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## ANOTHER WONDERFUL CENTURION

### HENRY DUCKER makes 100 not out!

by Henry's daughter and son-in-law, Elaine and Ray Lane

Henry Ducker was born on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1920; he was a twin, along with his Grace. They were the youngest of four children born to Percy and Isabella Ducker. Percy worked for the National Telephone Company in Nottingham and in 1909 they were nationalised to become the G.P.O. So they moved and settled in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, where four new factories started up.



At his reception class Marlborough Road School, Small Heath a lady brought in a 5 year old girl, seating her next to Henry and said "can you look after this little girl". Her name was Olive Birch, later to become his sweetheart and his wife. Henry always quotes this bit of history saying he kept his promise and always looked after her!

Henry was good at sport and won cups and trophies for athletics. At one prize-giving he was asked to give some of the trophies back so other boys could share the glory.

Henry passed the entrance exam to join the G.P.O so joining his father and brother. In 1939, the G.P.O asked for volunteers with experience and knowledge of telecommunications to join the war effort.

After training at Cranwell he was sent on the Leopoldville Belgium troopship to Reykjavik in Iceland to set up the command centre for the North Atlantic convoys.



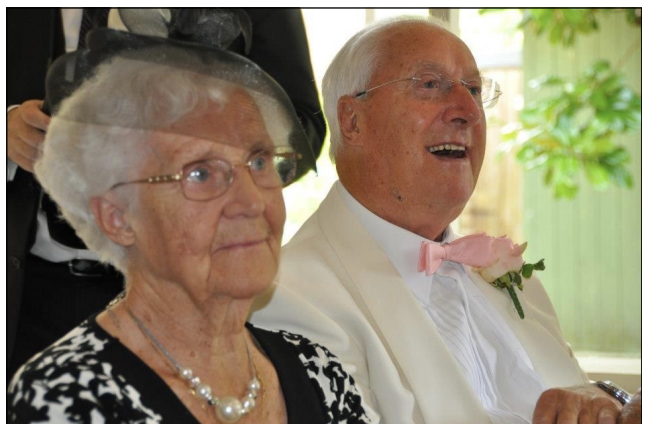
He was then posted to North Africa to join a squadron flying

Hurricanes in support of the British 8th Army, The Desert Rats. One of his tasks was to set the pilots' radio frequency just before takeoff so that the Axis Air Force would have the minimum time to intercept and join them in combat. The ground crew went out with the aircraft to the far end of the runway riding on the tail plane blasted by the wind, sand and engine noise. No wonder their hearing was affected.



From North Africa he moved into Italy, landing at Salerno a few days after the first landings and supported the army in their advance northwards including the terrible battle at Monte Casino. He was wounded and after surgery, he was allowed to recuperate in Sorrento. Henry was in Italy when victory in Europe was declared, but would not come home for another nine months. He was then posted to The Balkan Air Command BAF in Yugoslavia, his last posting to 255 Squadron where they were given the task of escorting 500 prisoners of war to Valletta in Malta. For a time here he worked on Mosquito planes.

From Malta he was posted back to Cairo and was then de-mobbed and sent home via troop ship to Toulon, train across France to Dieppe and across the Channel



*Still looking after his childhood sweetheart*



*Henry and Olive's 1946  
Wedding Day*

to Newhaven by HMS Royal Daffodil, landing in February 1946. This was the first time back in the UK for 5 years. Olive and Henry married in March 1946. Olive had one month to organise a wedding!

With two daughters, they moved from the bombed city of Birmingham to the new homes being built for the returning troops. Shard End became their home for 56 years. Henry carried on his work with telecommunications with the G.P.O and retired in 1981. Olive and Henry had golden years living in Shard End, but decided to move closer to family so came to live in Bredon in 2008, where they were warmly welcomed, and made new friends. Olive died in 2014. His twin sister Grace just didn't make 100 and died a few months ago. Henry has continued to successfully live independently.

He enjoys weekly excursions to Tewkesbury Market, fortnightly wheelchair bus trips to Tewkesbury. He regularly attends St Giles Church. He follows news and current affairs including "Today in Parliament".

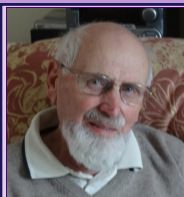
Henry has an optimistic outlook on life and often berates family members when they moan about the state of this and that. Commenting on his war years that our lives would never be as terrible as those 5 years during WW2, he'll remark "Always look on



*Elaine and Ray, jauntily attired*

## ST GILES FOLK ADVANCING IN YEARS

Following hard on from the excitement of the **two centurions**, there are at least three others following them rather fast:

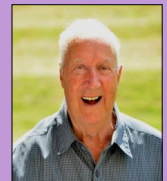


**Sam Wilkinson** turned **98** in mid-June. Since his stroke several months ago, he has shown great determination and is recapturing mobility and dexterity gradually. His wife Joyce is suffering with *Dementia* in Ashchurch View Care Home. He is the former Gift Aid for St Giles and many will have seen examples of his craftsmanship around St Giles church.

