

THE KINLET NEWSLETTER



June 2020

THE KINLET NEWSLETTER

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Please note the deadline for the Newsletter is returning to the 20th of each month

CALENDAR 2020

We offer our gratitude to our delivery team who are now able to resume distribution of the Newsletter from July until further notice. As such we will no longer be posting on the Parish Council Website and thank you for your understanding over the last three months. We also look forward to the time when we have a calendar to publish!

Please continue to submit articles to:
kinletnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk

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For distribution queries please contact Pat Horsfall on 01299 841384 who will then forward your enquiry to the appropriate delivery person for your area.

We would like to thank the team of willing volunteers who regularly get your Kinlet Newsletter to you.

Telephone: 01299 272916
Email: cleoburychurch@hotmail.com
Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Church Office
Market Hall
Cleobury Mortimer
DY14 8BX

Kinlet Church Wardens: Mr Simon Harris 01299 841701
Major John Harrop 01299 841420

As I write some preparations are being made for a partial relaxation of lockdown, it is too early to see how this will affect our communities or for that matter our nation. The year 2020 has so far been very strange, and the communal experience of the shutting down of so many of our normal habits of life and the removal of expectations that we usually take for granted will leave a lasting psychological and spiritual legacy for years to come.

There are going to be lasting consequences as far as public health is concerned, obviously, the next phase of the battle against the virus will probably be protracted over a long period of time, even the best case scenario is likely to see local flare-ups and localised lockdowns. The economy will recover eventually, but it might be a somewhat different shaped economy by the end of all this.

The idea then of 'things getting back to normal' is probably not the best way of looking at the future. But in the face of all this unpredictability I think there are some things to think about that might be helpful. And they are all about what is really valuable.

Firstly there are the small things. Some of us haven't left our homes for months, for many of us a shopping trip to Bridgnorth or Ludlow is a major expedition. For those of us who have gardens they have become places of relaxation and exercise, sanctuaries from which to view the beauty of the countryside around us. We probably are relating to far fewer people than we are used to, casual contacts have diminished, many of us are pretty much restricted to talking to people we want to talk to, or who are important in our lives.

Then there are the big things. This all started somehow in a city in China that probably many of us had never heard of, but the events effects have spread across the globe in a way which has emphasised our common humanity and vulnerability, making so much of our short-term political discourse seem hollow and trivial. And as the human world was convulsed in crisis, the natural world astonishingly seized the opportunity to start to recover from our impact on it.

The coming world will be different. Perhaps it will be a better one if we import into it some of our insights from the time of quarantine, insights about the quality of relationships, insights about who are the true heroes in our society, and insights about our place in the natural world..... oh yes and a little lesson about practical supply and demand in relation to loo paper....

God bless,
Ashley

PARISH REGISTER

Saturday 25 April: Funeral Office: Sheila Mary Stephens

Friday 22 May: Funeral Office: Betty Marjorie Holmes

CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to report the death of Betty Holmes of Button Bridge and offer our sympathy to her family.

Saints of the Month for June:

Peter and Paul

29th of June

Ashley Buck

It might seem slightly odd that two such important men as St Peter and St Paul should have to share a day's festival rather than getting one of their own. In actual fact they are both remembered on other days of the Church year as well, but the principle occasion for remembering them is the 29th of June.

The reason we place them together is that they both ended up in Rome at the beginning of its Christian history and shaped the church community there. They were both martyred in the first great persecution of the Church under Nero, and were remembered with love and gratitude so that one of the very first Christian inscriptions we have, from the Roman catacombs reads 'Pray for us, Peter and Paul'. Both men were the authors of key parts of what was to become the New Testament, Paul's letters reflect some of the earliest Christian reflection on God, while Peter's narrative lies behind our oldest Gospel, that of Mark. Wonderfully, his own letters reveal that like the rest of us he sometimes struggled to understand Paul!

