

# Bushley News

July 2024

*The Voice of the  
Village*

Nº: 646

So, according to Tewkesbury Borough Council, Tewkesbury is to have a near-by development of thousands of houses in “connected Garden Communities”.

Apparently Sir Ebenezer Howard, the urban planner, established the garden city movement and created Welwyn Garden City and Letchworth Garden City. A garden city being a town designed for healthy living surrounded by a rural belt

Being a “child” of the Woodstock era I am immediately transported by Joni Mitchell’s song about spiritually “getting back to the garden”, as in the Garden of Eden, and I can imagine Bushley morphing into Bushley Garden Village and the scent of various “substances” drifting in the wind.

I must go and dust off my poncho and my Bath Festival head band, I couldn’t make Yasgur’s Farm in Bethel, New York where the original Woodstock Festival took place and had to make do with the Bath Festival instead but it was fun all the same.

Ed.



# The View from the Pulpit

Dear Friends,

'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few' (Matthew 9.35-10.23.) In this passage from Matthew, we see Jesus commissioning the apostles to share the work of his mission, to be labourers with him in the harvest. But Jesus's words weren't just for the apostles, they also speak to us, in our church today. And this is a good time for us all to reflect on Jesus's words.

It was most heartening to have so many people stepping forward to help and support the work required at St Peter's, Bushley and joining the newly formed Parochial Church Council. One of nine churches now in the Benefice of Berron and Longdon, we all need to contribute to the Ministerial Share of a total £85,000, which is paid to the Worcester Diocese each year, in addition to any local expenses, insurance, utilities and so on. The Bushley accounts are much depleted and will need much fundraising to meet the basic costs. Many thanks to Jeremy Meager, the organ can now be played. The boiler works and there is oil in the tank, so to speak! The church is open and welcoming during the day.



Over the next few months we need to be thinking about our parishes, our Benefice, and what is the focus of our mission here. Can we begin to think about what our priorities are and perhaps bring together perhaps an 'Action Plan'. What do we want to achieve, how are we to do it, what can we build on, what needs to change? What is possible and what is not?

Jesus's mission was to proclaim the good news – 'the kingdom of heaven has come near' – and he proclaimed it in word and action, teaching and healing. When he sees the crowds, Jesus feels compassion, that gut reaction when we're faced with suffering and injustice. Jesus sees a plentiful harvest, but too few labourers.

We cannot keep trying to carry on as usual. Will there be a clergy person who will want to be part of our rural Benefices of 9 churches? How will the 30 plus church weddings based at Birtsmorton Court be undertaken? Will there be enough folk to volunteer to support the on-going parish responsibilities, administration, care of churches and church yards, outreach to our local schools, and supporting the communities in various different ways? What more could we be doing, as a church or as individuals? We see so many things we could do, but we'll need to choose rather than try to do everything. What stands in the way of us doing them?

The final section of Matthews passage looks at the difficulties. There will be rejection, and not everything we do will succeed. There will be difficult decisions to be made, and maybe disagreement about them. What changes might we need to make, what could we find difficult?

We hope to be starting the process of discussion, consultation and planning fairly soon, putting gradually together a Benefices Profile- teasing out all the strengths, challenges, and what is attractive to a prospective applicant. What can we offer within these rural parishes of the Berron and Longdon Benefices? We will need to be honest and offer parishes that do have a vision. All of us have a contribution to make and we need to pray, gather, discuss and share to make it happen.

**Date of next P.C.C. meeting:** Wednesday, July 17th at 7.00 pm.

Blessings and continued prayers.  
Rev'd Julie  
Tel: 01531 651795  
Email: julie.m.james@btinternet.com

*For details of the Benefices of  
Berron and Longdon:  
[https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/  
resources](https://berrowlongdon.org.uk/resources)*

# Jottings of a Retired Country GP

## *Gene therapy*

Having written last month about the revolutionary development in treating Haemophilia that was so badly mismanaged, I hope that there will be increased caution for a new sort of treatment for cancer that has appeared. Hopefully this new line of treatment will be closely monitored and there will not be another scandal. As the researchers tinker with genes, the potential for matters getting out of hand is enormous.

