



The Hills Echo

Magazine
for the
village of
West Malvern

May 2024

F.W.SPILSBURY

David T Spilsbury Georgia A Spilsbury
 Malvern's longest established Independent Funeral Directors
 Private Chapel of Rest 24 hour service

Tel: 01684 892777 12 Upper Howsell Road, Malvern, WR14 1TL

www.fwspilsbury.co.uk

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY SERVICE

The Willows Newsagents, 17 Ebrington Road,
 West Malvern WR14 4NL

Email: willowsnewsagents@gmail.com

MALVERN HILLS BEAUTY

Tailor-made to suit your skin type and including a relaxing face, neck & shoulder massage and mask. Nail extensions and a full set of gel or acrylic nails available. Disabled access available. Phone the salon on 078541 71540 or email info@malvernhillbeauty.co.uk or book on-line: www.malvernhillbeauty.co.uk

MALVERN BOOK COOPERATIVE

2 St Anne's Road (opposite the Unicorn Pub), Malvern, WR14 4RG

Community-owned bookshop stocking a wonderful range of new books. Fast ordering service. Events, book-launches & signings; guidance & advice; tea, coffee & cake while you browse.

01684 564788 enquiries@malvernbook.coop

M. LEACH JEWELLERS EST. 1984

Guaranteed Watch, Clock, Jewellery repairs and Engraving.
 Large range of Clocks, Watches, Jewellery, Giftware and Trophies.
 Local club and school discounts available.

98 Worcester Rd, Link Top, Malvern.
 Tel: Malvern 573673 : email: leachjewellers@gmail.com.

Welcome to the May edition of the Hills Echo. At last we have some more Spring-like weather in West Malvern – with the trees now rapidly starting to ‘leaf up’ and the saturated ground at last gradually drying out.

Feedback that we have received on our relaunch edition last month seems to have been wholly positive – with lots of expressions of pleasure that the village magazine is back in hard-copy format and being delivered to every household once again after the two-year break initiated by Covid. If you live within the village but didn’t receive a copy in April/May, but have learned that we are back in print and with copies being delivered to every door once again, please do let us know (by telephoning 01684 565052). We do have a few spare April editions and, once we hear from you, we will check our delivery round arrangements to ensure inclusion in future monthly circulations. We are planning to produce monthly issues except in January and August of each year.

And here it is important to say a big ‘thank you’ to all of our deliverers. Inevitably, we lost a few of those who previously delivered the magazine before Covid. But we are extremely grateful for those who have willingly taken up the task once again, and also to those who have now joined in recently. Much of West Malvern, of course, provides quite a challenge for door-to-door delivering, given the many steps and slopes to be negotiated, and to say nothing of the (more than occasional) awkward letter boxes! So it would be good to have a few more volunteers offering to deliver – thus lessening the workload for everyone who kindly volunteers to be involved.

Within the magazine, we also have some spare space available for a few more adverts (this being important to the financial viability of the magazine). Further offers to advertise (or ideas as to who else we might perhaps approach) will be very welcome. Our advertising rates are very good value (just £30 for ten monthly single-strip listings in the year, or £5 for a similar sized one-off advert).

Then of course, we want to encourage as many contributions to the magazine as possible for villagers and others associated with our west-facing community; perhaps especially featuring aspects of the village – whether its history, its architecture, nature & biodiversity, personal recollections/reflections on living here, or whatever! We can’t promise to print all that we receive, but the value of the magazine does depend greatly on individually authored contributions quite as much as on the provision of public notices and adverts to fill our twenty-four pages of each edition.

Finally, don’t forget to visit and enjoy the Well-Dressing Festival, and the great work undertaken at each of the springs, spouts and taps (including several here in West Malvern) around our wonderful town. And let’s hope for more lovely Spring weather throughout the month!

With very best wishes from the Hills Echo Editorial Group:

Chantal Baxter, Jen Close, John Raine, Shameem Sanoon.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL - Community Policing

At the monthly Parish Council Meetings we receive a range of updates. The minutes are available online and on the notice boards in the village (on the Brewers Arms wall and the board at the West Malvern tap.)

As an insight into the issues discussed here is a brief update on the matters raised with and reported back on by the Community Police team that covers West Malvern as part of its patch.

Due to an ongoing staff shortage there remain only two officers. (From a complement of five that should make up the team)

Issues:

Playing Fields and antisocial behaviour- there have been visits by the officer and no anti-social behaviour noted.

Speeding vehicles- unfortunately due to the nature of West Malvern and particularly West Malvern Road a speed-monitoring vehicle cannot operate effectively. Other measures are to be investigated.

