

WHEATLAND NEWS

July 2025



The Clee hills and their surrounding area, have tragically experienced several air crashes between 1937 and 1975

A memorial on Brown Clee hill, unveiled in 1981, specifically remembers the 23 Allied and German aircrew who lost their lives between 1941 - 1944 and additionally 2 fatalities in 1969

Junkers 88 8 Kg1 1st Apr 1941
Uffz H Prochnow
Uffz W Lenhardt
Uffz H Ewald
Fw E Wels

Anson N 9750 14th Mar 1942
Lac G E M Glassman
Lac R I Gilbert

Typhoon DN 251 21st Nov 1942
Capt W Mason

Wellington X3890 30th Jan 1943
F Sgt G L Hosford
Sgt K Wartnaby
Sgt K Lawson
Sgt D B E Skinner
Pt Off F L Farla

Anson N5379 28th Apr 1943
Sgt W Mr Lloyd
F Sgt W Sprowell
Sgt E F Banks
Sgt K R Stratton
Sgt K A Hammond

Mustang AP171 11th Jun 1943
Fg Off S R R Brouillette

Wellington M Z840 23rd Nov 1943
Sgt H Jessup
Sgt K Roweson

Anson NK448 10th Dec 1944
Flt Lt A N Campbell
Flt Lt G B Potter
Wo J C Staples

Jet Provost XM390 24th Jan 1969
Plt Off I S Primrose
Flt Lt J S Watson



Commemorating the air crews who have lost their lives in
crashes on the Clee Hills – a special service – page 10

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News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes
around Ditton Priors, Stottesdon and Highley

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Editorial

This month's edition features the Commemoration of the Airmen who lost their lives on Brown Clee Hill.

A big announcement has been made for Brown Clee Benefice with the news that Revd Joe Simons will be Priest in Charge, full time, from 1st August 2025, and later will be licensed as Vicar of Brown Clee Benefice. This welcome news sets a hopeful example of other benefices. More about this news on page 5

The smiles on the farmers' faces when the rain arrived reminded us that we certainly need a mixed weather pattern! Events planned to date have been fortunate to enjoy dry, sunny conditions. Work has been ongoing day and night to make the most of the dryer weather.

Ditton Priors Community Land Trust have given us an insight into their work and achievements – see page 14 – and we hope to hear more from them in the future.

The fund-raising successes across the 17 parishes are stunning. People work hard to make the events happen, giving of their time, their resources, their energy and imagination. Other people come to enjoy the events, and in turn contribute their part. We are small communities, and yet so much is achieved.

Congratulations to the team at St Bartholomew's in Glazeley, who put on a splendid celebration of the 150th anniversary of the church's rebuild. We have pictures of those events, and of the Woodlands open garden, where the hospitality and cakes were first class – thank you all!

As ever, we have rearranged our pages to make the most of the colour printing – so apologies for confusing our readers!

Enjoy your summer!

Ed

This month's cover pictures

Relating to the special service of commemoration to be held in July (see page 10), we are pleased to feature the work of Ditton Priors Local History Group on the covers of this month's WN. The pictures are from the Group's new display panels (see May WN) – our thanks for their support in providing the artwork for WN readers to enjoy.

And to prove that our understanding of even recent history doesn't stand still, there will soon be a reprint to include some very moving information provided to DPLHG by Julian Millington of Chetton Museum – which will read as follows:

Today you can still see a simple memorial at the crash site: a cross made from a fence post and a large bolt from the aircraft featuring a metal plaque stamped with the German text: "In memory of four comrades and the ring hazard record 1st October 1940" This later part referring to the text engraved on a gold wedding ring belonging to one of the German crew that was found at the site in 2002.

Wheatland News Local Coordinators

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below.

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **August 2025** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Wednesday 23rd July 2025**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

Brown Clee, Ditton Priors, Wheathill & Loughton	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 - rl.l.langham@btinternet.com
Aston Botterell	AnnePreece@icloud.com
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton – 07716-877421
Chetton	Pam Downing - pamdowning61@gmail.com
Highley	Canev Clayton -
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - Chris@stottystores.co.uk

Wheatland Diary

Everything we know so far for 2025! Do make sure we put your dates in, maximise numbers at all the events, and help avoid clashes!

Where no page number is given, it means that there is no further information in this edition about the event.