Genes are so well understood nowadays that any abnormality in the very fine structure of these protein chains (that are found in every single cell in our bodies) can be spotted. This is what has happened with a rare gene that caused profound deafness in a little girl. By altering her gene chain and attaching the new chain to a tame virus, then feeding the resulting combination back into her system, her hearing has been restored. This kind of clever tinkering is the spin-off from the same technology that managed to produce the Covid vaccines so swiftly at the start of the pandemic. The research had been going on for many years in laboratories around the world, but practical uses for this technology have only recently been realised.

One new line of research has led to genes from patients suffering from certain sorts of cancer to be harvested from the tumour after it has been removed from the patient during surgery. The cancer cells are used to create antibodies to that specific cancer, which are then fed back into the patient by injection. These antibodies attach themselves to the cancer cells that have been left behind or spread around the body. They then destroy any remaining cancer cells



Dr Andrew Crowther

but not the healthy ones. How clever is that? This kind of therapy has been used on cancers of the lungs, bowel, breast and now of melanoma of the skin. It is early days yet, but this seems to be an interesting new line of treatment. How far it can be developed remains to be seen, and what problems may turn up can only be guessed at this early stage.

However, hopefully the 'lessons learnt' from other medical catastrophes will keep the minds of the researchers open and ready to act if needed.

But as I have written previously, medicine is not a precise science. Things can and do go wrong. Unfortunately for the medical profession now the litigation scene is very active. Unexpected and unforeseen hazards are considered to be problems that should have been foreseen. Some are, but many slip through the net before the link is realised and the faulty treatment is withdrawn. Remember the Thalidomide disaster? That drug was used to quell pregnancy sickness and was very successful. Unfortunately, it took time for the connection between taking the drug and the malformation of limbs that we now know it caused to be realised, and the drug was withdrawn. Rather surprisingly, Thalidomide has reemerged decades later as a useful treatment for the side effects of HIV!

Where will this research lead?

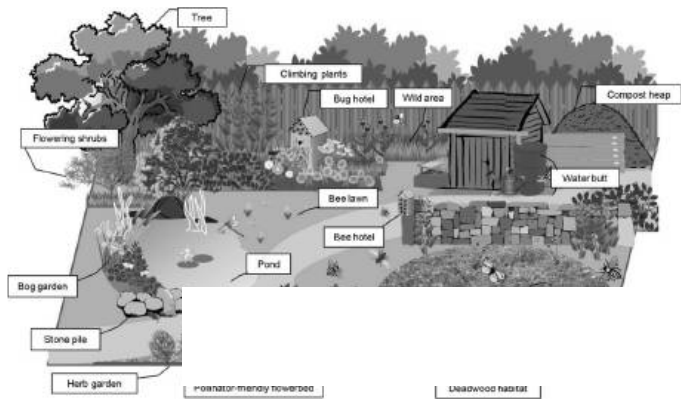
Who knows.

Curative treatments for many illnesses are developing rapidly, hopefully for the benefit of all.

Andrew Crowther

# In Touch With Nature

June, she rarely lives up to expectations, and this year was just such a year; mostly remembered for the long chilly evenings. Though the wet Spring kept the grass growing, which brings to mind the conservation challenge of “No Mow May”, we have done this in parts of the garden, which is what is targeted by the slogan, for many years. The idea is to allow wildflower plants to produce flowers for pollinating insects. The trouble is that it is too blinkered, regularly mown grass [pesticide free] is a major feeding medium for lots of garden birds, like Blackbirds, Thrushes, Starlings and yes Sparrows. Then of course June arrives, and this must be the time to cut, so how do we do this? I doubt very much this is going to be by hand, strimmer! Probably, well by this time the Tadpoles have turned into Froglets and are in the grass, the field Voles have babies in their nests, Slow worms and Grass snakes are in occupation and the Cowslips seed will not be ripe. So, in my humble opinion keep on mowing but leave some out of the way area uncut till late Autumn.



This year I have enjoyed enormous pleasure with the return of nesting Swallows to the stable, it is quite amazing the difference sitting in the garden and being able to see these wonderful birds just doing what they do. The Flycatchers? Interestingly they rejected all of my efforts to provide perfect accommodation and have settled to raise their family in an end terrace Sparrow nest box; so much for what I know about natural history. Lots of baby birds in the garden and they of course attract predators, we have had Sparrow hawks zooming through, Kestrels hovering and on several occasions Jays, most notably being escorted away by one of the Spotted Flycatchers, twice!

