and March is the calving season when many new-born calves enter the world – so everyone's been working flat out. April is a slightly more relaxed, mainly because the weather has improved so that all the animals can be kept outside. But there are still lots of cows and new heifers to milk and also lots of calves all being fed on milk, which is very time consuming. It never ceases to amaze me how beautiful and cute a young calf is, especially the ones that have some Jersey breed ancestry displaying a gorgeous brown



Bambi-like colour and eyelashes we girls would die for! Most of the breeds are dairy black and whites, good for producing plenty of milk, but we also follow a breeding programme using Jersey bulls as they improve the milk quality – lots of protein and sweet creamy milk.

Just to add to the "ethnic mix" we also have a quantity of white faced calves each year – these are dairy crossed with Hereford beef bulls. These grow into the traditional type chunkier animals and also do well grazed out on pasture. However, we are predominantly a dairy farm, so usually we sell these beef cross calves when they are about 3 or 6 months old to another farmer to rear them on.

I've often heard that farming is both a science and an art – you can follow all the best scientific theories out there, but also it's a way of life working long hours in all weathers with all sorts of problems. Without going into too much detail, there seems to be an awful lot of different ways to dairy farm – some of this due to the type of land and climate we have and sometimes more due to the economic climate, but I won't start on that – it can get far too depressing!!



Nature Notes

It was as if our 'weather' was waiting for the first day of spring before giving us some welcome dry weather and glorious sunshine after such a long bleak autumn and winter. Perhaps the vitamin D will now be restored? The hedgerows are greening, albeit slowly, the colder nights still dipping below zero and holding back the growth, despite which the blossoms (image) are out and brightening our days.



Cherry Blossom

CuriousRaven, 2020



Peacock

Curious Raven, 2020



Common Dog Violet

CuriousRaven, 2020

On 6th April the first cuckoo of the year for me, also a 'peacock' butterfly (image) on the wild grass probably fresh from hibernation in dark places. The house martins also came back on the 12th April, a joy to watch them dart and weave at such a tremendous pace.

The golden daffodils are also now giving way to yellow primroses, cowslips and lesser celandine along with the purple dog violet (image), blue forget-me-not, the first bluebells and the white campion (*Silene latifolia*) with deeply notched petals. All of these provide splashes of colour on the Norton-in-Hales circular walks, but we need to preserve and extend these habitats as there is continued pressure on our land for food and development. Many wildlife trusts are recognising the need to provide larger and more connected 'reserves' rather than isolated areas.

Walking along the field-side the short distinctive repetitive 'phweet phweet phweet' of a nuthatch flows from an oak tree, a beautiful little bird, similar size to a robin, with a clear black stripe running from the beak over the eye and onto the neck. Resident in England and Wales, it surprisingly holds a 'green' conservation status even though it is seen infrequently. In contrast, house sparrows, seen in apparent abundance in hedgerows, are surprisingly on the 'Red List' of endangered species, as is the tree sparrow. There can be several reasons for this status, notably significant decline historically (1800-1995), or at least 50% decline over the past 25 years.

Distinguishing them, the house sparrow has a grey head stripe within a brown cap, whereas the tree sparrow has a complete dark brown cap. You may also expect hedgerows to contain the 'hedge sparrow', better

known as the dunnock, but you will seldom see them as they are quite nervous birds and at 'amber' conservation status.



House Sparrow

CuriousRaven, 2020



Greater spotted woodpecker
Sue Mayer, 2020

Spring heralds the 'drumming' of the great spotted woodpecker heard regularly around Betton and reported by Chris G near Brand Hall. Sue M captured it on the birdfeeder, a very distinctive bird, and also a great shot of a cock pheasant. Other notable sightings from Chris (and also Richard J) include a Little Egret (a small, pure white member of the heron family) mooching around a temporary field "pond" in pasture to the south west of Norton, followed shortly afterwards by the (larger) Grey Heron, a Mistle Thrush singing from the top of a larch tree in the garden on 18 and 19 March and the first Chiff Chaff heard (and seen briefly) on 18 March.

