



# The Grapevine

THE NEWSLETTER OF HAMPTON LUCY, CHARLECOTE AND LOXLEY PARISHES

Issue No: 220

Coronavirus Edition 2 (see page 3)

June 2020

## VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrated in Hampton Lucy

All looked lost for VE Day anniversary celebrations a few weeks ago due to the coronavirus pandemic but Kate Bennett in Church Street then advertised a 'Stay at Home Party' with people decorating their houses red, white and blue. It was too good to miss. The Parish Council put up a £50 prize for the winner and some kind benefactors donated £25 for runners-up and many other great prizes. At 12.30pm Phil Heron fired three shots to signal the most important part of the day for Hampton Lucy - a minute's silence to remember Sidney Huckfield from Hampton Lucy who died in 1941, aged only 21. The rest of the day was amazing with lovely weather and great community involvement. Parish Councillors Alex Jones and Carol Matthews toured the village judging the entries and the overall winner was Foxglove Cottage in Church Street, see below, with three runners-up: 1 Bridge Street, Teapot Cottage in Church Street, and 4 Hithersand Close. Here are highlights of their report.



*We had a wonderful afternoon judging the 'Hampton Lucy Decorated House Competition'. The sun shone and so did all of the twenty-two decorated houses. We give a huge thank you to all those young, and those older, for the enthusiasm, hard work and creativity shown by everyone. We had a visit from Churchill and a Spitfire. There was bunting, carefully hand-cut and coloured by the children in The Spinney, and children's pictures, more home-made bunting and hand-painted Union Flags lining almost every fence. A 75 year-old Union Flag fluttered from a tree. We loved the photographs and personal stories of veterans, especially the story of Squadron Leader A. C. Clowes, DFC, a Hurricane pilot and Battle of Britain ace.*

*Best of all was the way we all came together in a spirit of community and friendliness to commemorate the end of the*

*war, 75 years ago, but with rainbow pictures alongside flags, reminding us of the need to work together as we weather our current coronavirus crisis.*

*Everyone did so well but we particularly loved the family who dressed up in 1940 clothes with a chalked Union flag on the path, the diary of an imagined young girl on VE Day set in a window, the tea party with photographs of veterans, and the winner being the hand-drawn pictures and bunting alongside posters and Winston*

JD/AJ/CM

## VE Day, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Charlecote

Despite restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, the village of Charlecote still managed to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day with *Distance Drinks* along the lawn outside The Malt House. Throughout the rest of the village, neighbours were in their front gardens, chatting with friends and toasting each other over their fences so our little community was able to acknowledge this great national event. Along with so many other communities large and small throughout the British Isles there was a sense of celebration that brightened the gloom of the Covid -19 'lockdown'. HH



**The Grapevine**

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## From Your Vicar

Dear friends,

As I write this article at the beginning of May, the sky is clear, the sun bright, flowers are blooming and a family of rabbits are playing on our lawn. It really is a truly beautiful British springtime, full of new life.

Turning on the television leaves a very different impression. The news broadcasts are full of data, advice and at times, apparent contradiction. Reports full of testimony to the effects of an invisible danger crowd into our minds. How concerned should we be? What should we be doing or not doing, and as we are encouraged to manufacture our own face masks - intra-family discussion over whose clothing will be sacrificed - and the dawning reality that no amount of washing will cleanse the socks of teenagers sufficiently for them to be safe to elasticate to faces.

The paradox between the sheer beauty of the natural world that surrounds us and the danger that has brought humanity to a halt is hard to reconcile.

As I speak to people, I hear the same story over and over again. Neighbours and neighbourhoods coming together. Goodwill, love and care experiencing their very own springtime - flourishing across our villages. New relationships are being formed, and communities strengthened. In a flood of micro-actions hard pressed humanity is showing the best 'version of itself'. Goodness is the child being birthed from challenge and pain.

As I write we are five weeks into the season of Easter. An account, ancient and yet timeless has been told once again. A journey walked from the euphoria of Palm Sunday, through the enveloping darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the hollow, numb emptiness of Easter Saturday through to the jarring and then joy-filled realisation of Resurrection Sunday.

My prayer is that by the time you read this article, our lockdown will be in retreat, and we will be focusing on a new horizon. One different from the past due to social distancing but with some semblance of normality.

My prayer is that as we find our new normal, we will take with us our new friendships, our strengthened communities, our softer, kinder society. That from that sense of enveloping darkness that the virus initially brought us, we will walk forward with ever-increasing hope.