As mentioned earlier the tadpoles have successfully metamorphosed into frogs and have moved out of the pond. On the edge of my newly mown field in the long grass a basking Grass Snake. Another welcome sighting was a male Greenfinch on the Runner Bean poles with nest material in it's beak.

I have finally managed to get myself a Tulip tree [yes, I know I will be dead before it flowers] but what a tree. Whilst preparing the site for the tree I needed to prune a nearby tree which happened to have a bird nesting box in it, empty I thought, but no, I had to “Google” this, stung on the head by a Tree Bumble Bee using the box. Apparently not they don't sting, so perhaps a vicious kick or bite. Tree Bumble Bees arrived in the UK at the beginning of this century, like many other insects finding us warm enough to colonise.

Worst sighting has been too few butterflies, after a promising Spring, cold winds perhaps.

Martin R

## In The Garden

The Volunteers at Pershore had a visit (our treat for the year) to a specialist Pelargonium Nursery at Pensham. Fascinating to see all the varieties and especially so to see the species Pelargoniums some of which are very weird and wonderful.



Quite a lot of aphids around and the Ermine Moth has been munching away at the leaves on the apple trees. Most years there are a few, but this year, many more. Looking at the hedgerows around there are many small trees completely stripped of foliage.

We had a long and detailed chat with the owners about composts. And were shown some test plantings of cuttings in three different peat free composts. Which was best? The most expensive, of course. The horticulture industry is struggling a bit with peat-free. The nutrients seem to wash out of some varieties and it is also difficult to judge when the pots and plugs need watering. This is true for ourselves in the garden as well. There have been lots of questions about this on GQT. One answer is to have some topsoil in the mix. However, if you just mix in your own garden soil you can bet the weed seeds will germinate! My solution is to shove a bit of clean (ish) soil at the bottom of the pot and then add the compost above it.

It's absolutely right that we should be moving away from peat, but it's a struggle to get the regime right.

At long last things are beginning to motor. Peas are up, Chard is up, French beans are still being very coy and the runner beans are slow! But then, we gardeners do love to grumble.

Philadelphus—mock orange—has been particularly well-scented, and the cold weather of the past few weeks has meant the roses have stayed in flower for a good period.

I shall be collecting rose petals as at the Druid Ceremony at the Festival they will be laying out a circle of rose petals for peace. So sorely needed in many parts of the world. Coming to the Festival too, will be our ex site director promoting the "Pick-ups for Peace" charity which aims to get vehicles and equipment to Ukraine to help.

Lovely sight in my garden was a green woodpecker contentedly searching for stuff in the lawn and not being as shy as usual. Less lovely is the pond which is drying out alarmingly, it's all or nothing on that front. It was overflowing for months and now I'm having to do a bit of a top up. There, I told you we like to moan.

Penelope Tubbs

## View from Between the Bears

Summer has arrived at last! The wind has swung round from the northern quarter after being there for way too long. A recent story on Gloucestershire Live reported the deaths of “50 or 60” lambs, 4 to 6

weeks old, grazing with their mothers on Cleeve Hill. That takes some believing, given that there were no frosts, but the wind had been “unrelenting”, causing hypothermia in the young lambs. Now that I can believe; the difference of being out of the wind and in the brief periods of sun has been huge this spring.

Autumn planted crops have fared better, plenty of moisture below that’s for sure, and sheltered from the worst effects of the wind by being close to the ground. Lack of frosts has certainly helped them catch up from a poor start, in many cases. Oil seed rape crops will be ready for harvest this month, there are a lot of patchy crops around though, a legacy of the wet autumn. Spring crops have a lot to do in a short time; harvest doesn’t vary as much as you might think. A crop of barley planted a month late will not be a month late to harvest, it will ‘cut corners’ to get there on time, usually resulting in a very short, light crop.

Grass seed planted on our flood affected meadows still has a long way to go, needing some more rain to be honest. The shallow rooted grasses struggle to out compete the deeper rooted weeds; charlock, redshank, thistles, docks all seem to be thriving. As a measure to help the grass crop in a drought, we included plantain seeds in the mixture; they seem to be establishing well, but need the grass to keep up to provide a balance for grazing or silage.