Please report your images and sightings to:



The blue tit (blue cap, adult) and great tit (black cap and chest stripe) are constant visitors to most gardens, both residents in the UK and both also on the 'green' conservation status. The great tit has a distinctive song of around 6/7 short double notes which is then repeated after a short break, whereas the blue tit song is more complicated.



Birch Polymore

Curious Raven, 2020

On a different note I came across the Birch polymore fungus, *Fomitopsis betulina*, (image) which is a necrotrophic parasite, found almost solely on birch trees, slowly killing them and living on the dead tissue for many years. Also known by common names of the birch bracket fungus or the 'razor strop' because it can be used for razor sharpening, if you use a cut-throat razor that is!

On 14th April Sally and Nigel spotted the first swallows they have seen this Spring. They were flying around Bellaport Lodge Farm and were clearly nest building in one of the farm barns, which is quite early in the year for swallows around here. On a later walk, they saw two stoats running along the Adderley Road, just outside the village.

Jim B was excited to report that on one of his walks down by the River Tern he spotted an otter, which he was able to watch it for several minutes before it disappeared under the water. This was the first time that Jim has ever seen an otter in the wild and says that it was an absolute delight.

Richard J reports long tailed tits building nest in gorse bush near his house; hopefully it won't be raided by Jackdaws like it was last year. Also signs of nuthatch nesting in a tit box in his garden, another first for him. On 6 April Rich saw the last of the local Fieldfares "chack-chacking" away in a nearby field before heading back to Scandinavia for the summer and on 8 April - just after the last of the Fieldfares had left, a male Blackcap arrived in his garden after a long trip from the Med, or possibly north Africa. He started singing tentatively on 11 April, hoping to attract a mate.



Darcey E and dad, Matt, have enjoyed bird watching at Parton's pond on their daily walk during the lock down, seeing, notably, a Treecreeper, a Nuthatch, a Kingfisher, and what they think were two Grey Wagtails. They were also delighted to see a pair of Blue Tits already using a nest box only put up four days previously.

Jemma C managed to capture a lovely photo of a male orange tip butterfly resting among the daffodils at Parton's Pool



Walking in Norton

It seems that walking has never been so popular! Traffic on the lanes in the parish is so light that road walking has become really pleasant. There are also a number of walks described on the village website, www.nortoninhales.org. However, please keep to the rights of way and do not go on sections of the paths that go through private property. It is not fair on the people who live there as they cannot be constantly washing their hands! If walking your dog, please keep it under close control and clean up after it, even in open fields.

In The Fields With The Curious Raven

Finally, a long run of dry days and the spring planting began in earnest. Spring barley is very popular aimed at two main markets; locally it is more likely to be feed barley for livestock, whereas Scotland would be malting barley for the distilleries, the Scottish climate more suited to malting barley growth. A lot of land is being ploughed for maize although its planting is still a month away. Early nitrogen is being applied to crops such as oilseed rape, cereals and grassland, which head into their fastest growth period. Looking across the grass fields you will also see the striped patterns, which appear as light harrows are pulled through to remove the dead grass whilst heavy flat rollers are used to push stones back into the soil to prevent damage to the mower blades, level out the soil and create good root to soil contact. Commercial lettuce and early-potato planting began back in late February, fleeced to protect from the frost and as the weather remains dry the 2nd early potatoes are also now in the ground with GPS precision-planted rows being used to reduce the variation of tuber size. As the grass is growing and soil is drying the dairy cows are also now being allowed out to graze and enjoy the elements.

Norton in Hales Heart Defibrillator

The defibrillator is operated by a team of local volunteers who are called out by the West Midlands Ambulance Authority. The Authority has recently stated that it will NOT currently be calling out any volunteers as they have not yet been issued with upgraded personal protection equipment for use in a viral infection environment. A remedy to this situation is under review at the moment.

The defibrillator is a public resource and members of the public have always been able to use it in the event of a cardiac arrest. As far as we are aware this is still the case. **GIVEN THE RISK OF INFECTION WITH CORONA VIRUS BY UNPROTECTED CLOSE PERSONAL CONTACT, EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL HAVE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER TO GIVE HELP IN THE EVENT OF A CARDIAC ARREST.** Should you decide to use it you will need the following information.

