

# CLEEVE PRIOR NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2013

## Church Services for December 2013

- 1<sup>st</sup> Advent 1 11.00 am Parish Eucharist Revd Jim Symonds
- 8<sup>th</sup> Advent 2 11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd Cannon Peter Burch
- 15<sup>th</sup> Advent 3 11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd Cannon Peter Burch
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent 4 11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd Andrew Mottram  
6.30pm Carols for Christmas by candlelight
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day **10.30am** Family Service
- 29<sup>th</sup> Christmas 1 11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd Jim Symonds

## JANUARY 2014

- 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas 2 11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd Peter Burch

During the Interregnum, should you need the ministrations of a Priest or wish to make any enquiries relating to services at the Parish Church, then please contact one of the Churchwardens:

Mr Rod Carless  
Arnwood  
Mill Lane  
Cleeve Prior WR11 8JZ

Mrs Lis Hughes  
Japonica Cottage  
Main Street  
Cleeve Prior WR11 8LG

**Church cleaning rota:** If anyone not already on the rota would be willing to spare an hour or so, just once a year, to help keep our beautiful Church clean and cared for, I would be very pleased to hear from you on the number above. All necessary equipment is provided. Thank you.

*Lis Hughes*

# **St Andrew's Church Cleeve Prior**

## **Carols for Christmas**

By Candlelight

**Sunday 22nd December**

At 6.30 pm

## **Christmas Day**

A Family service for Christmas Morning at  
10.30am

Sadly we have been unable to arrange for a  
service of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

The Ramblers will be singing carols around the  
village on Thursday 19 December, starting at the  
bottom of Mill Lane at 6.00 pm.

Collection in aid of local charities.

British Legion Poppy Appeal 2013

The total money collected during the house to house collections, the school collection and the retiring collection following the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Andrew's, amounted to £367.00. The village is thanked by Peter Brown, the local Poppy Appeal Organiser

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS, November 2013**

The Council meets the second Wednesday of each month, except for August, at 8:00pm in the War Memorial Hall. If a parishioner has any comments or concerns please contact the Clerk or a councillor.

Chairman Peter Howe: [pjh@uk2.net](mailto:pjh@uk2.net)

Cllr Paul Turner: [Paul.Turner@virginmedia.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Turner@virginmedia.co.uk)

Cllr Julian Franey: [julianfraney@safeman.demon.co.uk](mailto:julianfraney@safeman.demon.co.uk)

Cllr Natalia Brown: [natalia@first-breath.co.uk](mailto:natalia@first-breath.co.uk)

Cllr Kevin Mellor: [kmellor@jaguarlandrover.com](mailto:kmellor@jaguarlandrover.com)

The Council is now short two cllrs. Any parishioner interested in becoming a member of the Council should contact the Clerk for an application or download one from the Parish Council page on the website <http://www.cleeveprior.org.uk/> under Council Procedures.

The rumour is true! The Council recently purchased a sub-compact tractor. Currently the tractor is leased to the Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust and judging by recent accounts, is performing very well. It is envisioned that at some point the Heritage Trust will use the tractor to take on basic work in the village including perhaps taking over the Council grass contract.

The Council set aside a budget of £500 for local donations. Parishioners interested in applying for a donation should contact the Clerk or download a Grant Application from the website under Parish Council – Procedures.

After much hard work by the Council, parishioners and Co Cllr Adams, the Evesham end of the village now has estate gates, a 30mph sign and “Cleeve Prior” sign on the village boundary. These improvements in conjunction with the VAS, new lights on either side of the school and a detour sign on the Fish and Anchor Hill junction with Evesham Road should help to reduce speeding and lorry traffic through the village.

Parishioners are likely aware, but the Council recently objected to two planning applications; one on Hoden lane calling for four new properties and one on Froglands Lane calling for 22 homes (outline application). The Council was pleased to see the turnout for the meeting and thanks all parishioners who made comments. Please see the Cleeve Prior website for details of the grounds for objection. It is expected that in the not too distant future both applications will be determined by the WDC Planning Committee. A strong presence of parishioners can be a powerful weapon in these meetings and it may come to pass that transport may be organized to encourage parishioner attendance.

Our new Parish Paths Warden, Mr Alan Saunders, has done an outstanding job thus far. Much needed work continues on our paths and occasionally volunteers are needed. If interested, please contact Cllr Brown.