Tue	1	July	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group Meeting – Ditton Priors VH – 7:00 pm
Fri	4	July	Stottesdon Community Fete, school field – 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm - see page 25
Sat	5	July	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Sat	5	July	Pimms and Puds – The Pavilion, Ditton Priors, 5:00pm – 8:00 pm – see page 11
Wed	9	July	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Wollerton Old Hall Garden visit
Fri	11	July	Choir Concert, Ditton Priors Village Hall – see page 12
Sat	12	July	Beerfest! At Ditton Priors Recreation Ground
Sat	12	July	Chelmarsh Fete – 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Sat	12	July	Service on Brown Clee Hill to remember the Airmen lost there – see page 10
Sun	13	July	A Trip to Peru – at Billingsley Evening Service – see page 22
Tue	15	July	Ditton Priors Local History Group – Patricia de Haan's Maps of Shropshire part 2 - 7:00 pm DPVH – p 13
Sat	19	July	Daddy's Hat at St Mary Magdalene Church, Bridgnorth, 3:00 pm – see page 28
Sun	27	July	Wheathill Church Benefice BBQ – 5:00pm – please tell Ann numbers for catering! see page 12
Sat	2	Aug	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Thur	7	Aug	Burwarton Show! – DP Refreshment Tent – see page 12
Sun	10	Aug	Flicks in the Sticks – VE / VJ day anniversary special – The Battle of Britain, 1pm, Chetton VH - page 18
Wed	13	Aug	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall - Garden Party
Sat	16	Aug	Ben Upton's 200-mile cycle ride in aid of Aston Botterell Church – help needed! - see page 15
Thur	21	Aug	Teas in St John's Churchyard, Ditton Priors – sunshine promised – 3:00pm – see page 12
Sun	31	Aug	Summer Lunch – Church House, Chetton – see page 18
Fri	5	Sept	Flicks in the Sticks – Bridget Jones, Mad About the Boy, Chetton VH 7:00pm – see page 18
Sat	6	Sept	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Wed	10	Sept	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Laura's Dairy Talk & Tasters
Sat	13	Sept	Ride and Stride! – more details in August WN
Sat	4	Oct	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Sat	4	Oct	The Elderly Brothers – Soft Rock and Supper, Chetton VH – see page 18
Sun	5	Oct	Harvest Festival and Sale – especially for Children – Aston Botterell – see page 15
Tue	7	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery PPG, Ditton Priors VH, 6:00pm
Wed	8	Oct	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Annual Meeting
Wed	8	Oct	Coffee Morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page 27
Sat	11	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors – see page 12
Tue	21	Oct	Local Air Crashes – DP Local History Group, Ditton Priors Village Hall, 7:00pm – see page 13
Wed	12	Nov	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Fused Glass Making
Thur	27	Nov	Christmas Lights and Carols – Ditton Priors
Sat	29	Nov	Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 11:00am
Wed	10	Dec	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Christmas Festivities
Sat	13	Dec	Punch, Pies and Carols – Ditton Priors Village Hall –
Wed	14	Jan	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall -Games Night
Wed	11	Feb	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall - Decoupage
Wed	11	Mar	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Midlands Air Ambulance



Diocese of Hereford

Edited extract from a letter from The Archdeacon of Ludlow to Brown Clee PCCs

I'm delighted to inform you that Joe will become your full-time Priest-in-Charge with effect from 1st August 2025.

That's not because there's been a change of heart. It's because moving Joe from half-time to full-time is an internal administrative matter, whereas lifting the suspension and putting Joe in as Vicar will take longer and require consultation with Joe, the patrons, and the PCCs, and then the Bishop giving notice of the end of the suspension, and then finding a licensing date. Realistically it will take us until the autumn to complete this, but it does mean that Joe starts his full-time ministry with you sooner.

With all good wishes in Christ

Ven Fiona Gibson
Archdeacon of Ludlow



“ it is through local churches that people find faith, grow in discipleship, and experience love and pastoral care.”

As General Synod approaches, Bishop Richard calls for a fairer, simpler funding model to secure the future of parish life.

You can read the transcript, and watch the video, on the Diocese website at <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/bishop-of-herefords-message/-bishop-richards-weekly-video-message--transcript-24102024.php>

July letter from the Archdeacon of Hereford

Darkness and light are often a shorthand in our western popular culture for the forces of good and evil. We know instantly in films and television who the heroes and villains are often by the colour of their clothes. So often arguments in our culture are often presented as binary choices between right and wrong, good and bad, left wing or right wing, etc. Just look at the reporting in our news media about world events and you quickly see that we are presented with clear choices rather than any sense of nuance. I was listening on the radio as I prepared to write this, and what was being suggested was that when it comes to political debate most people would prefer nuance to bold binary statements.



In many other cultures too, darkness represents evil or hidden unsavoury activities. Alongside this we may find that many of our human fears revolve around darkness and what hides in it. Yet what has struck me recently is that in scripture the idea of darkness is not always so binary. I want to challenge you to look again at what the writers of the bible say and begin to understand darkness with the eyes of faith rather than through the lens of culture. In Psalm 139 the psalmist talks about darkness from God's perspective:

**“Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.”** Psalm 139:12

God does not differentiate light and dark in the way we do, after all he created both of them. We do not live in a 'ying and yang' universe of two equal powers of good and evil or opposing forces of light and dark like a celestial chess set. We don't live in a Star Wars like universe with mystical forces at play that are held in balance with a constant struggle of the dark side and the light side!

The bible however does use the ideas of light and dark to differentiate between those who love and follow God and those who do not. Isaiah in his prophecy about the coming Messiah reminds them that when God comes to live amongst them then the light of the kingdom will shine on them. The prophet reminds them in a powerful metaphor that the light of the kingdom will dispel and overcome the darkness.

**“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who
dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”** Isaiah 9:2

We should however never equate that with two equal and opposite powers. Instead, it is an analogy which helps us understand that we have choices and God represents the best choices available to us. Many of the New Testament writers talk about the Christian faith as choosing to live in the daylight rather than in the night time. They want the early church to understand that we need to live consistently, transparently and in the open so people can see the difference our faith makes to the way we live our lives. John in the great prologue to his Gospel uses exactly this picture reminding us that God cannot be overwhelmed or swept away by the darkness.

**“What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.”**
John 1:5 Message

It reminds us too that even at the very darkest moments of our lives God has not walked away from us, he is not absent, and he stands alongside us. Matthew in his Gospel recognises this when he records these words from Jesus to his disciples.