The defibrillator cabinet is located on the front wall of The Hind's Head. You should dial [999](tel:999) and after being put through to the ambulance controller quote the number written on the front of the cabinet - **2345** - and request the cabinet door unlock code. Unlock the cabinet, take the defibrillator to the casualty, open it up and follow the automatic audio instructions. The ambulance controller will also guide you through the process of using the defibrillator. The unit is designed so that you cannot give anyone a shock unless it is medically required, but using it appropriately could save a life. After use please return the defibrillator to the cabinet and follow the attached label instructions as the pads will require replacement.



**All Clear
Window Cleaner**
Windows, Gutters
Fascia & Soffits
Conservatories

David Smart
07840 279064 (answerphone)

Jubilee Hall, Norton in Hales

Available for hire @ £13 an hour

Please contact the following:

Sue Walton 01630 654734

Alan/Carolyn Dutton 01630 654844

MAXIMUM OF 80

View availability on:

<https://www.nortoninhales.org/calendar>

A well equipped kitchen with plenty of work surface. Crockery, cutlery, glasses – all available for hire. POA

**Graham WITHERS & Co
SOLICITORS**
**46 Cheshire Street,
Market Drayton, TF9 1PQ**

Telephone: +44 (0)1630 657 222
www.grahamwithers.co.uk



E-mail: Please use the "contact us" page via our website, then your enquiry or transaction will be placed with an appropriate person within the firm.

Specialising in

**CONVEYANCING, LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY'S, WILLS
& PROBATE**



Market Drayton Mowers Ltd
**5 Frogmore Road, Market Drayton,
Shropshire, TF9 3AX**
"We Have the Mow How!"



- ❖ Friendly reliable service with over 30 years experience
- ❖ Extensive range of machines and parts
- ❖ Excellent after sales service and support
- ❖ Covering, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and the UK

MONDAY TO FRIDAY: 8.30 A.M. - 5.30 P.M.

SATURDAY: 9.30 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Call us today: 01630 657 707

EMAIL: INFO@MARKETDRAYTONMOWERS.CO.UK

WEBSITE: MARKETDRAYTONMOWERS.CO.UK



- Same day fitting
- Book now, pay when fitted
 - Local tyre experts
 - Best brands available

Unit 4
Burnside Business Park
Market Drayton
Shropshire
TF9 3UX

Tel: 01630 698080

Web: www.marketdraytontyres.co.uk

In Your Garden - May

Now is peak planting time for vegetables in the garden and in the current circumstances it will be nice to grow a few in the back garden, even if they are planted in the flower beds! The traditional cottage gardens used to have vegetables and flowers growing together with no particular distinction between the two.

Flower beds were for 'posh' people! This probably helped to reduce the incidence of pests and diseases. Smaller vegetables like lettuce look quite at home amongst flowers, and salad crops can come to fruition and go over before the later perennials really get going. Runner beans growing up a wigwam in the flower garden look particularly attractive, and my favourite is one called painted lady which has red and white flowers. When runner beans were first introduced to this country they were actually introduced as decorative plants rather than for eating. It is possible to sow them directly in the ground now, but it can be better to grow them in pots before planting out as it lets them get established and helps keep the slugs and snails away from those very tender growing tips, which they so love. French beans are grown similarly and can be grown as the dwarf varieties or as climbing ones up sticks. They can be very productive.

Keep sowing lettuce seed to ensure a continuing supply of this salad crop. The 'cut and come again' varieties can be useful for those with not many in the household. It is safer not to plant out any tender vegetables like beans, courgettes or tomatoes until the end of the month when all chance of a frost has gone. The other alternative is to cover them with horticultural fleece, which I use quite extensively, as shown in the adjacent photo. It is useful to give plants a bit of protection and bring them

all a little bit earlier but also to ward off pests. It can be laid flat as the plants will lift it as they grow and it can be kept for use in subsequent years. Carrots are affected by the carrot root fly, which bore little holes in them but can be kept off by covering the row with fleece; brassica plants can be likewise protected from cabbage root fly, butterflies and the subsequent caterpillar damage. Fleece also protects peas and young brassicas from pigeon or pheasant damage. They love the young shoots! Always think ahead when growing vegetables; we must bear in mind that those like Brussels sprouts and sprouting broccoli crop many, many months after sowing. It is probably not good to sow any until the end of May, otherwise they do tend to get a bit leggy and tall before the winter sets in.

