

# Footprints

Issue No. CCLXIV

August 2024.

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Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 6.00pm

## Cheese & Puds

at Westwinds, Little Green, Broadwas

A convivial evening with food and drinks,  
everyone welcome - £12.50 on the gate

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Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2.30pm

## Summer afternoon concert

at St. Leonard's Cotheridge

We are looking forward to welcoming The Goddard Ensemble to Cotheridge for their first performance in our area. The visiting wind quintet, based in Swindon, will be entertaining us with a selection of music for everyone from well known pieces such as Shostakovich Jazz Suite and Chanson de Matin, as well as a couple of items that might not be as familiar. For those of you who were at the Carol Service last year, you know you will be in for a treat as Ian, the ensemble's oboist and now resident of Cotheridge, delighted us with his playing.

Tickets **£10** with all profits going towards the upkeep of St. Leonard's.

Tickets will be available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) by searching The Goddard Ensemble.

For further details please contact Elizabeth Winscom (ewinscom@gmail.com).

## Monthly musings from Rev Anne (Team Rector)

Due to copy having to be submitted, ideally by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month, I am writing my monthly contribution on July 15<sup>th</sup> which is St Swithin's Day. According to folklore whatever the weather on day, whether rain or sunshine will continue for the next 40 days and 40 nights.

St Swithin's Day, if it does rain, Full forty days, it will remain  
St Swithin's Day, if it be fair, For forty days, t'will rain no more

The poem's weather forecast is a legend based on the story of St Swithin and so is not taken literally and according to statistical evidence this has not been the case since 1861 when records have been kept.

But who was St Swithin. He was born in the Kingdom of Wessex and educated in its capital, Winchester. Swithin was chaplain to Egbert, the King of Wessex and in 852, Egbert's son Ethelwulf, whom Swithin had educated, appointed Swithin as the Bishop of Winchester and is still the patron saint of Winchester Cathedral. He was particularly well known for his charitable giving and especially for building or restoring churches from his own purse. There is only one miracle attributed to Swithin when he was alive. Whilst building a church a workman smashed an old lady's eggs. Swithin picked the broken eggs up they miraculously became whole again. Swithin died on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 862.

Reflecting his own faith and humility, unlike many other prominent people, he did not want to be buried inside the Cathedral but outside "where the sweet rain of heaven may fall upon my grave". According to legend when his remains were moved inside to be placed in a shrine, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 971, there was a great storm and many days of rain followed. Swithin was a man of great faith, wisdom and humility which, along with his generosity, led to him being canonised a Saint. His emblems are raindrops and apples.

According to the poem the number of days of rain or sunshine following St Swithin's feast day is 40 days and nights which has strong biblical connections. Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness being tempted following his baptism which Christians throughout the world remember and reflect on during the 40 days and nights of Lent. There are also 40 days between Easter Day, when Jesus rose from the dead and Ascension Day when God the Son, in Jesus, leaves earth and ascends to heaven to join our creator God the Father.

Another Christian Festival around which traditionally the weather is forecast is Candlemas which falls on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the day on which Christians commemorate the presentation of the baby Jesus at the temple 40 days after his birth. Falling

halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox if Candlemas is a sunny day there will be 40 days of cold and snow. Again, not statistically proven this folklore is encapsulated in the following poem.

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight;  
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,  
Winter is gone, and will not come again.

And so, 40 days from July 15<sup>th</sup> takes us to August 23<sup>rd</sup> which is well into the school summer holidays and some three weeks after this edition will be in circulation. Hopefully by then we will have had some warm sunny days as this year's St Swithin's day was cloudy!

With every blessing.

*Rev Anne*

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## Cotheridge Fete - Report on 2024 Event

A big thank you to all of those who helped put on the Cotheridge Fete this year. Also thanks to all the visitors who came. The numbers were up and it was a tremendous village event. Thank you.

Thanks to Magda and Andy Cullen, Andrew Sinclair, Shirley and Ian, and Steve along with the usual team of Peter Walker, Andrew Winscom, Paul Reeve, Eric Dale, Robert and Mike and Pauline, without your dedication to the fete it would not happen. So again many many thanks.

Thanks too for the stall holders especially those who had to do the planning and organising of their stalls beforehand and to those who came and labelled, sorted etc beforehand too

More thanks to all those who helped with the tidying up afterwards. By the end of Saturday the only items left on site were tents, which were gone by Sunday morning, and the chairs (already stacked), games and small tables, which disappeared by Sunday lunch time!