But what I love about Peter and Paul is their contrasts. Paul was an intellectual, unmarried and fanatical about his Pharisaic version of the Jewish faith. Peter was a working man with a family business, married and living in historical Israel, whereas Paul came from one of the many Jewish settlements of the diaspora. Peter travelled and lived with Jesus for three years, while Paul only encountered him after the resurrection – one of the significant proofs incidentally of the validity of the resurrection itself! Peter initially was inclined to remain rooted with the Jewish Christians, Paul was called from the beginning to work with the pagans.

But one characteristic that the two shared was their passion. Peter always comes over as impetuous, plunging out of the boat to meet Jesus, and swearing that he would serve him with no thought of the future, while Paul speaks of his enthusiasm and self sacrifice in dramatic terms. This shared faith lived by two such different but attractive men ignited the Gospel message at the heart of the greatest city in the world, and proved that love was stronger than death.

'Peter and Paul, pray for us...



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Craft Fair
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Services for June at St John the Baptist, Kinlet

**All church services cancelled until further notice.
Please read the Benefice letter on page 7.**



Keep in touch by 'liking' St John the Baptist Kinlet on Facebook!

JUST A THOUGHT

After all tomorrow is another day

Margaret Mitchell 1900 - 1949

From Gone With the Wind 1936

OVER-60S LUNCHEON CLUB

**Suspended till
further notice**

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**CANCELLED
During Corona Virus
restrictions**

Holy
Communion with hymns at
11.15 a.m.

F

 ORAL DESIGN

Jan and Penny

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decorations made to order

Please call for details

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AGE
Concern

Shropshire
Telford & Wrekin

For information about
services for older people
contact your Parish Link for KINLET
MRS ANNE PRICE ☎ 01746 862253

**Please note that Church
Flowers are suspended until
we have notification that
Church Services are
resumed and
lockdown eased.**

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liz@lifelifeathome.co.uk

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Mob: 07957 659909

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JUNE 2020

**Zoom services will continue
until further notice**

Online services during the lockdown:

Our normal services are now being offered on Zoom for anyone who would like to join us.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| The Services are: | Evensong | every evening at 6.00 pm |
| | Eucharist | every Wednesday at 10.00 am |
| | Eucharist | every Thursday at 12.00 noon |
| | Eucharist | every Sunday at 10.00 am |

If you would like to be part of any or all of these services please email the Reverend Martin Quayle on martinsquayle@icloud.com and he will put you on the email list to receive the invitation from him (about 5 minutes before each service) which will give you the meeting ID number and password that you will need to access the service. He will also let you have details of the format for the services so that you know what to expect.

We look forward to seeing you.

For more information contact Liz Smith on 01299 489135 or Reverend Martin Quayle on 07976 664872.

The Church Office open Tuesday & Thursday from 9.00am-2.00pm
Contact details: Sam Dolphin, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916
Benefice Website: www.cmbenefice.com

Repeat Prescription Advice from Wem and Prees Medical Practice

For people requiring repeat prescriptions during COVID -19

Requests for repeat prescriptions should be done via POD where practices are using this service (see list below) 10 days before medication supplies

If practice not on the list, then they need to contact their GP practice directly.

To order repeat prescriptions through POD email shropshire.pod@nhs.uk (this can be done on their behalf if they do not have access to email)

Please note the above corrected email should read:
shropshire.pod@nhs.net

Information to give to the public

Please only order when you have 10 days' worth of medication remaining.

Inappropriate or early prescription requests will not be processed.

In order to maintain NHS services, it is imperative that patients do not stockpile medications.

The POD email inbox is monitored during POD opening hours. If the medication request is received Monday to Friday (exc. Bank holidays) between 8am and 5pm, it will be processed within 2 working days.

If your request is urgent (required within 24 hours), then please call POD directly on 03333 583 509.

Please ensure that you have provided ALL of the following information in your request, otherwise it cannot guarantee that it will be processed.

