

TIBBERTON & CHERRINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE



SUMMER 2020

Hello,

Here is the Summer issue of the Parish Mag which includes updates about the Village Shop and Neighbourhood Watch, a Bridge problem for you to solve, Wildlife Watcher's observations of the natural world around us, a Children's Book review, a couple of light-hearted articles and a list of useful contact numbers.

As life is becoming less restricted – my men certainly enjoyed their first proper pint (or two!) in the Suthy garden and I have a new stack of library books – hopefully the Parish Mag will be back to its normal booklet form in the Autumn.

TIBBERTON VILLAGE SHOP

The Shop reopened to a new way of face-to-face trading on Saturday 20th June; 12 weeks after going into “hibernation”. It is open **Weekdays 7:30-10:00am** and **Weekends 8:30-11:00am ONLY**. This is due to the limited number of volunteers who are able to work solo shifts just now with 2m social distancing measures in place; which also prevents new volunteers being trained.



Your feedback on the current hours, preferred afternoon opening hours and layout will help us plan changes to meet our customers' wishes and everyone's safety.

Closing was a difficult, but necessary, decision to take, with many of our Volunteers in at risk categories. We knew it was really important to maintain some level of service to the community. Daily newspaper make-up, a 6-days-a-week home delivery service and Saturday's Bloomers bread orders were prioritised. New payment methods were put in place to help our customers, requiring considerable effort behind the scenes by a small and dedicated team to reconcile sales against honesty box, BACS and cheque payments.

During closure a small group of superb volunteers worked hard to offer these vital services for two dozen customers and make a real difference to those most vulnerable in our community. Without their work lockdown would have been more difficult for many across our Parish. Sandra Talbot led the way as coordinator of the home delivery operation, doing Wednesday's deliveries herself.

“I always knew 33 years of working in IT would come in useful. We needed a centralised ordering system which could be seen by all volunteers making deliveries to customers, and by those volunteers ordering in milk, bread and eggs from our suppliers as well as our wholesale goods.”

Thanks to Sandra and the team no home deliveries were missed, and the Shop could ensure those most in need of help and support in our community had the essentials to keep battling on. Indeed, newspaper/magazine and bread orders all increased.

Many customers have since said how much they appreciated our deliveries, giving generous thanks to the volunteer team for all they did to keep delivery services going through lockdown. Not only are our customers happy to be back, we're happy to welcome them back. **We are meeting again.**

We have opened by taking small steps forward, so:-

- 2m social distancing measures outside
- An automatic hand-sanitiser dispenser fitted by the door
- A screen in place round the till and counter
- One customer in the Shop at a time, who stands within a marked-out area
- The volunteer collects, scans and bags the customer's goods
- Contactless payments preferred - Chip+PIN, cash and cheques accepted, with a smile!
- More daily cleaning, with more rigorous weekly cleaning being done by Wendy Bostock.

Yes, we are still doing a few home deliveries each week, but now only for those most at risk. Things will change as the COVID guidance for shops changes. We do want you to feel comfortable in the Shop whether as a customer, volunteer, or both, so **we need your feedback, your ideas and views**. Please:-

1. Tell the Volunteer on duty what you think; they'll make a note of it
2. Use the link: <https://www.tibbertonvillageshop.co.uk/contact-us> and go to **Improvement Ideas**
3. Pop your ideas on a note into the **Ideas Box** in the Shop. **THANK YOU!**

Grant Awards

This year's TVS grants from the surplus made in 2018-19 go to the following groups and individuals:-

- Tibberton Community Garden (by Mill Lane bus shelter) - so well-tended by Rita Butler
- Tibberton and Cherrington Hedgehog Conservation - a new venture by Gabriella Parkes
- Newport Cottage Care X-Ray Appeal - a more convenient service than hospital visits
- Telford Samaritans - for new headsets to take potentially lifesaving calls at a time of real need
- Child's Ercall Community Association - towards the purchase of a new fire door.

Tibberton Village Shop - The 2nd Decade

Just prior to lockdown starting, several Committee members were planning a '*Village Event like no other*' for the end of March. Its aim was '**to start planning how Tibberton Village Shop moves into its second decade with a larger, younger community, creating new bonds and maintaining established ones**'.

Over the coming weeks please look out for how you can help shape the future of our Shop

If you cannot wait, please tell us your ideas now via:

<https://www.tibbertonvillageshop.co.uk/contact-us>

or by popping a note into the Ideas Box

THANK YOU!