Parking on West Malvern Road, immediately outside the school - the Policing team has made visits to this area, but at the time did not observe any inappropriate parking.

We were asked to pass on that when you wish to alert the police to live incidents these should be made via 999 so the control room can prioritise these for rapid action. Other (past events etc.) is more appropriate to the less urgent 101 number.

If you see it report it.

Parish Council Members:

David Sharp (Clerk)	mrdasharp@btinternet.com
Cllr Andy Turner (Chair)	aturner@westmalvernparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Chantal Baxter	cbaxter@westmalvernparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Jennifer Burford	jburford@westmalvernparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Glen Harnden	gharden@westmalvernparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Shameem Sanoon	ssanoon@westmalvernparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr C Rouse	Please contact via the Parish Clerk

ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

The final couple of weeks before the Easter break were particularly busy for Class 3 who, along with their usual lessons, had Bikeability and Heartstart training. Parents were also invited to a session (run by volunteers from Heartstart Malvern) and shortly after the training, one attendee had cause to administer CPR to a member of the public. This puts into perspective how important it is to learn these lifesaving skills. The term ended with a wonderful walk up on the hills with the whole school family.

This half term we look forward to the Well Dressing. Please look out for West Malvern Tap, which will be decorated by the children. Nature Club started after school this week along with painting miniatures (War Hammer style!), letter writing and tennis club. There will be a PTA plant sale on the 24th of May, kindly hosted by the Sugar Loaf Cafe, and all are welcome to come along.

Wrap around childcare is available until 5:15 pm, Mondays to Wednesdays. For any further information, or general enquiries, please ring the school office on 01684 561207.

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS

District Councillors:

Cllr John Raine John.Raine@malvernhillsc.org.uk

Cllr Natalie Mcvey Natalie.McVey@malvernhillsc.org.uk

County Councillor:

Cllr Natalie McVey NMcVey2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Malvern Hills Trust Switchboard: 01684 892002;

Local Trustees: Charles Penn & John Raine

Malvern Hills District Council (Switchboard) 01684 862151

Worcestershire County Council (Switchboard) 01905 763763

Vicar Rev. Rebecca Elliott, Tel: 01684 573559

FROM THE VICARAGE

A question I am sometimes asked came up again recently. How are Science and Faith compatible? Doesn't Science prove that there isn't a God? The person asking was most surprised when I told them that I had been a Biology Teacher in my pre-ordained life.



For some, it seems like fitting the square peg in the round hole but for me, Science and the amazing way the world works, point to Creator God who made everything. From the simple, yet profoundly brilliant way DNA replicates to maintain life in all its diversity, to the cycles that keep carbon, water and the earth's resources in balance, to the vastness of planets, stars, galaxies, the universe and everything in it, it is too clever to have come into being by chance.

Decades ago, in the naivety of my youth, I thought I'd be able to save the rainforests; that's why I went to study Ecology at University. Sadly, I've not achieved that but in my teaching, and lifestyle I've tried, not always successfully, to live so that my impact on the world is a good one. 'Tread softly, All the earth is Holy Ground' said Christina Rossetti, but that's easier said than done. So often there are quicker, cheaper, more convenient ways of achieving the things we need or desire than choosing the way that it's best for creation.

Looking after the environment requires the efforts of us individually, but also collective effort. The Church of England has the ambitious aim of being 'Carbon neutral' in 2030. That's only six years away. We have a long way to go. It might be easy to become despondent, the challenge is significant, but I am heartened by the work of our Benefice Eco Group. Both Holy Trinity and St James' have their bronze Eco Award and are working towards the next level. It's not about ticking boxes, it's about making changes, one step at a time that adapt the way we do things for the good of the planet. In both churches we are exploring ways that we can heat our old, cold buildings more efficiently and trying to purchase products that are environmentally friendly.



An exciting project that we are about to embark on is to develop the Community Orchard at St James' Church. We plan to make it more easily accessible, with greater biodiversity so that it is a space

where people can relax, step away from the business of life and connect with both nature and God.

Science and the world around us point to God the Creator. He's generous with his creation; he invites us to enjoy it, to meet with him in it, to join in with him in creating in it and to protecting it.

If you would like to be involved in our Eco Church Group or are able to help in our Orchard Project, please speak to either me, John Raine or Sue Matthews (St James) or Cathy Miller (Holy Trinity). We would love to welcome you.