Registered GP Practice:

Full name:

Date of birth:

First line of address:

Name of drug, strength, dose and formulation (tablet, cream, inhaler etc):

How many days of each medication you have left:

Nominated pharmacy:

Your contact number:

If you are ordering on behalf of someone else, you also need to provide the following information.

Your name:

Your relationship to the patient:

If POD staff need to contact you with any queries regarding your medication request, they will do so on the contact number you provide above. If we are unable to contact you, a reply email will be sent.

Once processed, prescriptions should be available to collect at your nominated pharmacy within 6 working days.

If the person is **vulnerable** and requires prescriptions to be delivered then they need to register with the NHS volunteer system <https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHSreferral> as per guidance published 31st March 2020

Guidance: https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0112-NHS-Volunteer-Responders-Information-for-Primary-Care-Professionals_31-March-2020.pdf

Exceptional circumstances only and not to be given to the public

If person is **vulnerable and genuinely about to run out (exceptional circumstances only)** , email individuals phone numbers to Liz Walker elizabeth.walker@nhs.net and she will arrange a member of staff from POD to phone them. **Do not give Liz's email to members of the public.**

GP Practices that use POD

- Belvidere Medical Practice
- Bridgnorth Medical Practice
- Broseley Medical Practice
- Brown Clee Medical Practice
- Cambrian Medical Centre
- The Caxton Surgery
- Churchmere Medical Group (formerly Bridgwater, Claypit & Ellesmere)
- Church Stretton Medical Centre
- Claremont Bank Surgery
- Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre
- Dodington Surgery
- Highley Medical Centre
- Marden Medical Practice
- Marysville Medical Practice
- Mytton Oak Surgery
- Plas Ffynnon Medical Centre
- Portcullis Surgery
- Radbrook Green Surgery
- Riverside Medical Practice
- Severnfields Medical Practice (formerly Haughmond View & Mount Pleasant)
- Shawbury Medical Practice
- Shifnal & Priorslee Medical Practice
- Station Drive Surgery
- South Hermitage Surgery

Information correct as of 2nd April 2020

Sweveneys



This month our cover artist, Sylvia Darby, visited 'Sweveneys' home for the past two years of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Webb. Known for many years as 'The Shophouse', this sturdy, stone-built house has stood at the junction of Sturt Lane and the 'forest' road from Bewdley to Cleobury Mortimer since the 17th century. There is much evidence of this antiquity. At one time part of the Kinlet estate, many references are made to the 'Shophouse' in the Kinlet estate records when for many years there was a blacksmith's forge here, which older residents can well remember.

In recent months, very extensive alterations have been made to the original fabric of the house by Mr. and Mrs. Webb in the process of which much interesting evidence of former occupation has come to light. Part of Mr. Webb's plan was to extend the lounge to include the garage, which meant demolishing the fireplace wall. This he found to be seven feet thick and enclosing another hearth which must have stood next to the forge. Mr. Webb also found charcoal in the foundations - evidence of the ancient craft of the charcoal burners of the Wyre Forest, also many horseshoes and a very ancient coin. The room is now most beautiful and twenty-six feet long, with a stone-built open fireplace with a wide copper canopy, beneath which a cradle burns logs three feet long! There are three enchanting bow windows and French windows to the garden. Exposed beams of old oak and beautiful period furniture complete the picture.

Above this room Mr. Webb has added two bedrooms and another bathroom with dormer windows to match those already existing. When the gable end was removed, he found that the stones were set in clay - proof enough that these walls were raised in the days before cement. Mr. and Mrs. Webb have further plans for the future which include the extension of the dining room and the addition of a new kitchen. The result of all their labours will be a home of which they can be justifiably very proud. For in their search for space and comfort they will never allow their home to lose anything of its ancient charm. Rather will they enhance the mellow beauty which the passage of time has given to yet another of the old houses of Kinlet.

This article has been transcribed from the January 1967 Kinlet Newsletter then priced 3D!