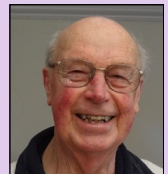
**Derrick Grainger**, our wonderful organist, was in early June; that's hard to believe when we hear him playing. Of course, he used to be Head Teacher of Bredon Hancock's school and then chaired Bredon Parish Council. Also he edited our Parish Magazine and never fails to encourage the current editor.



**Marion Ralls & Henry Ducker,**



**Denis Clay**, who told us he was at the VEDay celebrations, now realises it must have been VJ day - it would have been school holidays. We said he was a small boy; it seems he was 14; that must make him **88** now. Sorry. He doesn't look it!



Denis, of course, used to write a monthly article in our magazine, *God's not dead!*, as well as doing careful proofreading, until failing eyesight sadly caused him to stop.

*As your days, so shall your strength be.*

*Deuteronomy 33:25 KJV / RSV*

*We praise God for all our special senior citizens and ask Him continually to sustain and to use them for His glory.*



## CHURCH OPEN NOW FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

In line with advice from the House of Bishops, St Giles church will open for Private Prayer each Sunday between the hours of 10.00 and 12.00. There is a notice on the main door explaining the procedure. All are welcome and there is a dedicated area in the Mitton Chapel to ensure social distancing can be maintained.



Peter Whitehead  
Warden

*What a Friend we have in Jesus  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to Him in prayer!*

## BREDON CHURCHYARD'S LOCKDOWN WILDFLOWER BEAUTY



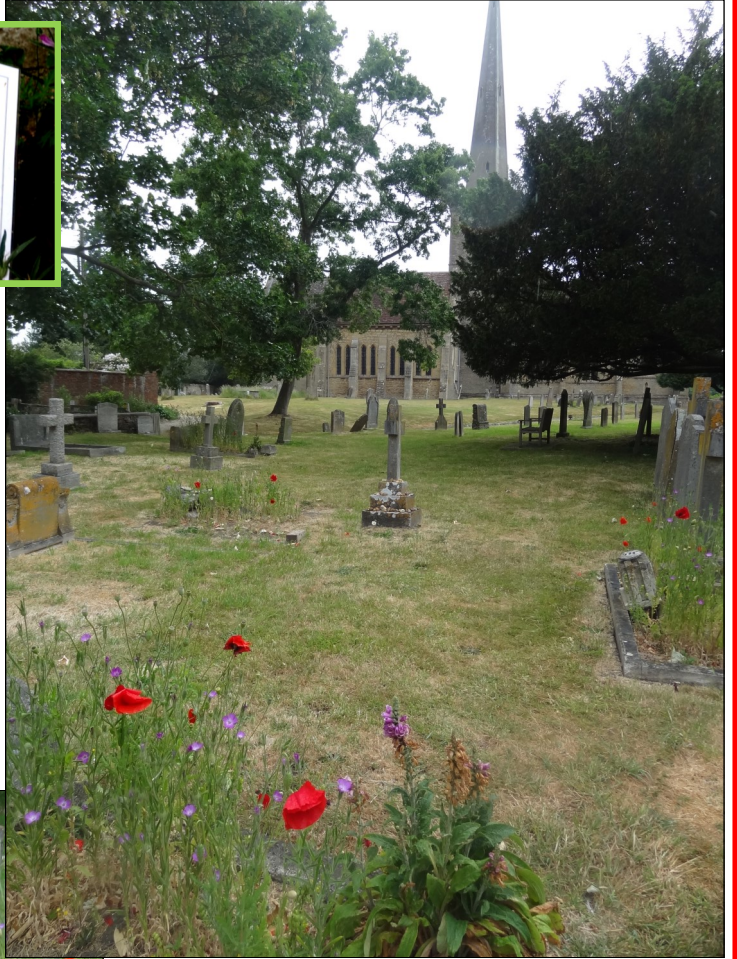
Readers who have been in Bredon churchyard recently must have been impressed by the remarkable splashes of colour. Lovely wildflowers have sprung up in various places.

"Conservation areas" were among criteria required for the Best - kept Churchyard Competition, which we won three years ago. One such area is pictured here. As we are now most grateful to receive a grant from the Parish Council to cover the cost of mowing the grass, we are no longer eligible to enter the competition.

Our profuse thanks are due to **Charles Vernall**, who devotedly maintains the graveyard. On his own initiative, he has sown wildflower seeds in various places around the graves.

The results have been spectacular. On a pleasant day - and we have had many this year - it is a delightful place in which to sit or walk around quietly.

*More photos on page 9*





## Minister's Message

July has always been a special month in our family – several family birthdays, our wedding anniversary and normally the end of the academic year which gives way to the long summer holiday. Yes, it is also usually the time when many school examinations take place, but this is quite soon forgotten by the prospect of much anticipated summer holidays. The weather is also usually warm, or even hot, at least in part of the month, and friends of mine always used to joke that it was always sunny on my birthday, when we would have the opportunity to enjoy an annual summer's barbeque.