Rev Becky



Notice of Event

St James Church – 25th May

Coffee Morning with Table Top Sale & Plant

Stall

Open to All

10.00am – 12.00 noon

(Proceeds to the Friends of St James's Church, West Malvern)

Contact Richard Hammond for more details: 07746558541

CONSERVATION AT ELIM INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

EIC is the headquarters of the Elim Pentecostal Movement in the United Kingdom, which oversees just over 550 Churches in the UK as well as providing charity work and support overseas. EIC owns and manages an estate of 15 hectares on the edge of West Malvern in the Malvern Hills National Landscape (malvern hills-nl.org.uk) The estate is best known for the impressive buildings and formal grounds of specimen trees, water features and follies which were established by Lady Howard de Walden at the end of the 19th century, but it is also custodian over areas of grassland and woodland.

Elim takes its stewardship of this nationally important land seriously. Working with the Malvern Hills National Landscape team and local volunteers it has strived to manage and improve its land for nature and people in the 16 years since it has owned the estate. This work was previously led by Estates Manager Phil Hilderley who recently retired after 48 years of service with Elim. It continues under Rob Smyth, the new Estates Manager who has worked closely with Phil and is following his vision for the grounds.

The following is a brief summary.

Formal grounds

The formal gardens were once managed by 70 gardeners, today just one full time member of staff oversees the estate. Key features of management include:

- Surveying the stock of mature and veteran trees and prolonging their life where possible.
- Removing dead and diseased trees and replacing these with new ones – 100+ trees have been planted in the last 16 years.
- Hedge cutting to maintain their health and suitability for wildlife (i.e. nesting birds).
- Restoration of old ponds and pathways that had become overgrown and hidden.

Grasslands

The main area of grassland (1.5 ha) was once used as hockey fields when the land belonged to a private school. Despite some intensive mowing over some years around the turn of the millennium, the flora of these old hockey pitches retains many of the characteristics of the flower-rich grasslands that have been largely lost from lowland Britain due to agricultural intensification. Botanical surveys show this area to host a diverse community of over 40 wildflowers and grasses which provide valuable habitat for many insects including bees, butterflies and the 6 spot burnet moth.

Such grasslands need targeted management to maintain their value for nature and Elim does this in partnership with a local farmer. Key features of this management are:

- Allowing the flowers and grasses to grow during the spring and summer.
- Cutting the long grass for hay in late summer – which is then fed to livestock.
- Providing 'aftermath' grazing by sheep in the autumn/winter so that competitive grass growth does not outcompete wildflowers and grasses the following spring

Elim also creatively manages other areas of grassland to benefit nature, for example, by allowing wildflowers and grasses above and around the edge of a small football pitch to grow in summer.

Woodland

Slatch Coppice is around 4 ha of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland at the far end of the estate. It contains some indicators of old woodland such as dog's mercury, wood barley, wild daffodils, bluebells and Wild Service trees. Like so many small woodlands it has suffered from neglect over a long period of time. In 2019 the Forestry Commission approved a Management Plan for the wood and since then Elim has been working to bring it back to good, ecological condition. Key tasks have included:

- Removing invasive bamboo which was smothering other vegetation around a water course.
- Creating glades and thinning out trees to allow more light to the woodland floor to assist wildflower growth.
- Removing non-native poplar trees to allow space for other trees to establish and grow.

Community use

There are two public footpaths through part of the grounds but Elim does allow some informal community use. It supports St James' C of E primary school by allowing forest school activities in the woods and cross-country training around the grounds. In recent years it has also hosted the annual school sports day.

The Future

Going forward the main goals for the estate include:

- Continuing to open up areas and features that were neglected over the years previous to Elim's arrival, including sites swamped by invasive trees/shrubs that inhibit native flora and fauna.
- Exploring options to plant new hedgerows and other features that make it easier for wildlife to move through and across the estate.
- Restoring the ponds and water features to help recreate the character of the historic, designed landscape and to benefit local wildlife, especially invertebrates and amphibians.
- Building on local partnerships to help deliver informed and beneficial management across the site.

WEST MALVERN GARDEN AND NATURE CLUB

Johnny Birks was our speaker at the March AGM club meeting. His knowledge and passion for the survival of the Pine Marten was the subject of his engaging and entertaining talk. 'Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire?'

We learnt that Pine Martens, members of the weasel family, had their heyday in Britain in the Mesolithic when tree cover was at its maximum. The arrival of people, clearing the woodland for agriculture, killing them for fur, and treating them as vermin led to being almost extinct in the 20th century. There were few places where Pine Martens could live, an area in Scotland and in Ireland, and a small group were found in Wales. The lack of forest 'corridors' hamper the spread. Pine Martens are being reintroduced, using the Scottish population to Wales, unfortunately, England only has 10% of its forest left but the recent reintroduction of Pine Martens to the Forest of Dean gave Johnny hope. 200 years ago, there were Pine Martens in the Malvern area so who knows if they will spread here?