Sweveneys House

Formerly The Shophouse

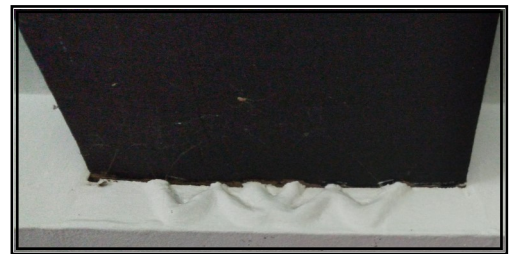
How the years have gone..... but still delighted to be part of such a lovely community over the last thirteen years.

I remember the summer of June 2007 when we viewed Sweveneys for the first time - torrents of rain with flooded fields and roads! Just loved the house with beautiful surroundings and the weather certainly did not deter us. I remember my two children looking at me as if to say You must be mad! But now they are grown and with busy lives in cities they always appreciate coming home to Shropshire.

So we moved in August 2007 with lots of work to do. The garden was our main priority and continues to be a real source of comfort and enjoyment. My dear Dad who sadly died in 2017 helped me to understand the complexities of a large garden and all the care it requires. Many of the shrubs continue to thrive after all these years. We also found a very old horse shoe possibly from the time the local blacksmith lived here.



As with all houses, particularly old ones there has also been a lot of work to do inside the house. We have tried to keep most of the original features that Mr & Mrs Webb carefully chose in the late 60's, including an Inglenook fireplace with a log burner that still takes 3ft logs, beautiful beams and oak panelling across some of the walls and flooring. Mr & Mrs Webbs initials are still engraved in the plaster.



We also still have the original Kidderminster Times newspaper article on the renovation which sits framed in pride of place in our dining room.

Most recently the plot of land which was originally purchased by Mr & Mrs Webb has been split again and we welcome our new neighbours. The original garage and stable is being restored and going to be a fabulous three bedroom bungalow.

Sweveneys is a home that as a family we continue to love - the beautiful surrounding countryside and forest is always a huge bonus.

During the recent weeks after Covid 19 I am sure many of us have had periods of reflection and are very grateful to be living in such a beautiful part of the world. Like many of my friends and neighbours in the community of Kinlet..... how lucky we are...

Sweveney's Before Renovation



Sweveney's Now



Rachel and Russell Randle

JS James Smith
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Nat's cut a few - this one's for you!

Kinlet Fieldwork Mornings

CANCELLED
During Corona virus

VE Day 8th May, 2020



Thank you to Sara Jennings for these photographs of her family VE Day commemoration. Centre back flag is the Danish flag with Tower of London Poppies flanked by the Australian and French flags. The Polish and Dutch flags are draped from the upper windows.



Sara Jennings

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DAWN CHORUS, 1st June 2000

I wrote this poem in the early hours of the morning, immediately after a wonderful guided 'introduction to the dawn chorus'. We met, 6 of us, at about 3.30am in the village's newly planted 'Millennium Wood' (no, not Kinlet, but I think the song is the same) and were first given a hushed lesson on what to listen for ... This is my version of what followed:

There we stood in the darkness before dawn
waiting
listening for the voices of birds
and hearing only our own

perhaps they had not yet found
our fledgling wood
and were not ready
to sing for us there

today even the tawny owl
was resting his voice
and chuckling to himself
that it was all a hoot

then bats
(as if to remind us we were indeed bats)
tumbled into the air
the night still theirs

slowly
imperceptibly
there was green
there were faces
and just when it seemed
that Ascension Day
was to be birdless

robin
robins
(as we had been told)
struck up the overture
from all sides it came
the voice of the Christmas card
trilling and thrilling
spilling their song
from invisibility

our now lightened faces
turned eagerly this way and that
straining to find voices not yet heard, not yet known
he guided our ears
and one by one
we found the wren, the blackbird, the chiffchaff
as they lent their song
to our enchanted dawn

not a chorus of any note
and yet a strange magic
the magic of the secrets of every day



PS Deciding that I didn't want to get up at 3.00am, I had spent the empty time after midnight installing voice recognition software on my new computer. On my return home, feeling too high on this magical experience to go to bed, I switched on and dictated the above. Apart from interpreting a sneeze as 'Africa!', it worked extremely well – it is true, of course, that poetry should be spoken.