The Sustainable Farming Initiative is the method of subsidising farms in England, replacing the Basic Payment Scheme currently a couple of years from being totally phased out. As a largely voluntary scheme it has been



the subject of much criticism and poor ‘take up’. The latest incarnation offers 102 options on a ‘pick and mix’ basis with little emphasis on food production. Meanwhile, in Wales they are going to delay their new scheme [SPS] until 2026 and carry

on paying BPS as their proposals were widely derided as unacceptable.

Hopefully, by the time you read this ‘Election fever’ will have calmed down; not so much a fever as a ‘mild irritation’, I would have thought. Ill-judged publicity stunts will be left to those with the wit and ability to get them right. With all the polls showing a substantial lead for the Labour party, it would be very, very surprising if the result was anything other than Keir Starmer as Prime Minister. The moderate front they have been trying hard to project will, I fear, soon disappear when in power. Among the many plans for future spending there is no commitment to a farming budget and little mention of food security. Will they want to lead the country back into Europe? It seems likely, not that everything about that is a bad thing. Farmers have much more ‘clout’ on the continent and our successive governments have been dragged reluctantly along with commitments decided in Brussels. The original aims of the Common Market were admirable, it’s when it all became much more like a United States of Europe that things were not as favourable for a country on the fringe.

As mentioned above, cereal harvesting will be getting underway this month, so be a bit patient with machinery on the roads. They have a lot to do in a short time!

Tim Perry

# A View from the Saddle

## Flaming June?

Nothing about the Bushley Bikers outings in early June could be described as 'flaming' – unseasonably low temperatures and threatening, grey skies greeted us on three successive occasions! As we laboured against cold Northerly headwinds, wet weather gear was donned more than once and so we were thankful for the Dear Leader's tactical decision to shorten the rides and lengthen the lunchtimes.

For many years the BB's refreshments budget has hovered around £20 a head (for a meal and two pints) but Covid and the cost-of-living crisis has made that target more or less impossible; except when we encounter a 'Deal', as we did on a couple of occasions recently.

The first was at the **New Dawn Inn at Norton**, which we approached via a circuitous loop east through Walton Cardiff, Staverton and Twigworth, before turning North up the A38. Refurbished about 5 years ago, it has been well patronised ever since, not least because its varied menu (while a little pricey) infinitely exceeds the range of the average pub fare and the friendly and efficient staff clearly know what their customers value. However, if your age qualifies for a bus pass, then be sure to ask for their 'Solstice Menu', which offers two courses and pint (or glass of wine) for £20 – a definite bargain!

The following week our route went north to the Fleet at Twynning, though we stopped first at the excellent and ever enjoyable sculpture garden at Showborough (once the home of the Tory prime minister and politician, Stanley Baldwin). Unlike the New Dawn, the Fleet was quiet this Thursday lunchtime but our server (Adrienne) gave us a warm welcome and also a helpful tip. By downloading the Butcombe App onto your smartphone, you become immediately entitled to a discounted

menu option (and when its your birthday, a free round of drinks for you and 3 friends). Its not quite a free lunch but it was a good step along the way to keeping our entertainment expenses low.

I don't have the wit to pen a poem for the occasion, I asked the artificial intelligence App - Chat GPT to do it for me, with the following result:

*In the village hall, beneath subdued lights  
shade,  
Where echoes of old stories gently fade,  
Land girls in gingham, hands rough and kind,  
Whisper of fields left far behind.*

*Private Pike, looking young, with mischief in  
his eyes,  
Parades through the crowd, in a wartime  
reprise,  
Churchillian rhetoric, strong and bold,  
Resounds through hearts, in a speech retold.*

*Hand bells ring, a silver peal,  
Summoning smiles, making the moment real,  
Signal flags flutter, a silent cheer,  
Guiding the spirit, bringing the past  
near.*

*Quizzes test memories, a playful jest,  
Recalling days when they gave their best,  
40's music, sweet and slow,  
Tunes of an era, a gentle flow.*

*Newsreels flicker, black and white,  
Scenes of courage, in the fight,  
Tea and scones, a simple delight,  
Shared in the warmth of the fading light.*

*Between the new painted walls, laughter  
blends,  
In this village hall, with old friends,  
D-Day's echo, a soft refrain,  
In this indoor picnic, memories blend.*

Happy and careful cycling  
Vaughan Latter



## Bushley Parish Council

• Many thanks to **Kate Briggs** and her team of volunteers for organising Bushley's D-Day commemorations.