On a completely different theme, this edition of *The Grapevine* will be the last one edited by Jeremy, (*see page 4*.) Thank you Jeremy for the years of service you've given to the community. I know from our conversations that you have worked hard to produce an interesting and appealing news sheet. You succeeded and should *The Grapevine* disappear it will be much missed. I've particularly appreciated your patient reminders. It must have felt at times as though you were 'herding cats' as you chased contributors for articles and information.

Wishing you health and a full measure of Christ's peace,

Andy

Rev'd Dr Andy Larkin, Vicar

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### Loxley C of E Primary School

A week or two before lockdown began, Loxley C of E Primary School underwent a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools). We are so pleased to share that the school was graded as a good church school which is excellent in nurturing the spiritual development of both pupils and staff. Staff and governors were particularly proud of the following strengths, which were highlighted in our report:

***Pupils and their families are at the heart of all that is done.***

***The rich and vibrant curriculum enables all pupils, regardless of ability, to shine in their own unique way.***

***Behaviour is of the highest standard and pupils feel safe and attend well.***

***Aspirational approaches, supported through the vision and values, are effectively cultivating confident young learners.***

***The quality of worship is exceptional enabling all pupils and staff to flourish spiritually.***

We are now looking forward, when it is safe to do so, to having our whole school family back together to celebrate and continue to build on our achievements. In the meantime, staff have been keeping in regular contact with families through video lessons, recorded messages and stories, writing letters, photographs, sending emails and making telephone calls. Our children have been so creative at home, not only completing set home-learning tasks from teachers, but also baking, writing, gardening, den building, chick hatching, painting and sewing. We are extremely proud of them all! (*See page 3 ...Ed*)





## News from the Parishes

A summary of online services, church activities and support is available online with the **Barford Burble** by e-mail. Register to join the group by contacting Barford Group of Churches at [rectory@barford.org.uk](mailto:rectory@barford.org.uk)



### Grapevine and the Coronavirus

Although still at lockdown at time of going to press, this month's Grapevine will be printed and distributed, although the decision on door-to-door delivery will be left at the discretion of the local volunteers. It will also be published in digital form by e-mail and by posting on the Hampton Lucy, Charlecote and Loxley village websites. With St Nicholas' Church remaining closed, the Loxley copies will be delivered to Councillor Glynn Jones' address for collection by the volunteer deliverers. Many thanks Glynn. Hopefully soon we shall have more semblance of normality but I'm sure that in the meantime you will understand and take care!

AJW

### Carers4Carers

Unfortunately, our meeting on **Friday, 26 June**, will be **cancelled** due to the continued situation with Covid-19. We wish our members well and look forward to seeing you again soon. In the meantime, we welcome all those interested in our work to take a look at our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org) email [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or call 07947 893504 for more information and to request a copy of our newsletter. For online support you may also wish to take a look at the Carers UK forum at [www.carersuk.org/forum](http://www.carersuk.org/forum) and the local Carers Trust web-site [www.carerstrusthofs.org.uk](http://www.carerstrusthofs.org.uk)

LM

### News From Charlecote Park

While lockdown seems to have slowed life down for many on a personal level, things are changing quickly. We know you're missing Charlecote, and we're missing you too. But we're following government advice closely, and we must wait for that advice to be clarified before announcing any plans to start reopening. As we make decisions to reopen keeping our staff and visitors safe is paramount. We're really looking forward to welcoming you back when the time is right. Essential staff are on site looking after the deer and sheep and continuing conservation work in the house - those carpet beetles don't understand lockdown. News on re-opening will be posted on our social media and on our website, so please keep an eye on these.

MG



Photo: Jana Eastwood



### Wellesbourne & District Lions Club

Unfortunately the club has had to cancel all the events and fundraisers it had planned for the foreseeable future, but rest assured our members are out helping in their various communities wherever they can. One piece of good news is that The Lions Clubs Foundation of the British Isles has launched a special fund to support local communities during the COVID-19 crisis. The Foundation works with and is guided by Lions members who are ordinary people actively working at the heart of their community and Wellesbourne and District Lions Club has been awarded a grant of £1,000 to support The Fosse Food Bank at this critical time. Heather Brown, President, said: *'This is a significant sum of money that we are putting to good use straightaway. This coronavirus pandemic is hurting lots of local people in lots of different ways - just because we are all social distancing doesn't stop us from caring - we are doing what we can, and this cash injection will help us do more by providing food and other essentials to those who are unable to help themselves.'* The Wellesbourne club has also donated £600 from its own funds to a local group sewing 'scrubs' for Warwick Hospital as a part of the national initiative 'For The Love of Scrubs'. Wellesbourne & District Lions Club is active in: Wellesbourne, Barford (including Wasperton and Sherbourne), Hampton Lucy, Charlecote, Loxley, Combrook, Moreton Morrell, Ashorne, Kineton, Little Kineton and Ettington. If you would like to get involved or nominate a local good cause or project that would benefit from our support, please contact us on 01789 841419. Stay safe and we hope to see you later in the year when we will be back.