What an effort! But it was so worth it as we raised around £2,500 +, less a few expenses.

Well done everyone.

*Pauline*

p.s. If we do it again next year, the date will be **Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>**

# Events Diary - August

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1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	12 - 2pm	Lunch in Company (LinC) - Martley Memorial Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	6.00pm	Cheese and Puds - Westwinds, Little Green, Broadwas
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.30am	Worship for All - Broadwas Church
	6.00pm	Evensong - Cotheridge Church
5 <sup>th</sup> Mon	11.00am	Royal British Legion meeting at Talbot Hotel
10 <sup>th</sup> Sat	all day	Broadwas Village Hall = see below
	2.30pm	Concert - Cotheridge Church : see front page
11 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion at Wichenford Church
	3.00pm	Evening Worship - Knightwick Chapel
14 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.15am	Holy Communion at Heaton House
17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	1.00 - 4.00pm	Martley Summer Fair & Plant Show
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion - Broadwas Church
		Café Church - St Peters, Martley
22 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	2.00 - 4pm	Cuppa & Chat at Cotheridge Church
25 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.30am	Morning Worship - Broadwas Church
28 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.15am	Holy Communion at Heaton House
31 <sup>st</sup> Sat	10.30 - 12	Charity Coffee Morning - Martley Memorial Hall

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## Broadwas Village Hall - Social Programme

August 10<sup>th</sup> **Family Fun Day** Saturday 10.30am to 3.00pm Coffee, Cake and Games  
3.30 - 11.00pm Pop up Pub

September 21st - Saturday 6.00 to 11.00pm Pop-Up-Pub with Alfie's Kitchen

October 25th - Halloween Party

November 25th - Broadwas Christmas Fayre & Santa's Grotto

December 13th - Christmas Disco

# Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council

Update July - August 2024

The Parish Council was pleased to see the recent completion of works to update and maintain the play and adult activity equipment at Berryfields. This means that past recommendations from inspections have been implemented and the equipment should continue to serve us well. Unfortunately, one piece of equipment was beyond economic repair and this will shortly be removed.

We are in continued discussions with our new contractors who cut the grass and maintain the grounds, as we have yet to get the exact formula for how the grass pitch is finished, not helped this year by a strong and prolonged growing season.

We are shortly formally writing via an open letter to County and District Councils as well as to the Police and Crime Commissioner as to their failure to come forward with proposals to address the longstanding concerns about safety and speeding on the A44 as it passes through the 2 villages.

We have started a review of our Neighbourhood Development Plan which reaches the 5 year point in September. Notwithstanding possible changes to planning arrangements as a result of the election, we are advised that the NDP continues to be an important part of the statutory processes. A small working group has been formed and if you are interested in taking part or knowing more please contact either the chair or the clerk.

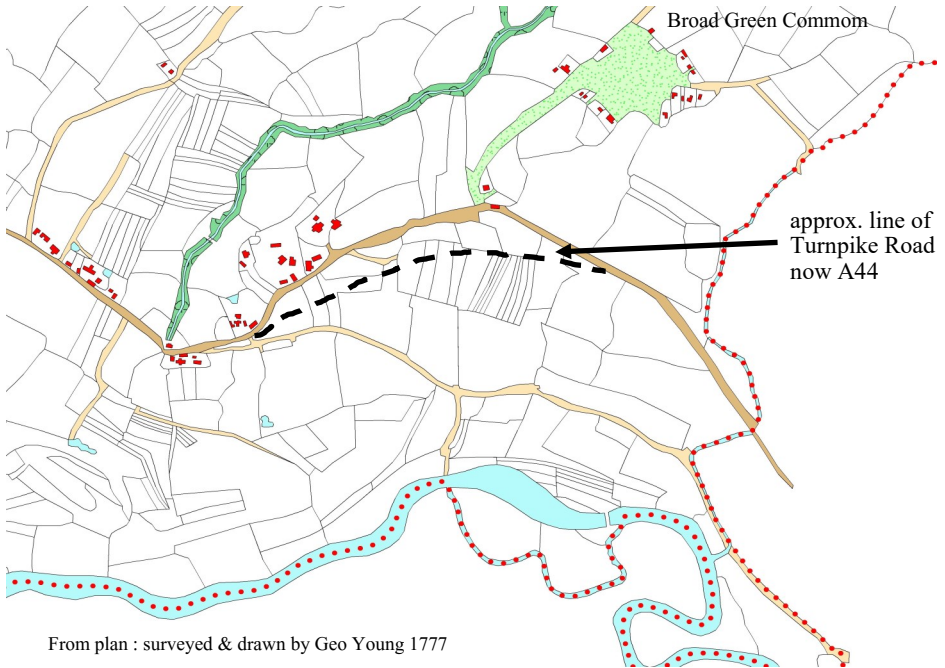
There are 4 vacancies for parish councillors (3 Broadwas and 1 Cotheridge ) and we would welcome any expressions of interest. We do need to fill the vacancies to lighten the load for current councillors and to bring in fresh perspectives. Again please contact either the clerk or the chair.