Robin McCarthy (then Engleheart)

Gardening in June

Interest in gardening has apparently soared over the last few months. Turning the major problem of Coronavirus into a challenge, a lot of people have recently had the time and often the long desired, opportunity to spend more time in their gardens and do at least a few of those numerous long postponed jobs.

There has also been an understandable wish by some frustrated shoppers to be a little less dependent on supermarkets for fresh food. This has led to unprecedented demand on-line for seeds and plants particularly vegetables, fruit and herbs leading to many items becoming difficult to obtain or totally unavailable. Thankfully garden centres are open again now and our local nurseries really deserve our support to help make up in a small way for the dreadful losses they have had to bear over the spring, during what would normally be their most profitable time.

If you haven't been able to buy any seeds or plants until now and so are making a late start, there are still some crops that can be grown now for eating this year.

Fresh salad is always welcome over the summer. Lettuce, rocket and oriental salad leaves can easily be grown from seed anytime over the next three months and the wide range of varieties means that some type should be obtainable. Sow thinly in the ground or in a container, cover lightly with soil or compost, grow on preferably in full sun and many salads will be ready for cropping within 4 to 6 weeks. Lettuce seeds tend not to germinate well at high temperatures so keep seed trays in the cool if possible and some other varieties of salad leaves can bolt if sown before midsummer, especially if temperatures or watering are erratic. While sparsely sown plants can be cut for salad leaves 3 or 4 times once they reach 100mm or 4inches, thinning out and/or transplanting to a distance that allows the individual plants to develop will increase size and productivity.

Spring onions, French beans, runner beans, sugar peas, carrots, spinach, chard, beetroot, radish and baby turnips can again all still be sown in June, again either in the ground or in large containers, ready for eating over the summer and into the autumn.

By June, it is probably not worth trying to sow tender crops that take several months to develop, such as tomatoes, chillies, cucumbers and courgettes but pot grown plants of these and other vegetables may be still available in garden centres on-line and even with luck from neighbours.

Herbs are always well worth growing as they can be difficult and expensive to buy fresh. Parsley, coriander and dill can be grown from seed every few weeks

indoors or out (depending on the season) throughout most of the year. It is even possible to buy herbs in pots from the supermarket and then split and grown on the individual plants. Basil works especially well when grown from cuttings taken from potted plants then rooted initially in water.

Other more herbaceous or shrubby herbs like mint, tarragon, rosemary and sage are most easily purchased as pot grown plants although cuttings (even from supermarket packets!) can often soon start to root.

Fruit trees and bushes available as pot grown plants in nurseries can be planted at this time of the year provided they are regularly well-watered. Few species of fruit will be ready to crop this year unless it is a more mature plant indeed it is good practice to remove any fruits which grow in plant's first year to allow it to become established. However, it may still be possible to get a few home-grown strawberries later in the year by planting cold-stored runners. These have had the chilling period necessary to initiate fruiting and varieties of perpetual or "everbearer" strawberries such as 'Aromel' or 'Mara de Bois' can be allowed to fruit before the autumn.

5 Jobs in the Garden for June

- Feed asparagus when cropping finishes with a general fertiliser.
- Pull up excess new raspberry canes that are escaping their patch or growing in between rows.
- Prune off the tips of new fig growth once shoots have five leaves to help next year's fruit to develop.
- Grass with daffodils or fritillaries may now be safely mown.
- Deadhead roses, cutting the stem just above the first leaf below the flower.