**This year, however, July will be different**, and although birthdays and wedding anniversaries will still happen as dates marked on our calendars, celebrations will take place in other ways. Whether we can still have our annual barbeque in the vicarage in Eckington, will not only be dependent on whether the government lifts its' restrictions in relation to how we can socialise together, but on whether the weather is fair or not.

15<sup>th</sup> July as many of you will know is St. Swithin's Day, a day on which people watch the weather, because as tradition says whatever the weather is like on St. Swithin's Day, will be the weather pattern for the next 40 days. In fact, there is even a weather rhyme, dating back to Elizabethan times, which says:-

*'St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St. Swithin's day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.'*



St. Swithin was a Saxon Bishop of Winchester, who became famous for his charitable gifts and the building of churches. However, legend has it, that as the bishop lay on his deathbed, he asked to be buried out of doors, where he could be trodden and rained on. I have to say that I'm not sure as to what the purpose of this was, but for nine years his wishes were followed. After this time, however, the monks of Winchester attempted to remove his remains to a splendid shrine inside the cathedral on 15 July 971; But, according to legend, there was a heavy rain storm either during the ceremony or on its anniversary, and this led to the old wives' tale about whether it rained on St Swithin's Day.

Data from the Met Office is said to have proven, by testing on 55 occasions, that this old wives' tale is nothing other than a myth; However I'm sure that in spite of this many of us will still be watching what the weather is like on 15<sup>th</sup> July. But, we are told in the Bible that God is creator of the world, and in Deuteronomy 28:12, it says "*the Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands.*" God will therefore continue to bless His people and all that we do.

This surely is the hope of all farmers and gardeners, especially after such a lovely dry Spring, and we give thanks for all they do in producing the food we rely on. But this is also a tremendous encouragement to all of us, when so much of our world seems uncertain and fragile; whatever the weather, whatever the circumstances we are facing in life, God will continue to watch over and bless His children and all that they do. This is not some light weight and half hearted promise, said to make people feel better in that moment of time, but then to be forgotten; No, God's words are true and eternal – they will not waver dependent on the colour of our skin, our age, gender or academic ability, because God is faithful, and His mercy endures for ever. This was proved when He sent His Son to die on a cross and to rise to life again for all people, a sacrifice born out of love and care for His children. We need to hold onto this promise and that when the sunshine seems to have disappeared from our lives, and all we seem to see are the storm clouds and threatening rain, then we must seek the rainbow, that expression of hope, which assures us when the rain has passed, there will be sunshine once again.

So, perhaps we can all hope for sunshine on 15<sup>th</sup> July, but if not, let's not be too disappointed, but instead, as we gaze on the rain, let us remember this is a sign that God is still with us and that He will continue to bless His children for ever.

May you all enjoy a wonderful summer everyone, whatever you will be doing.

**Allison Davies, Associate Priest to the Churches of the Bredon Hill Group**

*Allison kindly surmised that we would appreciate a different subject from Covid 19 at present! Ed*



## BREDON CRICKET CLUB

We have been informed and instructed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) that all recreational cricket, in every aspect, is suspended until further notice. The ECB has identified five steps in its Roadmap for the return of recreational cricket. England is at present at Stage 3, allowing small group training sessions of up to six people. We are hoping to hear from the Government about a start to recreational cricket and will only start when Government guidelines allow. A range of options to begin cricket later in the summer is being modelled for various contingencies, including a move to Step 4 with 'adapted gameplay'.

A recent improvement has been to allow the use of our net facilities. There are many restrictions on their use: social distancing must take place at all times; it is essential that players who practise in the nets bring all their own equipment, including their own cricket balls; the pavilion will not be open. All bookings for the use of nets must be made via Neil Hall, on 01684 – 773591 or 07824 – 365055.

The West Indies test side has now arrived in Manchester. They will play three test matches against England in July.

We have been relieved to receive grants from Wychavon District Council which will allow us to meet some of the running costs of the club, including the maintenance of the grounds and pavilion. We also hope that Sport England will be able to help us. The response to our appeal for everyone to join as Social Members for the year has been very encouraging and we have been very relieved to receive their subscriptions; it has helped our finances significantly at this difficult time. Thank you very much!

Adam Gallagher, our groundsman, has been working extremely hard at keeping the outfield and square in excellent order. The grounds are looking particularly good and we have been guaranteed that, when we are informed about the start of recreational cricket, that we will be ready to start playing immediately.



Derek Ebbage

## BOWLS - WE ARE UP AND BOWLING AGAIN!

At last some team sports have been given the go-ahead. And Bowls is one of them! Bredon was one of the first to open earlier than expected on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Strict rules were adhered to and only 5 rinks are being used with two players on each. Many members took advantage of the wonderful weather to have a roll-up.