**“What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear
whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.”** Matthew 10:27

Jesus wants the disciples to know that he is with them and alongside them at every stage and he will not turn his back or walk away from us. It is the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost who whispers to our hearts and guides us in our daily lives, it is the Spirit who will give us the words to speak when we don't know how to pray.

**If, as you read this, because of life's circumstances, you feel trapped in the darkness,
remember that God stands in it with you.**

The Venerable Derek Chedzey
Archdeacon of Hereford

Q: Where would you find
a Hebrew Character,
a Camomile Shark
and a Striped Wainscote?

A: In a churchyard!



In the UK we have 59 species of butterfly, many of them familiar to us all, but did you know that we also have over 2,500 species of moth? Many moths have fabulous names. Some give a clue to their markings including Hebrew Character, China Mark, Garden Tiger or Orange Underwing. Others suggest possible frustration at identifying them, Uncertain or Clouded Drab for instance! Others give a clue to the food plant of the caterpillar, Appletree Skeletoniser or Bird-Cherry Ermine. And then there are names to let your imagination fly; Hoary Footman, Snout, Dusky Brocade, Scarce Dagger and Clifden Nonpareil for starters.

Most moths have evolved to fly at night in order to avoid predation, although they are the main food of bats, who have also evolved to fly at night. To avoid bats, some moth species can hear the eco-location used by bats and will zig-zag away or drop to the ground from mid-air when bats are close, to 'play dead' until the threat has passed. Whilst daytime predation of night-flying moths is reduced, moths and also their caterpillars are an important food item for creatures active in the day including small mammals, amphibians, spiders, lizards and many birds. Small moth caterpillars are fed in great number to the chicks of many of our common birds including blue tit, great tit, robin, wren and blackbird.

As with so much of our wildlife, moths are in trouble, down 28% in overall numbers since 1968. This is likely to be due to a combination of factors; agricultural change, increased use of garden and farming chemicals, development and also light pollution which has a profound effect on the lifecycle of moths. Churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries can be a moth haven however. Many contain a mix of grassland, mature trees, scrub and flowerbeds, lots of different habitats, used by a wide range of moth species. Churchyards and other burial grounds are usually free of herbicides and pesticides which benefits all insects, including moths.

There are also small management changes that will encourage and support moths; similar to gardening for wildlife, be a little untidy! How about leaving areas with leaf litter, dead plant stems and tussocks for overwintering caterpillars and eggs. If you have flowerbeds or planters, how about introducing some night-scented flowers including honey suckle, tobacco plant, evening primrose and stocks. Is there an area of turf that can be allowed to grow long for 3 to 4 spring and summer months, providing meadow flowers and flowering native grasses for pollinators including moths? A particularly helpful change might be to reduce light pollution by keeping any outdoor lights low, pointing downwards and not on all night long.

Running a moth light trap overnight makes an interesting public event, the trap is opened in the morning, moths admired, identified and then released, but even if you do not manage to see these spectacular nighttime visitors, remember that our blue tit population need an estimated 35 million moth caterpillars every year and many people enjoy watching bluetits!

N.B If you are starting to identify moths, take a look at Moths Flying Tonight on the Butterfly Conservation website and put in your postcode to narrow down the moths you are likely to find.

All the best, Harriet Carty, Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

Brown Clee Benefice

Priest-in-Charge - Revd Joe Simons

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ
01746-599217 07872-464276



St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill and Loughton

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All Saints', Neenton

CHURCHWARDEN:

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

July Reflection

I can remember quite clearly as a child going to stay at a friend's house in rural Warwickshire. It was very dark at night, and I can recollect getting up to go to answer the call of nature and running my hand along the wall, hoping for the light switch so that I could see where I was going. I became increasingly anxious, I could not see and was trusting that by allowing my hand to run along the wall I would encounter the switch and turn on the light.

There are times in our life when we feel we are plunged into darkness, when our hands grope for the light switch, where we also seek the light.

But God frequently works in the darkness, especially if when we feel strong and bright we don't call upon him. Jesus says in John's gospel:

"I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"

That light can help us to see, to shed new light into our lives, and in that light which we carry in our hearts, we too can share a light into the lives of others that are suffering.

Clinging on to God in the darkness can connect us with God whose life is in everything and with the hope that Jesus brings, so that we find, within this life, illumination in our darkness.

Revd Joe Simons

From the Brown Clee Registers

✝ **Tuesday 20th May** – the Funeral Service of the late Mrs Gladys Glaze at St John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors.

Readings for July	
Sunday 6th July – third after Trinity – Green	Psalm 30 2 Kings 5. 1 – 14; Galatians 6. (1 – 6), 7 – 16; Luke 10. 1 – 11, 16 – 20
Sunday 13th July – fourth after Trinity – Green	Psalm 82. 25. 1 – 10 Amos 7. 7 – end; Deuteronomy 30. 9 – 14; Colossians 1. 1 – 14; Luke 10. 25 – 37
Sunday 20th July – fifth after Trinity – Green	Psalm 52. 15. Amos 8. 1 – 12; Genesis 18. 1 – 10a; Colossians 1. 15 – 28; Luke 10. 38 – end
Sunday 27th July – sixth after Trinity – Green	Psalm 85 (or 85. 1 – 7) 138. Hosea 1. 2 – 10; Genesis 18. 20 – 32; Colossians 2. 6 – 15 (16 – 19); Luke 11. 1 – 13
Sunday 3 August – seventh after Trinity – Green	Psalm 107. 1– 9, 43 (or 107. 1 – 9) 49. 1 – 12 (or 49. 1 – 9) Hosea 11. 1 – 11; Ecclesiastes 1. 2, 12 – 14; 2. 18 – 23; Colossians 3. 1 – 11; Luke 12. 13 – 21