Plant of the Month – Flowering" Dogwoods



Photo: *Cornus kousa*

Sewing for NHS Shropshire Initiative



A message from the Severn Group
Co-ordinator but **open to all readers!**

If any WI members are interested and able to make scrubs, hats or bags, please register on the FB page 'Sewing for NHS Shropshire'

If you're not a sewer you can still help. Donations needed of fabric, tapes, buttons (to make head bands for the face masks to attach and avoid sore ears from constant wear) and fairly new sheets and pillow cases. These must be washed at 60 degrees.

The plan suggests starting with scrub bags as they could be relatively easy to create using pillow cases/sheets, etc as no pattern is required. Approx size of completed bag being 18/19" x 22/25" with a draw string. Other critical items are also required and if some members are able to do more, GREAT. Instructions on Sewing for the NHS facebook page.

What is required for **Scrub Bags?**

- Poly cotton pillowcases/sheets/duvets or any fabric that can be safely washed at 60 degrees. Doesn't have to be white. Approx size 19 x 25" a fat 1/4 is 18x22" which would also work well. Bags need to be large enough to allow scrubs enough room to be washed inside the bag, so approximately finished bag needs to be 18/19 x 22/25"
- Draw strings, either sturdy tape, cotton rope/bias binding, etc - 60 degree tested
- Sewing machine
- Scissors
- Thread

Washed at 60 degrees and ironed on completion.

There is a You tube tutorial on Facebook.

Bridgnorth Hospital will be in receipt of these items as well as many health professionals across Shropshire. We can do something positive and make a difference whilst keeping safe.

It has been a wonderful spring for blossom but as the last of apples finish flowering there are still a few trees that can continue the theme and unlike magnolias will probably not get caught by a frost. Among the highlights are the summer flowering dogwoods, although in their case the dramatic large petals in groups of four are not flowers at all but bracts surrounding a tiny insignificant central flower.

Flowering dogwoods are in the same large Cornus family as our native dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and the cultivated dogwoods grown for their colourful stems. The summer flowering dogwoods come either from North America in the case of *C. florida* and *C. nuttallii* or from the Far East in the case of *C. kousa*. They form small elegant, wide-spreading trees about 4 to 8m tall.

The American species are rather particular, requiring warmer and drier temperatures than usually found in the UK and reasonably acidic soils. However *Cornus kousa* from Japan is reliable in our climate and tolerant of neutral to alkaline conditions and the Chinese Dogwood *C. kousa chinensis* with larger bracts, may be even better able to withstand local conditions.

There are some wonderful selections: These include for Japanese Cornus the cream 'Milky Way' and bright pink 'Miss Satomi' while for the Chinese Cornus one of the best is 'China Girl' which has large, overlapping creamy white bracts.

While all these varieties of *C. kousa* are deciduous, the autumn leaf colour can be superb and their attractive strawberry-like fruits are an added (edible) bonus.

Jo Webb



Photo: Chris Lewis

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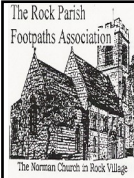
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Please feel free to contact them or the Clerk,
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Letter from Westminster – June 2020

Summer in the new normal

As I write, we have had several weeks of glorious weather before entering June, with warm sunny days providing the main relief from the dark shadow of the coronavirus pandemic, which continues to disrupt many of our usual freedoms.

I have considerable sympathy with those who have been coping with the lockdown in cities, where outside space and access to nature is limited. One of the many reasons people choose to make their lives in South Shropshire, or to move here, is for the beautiful countryside we enjoy. At a time where we have had to limit our exposure to others, I know for many people our countryside has been invaluable.

But equally, I feel for those who would usually be putting much dedicated time and effort, often for free, into the many community events we enjoy in South Shropshire over the summer months. As we do not know how long this wretched virus will be with us, planning events even months in advance has been impossible. Great stalwarts of the South Salopian summer calendar have had to be cancelled – like Burwarton Show this August – or postponed.