The Parish Council recently repaired the bus shelter on Main Street. The job looks first rate and many thanks go to Peter Howe. Continuing the theme of improvements, the Council is now looking to replace the see-saw on the school playing fields and is currently seeking quotes.

Sgt Stayte and two of his colleagues attended the November meeting. A detailed report can be found in the Minutes, below is an abbreviated report.

1. Cleeve Prior has been designated part of a special priority area and thus the police presence was doubled.
2. With the help of residents of the Traveller Site, twelve dogs have been removed; seven Akita dogs remain on the site. Reports of dog incidents are considerably reduced.
3. It is expected that charges will be made concerning the car accident on Evesham Rd two months ago.
4. While quad bikes on the bridleway above Cleeve Hill remain an issue, incidents have decreased.

The 2014/15 Budget and precept were approved at the November meeting. The precept will remain at £21,000, the third consecutive year with a 0% rise and nearly 14% less than 2010/11. For the complete budget, see the Parish Council – Parish Finance page on the website.

Nick Bury resigned as the Chair and member of the Council. Nick volunteered to be the Chair at a difficult time and steered the Council very ably. His hard work and dedication will be missed. On a positive note, Peter Howe was elected Chair. Peter has already demonstrated his desire to improve the village through his work on the paths and repairing the bus shelter. The Council is confident that he will do an excellent job.

*Sean Arble*  
Clerk to the Council, 01789 490501



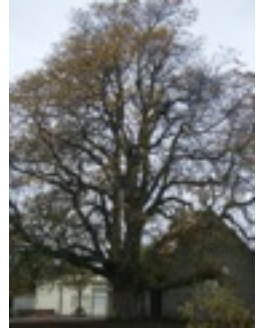
News from the School

I am sure you, like us, are very pleased to see that the work carried out on the tree has been completed and to a high standard.

It is a great relief to know that we have done all that we can to ensure that there won't be any repetition of the summer's great event.


Our fundraising for Children in Need was very successful raising over £85.

Unfortunately due to the atrocious weather our Open Day was a rather quiet affair. If anyone would like to come and look round you are more than welcome.



(There's a man in that tree!)

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are unaware that the family does not have to live in the village to attend the school. Anyone can choose Cleeve Prior School for their children and as long as we have spaces (which we do!) they will get a place.

 Anyone wishing to apply for a place in September for their child needs to apply on line by 15 January 2014. You can find the link on our website: [www.cleevepriorschool.org.uk](http://www.cleevepriorschool.org.uk).

We are holding a Bag2School collection on Friday 6 December. Please help us raise money for the school by having a Christmas clear out – we need unwanted clothing, bedding, curtains, toys, shoes, belts and handbags. You can use any household bin/garden bag and we shall be grateful to receive these by 9 am on Friday 6 December.

Christmas is looming large on the horizon and rehearsals for our Nativity Play are well under way. Our Christmas performances are on Wednesday 11 December at 1.30 pm and 6pm and on Thursday 12 December at 6pm. Everybody is more than welcome to attend. Please



feel free to come along. Small angels and sheep are always very entertaining!

Our annual trip to the pantomime will be on Tuesday 17 December and we will be visiting the Swan Theatre in Worcester to see Aladdin – oh yes we will!

The Kings Arms are very kindly providing and hosting our Christmas lunch on Thursday 19 December. We are all looking forward to it immensely.

You are all very welcome to join us for our Carol Service, which is being held in St Andrew's Church on Friday 20 December at 9.15 am. Mince pies and hot drinks will be available afterwards at the school. We would love to see you.

We would all like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to you all.

Many thanks.

*Sarah Newbury*



## **CLEEVE PRIOR WAR MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL**

cleevepriormemorialhall@gmail.com

On **Saturday 14 December**: Enjoy the fun of the **Christmas Fayre**, starting at 2 pm. Father Christmas has promised to be there, along with the usual variety of festive stalls, games, tombola, etc

On **Tuesday 17 December**, at 12.30 pm, a Christmas lunch is provided for Cleeve Prior Seniors. Please complete and return a booking form, or ring Lis Hughes on 772578 if you wish to attend.