The reintroduction of Pine Martens has had an effect on the grey squirrel population. As an invasive species there have been many unsuccessful attempts to control grey squirrels; it was found that they have no natural defense against Pine Martens, unlike native red squirrels who know it's a predator. When the grey squirrels move out red squirrels may replace them.

We saw some wonderful photos and a video of the Pine Marten, an animal the size of a cat.

Pine Martens are scansorial which means they use the 3D environment associated by mature woodland or rocky outcrops. Conservationists have introduced special breeding boxes to young woodland trees (mature trees, which can support the Pine Marten's den are less available), which have been successful.

To learn more, visit the Vincent Wildlife Trust or buy Johnny's amazing book 'Pine Martins'.



Open Garden at:
NIMROD – 35 Alexandra Road, Malvern
Sunday 5th and Monday 6th May

THE ROYAL MAUNDY MONEY FOR REV. ROSEMARY HERBERT

On Maundy Thursday, a special service was held in Worcester Cathedral for the distribution of the Royal Maundy Money. It was a wonderful occasion, with Yeomanry guards parading and the Chapel Royal Choir joining the Cathedral Choir for some beautiful music.

Queen Camilla, on behalf of the King, presented 75 men and 75 women, including 40 from the Worcestershire and Dudley churches, with Royal Maundy Money in recognition of their service to others in their communities. In a recorded message, King Charles described them as a wonderful example of kindness, of going way beyond the call of duty.

One very deserving recipient of the money was St James' own, Rev Rosemary Herbert. Rosemary has been a deacon at St James' for over thirty years, during which time she has taken services in church, visited those in need and been involved in community events. From all at St James, Congratulations Rosemary!



MAY/ JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 nd	Election Day – Election of Police and Crime Commissioner Village Hall	7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
3 rd	Well Dressing Day Toddler Group – Village Hall Thanksgiving Blessing – St James Churchyard Well by Eileen Tomlinson Jazz Jam – Social Club Quiz Village Hall Bingo – West Malvern Club, Lower Road	10a.m to 12noon 6.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 8 p.m. 7 p.m. for 8 p.m.
4 th	Well Dressing Judging – All Day	
5 th	Morning Worship St James Church West Malvern CC 2 nd XI vs Old Elizabethans 4 th XI Compline – St James Church	10.30 a.m. 12.30 p.m 6 p.m.
8 th	Blessing at Hayslad by Druids	6.30 p.m.
9 th	West Malvern CC Friendly XI vs Cross Keys W.I. Talk – Blood Bikes, Elim Conference Centre	6. p.m. 7.30 p.m.
10 th	Toddler Group – Village Hall Vital Spark Concert St James Church West Side Disco – Social Club Bingo – West Malvern Club, Lower Road	10a.m. to 12 noon 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 7p.m. for 8 p.m.
11 th	1 st XI vs Worcester Nomads 2 nd XI Willie Mason – Social Club	12.30 p.m. 8 p.m.
12 th	Holy Communion – St James Church Blessing at Hayslad by Rainbow Guardians West Malvern CC Village Knockout Cup XI vs Brockhampton	10.30 a.m 11 a.m. T.B.C
13 th	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
14 th	West Malvern Garden and Nature Club – Hereford Suite, Elim Conference Centre	7.30 p.m.
15 th	Final Date for Copy for June Edition of Hills Echo	By 12 noon
17 th	Toddler Group Village Hall Wyche Craft group – Brewers Arms Charity Quiz – Social Club Bingo – West Malvern Club, Lower Road,	10a.m. to 12 noon 12 noon to 2 p.m. 7.30 p.m 7 p.m. for 8 p.m.
18 th	West Malvern CC 2 nd XI vs Hallow Taverners 1 st XI	12.30 p.m.
19 th	Morning Worship – St James Church Compline	10.30 a.m. 6 p.m.
21 st	West Malvern CC Ladies 1 st vs Colwall	7 p.m.