CE



### Loxley C of E Primary School

**R** is for the rain that makes you appear  
**A** is for arc, the shape that you take in the sky  
**I** is for indigo, one of your many colours  
**N** is for never finding the end  
**B** is for the beautiful colours you share  
**O** is for over, where we would all like to be  
**W** is for the windows you decorate

By Caleb, Loxley C of E Primary School, Year 4

EB



# The Notice

The Charlecote website:

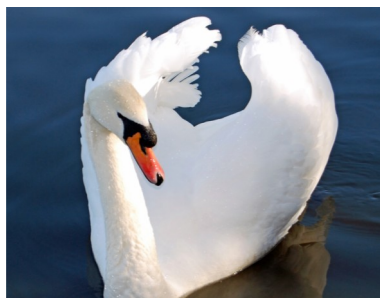
[www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com](http://www.charlecotevillagehall.weebly.com)

The Hampton Lucy website:

[hamptonlucy.wordpress.com](http://hamptonlucy.wordpress.com)

The Loxley website:

[loxleyvillage.com](http://loxleyvillage.com)



## Editorship of *The Grapevine*

I'm delighted to say that this edition of *The Grapevine* is not its swan-song! There is a new Editor in the wings - in fact probably an Editorial Team of two, which is great news. Introductions in July. To ease the complications of handing over during the Covid-19 lockdown I shall co-edit the summer edition, due out in late July and covering August and September. This will give more time for my successor(s) to get to grips with the software and plan ahead and I'll continue to help out for a while where needed. We now urgently need two proof readers with access to Microsoft Windows. Contact the Editor on [grapevine46@btinternet.com](mailto:grapevine46@btinternet.com)

AJW

## Rogue Traders Alert

Warwickshire Trading Standards advise residents not to buy from unexpected doorstep sellers. COVID-19 and the lock-down regulations have not prevented rogue traders operating across the County. Warwickshire Police recently warned that rogue traders offering 'driveway washing and resurfacing' were operating door to door in Kenilworth. Traders charge far more than it costs to actually buy a pressure washer, and claim to be using special products to kill and prevent the regrowth of weeds when in reality the special products are just sand and water! Resurfacing often just involves spreading a very thin layer of tarmac and chippings/gravel on the driveway that soon cracks leaving weeds to grow through. Don't get caught out. They will go to great lengths to make you think that they are genuine and local.

- Do not buy goods or services from unexpected doorstep callers
- If you need work carried out on your property, seek advice from family and friends
- Get at least three quotes from reputable traders with verifiable addresses. Consider using a Trading Standards approved and verified trader
- Report suspicious doorstep visits or any type of scam to the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. Citizens Advice can provide telephone support and advice. They will also alert Warwickshire Trading Standards Service who can provide additional advice.

For updated alerts on scams/rogue traders, names of verified traders, etc. visit: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/consumeradvice](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/consumeradvice)

## Healthwatch Warwickshire

Healthwatches in Warwickshire and Coventry would like to understand the public's views on health and social care support during the current pandemic. The organisations are launching a [survey](#) (*control-click*) to find out how services are working for people and to ensure that high-quality safe services and support are being delivered now, and as the lockdown eases.

They are seeking to find out:

- How the pandemic has affected your experiences of health and social welfare.
- If you have been able to access all the information that you need to keep you and your family safe and well.
- Whether your mental health been affected, and if so, what support you have been able to access.

Healthwatches' role is to gather the views and experiences of people who use health and social care services locally and use these views to inform local services and local decision makers so that improvements can be made. Its work also feeds in nationally through parent organisation Healthwatch England.

In recent weeks, NHS and social care staff have been working hard to keep us well and safe, adapting the support they offer in response to Covid-19. Healthwatch is keen to hear about all experiences of how these changes are working for people, including positive ones.