May is also a busy month in the flower garden, and of course bedding plants should be readily available for delivery, but even in the warmer climate that we seem to now experience, a late frost will wipe out tender bedding plants. It is not really safe to plant them out until the end of the month unless you give them a bit of protection on cold nights. Bedding plants are not necessarily particularly well hardened off before being offered for sale, and it's not a bad idea keep them for a few days in their trays after you get them in a sheltered warm spot by the house. Always give bedding plants a good watering before and after you put them in the ground or container. Plants with open flowers rather than double variety are better for insect life in general. Talking of insects, the honeybees have got off to a good start this year with the warm weather in early April bringing the developing colonies on well, but I have also seen and killed several queen wasps. If you are able, it is advantageous to do the same, as each of these individual wasps, which are twice the size of ones that you will see later in the year, will found their own large wasps nests.



In Your Garden - May

Honeybees will be likely to swarm anytime from now on, as it is their way of reproducing the colony. If you do see a swarm, and they perhaps have the appearance of a brown rugby ball hanging from a tree or in a bush, I am always pleased to know (656646) and current government advice is to deal with such beekeeping activities as normal, but maintaining social distancing. A swarm can be rehoused and turned into a productive hive. I am often called about 'swarms of bees' in birds' nest boxes. These are not honey bees at all, but Tree Bumble Bees. They are interesting because they have not been in this country for very long, and it is only about 10 years since I first saw them in this area. It is not normal for them to be aggressive if left alone, and they usually have gone just a week or so after first being noticed.

Back to gardening; allow daffodil foliage to die down completely rather than cutting it off. Then clumps can be lifted and split if required. Hedges are growing strongly now and if you want to trim them, remember that the law requires you to check for nesting birds first. Any plants that flower early usually gain by being pruned as soon as they have flowered. Aubrieta should be cut right down to the ground after flowering on walls and rockeries. It seems drastic but really does the plants good. Be bold when pruning and cutting back! When I started gardening I would gently trim all my plants and shrubs and then my mother would come along and really cut them back. How right I have found she was!

In Bloom

Under the current circumstances there is not quite so much to write about this month! The Bloom group has, however, held a virtual meeting using 'Zoom', which worked quite successfully. It was agreed that the aim should be to plant out and maintain the village displays as normal, but this will obviously be dictated by the rules applying at the time. The bedding plants have been ordered and people have agreed to look after various beds or barrels in the village during their hourly exercise periods this spring. They will be doing this as individuals for exercise, so, if you see them tending an area, by all means say 'hello' but please keep your distance. It would be a shame not to keep the village looking good during these challenging times as it does help to keep the spirits up!

The group planted lots of tulips, wallflowers and pansies at the end of last year which, at the time of writing, are just coming out and adding a brilliant splash of colour to the village. For those unable to see them this year, here is an example.



One thing that the Bloom group have done this month is to put up a bird feeder on the side of the bus shelter, so when you are walking through the centre of the village do have a look and see if anything is feeding on it. The birds have not been using feeders so much for the past few weeks whilst, I think, they have been brooding, but they will soon start feeding vigorously again. We are grateful to one of the younger members of the village, Kit, and his mum Jemma for keeping the feeder topped up.

It is pleasing to report that the Rotary club have made a donation of £50 to the group in recognition of a talk that Ann Holland gave to the Newcastle group and the efforts, which have gone into planting purple Crocus in the churchyard over the past few years.

The normal plant sale that the bloom group holds at the beginning of June will, of course, not take place this year but it is worth reminding people that local garden centres are delivering plants to the village.

Finally, here is a reminder of how to contact the Bloom Secretary, Amy Hammond; it is email amyyorke@btinternet.com and phone 07889 811492.

There Will Be No In Bloom Meetings Until Further Notice

A View From The Vicarage



"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." Familiar words? They are the opening lines from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. While this nineteenth century classic was telling a tale of two cities—London and Paris—in the time of the French Revolution, it was still a story focusing on the good and bad in our societies as a whole. Do you feel they are also applicable to our current times?