In the New Year, the Management Committee aims to organise an event every month, starting with a Quiz in January. On 22 February we have booked the Rob Heron Tea-Pad orchestra (listen to them at [www.teapadorchestra.co.uk](http://www.teapadorchestra.co.uk)). See the January Newsletter for details.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE ORDERS**

The Christmas trees are in. The Nordman non-drop trees look lovely and we will be selling them at bargain prices. We have already supplied The Kings Arms, so call in there to check them out!

Order yours now, for collection at the Christmas Fayre.

Small, 4-5 ft, £20; Medium, 5-6 ft, £30; Large, 7ft, £35.

Wreaths will also be available at the Christmas Fayre, or reserve one now.

Mick Hughes

**Seniors' Lunch**  
**Tuesday 17 December**  
**Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall**

If you would like to enjoy the Seniors' Lunch and entertainment on 17 December, and have not already given your name to the organisers, please fill in your details below and return the form to one of the following Committee members:

Mrs Lis Hughes  
Mrs Susan Mortimer  
Mrs Rosemary Perl

The Hall Management Committee looks forward to seeing you on 17 December.

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS:**

**Name:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Telephone:** .....

Please tick here if you have special dietary requirements.

**Details:** .....

Please tick here if you require transport to the Hall.

Please tick here if you are unable to come to the Hall and would like your meal delivered.





In our October meeting, we had a fascinating talk from Emma-Heathcote James, the founder of the Little Soap Company which is based in the village of Ebrington.

Emma described in detail her journey from University, where she studied theology, to becoming a best-selling author and then a PR consultant. She decided to take a gap year and came across some hand-made organic soap at a Village Fete. She bought the soap and loved it so much that she eventually bought the recipes and started making them from her kitchen at home. With clever branding and new packaging, Emma set about speaking to supermarkets. Through determination she managed eventually to get Budgens to sell some of her soap in six local stores. Emma described the hassle of getting bar codes, branding and eventually having to source a factory who were able to produce organic soap to her high standards and could still make the soap look hand cut, as she was now getting orders much too large to make at home. Her soaps are now sold in Tesco's, Waitrose and National Trust Shops. She still sells hand-made soaps through her website and has expanded to produce organic hand wash for high class hotels, along with a "Little Beast Bar" for Animals. Emma also runs workshops where people can learn to make their own soap using local organic ingredients. She has won numerous awards and was a Finalist for the 2013 Worcestershire Woman of the Year. She has also recently been invited to speak in Parliament about Women In Business.

*Julia Bleakman*

Our November meeting was an “open meeting” and our President, Coral Williams, began by welcoming members from other local WI groups.

We were entertained by ‘The Tudor Maydes’ in authentic costumes from the era. Hope and Gilly transported us back to the preparations, fun, drinking and feasting, which made up a Tudor Christmas from Advent through to Twelfth Night. They gave readings, told stories and sang for us.

We were told that Advent is the time to be checking up on your holly, ivy and rosemary for decorating - and reserving a suitable branch for the Yule log – all to be brought into a clean home on Christmas Eve. The holly represented man (robust) and ivy the woman (cold and clingy!). The Yule log was lit with a faggot saved from last year’s log for good luck, and carefully positioned so that it burned throughout the whole season.

Once you *had* been to Christmas Mass you could then break your fast. If you were of the “middling sort” you feasted very well throughout the whole period with pies, capons or goose. If you were poor you might still only be eating your normal diet of potage and bread but including, perhaps, a little rabbit if you were lucky. On the shortest day of the year, the 21<sup>st</sup>, the ‘Day of St Thomas’ the destitute were allowed to beg without needing a licence. During the festivities a “Lord of Misrule” was elected from the humble people, and everyone had to do what he said however silly! We all enjoyed joining in with the wassailing, which put us in the mood for the coming Christmas festivities.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas meal at ‘The Star’, Ashton-under-Hill. A coach will be leaving at 6.30 pm, from outside the village hall, and the cost of transport will be £5.00. Please bring a gift along for secret Santa.

Also a reminder that subs will be due at our January meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

*June Taylor*

## **Cleeve Prior Pre-School**

I would like to thank everyone in the Village who took part in the Halloween festivities on 31 October. As we have come to expect, Chris at the Pub once again put on an excellent party and tea for the children, which they and the parents enjoyed immensely. Following the Pub, we went "Trick or Treating" around the village. Many thanks to all of you who took the time to carve, put out pumpkins and otherwise decorate your homes, thus inviting to children to knock. They had a truly wonderful time. Thank you again

*Annamarie Heelis*

## **Women’s Fellowship**

Our meeting in November was light hearted. Elsie had arranged a Spelling Bee. Though there were only seven of us due to sickness etc., we enjoyed it, with a mixture of difficult and easier words.