Healthwatch Warwickshire's Chief Executive, Chris Bain, said "This survey is really important to help make services better in your local community. If anyone wants to get more information on what services are available, we would encourage you to get in touch with your local Healthwatch." The survey will run throughout May. To tell Healthwatch about your experiences go to: [www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk/covid-19/tell-us-your-experience](http://www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk/covid-19/tell-us-your-experience)

Visit their website for more information or to get in touch: [www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk)

## Our correspondents this month:

EB - Emma Barrick; JD - John Dunkerton; CE - Carol Evered; MG - Mary Gleaves; HH - Helen Hoggarth; AJ - Alex Jones; SL - Sue Lampitt; LM - Lisa Maloney; CM - Carol Matthews; AJW - Jeremy Whyman

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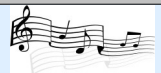
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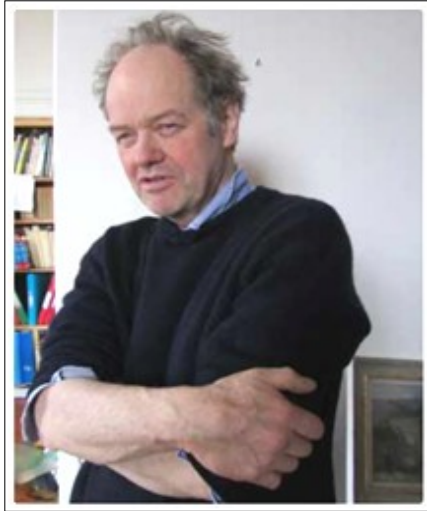
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## Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy, Bt., (1945 to 2020)



What a loss, what a shock. Ed was part of all our lives; he seemed to be for ever, like Charlecote Park itself, and in his unassuming, understated way he touched us all.

Ed was an artist of distinction. His paintings hang in prestigious collections including the National Gallery and the National Trust and, since 1967, he regularly exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

After leaving Eton he studied printmaking at the City and Guilds of London Art School and painting at the Royal Academy Schools, but his education was really the consequence of interaction with the whole of life as he experienced it and the extent of his interests and knowledge was amazing. He never stopped thinking and learning and innovation was his style.

In his painting Ed was always trying to exactly capture the way that light touched and reflected from an object, a determination which often led him to scrape off the day's work for another attempt the following day. In 1987 he joined the Art Workers Guild, reflecting the breadth of his many and varied interests. There he found kindred spirits, craftsmen and women who loved their work and had a wide-ranging understanding of the place of craft and beauty in the enrichment of everyday life. In 2011 he became Master of the Guild, an honour which he treasured. His wide-ranging interests were apparent, inviting a carefully chosen and varied succession of speakers to address the Guild's meetings. He confidently innovated in the Master's role, including opening the meetings with a poem he had chosen and which related to the subject of the forthcoming lecture. He introduced and organised evenings at which the members' crafts were demonstrated by hands-on sessions and descriptions of their techniques.

However, there was much more to Ed than his art. In 2006 Ed became President of the Warwickshire Gardens Trust and his contribution was greatly valued. His work on remodeling the forecourt gardens at Charlecote was based on historical research and was very relevant to the Trust's campaigns to preserve local historic gardens.

Ed's enquiring mind also enriched the church community. After services, he would raise thoughtful questions which had occurred to him as he listened attentively to the sermon. The questioning of wide-ranging concepts encouraged the Three Ps Discussion Group to thrive, with participants drawn from all six parishes. When we had a professor of philosophy amongst our number, Ed was in his element probing concepts and clarifying points, although all contributions were valued and hierarchy was not important in the quest for greater understanding. His generous-sized kitchen with its welcoming open fire and the many mugs of tea which he and Erica provided was often the setting for these discussions. When practical help was needed on down-to-earth church warden matters one could always rely on his wise advice. Church fêtes seem to have become a thing of the past but, in their day, Ed was there, every year, organising '*Bowling for the pig*' - despite the pig having long been replaced by a more modern and acceptable prize.

Ed's gift as a raconteur was appreciated in the context of Charlecote Harvest Suppers, when on one or two occasions he recounted his early experiences; when he first came to live at Charlecote Park, for example, exploring the wine cellar with the then curator, Mr. Routh, sampling the ancient bottles with missing labels but wonderful contents

Our whole community was sad not to be able to join the family in paying our respects to Ed at his funeral, but the numbers who lined the road in Charlecote and the green path in the Park bore testimony to the deep affection and respect in which he was held. As one of the members of the Art Workers' Guild said: *They broke the mould when they made Ed*. We would all like to extend our sympathy to Erica, Patrick and Johnny and the wider family; they have lost someone very special.

*Farewell* to a deeply admired and valued member of the community who treated everyone with kindness and respect; we all felt he was our friend.