Services in Brown Clee Churches during July		
Sunday 6 th July		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Neenton
please note change of venue due to Group Holy Communion on 20 th July		
Saturday 12 th July		
2:00 pm	Service of Commemoration at The Memorial on the Brown Clee to remember the 23 Airmen who lost their lives in WWII. Please see the front and back covers, the separate panel on page 10, and watch out for updates on the church pew sheet and notice boards.	
Sunday 13 th July		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Chetton
4:00 pm	Songs of Praise	Ditton Priors
Sunday 20 th July		
10:00 am	Group Holy Communion with Bishop Richard	Aston Botterell
Sunday 27 th July		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Cleobury North
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer & BBQ	Wheathill
Sunday 3 rd August		
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

At the Memorial on the Brown Clee On Saturday 12th July 2025 at 2.00pm

We will be holding a special Service to remember all the Airmen who lost their lives on the Brown Clee Hill and surrounding area during WWII.

Light refreshments will follow at Cleobury North Village Hall, where you will have the opportunity to meet with those who were involved in the installation of the Memorial plaque. If you feel unable to join us at the Memorial, you are most welcome to join us at Hall following the Service which we envisage will be at approximately 3.00pm.

If you would like to be part of this very important day, or have any information regarding the Airmen please let Revd Joe or Emma know on 01746 599217 or browncleebenefice@outlook.com



News from the Brown Clee Benefice

Karen Simons writes:

Revd Joe joined the Little Explorers at Brown Clee School to give them a practical lesson on Baptism.



We were delighted to be able to host an Art Exhibition in St John's, Ditton Priors, from the Bees at Brown Clee School. They had been learning about Pentecost and produced some

stunning images which are now set out for all to admire. We aim to encourage this collaboration with more exhibitions in the future.



Our Group Service at Neenton took on a new twist when Bob produced his Banjo so that the church was filled with joyful celebration.



Our Open Garden at The Rectory, Cleobury North in aid of the Church Repair Fund was on a beautiful warm afternoon and enjoyed by everyone including the ducks.

Another fine afternoon heralded the Neenton Duck Race (of the plastic variety this time) where everyone enjoyed the atmosphere, the stalls and the music.



Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

The highlight this month was surely the confirmation from the Diocese that Revd Joe will become our 'full time' Priest from 1st August 2025. We are all delighted. We expect that the Suspension of the Benefice will be lifted shortly and that Revd Joe will be licensed as Rector of Brown Clee Benefice. This will make a huge difference to his ministry, and he can be assured of our full support. Well done Joe.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on 20th May - the Church Wardens and PCC members were elected for the coming year and Dennis Griffiths offered to serve as our PCC Secretary. Thanks were expressed to everyone concerned with the hard work and support given in keeping our Church open and alive.

Pam's Plants - 7th June

The weather was dodgy, but the plants and customers came along. The Coffee team were busy and Pam arranged the plants under cover at the rear of her house. **Over £300** was raised for Church funds and we thank everyone concerned, especially Pam and Bob.

Sponsored Walk

Our walk went ahead, and we enjoyed a tasty lunch afterwards. Our thanks to Margaret Griffiths for providing the lunch and to Pat and Jennifer who served us. Results yet to come.....

First Saturday Coffee Mornings continue, 10am - 12noon in Church on Saturdays 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September and 4th October. There is no charge for this popular event and everyone is very welcome.

Pimms and Puds - Saturday 5th July, 5 - 8pm at The Pavilion Ditton Priors. As always, we hope for fair weather for this outdoor/indoor event. Tickets are mostly sold - just a few remain. Please contact Marjorie. (712423)

Songs of Praise, Sunday 13th July - 4pm Ditton Priors Church. Don't forget to join us for a good sing and a drink and socialising afterwards.

Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent - Thursday 7th August - Come and visit our stand near the Village Green. Good value refreshments and a chance to chat with Revd Joe.

Teas in the Churchyard - Thursday 21st August. **We predict sunshine this year.**

Ride & Stride, together with Flowers & Crafts in Church - Saturday 13th September.

Harvest Supper - Saturday 11th October in the Village Hall.

Benefice BBQ followed by Songs of Praise - Sunday 27th July at Wheathill Church at 5pm. Full details under Wheathill & Loughton.

Community Event – Choir Concert – Friday 11th July

The Brown Clee Community choir have a concert booked for 11th July at Ditton Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.

‘Of One Accord’ (mixed voice choir from Shrewsbury) are coming to sing a variety of songs and will be joined by Brown Clee Community Choir and Brown Clee School. Tickets are available from Ruth (evenings 01746-712029), email: BrownCleeChoir@gmail.com; ticketsource.co.uk/Brown-Clee-Community-Choir and on the door.