We have now had the very good news that three sessions are available for most days and members may now play in pairs – 4 per rink. This enables some of the club competitions to commence. Spectators are very welcome so long as the social distancing is observed.

**Now is the chance to GIVE IT A GO! It's a great sport and fun to play.** We have all the equipment you can borrow; just wear flat shoes and we can give you some basic coaching to get you started.



Call Richard Woodward on 01684 772932 to book your free trial time. Ian Day is our Secretary on 07587168789 who would be happy to answer any bowling queries re membership etc.



Jill Marshment

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

### BREDON WI.

It would be difficult to suggest that we have been very busy as a WI since the appearance of the June Parish Magazine, but words can still be found. Several members have been making items for use of medical staff, from old sheets and pillow cases which have long languished at the back of the airing cupboard. Knicker elastic is in short supply, as face masks whizz off the sewing machines, and, as no knickers seem to have elastic these days, and homecraft shops are still shut, where do we go? We have plenty of Quizzes to puzzle over, but miss our Scrabble sessions when we could use all the zzzz in this sentence. President Joan is compiling and on-lining our own Newsletter, which provides information, thoughtful articles and the odd cheeky cartoon, so we still feel very joined up.

We all contributed to a special One Hundredth Birthday greeting for Marion Ralls at the beginning of June, and she will soon decorate her bedroom walls with all the individual birthday cards she received. Congratulations to a lovely lady who has given so much to the WI over many years, and can still call us to silent attention with a clap of her ex-teacher hands!

Normally, we would be reporting on the success of the WI Tea Tent at the Three Counties Show in Malvern at this time of year, as it was the turn of Glos Federation to plan, erect, bake, serve, and clear for three days. We have not escaped, for our slot has been moved to 2021. Do not think we have got off lightly. However, we do look forward to easier times ahead, and hope to get together again sooner, rather than later. There will be such a lot to catch up on.



Viv Ebbage 773549

## SYLVIA HARRINGTON'S SUMMER RECIPE

### Raspberry Meringues with Elderflower Cream

serves 4

#### For the meringues

4 egg whites  
 225gm caster sugar  
 1 teaspoon lemon juice  
 1 teaspoon cornflour  
 1 teaspoon vanilla essence]  
 2 x 125grms punnets raspberries

#### For the Elderflower Cream

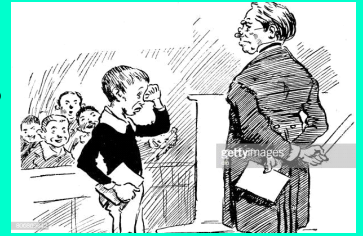
170grms mascapone  
 2 tablespoons icing sugar  
 2 tablespoons elderflower cordial



- ◆ Preheat oven 110c gas ½ and line 2 baking sheets with baking parchment.
- ◆ Whisk the egg whites with a pinch of salt until stiff.
- ◆ Gradually add the sugar whisking until you can stand a spoon in the mixture.
- ◆ Add the lemon juice, cornflour and vanilla extract and fold in the raspberries.
- ◆ Place heaped tablespns of mixture on the prepared baking trays.
- ◆ Bake in oven for about 1hr 30 mins or until crisp and dry to the touch and then lift off the paper easily.
- Meanwhile mix together the mascapone, icing sugar and elderflower cordial. Chill until needed .
- To serve sandwich together two raspberry meringues with a spoonful of the elderflower cream.
- Dust with icing sugar

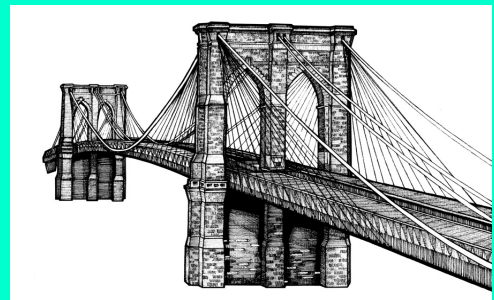
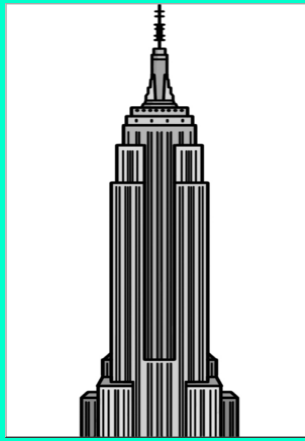
## Quiz Inspired by Schoolboy howlers

**What does the second amendment to the US constitution allow?  
Schoolboy answer: it gives everybody the right to bare arms**



Identify the following presidents of the United States

1. The very first one
2. The 16th president assassinated at a theatre.
3. The 26th and 32nd presidents who shared the same surname.
4. The 35th president assassinated in Dallas.
5. Identify these three sites in New York