THE QUEUE

While waiting in a socially distanced queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.

The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

TIBBERTON & CHERRINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH JULY 2020 UPDATE

Do YOU know that YOU, YOUR FAMILY and YOUR PROPERTY are part of our Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Scheme if you live in our Parish? You don't? Please read on to find out more!



It's sad that we have to report that the night of 4th-5th July saw some unpleasant incidents to the west of Tibberton village where two high-end vehicles at neighbouring properties were deliberately targeted and maliciously vandalised, with their windscreens and other windows being smashed and damage done to body panels. A house window at one of the properties was also smashed deliberately and a large planter vandalised, with the ripped-out plants being thrown over the drive. In another incident, it's been reported a car was vandalised outside the Sutherland Arms, though whether this incident is linked to the others is unknown. The incidents have been reported to the Police who are investigating them.

PC Lee Thomas of the **Newport Safer Neighbourhood Team** reminds all parishioners to look out for each other, remain vigilant and to **report anything suspicious or out of place to the Police immediately**, calling **999** if an incident is happening, otherwise by calling **101**.

We Don't Buy Crime / SmartWater – Just 1 kit left to be registered. Please contact Nick Greenall quickly to make it yours!

WDBC / SmartWater Road Signs – Most of these and our new Neighbourhood Watch signs are now up around the village, with half a dozen to go up in the outlying areas of the Parish when new poles have been installed or existing poles cleared of vegetation. Some of the old Neighbourhood Watch (orange or white) roundels will be renewed when it's safe to do so.



The July **National Neighbourhood Watch Networks Newsletter** can be found here:
<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2020-07/July%20Our%20News.pdf>

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BRIDGE PROBLEM

Counting winning tricks at the start of play in a contract, especially a game contract, is a well-established and familiar routine. But in trump contracts this exercise is carried out in 3 stages –

- (1) How many tricks are needed in total?
- (2) How many certain tricks will come from suits outside trumps?
- (3) Therefore, how many tricks must the trump suit produce?

In this County match South was familiar with the process and up to the task.

		<u>NORTH</u>			
	Spades	K J 10			
	Hearts	5			
	Diamonds	10 8 5 2			
	Clubs	K 8 6 3 2			
					
<u>WEST</u>				<u>EAST</u>	
Spades	6 5			Spades	8 3
Hearts	K J 10 7 6 3			Hearts	Q 9
Diamonds	K J			Diamonds	Q 9 6 4
Clubs	Q J 9			Clubs	A 10 7 5 4
		<u>SOUTH</u>			
	Spades	A Q 9 7 4 2			
	Hearts	A 8 4 2			
	Diamonds	A 7 3			
	Clubs	-			

After some lively competitive bidding, South ends up in the promising contract of 4 Spades and West leads the Queen of Clubs to Dummy's King and East's Ace. Clearly, if South bashes out trumps and the 2 outside Aces, that will score 8 tricks – 2 short.

So how to make this contract?

Solution on the last page

FROM OUR WILDLIFE WATCHER - Whatever the weather

The warm and sunny weather, along with more time spent at home during this virus, has encouraged many of us to enjoy our gardens even more than usual. As a nation, we are renowned as garden-lovers and it can be relaxing to escape the cares of our lives, and indeed the world, and take to our own open outdoor spaces. It's even more enjoyable of course now that we can meet an increased number of friends and relatives in our own gardens.



Whether you potter, work or sit in your garden, the more 'features' you have in your garden, the more different habitats you are providing for wildlife and the greater variety of creatures you are likely to attract. You certainly don't have to have an enormous garden to do many things which will be attractive to wildlife. For example, simply putting a plant pot with a few native flower species on a patio or outside your door provides an energy source for butterflies, giving them the nectar fuel to move on and lay eggs, helping the species survive.

Having an area of long grass, a bramble or nettle patch, compost heap or undisturbed log pile are features which attract wildlife. Whilst many of us would love to attract more and varied wildlife, we can only attract what is in our area. If there are, for example, no slow worms in our locality, they are not magically going to travel a number of miles because we have willed them to! However, if there are any close by, providing them with places to live and breed will encourage them to expand the area they are found in as well as help them survive as a species.