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, our world was radically changed seemingly overnight. One day we were all ticking along with our work, school, and life routines and then it all came to a screeching halt! Lockdown after lockdown in country after country. International travel ceased. Shops closed. The first instinct was self-survival, and panic buying set in for certain items. When the shortages became apparent, fear set in. Indeed, the best of times quickly became the worst of times.

We pride ourselves in what we know. Over the past century in particular, we have developed scientifically at a phenomenal rate. And so that “wisdom” gave us a false sense of security. When medicine struggled to cope and ready treatments/cures proved elusive, our belief in ourselves wavered. It became an epoch of incredulity—how could this happen? As the weeks in lockdown passed, the season of Light—where we were beforehand—morphed into the season of Darkness. Work and school had ground to a halt. People only ventured out for groceries and medicines. Gone were the shopping trips to the mall, fun in the playgrounds and parks, visiting and socializing with friends in each other’s homes, the pubs, and restaurants. It became a whole new world, a whole new way of life.

“How will I cope?” was asked by many. Added to the health fears were the financial pressures, relationship issues, and the strain of isolation itself. Lurking in the shadows of the pandemic is potentially a mental health crisis of far greater proportions. The good news is we have modern media we can tap into for release. The bad news is that same media can add to our darkness if we focus on the death tolls worldwide. We can help ourselves by using the media to seek out favourite movies, plays, music, television shows as a source of distraction. We can use the telephone, Skype, Zoom, and other internet communication tools to stay in touch and to share our lives virtually until we can do so again in person. Not perfect, but a help.

What helps me the most is my faith in Jesus. Isaiah 41:10 says, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” I know that God loves me. He proved it by sending his son Jesus to save me. As Jesus hung on the Cross, he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Even as he said it, Jesus knew in His heart that our heavenly Father was still there. He weeps when we are suffering. Jesus can empathize because He lived it too! So, when I feel alone, isolated from the world around me, and feeling fearful for the future, I remember my faith. I remember that God has never forsaken us. He has watched bad things happen countless times over the centuries, but He always works to bring good out of evil. His ultimate plan will be for the restoration of His marvellous Creation in the end times. Until then, we struggle on. We endure. We hold fast to our faith and trust that God remains in control—no matter how bad it might seem at the moment.

If you only see a season of darkness and a winter of discontent, hold on. God will restore His light. God will usher in a new season of hope—the hope we have in Jesus and the Resurrection. I invite you to read your Bible and delve into the wonderful stories which tell of God’s love. Let His love be your beacon of light and hope. Stay safe and we will be together again to celebrate His love.

Rev. Don Alcock

Telephone: 01630 647 911

Email: dga952@hotmail.com

**DRM
CARPENTRY & JOINERY**

Call Dean Mullinder

Mob: 07980 676 093

Office: 01630 655 496

Email: drmjoinery@hotmail.co.uk

Based in Norton-in-Hales

**Bespoke furniture
Bespoke windows and doors
Built-in and fitted furniture
Supply and fitted kitchens
Timber porches
Timber frame buildings
Over 15 years experience**

All produced in my joinery workshop

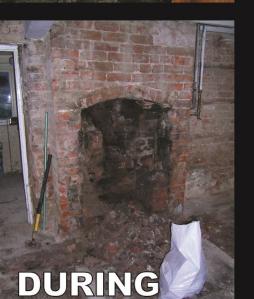


Jigsaw

**Property Renovations
and Stove Installations**



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

**Call Tony today on
07849 697 581**

E: tbarker100@icloud.com

**Call Now
for your
FREE
ESTIMATE**



We Need Your Help

The introduction of the new 'Bradlingstone' magazine for the parish of Norton in Hales last year has been well received. The production team are still learning and the content is likely to evolve with the passage of time. Contributions with relevance to the village are gratefully received. If you could write a short article, or perhaps even a set of quiz questions, please will you send to the editor, editorbradlingstone@gmail.com. It is, after all, intended to be for the people of Norton by the people of Norton.