Five members went to Annie Mortimer’s Birthday Tea on 31 October, which we really enjoyed.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 3 December at 2.15pm in the tea room  
New members are always welcome.

*Meryl Holdbrook*



## **Cleeve Prior Ramblers**

The day was cloudy but dry, not too cold—much better than we all expected. The 4.5 mile walk, organised by Mick and Lis on Saturday, 16 November, was in the Vale of Evesham, not too far from Cleeve - beautiful countryside and yet another opportunity to ramble through new places I hadn't seen before.

The ten of us, and two dogs, started from the Gardeners Arms' car park in Charlton. We soon reached St. Michael's church in Crothorne, first built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, with architectural features surprisingly similar to those of St. Andrew's in Cleeve Prior.



The walk continued through beautiful fields and past Yessell Farm. We then took a well-deserved coffee break in a lovely spot near Clark's Hill. The remaining ramble was a very pleasant walk slightly downhill, past the Rawlings Farm and along the Shakespeare's Avon Way back to Charlton. Our 3-hour walk then brought us back to the Gardener's Arms, where a welcoming log fire and a delicious meal awaited us.

*Javier Tamayo*

### **Upcoming Ramblers events:**

The Ramblers Carol Singing will take place on Thursday 19 December starting at Mill Lane Nursery at 6 pm. All welcome.

January's ramble will be on Saturday 18 January. Please let Ron Taylor know if you will be walking by Friday 10<sup>th</sup>.

**¡Venga, vamos a hablar español!**

Spanish classes for adults at Cleeve Prior Memorial Hall starting in January. For more information, contact Liz Mallett de Tamayo.



## Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust

For many years Eric and Sylvia Grimmett were staunch volunteers with the Heritage Trust. Earlier this year Sylvia passed away and it is a fitting tribute that



her family and friends arranged that the plaque on the seat in the Sanctuary in Quarry Lane should be re-engraved to incorporate her memory along with that of Eric. The family and volunteers of the Heritage Trust also planted a tree in the garden in their



memory.

### DEALS FROM YOUR HERITAGE TRUST

Autumn is now upon us and the first frosts are starting to bite, so you should be thinking about logs for your fires. The Trust can deliver

- GREAT value to your door!
- BIG BUILDERS BAGS @ £40.00
- LARGE SACKS @ £5.00
- KINDLING WOOD @ £5.00

We are also selling, ready for the festive season, this year's 'pick of the crop' Apple Juice, fresh from the Heritage Trust orchards.

**£10.00 FOR A PACK OF SIX**

We have some new additions to make life very much easier for the volunteers. In conjunction with the Parish Council, the Trust has obtained a tractor complete with flail and mid-mounted mower. The previous equipment could only do light work and was on its last legs. The new equipment will do work normally associated with contractors we had to employ, keeping down the grass in the orchards and woods as well as maintaining the footpaths in good condition. As time goes by it will really pay its way and will do a variety



of jobs around the village for many years to come.

*John Arkell*

## **News from Claire Dyson Racing.**

On 15 September Claire and her team held a very successful Charity Open day at Froglands Stud Farm. Over 300 people came to watch the horses at work, view the facilities, meet Claire and her team and watch a demonstration by Farrier Phil Brush. A charity auction was held where a variety of lots were up for grabs, from racing memorabilia to works of art and holidays.

Immediately following the open day, Vet Becky Rowland set off from Froglands on an epic challenge to cycle from John O'Groats to Land's End. Over 900 miles later through wind and rain, Becky arrived in Land's End on the 2 October.

Together both events have raised £16,000 which has been split between The Midland Air Ambulance and Macmillan Cancer Support. These two charities hold very special places in the hearts of both Claire and Becky. Both would like to say thank you to everyone in Cleeve Prior who supported them and helped raise this fantastic amount of money.

During the open day several locals showed interest in becoming a member of the FSF Racing Syndicate. This syndicate gives you thrill and excitement of being a racehorse owner at the fraction of the cost. With the jump season in full swing, now would be an ideal time to join.



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Limited places available.