24 th	Toddler Group – Village Hall Bingo West Malvern Club, Lower Road Sarah McQuaid – West Malvern Social Club	10a.m to 12 noon 7 p.m. for 8 p.m. 8 p.m.
25 th	Coffee Morning with Table Top Sale – St James Church West Malvern CC 1 st XI vs Stourbridge 2 nd XI	10a.m. to 12 noon 12.30 p.m.
26 th	Holy Communion – St James Church Creative Church – aimed at children under 10 years and their families. Holy Trinity Church, Link Top	10.30 a.m. 3 p.m.
31 st	Film Night - The Visitor – Social Club Bingo – West Malvern Club, Lower Road	7.30 p.m. 7 p.m. for 8 p.m.
1 st	Social Club – Pictish Trail	8 p.m.
8 th	Social Club - Ranagri	8 p.m.

Concert by Vital Spark West Gallery Quire

Vital Spark West Gallery Quire performs the lively music heard in rural churches in the late 18th and early 19th century

Friday 10th May – 7.30pm

St James' Church,
West Malvern Road, West Malvern, WR14 4BD

Tickets £10 including a glass of wine.
Tickets available on the door or online by
scanning the QR code



[f](#) @StJamesWestMalvern

[f](#) @VitalSparkWestGallery



Please use the QR code to order tickets or email Rev. Becky Elliot
: revrebeccaelliott@btinternet.com

WEST MALVERN CRICKET CLUB



In the heart of the Malvern Hills, on the beautiful grounds of Mathon Court (WR13 5NZ), lies West Malvern Cricket Club. A welcoming, family-friendly club with a player base spanning the whole of Worcestershire and beyond. The club boasts two league teams, with the 1st XI currently in Division 4 of the Worcestershire County League, and the 2nd XI in Division 8 South, as well as a ladies' softball team, meaning there is plenty of cricket on offer for people of all ages and ability levels. The club is always seeking more members to join, so whether you're a seasoned veteran or a keen newcomer you'll be welcomed with open arms by the 'Westie' family.

If spectating rather than playing is more for you then we offer one of the most idyllic settings in the area, so feel free to bring along the whole family for a picnic (just keep an eye out for big sixes being hit your way). The club boasts ample parking and some lovely walks in the area too, for those who want to sandwich a spot of exercise in between innings.

If you wish to know more about West Malvern Cricket Club then please don't hesitate to reach out on social media:

Facebook: West Malvern CC

X: @WestMalvernCC

Instagram: west_malvern.c.c

Alternatively, drop us an email @westmalverncc@outlook.com

[Please see the Events Calendar for full list of May Fixtures](#)

WYCHE CRAFT AT THE BREWERS COMMUNITY PUB

Friday Craft Club started in March 2022. The aim was to connect like-minded crafty individuals and form a friendly social group. After two years, we now have a great collective where you can gain crafting ideas and inspiration off one another as well as advice on current projects.

We've tried several venues in Malvern and Ledbury, but are now settled at The Cube and have recently had our first craft session at The Brewers Arms. We meet at The Cube on the first Friday of the month at 10.30-12.30, and meet at The Brewers Arms on the third Friday, 12.00-14.00. The craft session is free at The Brewers Arms but do buy a drink and maybe even a spot of lunch to support the community pub.

Friday Craft Club is a group of friendly crafters that meet up over lunch, coffee and cake. Bring your crocheting, embroidery, paper crafts, felting, jewellery making, modelling...any craft that you having been meaning to get started on or even finish!

Please book your place via <https://linktr.ee/wyhecrafterworkshops>

WEST MALVERN CLUB

Mobile 07729224554/07957588105

Email westmalvernclub.ltd@btinternet.com Web Site westmalvernclubltd.co.uk

We are located in the former West Malvern Royal British Legion Club it became West Malvern Club Ltd in April 2021 and since then we have been going strong it is a member's club and the membership is only £6.00 when you first join then £5.00 per year.

We offer a selection of keg beer Bitter, Lager, Cider & Guinness plus a range of wines & Sprints and a wide range of soft drinks & snacks.

The main room can be hired out for functions; Birthday party, Anniversaries or any occasion. We hold exercise classes during the day please contact Elaine Newman 07964815135 for further information on the classes she puts on.

Non members are always welcome in the club so you can pop in and see what we do. We offer the use of four pool tables, two dart boards plus card games, background music and the occasional sport when it's on the free channels.

We hold bingo every Friday night. Doors open at 19:00hrs bingo starts at 20:00 non-members can play but are not entitled to the jackpot games.

Please visit our FACEBOOK page to see what's on, events are posted every week.

FACEBOOK link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/httpswestmalvernclubltd.co.uk/>



MCS TENNIS CLUB

Mathon, Cradley and Storrige Tennis Club

The club has three well-maintained hard courts, two with floodlights, and is situated in beautiful surroundings between Mathon and West Malvern, with views of the western slopes of the Malvern Hills. We are a friendly club that welcomes players of all standards and ages.