• The service in St Peter's on the 6th June and the indoor picnic at the village hall on Saturday 8th June, were both a great success and showed Bushley remains a generous and warm hearted place to live.

• The parish council has developed and launched a new website, [www.bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk) with content relevant to Bushley and Bushley Green.

• Web links to other organisations within our community will be created over time and archived materials from the old website have been transferred across.

• If you have any suggestions for additional content, please contact the parish clerk via the new email address  
([clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk))

• After two years, our current parish clerk (**Jane Rolfe**) will be retiring from the role.

• Jane has done a fantastic job administering the parish council's activities, including securing £5k of new funding from the Police Commissioner's office for the two new vehicle speed devices mounted at the top and bottom of Bushley bank. These can only help improve pedestrian safety.

• Our heartfelt thanks go to Jane.

• We now welcome our new parish clerk (**Daniel Hinde**), who lives in **Northway** but will be readily available using the parish clerk email address above or by completing the contact form on the new website.



### **Daniel Hinde**

Bushley Parish Council Clerk  
Northway  
Tewkesbury

Tel N<sup>o</sup>: contact via **email or on-line form only**  
[clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bushleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **Malvern Hills District Council Planning**

### **Planning Applications**

Ref: M/24/00529/HP

**Location:** Bonnetts End, Church End, Bushley, Tewkesbury GL20 6HT

**Description of Proposal:** Alterations to clay bund and associated drainage works

### **Planning Decisions**

#### **Approved**

Ref: M/24/00261/LB.

**Location:** Bonnetts End, Church End, Bushley, Tewkesbury, GL20 6HT

**Description:** Various works including raising of the electrics, re-plastering and new sump pump in under floor well

#### **Dismissed**

Appeal of M/22/01477/FUL

Location: Wood Street Farm Bungalow, Wood Street, Bushley, Tewkesbury, GL20 6JA



## Bushley Belles



Bushley Belles started last year, 2023, in time to play a couple of pieces for the village coronation celebrations. We started off by using the set of handbells which belong to the church and which were cleaned up by Keith and had new bags made by Julia.

Sylvia has guided us through playing music which she had transposed for us and we also had support from Kris and Jason from **Burghill Bellringers** who showed us a few of the many possible bellringing techniques.

Since our tentative beginnings, our group has grown, with members from all age groups and has found amazing support from other groups: we have been loaned three octaves of **Belleplates** by the West Midlands Handbell Ringers of Great Britain and books of music by the MacLean Handbell group. The warm welcome and support offered by other local groups has been amazing.



*Belleplates*

If you would like to hear our progress and listen to Handbells and Belleplates, Bushley is hosting its first ever handbell rally on Saturday 14th September with a free pop up concert at 3.30 to 4.30 in the village hall; you will be able to hear some phenomenal ringing by well established groups.

Please come along and enjoy the music and be inspired!

New members are always welcome to join us and you don't need to be able to read music to play with us.

We meet alternate Thursdays between 6.30 and 7.30 in the church.

Contact Lesley on 07920260468 if you are interested.

Lesley Hirons



Early June also saw D-Day commemorated across the land and in Bushley Village Hall, where Kate Briggs and several other folk from the village organised a quite excellent village

picnic themed in 1940's style.

Great thanks are owed to all who made this event so enjoyable.

Vaughan Latter.



Ooops ..... I've let the sheep out again!