A pond is an obvious attraction to all wildlife. National surveys show that pond owners see toads and/or frogs as well as attracting newts too. Water also attracts a variety of interesting insects, including dragonflies and pond skaters, and of course birds and animals will come to drink. There needs to be sloping sides to ponds, so that animals can drink without tumbling in, and ways of them climbing out, if they do fall in.

Hedgehogs are just one of the animals which will come to our gardens to drink and National Hedgehog Awareness Week last month acted as a reminder that here are other things we can all do to help hedgehogs. A small, approximately 13cm x 13cm/4-5-inch (CD disc-size) hole in or at the bottom of our garden fence or gate will enable hedgehogs to move from one garden to the next as they roam over a mile during the night in search of food.



June and July are the main months of the hedgehog breeding season, and after around four weeks gestation, pregnant 'hogs give birth to pink and blind baby hoglets, whose spines are formed, but are soft, pale and lie flat on their bodies. The spines and 'hogs themselves will grow and become small replicas of their parents so that, come July and August they'll join their mum on her nightly foraging trips, whilst still all returning to the nest to suckle and sleep during the day. Whilst the average size of the litters is 4 or 5, often only one or two survive into the autumn, and of those only one may survive their first winter. Life is dangerous for all young, even without the usual number of humans

Traffic fatalities occur at any time of year, and the hedgehogs' tactic of curling up into a spiny ball is no protection against car or lorry tyres. Garden netting poses another threat to them as they can easily become entangled, making things worse for themselves when they struggle to get free. Tidying away sports netting after play will help keep them safe from that danger, as will raising the netting around fruit and vegetables to at least 30cm off the ground.

Like everything else, hedgehogs need water to drink, and if you haven't got any other water source for them to drink from, a plant saucer of fresh water will serve very well: the larger the better. We've had successive generations of 'hogs come for nightly drinks from our plant pot saucer where we've been able to watch them during the evening, often getting our first sight of the year's youngsters. During the day birds will also use the water in the saucer to drink, as well as to bathe and watching a group of sparrows take their turn to bathe and splash water everywhere is a delightful distraction from everything else. Hopefully you too have had successful occupancy of any nest boxes you have sited on your house walls or in your garden. One of the boxes which make up our sparrow terrace is currently home to a brood of sparrows. It's endlessly fascinating to watch the comings and goings of the parent birds as they keep their hungry youngsters fed.

Whilst the hot weather has made us feel Summer has arrived, we know our weather doesn't usually stay hot for long and whilst we may have been asked to refrain from

watering our gardens too much, by the time you read this, we may already have experienced a deluge of rain.

Wet weather encourages slugs to show themselves and unless you are a slug aficionado, you'll be amazed by how many different kinds of slug there are!

The RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) are asking us to help them by going on a night-time Cellar Slug Hunt. The Yellow Cellar Slug was first recorded in the UK in 1884 whilst the Green Cellar Slug wasn't recorded until the 1970's, and since then sightings of the Yellow Cellar Slug have plummeted. These slugs are not considered pests, but useful creatures, as they do not eat live plants, only dead, decaying plant material. The RHS website gives details of how to take part in this survey, as well as providing a pictorial guide to them and the similar Leopard Slug.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/sluggsurvey>

If you'd prefer a daytime survey, don't forget Butterfly Conservation's identification guide to the most commonly seen butterflies and the ongoing 2020 Garden Butterfly Survey:

<https://gardenbutterflysurvey.org/>

Stay safe, stay well and enjoy your wildlife watching, whatever time of day and/or night it is.

Stop Press:

Keep an eye out for the Tibberton hare! This delightful creature is one seldom seen, not just because it is naturally cautious, but because hare numbers have seriously declined over the last 100 years, due to changes in the way land is farmed, being hunted by man and falling prey to foxes.

They have been seen around the area over the last couple of years, about this time of year, and one was seen recently in a field at the edge of Tibberton and you may see one too if you're lucky.

Less vehicular traffic and human activity due to the virus has been a boon for these mammals. The best places to look are open grassy or arable fields, particularly near woodland fringes or hedgerows, where hares can find shelter. You'll certainly know if you see a hare: they are very slightly larger than rabbits, browner in colour, have long, black tipped ears and they 'run' fast rather than 'hop' when moving. Hares have been recorded at speeds of 56km/h which is approximately 35 miles per hour.

If you see a group of hares – you've just seen a *drove* of them!