Our members

- **COURTS:** Can be booked to play at any time at no extra cost to membership subs (floodlight tokens are extra)
- **SOCIAL TENNIS:** Also included in your membership are social tennis sessions every Wednesday 6-9pm and Sunday mornings from 9-12.
- **FREE PLAY:** Many members arrange single and doubles games through a WhatsApp group.
- **COACH:** 1:1 coaching offered on Thursdays, plus doubles training and cardio tennis on Thursday evenings.
- **MATCH PLAY:** For the more competitive players, we enter Mixed, Ladies and Mens teams in the Hereford and Worcester leagues, as well as holding the annual club tournament.

If you're thinking of joining, feel free to come along for a couple of trial social sessions.

Please contact Anthony Poyner
07801926434

anthonypoyner@hotmail.co.uk

WEST MALVERN – WEST FETE

We have brought forward this year's West Fete to Saturday 6th July 2.00pm on the West Malvern Playing Fields to take advantage of the lighter evenings and hopefully warmer weather. Last year's event blessed by one of the best days of the year was a huge success. We didn't know what response to expect but were overwhelmed with the turnout. What did we learn? Firstly ignore the planned schedule, the children's participation in the games dictated how the afternoon's events would run. To see a queue to do the Sack Race the 3 legged race etc. etc. and to take part as many times as possible soon sorted our ideas out.

This year we shall attempt to run to a similar format starting with a children's disco, then the children's games plus maybe some adult games to take us until late afternoon. After a very short interlude we will start the evening's music with 3 bands finishing up with a disco to round things up. During the interlude we hope to have the Tug of War for both adults and children. It's always good for a laugh. The West Malvern WI will be selling their super range of teas and cakes. Jo's tarts will have a choice of tarts. Colwall Rotary will man the bar and the barbeque; the ice cream seller will be on site. Various sideshows and stalls will be operating all afternoon along with the Bouncy Castle.

We still need volunteers for the day it is just a team of 5 people who organize and put the show on. More stallholders would be welcome and any ideas for additional entertainment would be another plus. Maybe you are involved in a group activity, which you would like to promote, come and join us. Even though we are a small village community we don't know everything that is going on around us. Profits go to charities and local groups split between Colwall Rotary Club and West Malvern community projects, please apply if you have a just cause. We are very lucky to have the musicians giving their time free of charge along with other like-minded folk.

To make contact with your ideas, suggestions and offers of help contact John Brook on 01684574070 or email brookmal@hotmail.co.uk we would love to hear from you.

COLWALL ROTARY CLUB IN THE MALVERN HILLS

Community. The world we live in. Whether it's your village, town or county, we have neighbours. Many of us are fortunate enough to have support by way of family and friends; however, not all. There is a huge need to help the helpers. That is what Rotary does. So what is Rotary? A very big multinational worldwide charity. Too big to write about here. Have a look on the web. I'm sure you will find it very interesting and informative. "So what about Rotary and my community?" A worldwide charity that is local to you. And it makes a difference to your community. It supports local, regional and national charities and individuals. It might be a cancer charity or an individual cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End to raise money for The British Heart Foundation. It could be donating towards a defibrillator in your high street. It might even be supporting your local primary school in providing computers or outside facilities.

"I've heard its full of men having dinner once a week". Not anymore. If you have jeans and a tee shirt in the summer and add a jumper in the colder months, you won't look out of place. You can wear a shirt and a tie if you feel the need. Nobody would blink an eye. Food? If you're hungry, just order some food at the bar. No formal dinner with this Rotary Club. And, we have no age limit; if you're 20 or 90, and somewhere in between you are welcome. Ladies and gentlemen, we don't discriminate. You're a valuable member of society whose help is always needed. We have members who work and some who are retired.

"So what do you do all year long?" Well, that's a varied and lengthy conversation to be had. In short, we raise funds and have fun doing so. It might be the annual Duck Race in West Malvern, or helping out at the local West Fete. Helping at the School Fete, or doing the hot food at the Vintage Car Rally. It might be getting together to help with the Annual Cancer Quiz, remembering past members who were taken by this illness. Or just sitting, listening to local Groups who explain their needs and functions. These are the people in your community who need your help.

So, if you want some fun, friendship and banter, and all the while help to make a difference to those around you, come and see what we do. We don't bite, we do have a drink, and we do laugh as much possible.