**Against whom did David and the Israelites fight? Schoolboy answer - the Philatelists...**

6. O.K. Against which people did David fight? Who did he beat in personal combat and how?
7. What is a Philatelist?

Identify the following Phils

8. A country in Asia consisting of 7000 islands (11 letters)
9. The use of reason in the search for truth (10 letters)
10. An act of benevolence showing a concern for the welfare of people (12 letters)
11. The chief city in Pennsylvania. (12 letters)

*This quiz was set by Inquizzitor number 2*



*You can check your answers on page 19*

## COMPUTER MATTERS

by Jim Verrechia, a Bredon Computer Doctor



### Windows 10 Feature Update, May 2020 (Codename 20H1)

Well it seems that the latest Windows Feature update has had a few problems\*, mainly with legacy computers and so Microsoft have now blocked this update on lots of devices until these problems are resolved.

\*Some of these could make your PC 'blue-screen' and so it is better to wait until you are 'invited' rather than force the download/update. This is a major re-work of Windows 10, and so it's no surprise that it is running late.

### Microsoft's new Edge Web Browser

Microsoft have recently launched their updated browser, which is based on the Chromium open-source project. As Chromium is also the basis for Google Chrome there are now a lot of shared features like rendering, browser extensions etc. Nevertheless, you will get notifications if you use Chrome and vice versa with Edge persuading you to use the other browser, and so it's your choice which one you set as default! (Default = whenever you click on a link, whichever browser you have selected as default should always open a link).

### Anti-Virus Protection – Save Yourself Some Money!

Windows Defender has recently upped its game in the world of AV protection and is more than a match for many of the mainstream competitors, who command high prices and little, if any, extra protection (the number of PCs I've scanned and removed 100's of bugs from, which have been armed to the teeth with expensive anti-virus software is frustrating to say the least).



The big high-street computer stores make a lot of money just from selling you AV products with your new PC or device, so it is easy to see how people get pressured into buying premium AV at the checkout. Second year renewals are often more than £50 and may go unnoticed until too late.

So, what is the answer? My recommendations are 1. Remove any other AV products installed on your PC and use Windows Defender, it's free and good at capturing viruses. 2. Download Malwarebytes (Free version) and put up with the adverts. It doesn't offer real-time protection after the trial period, but it works. 3. Better still, pay the £30.00 per year and use

the premium version of Malwarebytes, which offers 'real-time' protection not only against viruses but all kinds of malware.

### Still using Zoom?

Oh-boy. Well Google have just launched their own meeting software and it's free with any Gmail account. Why not give it a try?

### NHS Scams

Time to keep a close eye on your neighbours again – this time its NHS Test and Trace. By the time this goes out, this story should be in the public domain. So watch out for anyone asking you to dial a premium rate number, ask for your identity, passwords, PIN numbers, bank account number etc. or ask for a payment. Stay safe!



## Book for July/August 2000

### SEEKING ALLAH, FINDING JESUS by Nabeel Qureshi

Reviewed by Derek Cain

*Derek has chosen a demanding book, judging solely by his (and Gloria's) article. I realise that I am making the mistake of assuming that, because I have difficulty in grasping what something means, other readers will! I can only say that I enjoyed having to think for quite a while. This seems to be a highly significant book, about a devout Muslim encountering Christianity. Ed*

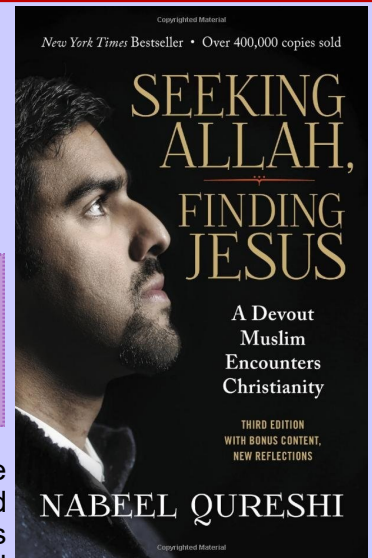
This is the first of 3 books by Nabeel, and is a gripping story of how he became a zealous follower of the Lord Jesus. Brought up in a happy and loving Muslim family in America, Nabeel acquired a great passion for his Islamic religion. Indeed, as a youth he was able to recite all the prayers used in the many rituals of his particular denomination and always enjoyed the communal worship each Friday. It seemed obvious that alternative belief systems must be false, that all should be persuaded to become Muslims. He disdained Christianity with its 'corrupted' version of the Bible and absurd doctrines and found pleasure in debating with keen Christians and to work at items from books that contained questions that Christians find difficult, and then offer to counsel them in Islam. This was to change for ever when sharing university accommodation with David Wood, a fellow student who was able to answer him on all points, – with interest. Such a challenge set Nabeel on a long quest for assurance that his was the TRUTH, and sought flaws in this rival creed which would support his continued disregard for it.