What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom. It was about the magnet, and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question:

"My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

OBSERVATIONS OF A TIBBERTON RESIDENT

I'm sure that everyone who has gone past the top of Mill Lane on the Main Road cannot help but have noticed how great it looks around the Bus-Shelter and by the bench on the opposite side. A very big thank you to Rita and her husband for not only keeping the flower beds abundant in colour but for also taking the time to look after all the street furniture. I'm fairly certain that we have one of the best-kept bus-shelters in the whole county!



Another big thank-you to all the dog owners who clean any mess that their prized pet may leave behind. I've noticed that despite the opening up of shops and the ability to travel further, there are still a lot of people walking around the village and on the footpaths out of the village. Please make sure that these are kept dog-mess free. Poo bags are available outside the shop.

It seems that finally a number of the pot-holes have been identified as I noticed they had been surrounded by white paint on my last walk. There is a really good page on Telford & Wrekin's website for reporting potholes:-

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20482/street_care_and_cleaning/454/potholes/2

On this site you can report the location of a pothole and they seem pretty quick in dealing with these.

And finally, now that the pot holes have been/are being repaired, please do watch your speed – you never know if there is a horse and rider or a cyclist around the next corner.

As much as the farmers and gardeners have welcomed the rain, hopefully it will stay dry long enough for people to continue to enjoy the bird song, the growing of the crops in the fields and the lovely views as they walk, ride or cycle around the area.

WHAT IS LURKING IN YOUR GARDEN?

Is there something alien in your garden which is beginning to worry you? Something that is growing too fast, spreading too fast, for you to keep up with? Gardeners across the country are being asked by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and the University of Coventry to find – and report – the next Japanese knotweed before it 'jumps the garden fence' and causes havoc.

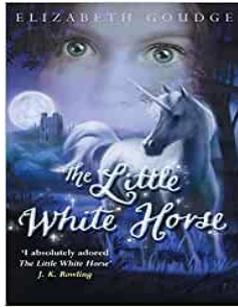
Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam both began innocently, as pretty ornamental garden plants. Then they escaped and have since marched across the UK like something out of War of the Worlds, causing immense damage to homes and waterways.



So now the question is: can you help a citizen science project to identify the *next* plant which could become a similar menace? The project is called Plant Alert. It offers you an easy way to report any ornamental plants in your garden that you suspect are becoming aggressive. Just go to: <https://bsbi.org/plant-alert>

Scientists say to look out for: vigorous growth, prolific self-seeding, longer flowering periods. Plants which are logged on the Plant Alert app will be studied by botanists, and potentially restricted from sale.

Kevin Walker, head of science at BSBI, says: "Bitter experience has shown that species that are invasive in gardens are also the ones that are likely to 'jump the fence' and cause problems in the wild."



The Little White Horse

by

Elizabeth Goudge
Lion Children's Book
Paperback

ISBN: 97880745945781

Ages: 8-12

Whilst we are making progress through this difficult time of lockdown, and now the gradual easing, it can be especially comforting to dive into a magical other-world of fantasy, where we can lose ourselves as we inhabit the world of the book's characters. This applies equally to children as well as adults who enjoy escaping the pressures of adulthood.

The Little White Horse is a fantasy novel first published in 1946 which has become a classic and still enjoys reprints with refreshed covers, including a new one for this year, as it reaches yet more readers.

It is set in 1842, five years after the start of Queen Victoria's reign, and readers have always described it as a magical book. It is rich in symbolism and mythology and it isn't just *The Independent* which describes it as "one of the most magical stories in the world", it also has endorsements by the likes of J.K. Rowling, who says she "*absolutely adored*" the book, which only adds to its allure.

Maria Merryweather is the feisty heroine of the story: thirteen years old with reddish hair, a pale, freckled face, silvery-grey eyes and generally described as 'plain'.

Miss Heliotrope is Maria's governess and guardian after the recent death of Maria's father. Maria's nearest living relative, her second cousin, is Sir Benjamin Merryweather and the story opens with the now orphan Maria and Miss Heliotrope's carriage journey to Moonacre Manor, Sir Benjamin's ancestral home in the village of Silverydew.

The cast of characters also includes a hare which Maria rescues from the hunters' trap and which she names Serena, Wiggins the dog and Wrolf who may or may not be a dog, Zachariah, the impressively large and imposing black cat and a diminutive cook by the name of Marmaduke Scarlet. There is also the mysterious and intriguing boy, Robin.