For further information please contact: www.colwallrotary.org.uk

NATURE NOTES

CAMERA TRAPS REVEAL ALL

Have you ever wondered what animals pass through your garden or near to your house at night while you are asleep? Well, some West Malvern residents wonder no longer because they have a camera trap that detects heat and/or movement and records stills or videos to reveal the mystery beasts. As a fan of nocturnal mammals, camera traps give me great insights into West Malvern's night shift.

In 2023 I set out camera traps – for a week at a time during winter/spring and again in summer/autumn - in 15 woodland sites along the west side of the Malvern Hills (several close to our village). Among the six medium-sized mammals recorded, regrettably (but unsurprisingly, given their successful takeovers!) two non-native invasive mammals - grey squirrel and muntjac deer - proved the most abundant and ubiquitous: both were detected at 14 out of the 15 sites, with grey squirrels recorded 390 times and muntjac 200 times. In contrast, our native roe deer was recorded just nine times at only two sites. The remaining mammals were badger (48 recordings at 9 sites), red fox (33 recordings at 11 sites) and rabbit (20 recordings at 3 sites). Some of these mammals frequently visit gardens, especially foxes, badgers and muntjac.

If you are looking to acquire a camera trap, I can recommend NatureSpy <https://naturespy.org> – a not-for-profit company (all profits go back into projects that benefit wildlife) that offers great support to its customers. Among many more expensive models, for a whisker under £100 they sell their own NatureSpy Wifi WildCam 2 that connects to your smartphone! **Johnny Briggs**

WORCESTERSHIRE'S COUNTY FLOWER

Have you noticed the abundance of our lovely County flower on verges, meadows and woodlands this year? The simple, yet lovely, Cowslip is bobbing its head everywhere. An unassuming, little yellow flower bringing a gentle perfume to the air and a smile to the face. It is said that Cowslip is actually a distorted pronunciation of cow slop, so named because it is associated with growing in cowpats in grazing meadows. They were traditionally picked on May Day to adorn garlands around maypoles, heralding spring and warmer weather. It is worth taking a moment to stop and enjoy them. **JC**

**BUS SERVICES VIA WEST MALVERN TO GREAT MALVERN AND
FROM GREAT MALVERN TO LEDBURY**

Please note times are from the bus stop at junction of West Malvern Road and Croft Bank. Please allow for earlier or later times from Lamb Bank and The Dingle.

NB: We apologise for the timetable published in our April edition, which omitted some services. We believe the timetable below is now correct.

To Great Malvern

To Ledbury (via Colwall)

Monday to Friday

Monday to Friday

675	7.57
875	8.10
675	9.42
675	11.42
675	13.42
676	15.50
675	16.12

675	10.06
675	12.06
675	14.06
675	15.35
675	16.31
675	17.56

Saturday

Saturday

675	9.42
675	11.42
675	13.42
675	16.12

675	10.06
675	12.06
675	14.06
675	16.31
675	17.56

Sundays and
Bank Holidays

Sundays and
Bank Holidays

No Services

No Services



Toaster not working? Garden shears blunt? Found a hole in a favourite sweater?

Why not bring them and any other damaged or broken hand-portable personal or household belongings to your local Repair Café? We're open every third Saturday in the month from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm at Malvern Cube Community and Arts Centre in Albert Road North, Malvern WR14 2YF. No booking is necessary.

Often, only a very simple repair is needed to extend the useable life of an item for several months or even years. Our multi-skilled teams of practical generalists never turn anything away! You're invited to sit with the repairer who will happily explain the repair and pass on their skills. PAT testing and sharpening of tools, knives and garden equipment are also available at every session.

We can fix electronic and electrical appliances and gadgets, furniture, clocks, jewelry, ceramics, toys, clothes, textiles, luggage.....and much more. No repair is too small or too challenging!

Have a question? email: repaircafemalvern hills@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RepairCafeMalvernHills/>



Bright, airy and spacious therapy rooms with a large group therapy room overlooking the beautiful Malvern Hills. Our group room seats 40 delegates for group training or mini conferences. Are you looking for a base for your therapies business? We offer rooms, a welcoming reception with complimentary drinks. Trying to get a therapies business off the ground? Why not call for a chat, we also offer therapies business mentoring.

From this beautiful centre with a view of the hills, we offer: Adult Yoga, Mindfulness and Meditation; Art Workshops; Child and Family + Adult Clinical Psychology; Perinatal Clinical Psychology; Adult Counselling Psychology; Cognitive Behavioural Therapy; Adult Psychotherapy; Adult Counselling; Hypnotherapy; Parent and Baby Workshops; and Play Therapy

Contact: Dr Elise Kearney at admin@drelisekearney.co.uk
www.centreofthehills.co.uk

THE BREWERS ARMS -WEST MALVERN Your Community Pub

The monthly charity quizzes organised by Tim White raised several hundred pounds for local charities but are now on "vacation" till later in the year. Future pub events will be advertised in the "News from The Brewers Arms " magazine and on Facebook. We also have our noticeboard at The Pub. Next to that is our "suggestion box". Please use it and let us have your comments, ideas and suggestions.