The big questions started by examining the validity of the Bible, to find it could not have been changed in any significant way from how it had been first written in the lifetime of the events recorded. One by one each of his objections e.g. The virgin birth, the suffering of the 'godly prophet', his death, the resurrection, were answered over several years of debate. The doctrine of the Trinity took much longer to grasp. How could three persons be present in a single being? It was in a science lecture that his eyes were opened.

Extract; -

*"I was perplexed. . . The professor was teaching rarefied Sci-ence, describing the subatomic world. At that level, things happen that make no sense to those of us who conceptualize the world at only a human level. Even the apparently simple idea of atoms is baffling when we think about it. . . it seems wrong, but it's just the way things are in our universe. There's no use arguing about it. . . My eyes rested on the three separate structures of nitrate on the wall, my mind assembling the pieces. One molecule of nitrate is all three resonance structures all the time and never just one of them. The three are separate but all the same, and they are one. They are three in one. That's when it clicked: if there are things in this world that can be three in one. . . then why cannot God?"*

SBN 9780310527237 © copyright 2014, 2016 by Nabeel Qureshi ZONDERVAN PRESS.



#### QUOTE...UNQUOTE from Gloria Cain

"The doctrines of a tri-personal God and of his making himself known in human terms, have about them those elements of surprise and intellectual profundity which are characteristic of the best scientific theory. Our investigation of the physical world has stretched our minds and enlarged our notions of the conceivable. It would be surprising indeed if the encounter with God did not do the same.

John Polkinghorne,  
Particle physicist and only ordained member of the Royal Society.





## BREDON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

– Wednesdays (term time) Bredon Village Hall. 10:00-11:45



We are **urgently looking for some volunteers to get involved and help run this group**. Anna and I will be stepping down from our roles as Chair and Secretary at the beginning of September. Catherine will stay on in her role as Treasurer, but she cannot run the group on her own. There is a very real risk that the group will not run from September if we don't have anyone to take over the management. We do not know when we will be able to re-open the group but, once we can, I will be happy to do a handover and attend the first couple of sessions to help out.



Cassie Woodcock

PLEASE do get in touch if you think you can help at all, it would be such a shame to close after so many years. There are a few different roles, none of which require much effort unless the same person has to do them all!

Our Facebook page is Bredon Baby & Toddler Group or email us at [bredonsteppingout@googlemail.com](mailto:bredonsteppingout@googlemail.com).

I can be contacted on 07990 973 495.

## ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE FUNDRAISERS



**St. Richard's Hospice**  
CARING FOR LIFE

As you can imagine, the enforced closure of all charity shops has resulted in a huge loss of vital income to the charities concerned. Normally our hospice would be

organising big events in the Worcester area raising thousands of £££ for those in need of care and support of St. Richards. Even the proposed Elephants in Worcester had to be postponed. But all is not lost.

The well known song "My Old Man's a Dustman" has now been morphed into "My Old Man's a Cyclist" and Derek Ebbage is about to tackle "100K:Your Way" on his newly acquired bicycle. Entrants can walk, run, cycle over any distance on any day knowing that each kilometre means a little more income for the Hospice. My Old Man would relish your help and all you have to do is go to

<http://justgiving.com/fundraising/Derek-Ebbage>

and add a few £££ to his total. He does not wear Lycra so could instantly be recognisable as he pedals towards his total. Do it now!

Viv Ebbage 773549



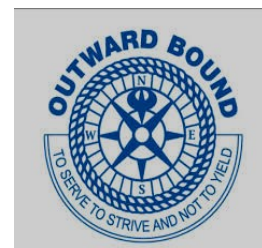
## OUTWARD BOUND ASSOCIATION

We had 7 youngsters booked for courses in the summer 2020 but these had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. The good news is that most of the candidates have booked to go on courses in 2021.

Anyone who would like to consider a course for summer 2021 can contact Ray Lane at:

[thelanes27@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thelanes27@yahoo.co.uk) for information about courses, dates and locations.

| <u>May Draw</u> |               | £  | <u>June Draw</u> |           | £  |
|-----------------|---------------|----|------------------|-----------|----|
| 180             | M Hall        | 50 | 33               | J Chapman | 50 |
| 155             | D Barthorpe   | 50 | 209              | E.Elliott | 50 |
| 191             | R Cave-Ayland | 5  | 78               | R Sommer  | 5  |
| 203             | D Howard      | 5  | 133              | N Bayliss | 5  |
| 70              | M Maton       | 5  | 199              | A Clarke  | 5  |
| 147             | A Jones       | 5  | 144              | A Newell  | 5  |
| 181             | J Rose        | 5  | 104              | J Carr    | 5  |
| 224             | P Powell      | 5  | 42               | B Cox     | 5  |



Richard Cowley / Ray Lane

## Bredon and Bredon's Norton Parish Council



### COVID-19 Coronavirus

The Parish Council is still planning ahead regarding the reopening of facilities such as the Village Hall and Playground equipment. We are pleased to confirm the Parish Council has received a grant from Wychavon for the loss of income due to the Village Hall being closed.