Join us for  
Afternoon Tea

1st Thursday of Each Month  
2.30 - 4.30 pm

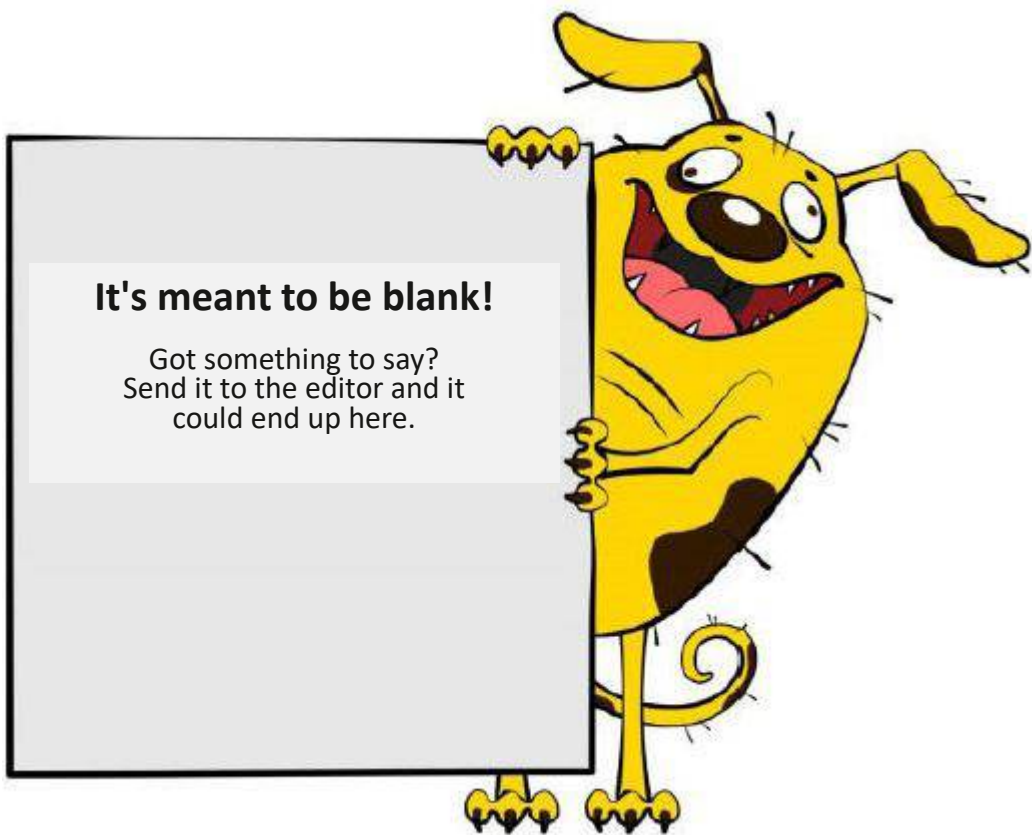
Come along to Tewkesbury Fields and enjoy a delicious afternoon tea including scones, cakes and pastries!



Tewkesbury Fields Care Home  
The Oshey, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, GL20 6HP  
Tel: 01684 850311 • www.barchester.com



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# THE BUSHLEY DIARY

Your guide to Activities in the Village

July

Day	Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon	1	Mobile Library (Note 3)	Note 3	Note3
Mon	1	Community Gardens	10:00 - 12:00	Village Hall
Mon	1	Dance Club	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	1	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Mon	1	Carpark clean up	ALL WEEK	
Weds	3	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Thurs	4	General Election	ALL DAY	
Sat	6	Carpark final clean up	ALL DAY	
Mon	8	Dance Club	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	8	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Mon	8	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	9	Tewkesbury Flower Club	11:00 - 17:00	
Tues	9	BVH Committee meeting	17:00	
Weds	10	Pilates	9:30 - 10:30	
Sat	13	Private Party	16:00 - 01:00	
Mon	15	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Mon	15	Dance Club	9:30 - 10:30	
Mon	15	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Tues	16	Craft Club (Note 2)	10:00 - 12:00	
Tues	16	Eldersfield School	13:00 - 16:00	
Weds	17	Eldersfield School	08:00 19:30	
Mon	22	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Mon	22	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Mon	29	Bowls Club	19:00 - 21:00	
Mon	29	Community Garden	10:00 - 12:00	
Weds	31	Private Hire	9:30 - 16:30	

## Note 1

For further details contact either Jason Kinghorn: 07971 084096 or Rachel Perry: 07594 853620  
Bushley Village Hall website: [Bushleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://Bushleyvillagehall.org.uk)

## Note 2

Craft Workshops are open to all. It helps if people book in advance but it's not essential.

For more details contact Lesley on 07920 260468

## Note 3

The mobile library visits Bushley on the first Monday every month.

Time	Location
9:45am to 10am	Village Hall
10:05am to 10:20am	Tewkesbury Fields Care Home

If you have an item of news please send it for consideration to the editor at:  
[BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BushleyNewsEditor@gmail.com)

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor unless signed Ed.

In accordance with editorial policy the editor's decision is final.

The Bushley Village News may also be viewed online at <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=60>