The magazine does need to be self financing and the contribution from advertisers and social groups within the village does not quite cover the cost. The shortfall was made up last year by small donations from 'Patrons' and they were very gratefully received. Some have renewed the donation this year but further contributions of, say, £20 would be very valuable for the continuance of the publication. These can be made by bank transfer, with your name as a reference, to:

Account Name: **Norton News** Sort Code: **30-90-90** Account Number: **33218960**, or by cheque to Dick Walton, 14 Napley Drive, Norton in Hales, TF9 4QY

Garden S.O.S

If you want bedding, hanging basket or vegetable plants, compost etc. you might find the following useful.

One of our advertisers, Westholme Nurseries at Ireland's Cross, Woore, are taking orders over the telephone and will deliver to Norton. Payment is by credit or debit card at the time of ordering. They will be posting a list of the plants available on their website www.westholmenurseries.co.uk. If anyone would like to order but does not have access to the internet to see what is available, contact Barbara Rigby on 01630 654202 and she will print off a list and deliver it to you.

Where Did I Leave Those Nuts?



As a band of squirrels had become quite a problem, the Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a very creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

And not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

Share your interests or passions with: editorbradlingstone@gmail.com

Graham's Free Range Eggs

Cross Meadows
Bellaport Road

Open every day
8 a.m. until late

01630 653554



THE HINDS HEAD

VILLAGE PUB & RESTAURANT

Food Served Mon – Fri 12-2.15pm & 6-9.15pm

Sat & Sun 12-3.15pm & 6-9.15pm

01630 695555 thehindshead@aol.co.uk www.hinds-head.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits every time with a great choice of food to choose from in our traditional village pub and restaurant.

The fabulous restaurant area here at The Hinds Head serves not only high-quality food but also offers an exciting atmosphere. With locally sourced ingredients, freshly cooked by our head chefs, you are never stuck for choice. Whether you are stopping by for a quick lunch or a peaceful evening meal, you are guaranteed to receive outstanding food.

The Hinds Head also offers a wide choice of drinks and selection of traditional cask ales to suit your palate. We stock a variety of local ales and an excellent wine list from Addison Wines of Telford.

Tuesday Grill Night - 2 Meals and a Bottle of Wine £26!
Served 6-9.15pm - Booking recommended

Sunday Lunch - 4 Roasts Available - From £11, booking recommended

SHEPLEY & SON

Family Butchers



Our Latest Offers

Telephone - 01630 652735

Visit - www.shepleys.co.uk

English Pork Steaks

3 For £3.99

English Sirloin Steaks

2 For £8.99

Farm Fresh Chickens

2 For £6.99

Or come visit us in store - 61 Shrewsbury Road, Market Drayton TF9 3DN

Village Bells, Clock and Carillon Fund stands at £7,285

ARR

Est. 1980

A R Richards Ltd

Bensite, Warrant Road, Stoke Heath, Market Drayton TF9 2JJ

Sales Office: 01630 639888

Web: www.arrichards.co.uk Email: info@arrichards.co.uk



A family run business with an agricultural background established since 1980. Aiming to always provide a professional, friendly and reliable service. Supplying to Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and more.

- Agricultural Contracting
- Construction/Demolition Works
- Total Waste Management
- Skip Hire
- Euro Bin Hire
- Builders Merchants
- Sleeper Supply & Laying



Barrings

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Helping your business to grow & prosper

41 Cheshire Street
Market Drayton
TF9 1PH

Abbey Court
Newport
TF10 7BW

Contact us today to arrange a no-obligation free meeting
t. 0800 019 1744

www.barrings.co.uk

**COME & ENJOY
MARKET DRAYTON GOLF CLUB**
18 Challenging holes set in
picturesque Shropshire Countryside

**VISITORS WELCOME
RANGE OF MEMBERSHIPS**

**GREAT VALUE GREEN FEES
COMPETITIVE MEMBERSHIPS**

Tel: 01630 652266
www.marketdraytongolfclub.co.uk

**Full range of footcare,
Clinic appointments and
Home visit service available**

AJB Footcare Clinic
JILL BOOTH (MCFHP MAFHP)
Foot Health Professional

01630 656 792
62 Cheshire St, Market Drayton,
Shropshire, TF9 1PR

**SLIMMING WORLD
WITH JULES MARKET DRAYTON**

that Slimming World feeling!