So it will fall to many of us to have our own DIY summers, if we want to retain some of the fun and sense of community such events bring. Having seen how our communities came together to mark VE Day with social distancing, or the weekly clap for carers that sees neighbours united in celebration of NHS, care and essential workers, I feel confident that we will see similar community spirit during this summer.

I write ahead of publication, but easing some of the lockdown measures, including allowing for more time outside and the resumption of some sports that lend themselves to social distancing, with hopefully a gradual opening of more non-food shops and leisure activities, will help avoid a stir-crazy summer – especially when I anticipate overseas travel continuing to be severely restricted.

I hope this cautious resumption of some freedoms means we are slowly getting back to normal. But this will continue to be conditional on the rate of new infections not reigniting. We are all aware of what we are trying to do as a country to beat this virus. So it falls to us all to use common sense, and try and reduce our chances of spreading the disease as much as possible.

One of the impacts of the disruption to Parliamentary business from coronavirus has meant my Private Members Bill, to clean up Britain's rivers, had been meant to start its passage in the House of Commons before the summer recess, but has now been pushed back to October. I remain hopeful it will have enough time to get through the House of Commons and make it into law, but timing is getting tighter.

I am also highly doubtful I will be able to undertake my summer routine of driving my campervan to smaller villages in South Shropshire to hold my mobile advice surgeries – due to the need to social distance. But as ever, you can contact me by email on philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to raise an issue.

Keep safe and well.

Philip Dunne MP

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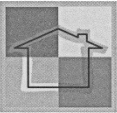
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June in the Forest

In recent weeks I've been taking regular walks in the forest, although not beyond a pretty small radius. One of the benefits is that I really notice the little details and the changes in the forest from one week to the next. The luminous leaves of the spring have darkened to a deeper green, the foliage giving cover to the Fallow Deer and reducing the sunlight to the ground-hugging plants.

I'm watching the little Bilberry bushes which, like almost everything else, flowered generously this spring, developing their purple fruits and noting the most promising clumps for picking in August. Could this be the year for a bilberry pie? Still on the fruit theme, we're keeping an eye on the cherry orchard and have high hopes that next month may yield a crop for us to enjoy and even share. The blossom in April was a sight to behold and even the surviving centenarian trees set fruit to some extent. It all depends whether the Wood Pigeons and Mistle Thrushes leave any for us.

The tadpoles in the reservoir are growing their legs and form black shoals near the surface. Any day now the edges will be teeming with baby toads leaving the waters of their birth to take their chance in the wider world of the woods. Toads are much more tolerant of dry conditions than frogs and can make a good living eating slugs, worms, spiders, ants and other insects. They sometimes take up residence in gardens: what with fat adult toads lurking unexpectedly under stones or logs in the garden and tiny baby toads finding their way into piles of weeds waiting for the bonfire, my interactions with them have not always been happy.

The sounds of the forest develop too as the season progresses. We've lost the Cuckoo and the Garden Warbler is silent now, but the squeals of the Swallows ring out around the barns. Nesting sites are sometimes revealed by the squeaks of the nestlings when we pass close by and there is no doubt where the Greater Spotted Woodpeckers have built their nest in a dead cherry tree. The Green Woodpeckers may be nesting somewhere nearby too: we often see the adults picking up ants from the track or fields, and their loud laughing cry is the origin of their other name of Yaffle.

Linda Iles



Cherry orchard in bloom.



Young green cherries.



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Kinlet 2020

Have you visited the Kinlet 2020 page on Facebook? Local residents have been posting views of our wonderful countryside whilst on their lockdown walks.



Photos: Jean Bull



THE KINLET NEWSLETTER

Editors: Sue Guest, Julia Haywood • Mail: The Kinlet Newsletter, The Driftway, Wall Town Farm, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster DY14 8HR
Tel: 01299 841465 (Sue), 01299 270250 (Julia) E-mail: kinletnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk

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