*Richard Burrows*

[ Chair Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council ]

# The story of our Roads

We have all asked the question “why”. Children do it all the time, sometimes testing their parents ability to give an answer, but I have always tried to, especially when it needs a bit a research. In fact, that is how I have filled a lot of my retirement time – The interest this week has been triggered by the road improvement



From plan : surveyed & drawn by Geo Young 1777

where the road from Little Green meets the A44 at the top of Weston Hill.

As you come off the A44 the road holds a good width till the field gate on the right just before the steeper pitch to the top where it suddenly cuts down to “narrow”. Why?

I think we have to go back quite a long way, in time and this will lead to a historical regression to picture the countryside as it once was. The last major reorganization/improvement of our road system – in these parishes was the imposition of Turnpikes in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Before that, the responsibility for road

maintenance fell on each parish – the more roads you had the more it cost to keep them in good and usable order. Following wet winters, particularly a series of them, this could slip and then Court Orders and Fines were issued by the Quarter Session, though often without any positive response from the affected parishes as these were often repeated year after year. Just imagine if this were to happen nowadays with everyone having to turn out every spring to repair the parish roads – it might beat waiting for the County Council to mend the pot-holes !

Before the “A44” was turnpiked the quickest way out of Broadwas towards Cotheridge and on to Worcester was a narrow lane across the bottom meadows. The track is still there as a footpath, though lack of use has left it very overgrown and as a consequence even less used. There was a report in the paper in the 1760’s of a horse getting stuck with the mud up to its belly between Cotheridge and Broadwas. Even if you successfully negotiated this mire there was still a very steep pull up to appear on the Cotheridge road at the Hilltop corner. The alternative was up Butts Bank to the very top, then down to the bottom of the Snedd and then up again onto the level ground of Cotheridge. All of which was fairly narrow and not much more than a cart’s width, as now! Not the best of through county roads ?

When the Turnpike surveyors and engineers came through, and it must have been done to a large extent by outside contractors, I believe they started widening the road from the Cotheridge side and were intent on following the existing road up to Little Green before dropping down to the Village. However, I think they suddenly realized the problem of widening between the houses and the “edge” down Butts Bank, so opted for a “new road” diagonally across the bank to by-pass the problem and so Weston Hill became the road. But as they had started moving the hedge, they left it there – hence the dog-leg on the righthand side as you come up that bank.

When I look at these early maps, I see plenty more to enquire about. Next time I have space !

# Village Information

## **Church Officials:**

Team Rector - Rev Anne Potter 01886 832355  
Team Vicar - vacant  
Assistant Priest - Rev Jennifer Whittaker 01886 833897  
Churchwardens – Lower Teme Valley Parish  
Rob Pearce 01886 821959  
Peter Walker 01886 822137

## **Parish Councils**

Broadwas & Cotheridge : [www.broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk)  
Chairman – Richard Burrows  
Clerk – Email : [clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk)  
Knightwick & Doddenham  
Clerk – Richard Timney 07515881231  
Email : [richardtimney@yahoo.com](mailto:richardtimney@yahoo.com)

**Village Hall - Broadwas** Georgina Tabberer, Chair,

Email : [Broadwasvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:Broadwasvillagehall@outlook.com)

## **Clubs and Societies**

Broadwas Sports Assoc. Sec. - David Creed-Newton - 01886 880534  
[davidcreednewton@btinternet.com](mailto:davidcreednewton@btinternet.com)  
Croquet Club – John Guy 01905 748192  
Royal British Legion – Sue Ganderton 01905 422711

## **Schools:**

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

**Community Website - [www.broadwas-cotheridge.com](http://www.broadwas-cotheridge.com)**

## **Footprints Production Team**

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