We are getting hand sanitisers installed in the Village Hall and Public Toilets, and investigating various cleaning methods.

It is good to see some of the sports clubs have reopened and implemented social distancing procedures.

### Police Report

Kemerton Lake Nature Reserve – SNT have made numerous visits due to reports of Anti Social Behaviour, and on the occasion of the fire spent over 2 hours trying to locate offenders. Two males were located and spoken to and they have received a Community Protection Notice Warning (CPNW) banning them from the area. Whilst they were seen at the site of the fire, there was no evidence to say they were responsible for it.

Speed checks have been conducted. 14 drivers were given words of advice and one ticket was issued for a speed of 43 mph.

With regard to the barn fire we have spoken to Mr Gray. Fire attended and deemed it to be arson. An investigation has taken place, but at this time there is no evidence to suggest who may be responsible.

The only other report was one received from a resident in Bredon's Norton of two cars being driven over private fields. The registration of the vehicles was taken and the drivers have received CPNW letters advising them not to attend the area.

### Happy 100th Birthday (another one!)



The Parish Council would like to wish **Henry Ducker** a very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Henry lives quite independently in Bredon, ably supported by his daughter Elaine and son-in-law Ray Lane. Even though we are still living with this Covid-19 lockdown, we are sure they will make it a memorable day for him.

### Natural Networks Update

As soon as lockdown restrictions were lifted, work recommenced on the improvements to the corner of the playing field. New steps and a pond with a dipping platform have been installed, and the bridge has been repaired. The pond should fill naturally when it is wetter, and help improve the biodiversity. The Natural Networks project is supported by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.



### Planning Applications

The Parish Council's role is only advisory. For more details, please refer to [www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk).

For consideration by Wychavon:

**W/20/00766** - Apple Yard, Oak Lane, Bredon. Part conversion of and extension to garage. Veranda to rear of house. **The PC has no objections.**

**W/20/00872** - The Croftlands, The Lane, Bredon's Norton. Erection of porch. **The PC has no objections.**

### Date of Next Meeting:

#### Monthly Parish Council

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July*

takes place in Bredon

Village Hall at 7:15pm

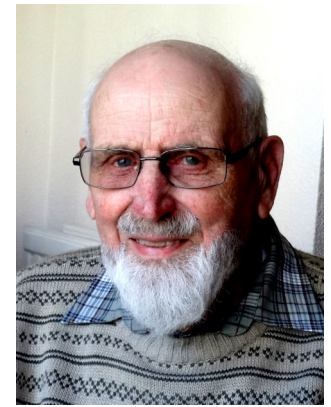
If we are still social distancing, this meeting will take place via Zoom, please contact the Clerk for access to this meeting.

## SAM MUSING

### Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. A true story by Sam Wilkinson

My father took Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> very seriously and I used to laugh at him until one day in July 1972.

Early that year we were planning our summer holiday. We would take our caravan to see my father; it sounds simple except that it involved crossing the channel and the Swiss and Italian alps. The date was fixed, leaving home on the 14<sup>th</sup> July and making the crossing at three in the afternoon. In the meantime my company had taken on a new project that of developing a seal for the propeller shafts of large tank ships. This was based on the design that I had invented for naval ships. We managed the first sale to the Getty oil company that operated its own fleet of tankers one of which was due for a refit during the year, the actual date to be confirmed to fit in with her work schedule. Eventually the date was fixed for the first two weeks of July at Genoa. I always made a point of helping with the first installation of any new products and so I planned to go to Genoa on the 8<sup>th</sup> July.



To save time and money, they planned to tilt the ship alongside the jetty. This was done by emptying the trim tank at her stern and flooding the tank right at the front of the vessel. This lifted the propeller and its bearing clear of the water so that we could work on the inside end to fit the seal. It all went very well and, by the Thursday, she was ready for going to sea. Tugs were booked for 10-o'clock on Friday morning the thirteenth. This was when the gremlins joined us. All ready for sailing only to be told that all the tug crews in Genoa had gone on strike. The captain was not too dismayed because he was confident that he could take the ship out on his own, having a clear short run to the harbour entrance. So I went down to the stern shaft compartment with John, the Getty superintendent, who was keen to see how the seal operated. He asked for various manoeuvres and all went very well, ending with an hour at full power.

We had been invited to lunch on board - excellent food and wine on Getty ships - and we went up to the dining room. We should have been approaching Genoa on our round trip but to our dismay we were in mid ocean with no land in sight. The Italian captain had misunderstood the orders and we were heading for the Suez Canal. Fortunately John was in a position to give orders for a return to Genoa which would take at least two hours. After a good lunch and approaching Genoa, the captain radioed the Harbourmaster to arrange for a boat to take us ashore, only to be told that none of the tugs or service boats were prepared to help us because we had broken their strike by leaving their harbour without a tug that morning. However a pilot would be taking a ship out in the evening and the pilot boat would pick us up on its way in, a time would be set in due course depending on when the ship cast off.