For further details contact Claire Dyson on 07803720183  
Claire Dyson Racing. E-mail [cdyson@live.co.uk](mailto:cdyson@live.co.uk)



Several members enjoyed the Telephone Trail quiz in November and appreciated Annette's kind hospitality. Instead of a meeting in December, Lis Hughes has booked tickets to see *Wendy and Peter Pan* at the RSC.

## **BIDFORD AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY**

Please join us on **Friday 13 December** at **St. Laurence's Church Hall**, Bidford-on-Avon, at 7.30pm, for our seasonal talk by Gerry Harris on **Paintings for Advent**.

The Christmas story is told through four pictures, three in the National Gallery London, all by internationally known artists. The theme used is Advent and three events we all associate with Christmas and celebrate in the carols we sing: The Annunciation, The Visitation of the Shepherds and The Three Kings. Many of our Christmas cards are based on one or other of these events.

Festive refreshments will be served afterwards. Visitors are most welcome. Our charge is £4.50 each visit for non-members. Free admission for visitors aged 18 or under. For details, contact Lisa Lear or visit [www.bidfordhistory.org.uk](http://www.bidfordhistory.org.uk).

## **Christmas at the Kings Arms**

Well, it's here again, so wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Firstly, can I thank everyone who came down to Aussie Sandra and Peter's leaving do. What a fantastic night we all had. I'm sure I'm

correct in saying they will be greatly missed by all.

- **Tuesday 3rd December** will be quiz night. Call now to book your table for a great fun night.

- We have still got dates for your Christmas party nights with a great three-course meal for only £19.95, so book now.

- The candle-lit carol service will be held in Church on **Sunday 22 December**, so why not come back to us for a drink or two afterwards. It was a great start to Christmas last year.

- **New Year's Eve**: book your ticket now - £10.00 for a wonderful evening of food and music from the past.

Myself and Pete want to thank you all for your support and custom over the last twelve months and look forward to the year ahead. Thanks.

*Chris and Pete 01789 773335*



## **Broadcast Reminiscences, 8 and 9 November**

What a pleasure it was to walk to our Memorial Hall on a cool autumnal evening to be entertained once more by Cleeve Prior Players.

The radio broadcast format worked very well, with fascinating material they had researched giving us an insight into life, changes and important events in our village during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Early tales were especially interesting. It's not every community that wakes up to find soldiers camped on their village green.

The mixture of stories, anecdotes, poetry and music (not forgetting the delicious pork baps served during the Interval) were thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

Well done Cleeve Prior Players for an entertaining evening and for the impressive donation of £1,500 to SSAFA.

*Ron and Shirley Taylor*



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## VILLAGE EVENTS

held in the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated.

Date	Event	Time	Organiser
DECEMBER			
11 Dec	Tea Shop & Lending Library	2.30 pm	
	Parish Council Meeting	8 pm	Par.Clerk
14 Dec	Christmas Fayre	2 pm	Mgt Cttee
17 Dec	Seniors' Lunch	12.30 pm	Mgt Cttee
19 Dec	Carol Singing round village	6 pm	Ramblers

The WCC Mobile Library calls at two stops in the village on Tuesday 3 December: 11.05 – 11.20: Mill Lane; 11.25 – 11.55: The Close.

### **200 Club winner, November**

£25, Nicola Marshall

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

**[cleeneighbourhood@gmail.com](mailto:cleeneighbourhood@gmail.com)** is the place to report any suspicious cars or people in the neighbourhood. You will not be required to give your name or details.

**Bidford Area Community Choir** would like to thank everyone for coming along to their concert on the 16 November at St Laurence's Church.

A magnificent sum of £1,000 was raised for equipment the new GPPpractice and Health Centre. A cheque was handed to the fund-raising committee during the concert.

*Angela Hurd*



Copy for inclusion in the **January** edition  
**Before Wednesday 18 December please**  
Note the **early date**, due to the Christmas break

Please submit copy by email to the following  
**email address: [cleevenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:cleevenewsletter@btinternet.com)**

The Editor and all persons named in this Newsletter can be contacted at  
this address.

The Editor would be pleased to receive by email any general views of the  
village or other images which would be suitable as cover pictures for the  
Newsletter.

**Advertising:** Please contact the Editor for information.

The village website address is: [www.cleeveprior.org.uk](http://www.cleeveprior.org.uk)