Maria feels at home straight away in her new surroundings, made welcome by every person and animal. However, there is a shadow hanging over the valley of Moonacre and a tragedy from the past. What happened amongst Maria's ancestors?

You'll be able to impress others with your increased vocabulary after encountering the occasional word you may not already have in your current lexicon, however out-dated you may consider them, such as reticule, syllabub and ablutions.

To learn more about the Moon Princess, the mysterious white horse and the ancient feud, as well as Maria's destiny and whether she can bring peace and happiness to Moonacre Valley – enjoy losing yourself in this book, whatever age you are.

About the author:

Elizabeth de Beauchamp Goudge was born on April 24th 1900 in Wells, Somerset, where her father was Principal of Wells Theological College.

*Although she had always wanted to earn her living by being an author, her parents insisted she taught handicrafts in Oxford. Hence she began writing in her spare time and her first novel *Island Magic*, set in Guernsey, was a great success in the UK and in America. Her 1944 *Green Dolphin Country* novel won her a Literary Guild Award and propelled her to fame along with £30,000 prize money and was subsequently made into a film by Louis B. Mayer of MGM.*

In her later years Elizabeth Goudge settled in Henley-on-Thames. She died on April 1st, 1984.

'Bookworm'

St. JAMES THE LEAST – On the perils of leaving the pulpit

The Rev Dr. Gary Bowness with another of his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace', a Rector of the old school, to his trendy Curate nephew.



My dear Nephew Darren,

When the churches reopen for public worship (whenever that is!) I hope you will come and take Evensong one Sunday. But, thinking of your visit last Summer, I would prefer you used the pulpit when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place, and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half-way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our verger was dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving Uncle Eustace

BRIDGE SOLUTION

The solution is both logical and simple.

(1) How many tricks are needed in total? Answer - 10

(2) How many certain tricks will come from outside suits?

Answer – 2 (the 2 Aces)

(3) Therefore, how many tricks must the trump suit produce? Answer - 8



The trump suit CAN produce at least 8 tricks, but only if some come from cross-ruffing. With this in mind, South ruffs the opening Club lead with the 2 of Spades, cashes the Ace of Hearts (voiding Dummy) and ruffs the 2 of Hearts with the 10 of trumps. Now comes the 3 of Clubs from Dummy ruffed in hand and the 4 of Hearts ruffed in Dummy with the Jack of trumps. Returning to hand via the Ace of Diamonds and the last Heart is ruffed in Dummy with the remaining trump (the King). Now it is time to draw trumps, so South ruffs another Club in hand with the 7 of Spades, leads out the Ace, Queen and 9 of trumps and merely concedes 2 losing Clubs.

Game made with an overtrick, proving that cross-ruffs can be great fun!

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

PARISH CHURCH

Rector	Revd Helen Morby	820217
Lay Minister	Libby Leech	07306 618031
Church Warden	Mr Peter Harman	550070
Secretary	Mrs Jo Smyth	550882

VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Emma Bishton	551103
Women's Institute (Secretary)	Mrs Margaret Cooper	550805
Keep Fit	Mrs M. Birks	810666
Bridge Club	Revd David Stokes-Harrison	551022
Art Classes	Mrs Ruth Belcher	550949

PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk	Mr David Cornes	07917 208102
Chair	Mr Jim Berry	550284
Vice-Chair	Mr Nick Eyles	550494
Councillors	Mr Stephen Burrell	551092
	Mrs Grace Crossley	550954
	Mrs Monica Fawcett	550235
	Mr Clive Hames	541210
	Mr Stuart Norton	07766 246394
	Mr Tim Smart	550807

TIBBERTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher	Miss Helen Osterfield	387790
Secretary	Miss Laura Mather	387790
Chair of PTA	Mrs Kelly Johnson	07813 936385
School Trust Secretary	Mrs Amanda Coomer	550660

OTHER PARISH INFORMATION

Neighbourhood Watch	Mr Nick Carter	550641
	Mr Nick Greenall	550021
West Mercia Police -	To report suspicious activity call	101
	For emergencies call	999
Tibberton Cricket Club	Mr Mike Jenkins	811426
Tibberton Netball Club	Mrs June Byrne	550461
Roman Catholic Priest	Father Anthony Wild	811299
Methodist Minister	Mrs Denice Morgan	210234

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