I had booked a return flight from Genoa at 8-o'clock that evening however, which would get me home in good time for a night's sleep before setting off with the caravan early next morning. We cruised up and down just outside the Genoa sea wall with the airport on the foreshore alongside it. 6 o'clock came and went and I was getting anxious about making my flight but John came to my help. He said that they had very good relationship with Air Italia and he would arrange with them to delay the flight until I arrived, much to our surprise, they agreed, but with a one hour maximum. At 8-o'clock we were still running alongside the sea wall and at 9pm we watched the plane take off. I felt very sorry for its passengers. The pilot boat arrived at 10-30 and I was back in my hotel by 11-00. I explained my problem to the receptionist who was very helpful and came up with a suggestion. There was a flight from Milan at 6-00 next morning but that was 70 miles away. However he could arrange a taxi for me but it would mean leaving at 4-o'clock in the morning. This was gladly accepted and I endured the fastest taxi ride I have ever experienced. Back at Heathrow just before 8-00 and home by half past in good time to prepare the caravan for a more leisurely trip back to Italy.



*Was it not more a case of 'all's well that ends well' rather than Friday 13 being an unlucky day? We are most grateful to Sam for sharing so much with us over the years, not least this rather alarming tale. Ed*

## OUR COVER PHOTO

is **A perfect English Saturday afternoon village scene**, taken at Bredon cricket ground, with a backcloth of Bredon Hill, by Christopher Frith, a nostalgic occasion when cricket matches were allowed. He writes:

It was a pleasurable experience but that was far outweighed by the photo below. Eleven or twelve years ago, we had been given a *Village Life* calendar, with photos of charming UK village scenes and, one month, it featured a match on Overbury cricket ground. Overbury is a special place for us, as Pam and I got married there - in the church, not on the cricket pitch, you understand; her late mother used to be churchwarden there. When we moved to Bredon in 2009, I was keen to try to re-create the photo. One weekend, when a match was in progress, I duly had a go, . It was going rather well. I was standing the middle of the road to get the right angle and was surprised suddenly to hear a *clip-clop* just behind me. There was a pony and trap with two passengers. I managed to step smartly out of the way and then took a photo of them with the cricket behind. It felt as though time had rolled back a century and I had a different photograph, even more special for me than the one I had sought to achieve!



### Schoolboy Howler

Q, U, I, Z,

### Answers

See the questions first on page 13!

1. George Washington
2. Roosevelt
3. Abraham Lincoln
4. John F Kennedy
5. The Statue of Liberty : The Empire State Building : Brooklyn Bridge
6. The Philistines: Goliath was killed by a stone sent from a sling
7. A collector of postage stamps
8. The Philippines
9. Philosophy
10. Philanthropy
11. Philadelphia

### **Parish Magazine advertising**

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or [richardandcarol@oakgardens.co.uk](mailto:richardandcarol@oakgardens.co.uk)



## **THE NEXT PARISH MAGAZINE will be for September 2020**

**DEADLINE:** Wednesday 12 August

All items to be included should go to the editor, Christopher Frith, by that date please  
[bredonparishmaged@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bredonparishmaged@hotmail.co.uk) or Cover Point, Back Lane, Bredon [01684 773164]

That issue will again need to be on line only. Sadly, we cannot say when paper copies restart.

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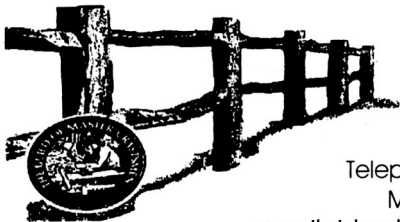
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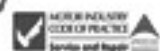
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# OVERBURY

## ENTERPRISES

On the surface Overbury encapsulates much of what might be the archetypal peaceful, country estate, including lambs playing in rolling parkland, Cotswold stone cottages and a beautiful village hall. So, it may come as a surprise to discover how much goes on here.

Yoga, concerts, art classes, a nursery school and after school club, in addition to a huge variety of local small businesses from stud, to IT, designers and artisans. The village is home to a vibrant school, church and sports clubs.

Conderton Manor Farmhouse is now open and welcoming guests, and our full fibre premises expanding to serve more and more

residents and businesses. Our Overbury Estate Office is the administrative hub which supports the farms, building, gardens, forestry and Grasshoppers nursery teams.

Whether you want to use the full fibre network at the Old Village Shop for some coworking in the week, take part in a wellbeing or fitness class or enjoy the miles of public footpaths around Bredon hill, there is something for everyone.

Fall in love with the lifestyle and rent a special property in Overbury and Conderton.

An hour, a day, a weekend or lifetime, Overbury is a **great place to live and work.**

Overbury Estate Office Overbury Nr Tewkesbury Glos GL20 7NR  
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