**THURSDAY 5.30 & 7.30PM
@ THE BEACON**

**SATURDAY 9.30 AM
@ THE FESTIVAL CENTRE**

**slimmingworld.co.uk
0044 1773 546353**

slimmingworld.co.uk

PKR
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION SERVICES

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL ELECTRICIAN

Installation or Replacement of electrical components such
as Sockets & Light fittings
Fault Finding, Rewires, New Circuits
Fuse Board Upgrades, PAT Testing

NEC Approved Contractor

**Mobile: 07516 025389
Tel: 01952 820905**

Email: info@pkreis.co.uk Web: www.pkreis.co.uk

City & Guilds Qualified

M J Brassington & Son

Aggregate Suppliers & Haulage
Established 1973

Bedding Sand - Equestrian Sand
Gravel Topsoil – Limestone - Rail Ballast
YOU CALL – WE HAUL!
For competitive quotations call:
07860 353056

Also, see our boys for:
Sticks, small bags of soil, sand and grit

Free delivery on go-cart
and trailer in the village

Lawns mown

Call Joe on **07496 250854**

Ken Williams and Wol



Old cars; why would you want one? Noisy and by modern standards uncomfortable and probably unreliable. Mine's a Wolseley 1500, 1957, it lives in our garage goes out only when its dry because of the dreaded rust if it gets wet. Top speed 70 MPH, 0 to 60 in 23 seconds! Wow! But still better than my first car. It was 1962, I was 17 and the car was a well worn Austin A30 already 10 years old. Pre-war mechanicals meant you were lucky to get to 60 MPH and overtaking anything demanded real nerve. My sister wrote that one off in the snowdrifts of the 1962 winter. Its replacement was a Ford Anglia 105E, followed by a Morris Oxford and then a Wolseley 1500, not the one I have now. It was everyday transport from home in

Ellesmere to Shrewsbury where I worked. An almost non-existent bus service meant a car was pretty much a necessity. Me and my girlfriend went pretty much everywhere in that old car and a few months before we got married I hit a wall one cold and frosty January morning on the way to Bangor, North Wales where I was then working. We'd just bought a house so the coffers were pretty well empty. It was a 50 quid mini van to get us by - a truly awful vehicle.

Of necessity I had always been my own mechanic and quite enjoyed being so. But as cars came and went in our lives home maintenance became more difficult for the amateur. I missed doing it and with retirement and the advent of the classic car movement, I began to think of buying an oldie as a hobby. So along came a red sports car, the one I never had and couldn't afford years before, a Triumph TR4A. Powerful, quick, real eye candy but utterly unreliable; kept it a few years until another breakdown was the last straw. It had to go.

So it went back to the dealers. Quite by chance at the back of the dealer's garage was a Wolseley 1500 undergoing a bit of work. It wasn't what we had gone to look at but we had to have it. That was 15 years ago. It still has only 43000 miles on the clock, quite happy at 50 MPH which suits me at my age. Its pure nostalgia, the longest I've ever owned any car, and at, the annual rally of the Wolseley Register it was a cup winner in its class, the cup presented to us by Sir Charles Wolseley, president of the club and a relative of the founder of the car company bearing his name. The old car had another moment in the sun when it was a wedding car for one of our neighbour's daughter a year or two back. "Wol" as the old thing is called isn't exotic or anything very remarkable. Just an old 50's car held in great affection by us.

The Sprout—A Cautionary Tale.....

We had never tried on-line shopping before but, since Boris had said we had got to self-isolate and we are both over 70, it didn't seem a bad idea. Needless to say, when it came to trying to book a delivery date from any of the major supermarkets, there was no chance. Still, we persevered and three weeks ago we just timed it right as new slots were being released by one of the supermarkets, in fact, if we could order within the next 50 minutes, we would get a delivery the following day. This caught us totally by surprise and we had no shopping list prepared and so it was a case of "one of these, two of those" etc. When we came to sprouts we ordered one.

The following day our order was duly delivered and on unpacking, at the bottom of the bag, guess what we found – one sprout priced 03p. We had forgotten to tick a further box asking for the quantity we required.

Still, waste not want not, the sprout was duly cooked, served with a cream sauce, carved by the head of the household and savoured with a glass of chardonnay.

A memorable meal indeed! ANON