Cleaning rota for July

- Sunday 6th July Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen
- Sunday 13th July Mrs Carole Hancox & Mrs Maureen Lloyd
- Sunday 20th July Mr & Mrs Graham Russell
- Sunday 27th July Mrs Shirley Wall & Mrs Anita Casswell
- Sunday 3rd August Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones

St John the Baptist 100 Club results for May and June 2025

May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ £20 – Jeanette Coles■ £10 – Janet Williams■ £5 each to: Annie Bamford, Revd Jenny Rowland, Tom Casswell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ £100 – Jeanette Coles■ £20 - Kate Casswell■ £10 – Pam Gennard■ £5 each to: Janet Williams, Audrey Golden, Mr M Woods

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes:

It was good to celebrate Holy Communion in Loughton Chapel on 22nd June with Revd Joe.

Church services

✝ Sunday 27th July - 5pm at Wheathill Church. BBQ, followed by Songs of Praise.

This is a Benefice occasion, and all are very welcome. **It would be most helpful to have some idea of numbers for catering purposes:** please contact Marjorie (01746-712423).

✝ Sunday 17th August. 6pm. Evening Prayer at Loughton Chapel.

Ditton Priors Local History Group

Robin Greenwell writes:



History Centre Open Day

The History Group opened its doors to visitors on Saturday 24th May. (Something we hope to be doing more often this summer).

We were delighted to have a steady flow of visitors throughout the morning with a mix of local people and those from a little further afield.

The 'Voices from the Past' video (see AGM in May WN) was shown and attracted interest from a number of visitors, as did the new presentation panels and photograph albums on display. Thank you to everyone who dropped in to say "hello".



The next History Group event will be on Tuesday 15th July, Ditton Priors VH...

...when we welcome back our guest speaker, Shropshire born Patricia de Haan, for 'Part II' of her talk on the early maps of Shropshire. Anyone lucky enough to attend the first talk in March last year will remember what a fantastic evening it was!

This time the talk is aptly sub-titled "**Let's travel**"... we will learn that as soon as roads appeared on early maps people began to travel. We'll follow their journey, noting the means of transport and the dreadful roads, and see that increasingly detailed and useful maps meant that we became not simply travellers, but tourists!

Over the years Patricia amassed a huge collection of maps of Shropshire and began a search for those showing the development of the Industrial Revolution. In 1995 she donated all the relevant maps to Ironbridge Gorge Museum, making them available for research. It promises to be a fascinating talk, supported with AV presentation and actual maps, so do please come along! Admission is FREE for History Group members (and under 18s) and £4 for non-members.



Detail from a 1787 map by John Cary, showing roads around Ditton Priors

More History Group Events in 2025

We have diary of events for the year, all held in Ditton Priors Village Hall. Some dates and speakers are yet to be confirmed so keep a look out for details on Facebook, posters around the village and of course here in WN.

- Tuesday 15th July, 7pm: 'Early Maps of Shropshire (Part II): Let's Travel!' - Dr Patricia de Haan
- September (date tbc): 'The Royal Naval Armaments Depot, Part II (speaker tbc)
- Tuesday 21st October, 7pm: 'Local Air Crashes' - Philippa Hodgkiss
- November (date tbc), 'Roman Excavation at Beaconhill' (speaker tbc).



Ditton Priors Community Land Trust

Did you know that the CLT land in
Ditton Priors actually belongs to the village?

It's managed by a small, local company set up with just one purpose — to protect this land for the benefit of our community.

Our main aim is to keep the natural environment safe from unwanted development, and to respond to what *you* — the people of Ditton Priors — want and need. The land can't be bought or built on for any use that goes against that.

It's ours, together.

The CLT supports local history, nature, and village life through affordable rents and partnerships. For example, the Ditton Priors History Group uses one of our buildings to keep precious records and put on fascinating displays. The Willows also benefits from a manageable rent, helping them to keep providing a brilliant cafe service to locals. Income from these rents goes straight back into looking after the land and buildings, making sure they stay useful and accessible.

Here's what happened last year -

The Willows came under new management with chef Tom Hughes. If you've visited the cafe you will know the exceptional menu available. If you haven't, I can highly recommend it!

Bethphage vacated Oak Farm at the end of November. So we planned for the reletting of the site and the income can help maintain the land and buildings.

Installation of solar panels on the building behind the Willows. This feeds electricity to the Willows and is in line with our policy of environmental care.

Here's what we're working on this year -

Multi-occupation of the Oak Farm site - our agents, Nock Deighton, are currently setting up agreements with three local tenants for separate parts of the site. We aim to extend its use further with more tenants in both small and large units.

Environment Centre - with the support of the Abdon and District Wildlife Group, we will set up an Environment Centre to showcase the biodiversity on CLT land. The Centre will be in the building next to the History Group Centre behind the Willows.

Access for locals to parts of the Oak Farm site and pond area - there's a lot of clearing up to do and some can't be undertaken during the breeding season of wildlife - but be patient - it will happen!

Achieve Charity Status - an application to the Charities Commission will be made which, if successful, will enhance our profile and open doors to funding which we can use to further improve the site.

Restart of Forest School - Danny Harley (Head of Brown Clee Primary School) has joined the board and together we have plans to prepare for Forest School to start again in September.

The photo (above) is from our recent AGM, where local residents shared their thoughts and suggestions with us. One great idea was to give regular updates in *Wheatland News* — so here we are!

We hope you found this update helpful and encouraging. If you'd like to get involved or have ideas to share, we'd love to hear from you.

Comments and ideas are always welcome! Email us at info@dittonpriorsclt.co.uk

Mark Gregory John Coles John Bradshaw Dave Munn Mary Brotherston Danny Harley



Burwarton & District Wives

For information on future meetings, please contact Debbie Jones (07966 707118), Gill Severn (01746 712231) or Margaret Bill (01746 712030). New members or visitors are always welcome.

Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes:

✝ **Sunday 20th July – 10am – Bishop Richard from Hereford** will be with us to take our service at Aston Botterell. He spent time on a sabbatical in New Zealand and hopefully he will be sharing some of his observations and thoughts with us. Afterwards there will be light refreshments - hopefully outside if the weather is kind - so please, everyone come along and join us. The bells will be rung and the choir will join us to make a delightful service hosted by Revd Joe. A good community gathering. If anyone can help by donating cakes etc It would be a great help. Thank you.

A special 'Thank you' to the lads for keeping the churchyard looking good - not an easy task.

Next job is applying for a grant to put a compost toilet in the church grounds. Nothing gets done on its own, so I am grateful for all of you who pull together to get things done - a good community and we get loads of laughs!

The **Car Treasure Hunt** will have taken place on 29th June – we look forward to a write up in the August WN.

Fund-raising

June has been a busy month - we have started to put a few fund-raising events into place to join the other churches in Brown Clee Benefice to keep Revd Joe full time.

On Saturday 16th August 2025, Ben Upton will be cycling 200 miles to raise funds for Aston Botterell church. We need sponsors, please, to help him along his journey. Also we need supporters at the end of his journey to celebrate his achievement! A big 'Thank you' to Ben for this splendid effort. Be assured we shall be with you all the way – probably in a CAR!!

Harvest Festival Service and Sale will be held on Sunday 5th October. We are looking to have more children to come along - because when Tim does the sale, it is a lot of fun but our children in Aston have all grown up! We have no banter selling things to the youngsters as we used to. Would be great to see some interaction from the youngsters.

In conclusion for this busy month - everyone come along to our events and services to join in and meet your friends.

Well done and congratulations to Meg Hawkins and family in her success with her business. A great achievement.

Our best wishes

- **to Sonia**, wishing her a speedy recovery after her operation - love from us all on the PCC.
- **And to Paul Berry**, for a speedy recovery after his operation

Aston Botterell Tote

May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ £20 - Lady Rosemary - 115■ £10 - Anne Preece - 191■ £5 - Rob Whiteman - 5■ £5 - Charles & Lisa Gill - 155	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ £20 - Dan Plank - 232■ £10 - Richard & Gaynoe Preece - 145■ £5 - June Preece - 139■ £5 - David Roberts - 234

Enjoy the summer!

Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Jane Bufton writes:

Open Gardens – The Old Rectory

We were blessed with a warm and sunny afternoon to enjoy the magnificent gardens at The Old Rectory, Cleobury North on Sunday 15th June. Our grateful thanks go to David and Penny for, again, allowing us to visit the wonderful gardens which attracted a great crowd of people.

Thank you to all those who worked behind the scenes and to those who supported this event and made this such a successful day. Over **£3300** pounds have been added to the Repairs Fund for the St Peter and Paul restoration project.

Cleobury North & District Village Hall

CNVH Management Committee writes:

Regular coffee mornings are being held in the Hall, in aid of CNVH funds – please contact Julia in Cleobury North shop for information on dates and times.



Weekly Yoga is pausing until September for the holiday season. Watch this space for autumn dates. Contact Marie via email: wildwolfmovement@gmail.com for details.

CNVH remains open and available for hire. For enquiries about booking and using the hall, please call 01746-787093 and leave a message or send a TEXT MESSAGE to 07483-879763 (or both!).

Events for your diary:



- ◇ Sunday 6th July – Dan Edwards; RJ's Smoke Shack
- ◇ Tuesday 8th July – Tapas night with Rodriguez events
- ◇ Sunday 13th July – College; Lalita's Indian street food
- ◇ Sunday 27th July – Cooper & Davies; Calabria street food

*For reservations – please WhatsApp Emma on 07495-313711.
A 5 per head deposit is payable on all bookings, to be deducted from your food bill on the evening*

Burwarton & District WI

Helen Groves writes:



We have an interesting programme for 2025 with speakers, social afternoons and outings and would welcome everyone to come and have an enjoyable time with us.

We have monthly meetings at **Cleobury North Village Hall** on **Tuesdays**, from October to March at 2.30pm and from April to September at 7.30pm. Visitors pay £3. For more information, please ring Helen Groves on 01746 712466 or e mail me on groves.helen5@gmail.com.

Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Church Services

✝ Sunday 6th July – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

Please note change of date due to Bishop Richard visiting Aston Botterell on 20th July.

See services throughout Brown Clee Benefice on page 9.

The Group Holy Communion service for Fathers' Day, on 15th June, brought forth the community spirit in All Saints Church, with an integrated congregation from across the Brown Clee benefice. Revd Joe and Dot Cartwright officiated. The Benefice Choir reinforced the joyous singing to Ragni's guitar and Bob's banjo (see photo on page 10).

The announcement that Revd Joe would be Priest in Charge from 1st August 2025 was greeted with cheers and continuous clapping – a great decision with a date for licensing as Vicar of Brown Clee Benefice to be decided later when the formalities of lifting the suspension have been completed. Thank you to all those who contributed to this uplifting service.

Neenton Annual Duck Race & Fete – Saturday 21st June

As the day dawned with overcast skies and the promise of rain after days of endless sunshine there were a few heart-sinking moments, combined with emergency road closures due to burst waterpipes. However, preparation continued, and the day proved to be a success with families arriving with very excited children prepared to go to the Rea Brook to urge the ducks on their way!