There are a few changes to the opening hours

OPENING HOURS

Monday closed

Tuesday 6pm to 11pm

Wednesday /Thursday/ 12noon to 2,30pm

6pm to 11pm

Fridays 12 noon to 2.30pm

5pm till 11pm

Saturday/Sunday 12noon to 11pm

FOOD SERVED

Wednesday to Saturday 12noon to 2pm

6pm to 8pm

Sunday 12noon to 2pm

AND FINALLY!

Our second edition with, we hope, another bundle of interesting and useful articles. Thank you so much to our contributors keep your contributions coming via our email below. If you have ideas for future copies please let us know. Next month we shall report on the Well Dressings and West Malvern History as well as our regular slots. Also a big thank you to our printers Aspect Print in Newtown Road for guiding us through the process.

There is still a volunteering opportunity for the coffee morning organiser, please ask for more information if you are interested in this. If you would like to become involved with the magazine production we should be very pleased to hear from you.

The important date to take notice of is that **FINAL DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF COPY FOR JUNE is 12 noon WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY – early copy will be gratefully received as we cannot guarantee there will be space to publish last minute articles.**

Contact: westmalvernhillsecho@gmail.com

HANDYMAN SERVICES!

Painting, Carpentry, Roof Repairs, Property Maintenance, Moss & Gutter, Soffit and Facia Cleaning, Tiling, Gardening and Window Cleaning.
Call Brandon 07960193781

THREE COUNTIES CHIMNEY SWEEP

Certified Chimney Sweep. Sweep and Vacuum Insurance Certificates Issued. Chimney and Stove Maintenance & Repairs. Nest Removal – Bird Guards and Cows.

Call Ian on 01684 891005; mob: 07403277436

MALVERN WEBSITES

We are a local website design and development company based in West Malvern. We're a small team (two of us) so we get to know all our clients quickly and they like being able to talk the same people each time. We've been going for 18 years but recently relocated to the area last year (with a subsequent change of name).

We design and develop websites for businesses, organisations and individuals throughout the Malvern area, and also support and maintain existing websites. We also carry out Search Engine Optimisation, copy writing, marketing, blogging... and we provide website hosting as well.

We firmly believe that charities should pay less, so we offer substantial reductions for charities looking for help and can also offer some reductions for non-profit organisations that don't necessarily have charitable status. We have a particular interest in groups and charities related to the environment and / or animal care.

Work requests are normally carried out the same day wherever possible, or within 24 hours if we're a little busier.

You can find out more about us and browse our work at <https://malvernwebsites.co.uk> (we also have a larger portfolio on our sister site – details on request)

Email info@malvernwebsites.co.uk or phone 01684 770 949 for a chat to discuss whatever website-related help you may need.

D. SEARBY BUILDING LTD

For all your heating and plumbing needs.

We have over 15 years experience as Gas Engineers. We provide: heating needs assessments, new boiler installation, servicing and repairs. We can also provide landlords gas safety certificates and can, where possible, provide emergency call-out.

Contact us on: 07974784630 or 01684 303563.

Garden Design, Advice, Lessons and Specialist Pruning

Phil Morley on 01684 560747 or 07879 444346

www.essentiallygreen.co.uk
phil@essentiallygreen.co.uk

BRANCHWORKS – TREE SURGERY

Free Consultations. Fully Qualified. Public Liability Insurance To £5 million. Crown Reduction, canopy lifting, pruning, felling
Call Matt Scriven: 01684 437481 Mobile 07931808121 email:
matt@branchworks.biz

Red Kite Pest Control

~ Combining Tradition and Innovation ~

For all your local Pest Control requirements

NPTA Member – Humane, Environmentally Responsible Methods

- All Insect pests – All Rodent pests - All Wildlife pests -
- Free Advice – Free Initial Survey – Free no obligation
Quotations –
- Telephone: Andy Staples on 07977 044987 / 01886 832730

Mail to: andrew481staples@btinternet.com

MALVERN HILLS FLORIST

4 Belle Vue Terrace
Malvern WR14 4PZ

www.malvernhill florists.co.uk

or

mycreative2023@gmail.com