We were delighted to welcome even more stall holders this year, including woodturning, plant sales and Laura's delicious icecream, complemented by the tombola, raffle and Hook-a-Duck to name others including the BBQ.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the organisation, set up and take down, running on the day and to David Busby for supplying the interesting medley of music during the afternoon. Thanks also to Mark and Sarah, Andy and the team at the Pheasant for their continuing support for this event.

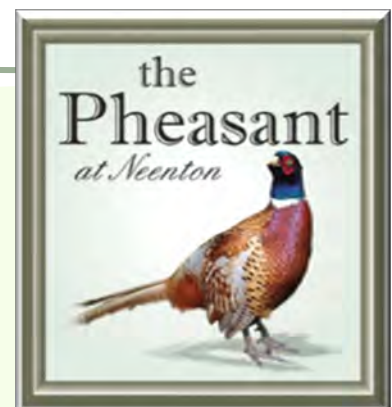
Funds are still being sorted – result will be announced next month.

Thursday 10th July – North Africa Foodie Night
Friday 25th July – National Wine & Cheese Event
Friday 15th August – Fish Special Evening

Usual opening times

- Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3 pm, 6 pm – 11 pm
- Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11 pm
- Sunday – lunch – 12 noon – 4:30 pm

Please call 01746-787955 or email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to discuss times and your requirements, or alternatively book direct on our website. <https://pheasantatneenton.co.uk>



All Saints' Tote – June 2025

1st Prize – Richard Jones 2nd prize – Ian Moreton	Thank you for your continuing support – Tote subscriptions are £12 for the year – there is still time to join and, who knows? - you may be a winner!
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Chetton News

Pam Downing writes:

Church services in June

✝ Sunday 13th July – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with tidying the Churchyard last month: it will look so much better for the summer. Special thanks to Paul for venturing up the ladder and cleaning the gutters!

Flowers and Cleaning – Nick and Jill

Summer Lunch - we will be holding a summer lunch on Sunday 31st August after our group service. This will be held at Church House with donations welcome. See times in next month's news.

Hundred club

- £15 – Jessica Ralph – no 40.
- £10 – Simon Harris – no 5.

Chetton Village Hall	
Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions	
Village Hall Diary for 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am.■ Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm.■ Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.■ Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm.■ Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.
Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 01746-789239.	

Flicks in the Sticks – Special Event – to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ days, we are showing 'The Battle of Britain' starring Michael Caine and Michael Redgrave, on Sunday 10th August at 1pm.

A Ploughman's Lunch will be served during the interval. This is a ticket-only event at £15.00 inclusive. There will be a licensed bar and raffle and a percentage from the proceeds will be donated to SSAFA.



We will be showing 'Bridget Jones, Mad about the Boy' on Friday 5th September at 7.30, doors open at 7pm for refreshments and tickets are £5.00.



We are hosting 'The Elderly Brothers' on Saturday 4th October at 7pm. 45 minutes of soft rock (the Eagles etc) followed by supper and a further 45 minutes of music and dancing. Tickets £15.00.

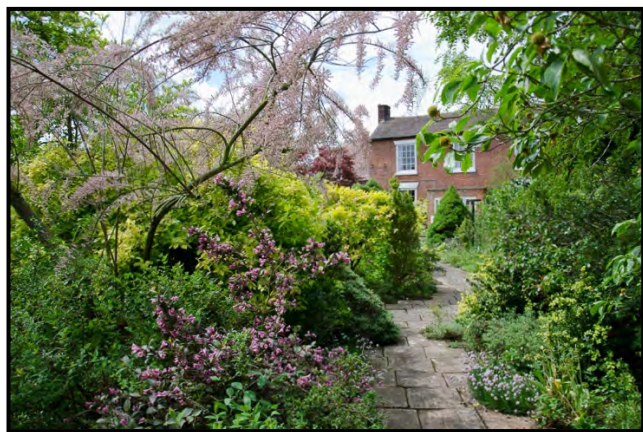
Plant Sale

Thank you to all who helped, provided plants and attended the plant sale, which made **£650.00**



Neither torrential rain nor flash floods could dampen the spirits of Burwarton & District Gardening Club!

As I drove through torrential rain and flash floods on my way to the gardening club's visit to Ruthall Manor in Ditton Priors, I was unsure what the afternoon would bring. The weather forecast was not good with the potential for thunderstorms, but as I arrived at the car park, there were already a number of members waiting with raincoats, wellies and umbrellas at the ready. We sheltered under an area that had been set out for us, to listen to a brief history of the house and garden from the owner Lynda Clarke. Lynda, Gerald and their family moved into the property in the 1960s and Lynda told us how she accidentally found the haha, when she fell down it when trying to retrieve her children's ball in the garden. Together they have developed the garden over the past sixty years to produce an amazingly beautiful and mature garden.

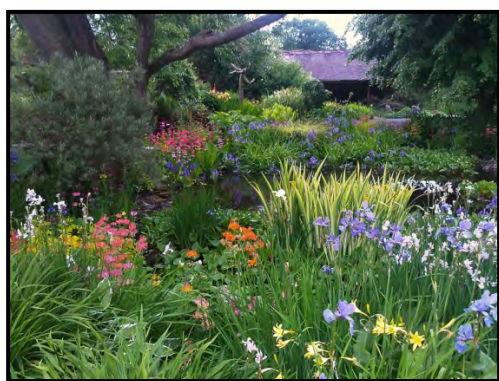


After the introduction, the rain had stopped and the sky began to brighten so we ventured out of the shelter to begin exploring the garden. The one-acre plot has a stunning collection of mature architectural trees which divide the garden into individual sections, linked by winding paths and planted in creative colour combinations.



Throughout the garden there are some very rare and distinctive plants, so it was lucky I had my plant identifying app on my phone. The plant which drew much attention was the *Dactylorhiza foliosa*, a member of the Orchidaceae family. This deciduous tuberous perennial has lance-shaped leaves and dense terminal racemes of purple/pink flowers.

The garden's traditional lawn is flanked by striking, mature borders and leads onto a gravel art garden and ha-ha. The stumpery and woodland gardens contain rare specimen trees, curious artifacts and many hidden treasures. There are clematis and roses climbing through a collection of wrought-iron work, unique pottery and old farmyard machinery and tools.



The highlight of the visit was without doubt the old horse pond with its vibrant candelabra primulas, iris and bog plants. Of course, no garden visit would be complete without tea and cake and we were not disappointed. Ruthall Manor also offers a huge collection of jigsaw puzzles which they sell for charity. This stunning garden is well worth a visit and is open on 20th July

through the NGS. We certainly had a lovely time and many members said that they would be returning soon.

The next and final event of our gardening club calendar for 2025, is a visit to the garden of one of our members this month. We are really looking forward to seeing Laura's garden in its full summer glory!



If you would like to join our small, friendly and very active gardening club, please get in touch and I can give you more details. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Bev Harris Secretary 07933724728
burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com



The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

~

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister - email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk,

Tel 0980-100-9693 (mobile) or 0121 204 3997 (work);

St Mary, Highley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Canev Clayton	St Mary, Billingsley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Peter, Chelmarsh <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant	St Bartholomew, Glazeley <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> Vacant
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Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

June was a busy month at Glazeley, as we celebrated 150 years since the church was rebuilt.

There has been a church on the present site for around 1000 years, but it has been knocked down and rebuilt on a number of occasions.

The present church was begun in

1873

and

was opened by the Bishop of Hereford in August 1875. We have moved the anniversary celebrations forward by two months as many people are likely to be away in August.

But, at our regular Sunday service on 15th June, we welcomed the present Bishop of Hereford, Richard Jackson and his wife; Richard took the service and preached.

We had a full church; it was very good to see supporters from Chetton, Chelmarsh, Billingsley and Highley. We were especially grateful for Richard for staying after the service to chat with people. I am also very grateful for everyone who helped at the service; to Rachael for playing the organ, Anita welcoming people and all those who worked behind the scenes to clean the church, to make cakes and other refreshments. We are now anticipating a

concert next Saturday and

exhibition on the history of the church over that weekend, organised by Lyn Parnaby.



We will have raised a significant amount of money for ourselves and Chelmarsh churches, but the real value is the event itself and how it brings people together to enjoy themselves.

The day before our celebration service, we were at the **Woodlands**, where Toni and Roger Gabb once again opened up their gardens. The weather was sunny, the gardens were stunning and the refreshments were splendid.



It was almost exactly a year since the mastermind behind the gardens, Caspar Gabb, died; I am sure he would have thought that Roger and Toni did an excellent job. We are very grateful to them.

On the Friday the week before, the Gabb family held a very moving celebration of Caspar's life; it made me wish I had known this talented and warm-hearted man better than I did. I am so grateful they organised this



Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

The churchyard at Billingsley has recently undergone a make-over. The old gravel had become full of soil and consequently always sprouting weeds. We have now laid down a membrane to stop the weeds and have covered it with fresh gravel. The colour of this matches the stone of the church. This should make maintenance much easier in the future. Many thanks to Di Stepney for devising the scheme and to Di and Sue Russel who shovelled and raked all the gravel in place after it had been delivered to the church gate. The assistant curate smiled benignly as the work was going on and left smartly in case he was asked to help...





At our latest evening service on Sunday, we welcomed our rector, Kina, who spoke about her 10-day pilgrimage along the Camino, the classic pilgrim route in Spain leading to Santiago del Compostela, said to be the burial place of St James the Apostle. Kina spoke eloquently about the lessons she had learnt of her journey, especially finding God in strangers and in strange places.

Our next evening service on Sunday July 13th will be "A trip to Peru" and is based on a journey made by the late Bob McConnel, husband of Ellen. Bob took many photos which Ellen has recently been sorting; these will be complemented by an account of a much more recent journey to Peru. Come to learn about the Incas, the Andes, some dramatic railways and how God fits into this.

Revd David Poyner

Tel 0980-100-9693 or 0121-204-3997

Email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk

Billingsley St Mary

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10415/>

https://www.facebook.com/BillingsleyChurch/?locale=en_GB

Daddy's Hat at St Bartholomew's Anniversary Celebrations

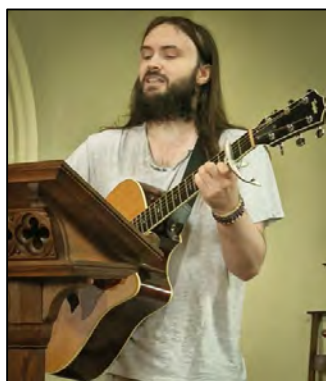
The Typist writes:



Saturday afternoon in St Bartholomew's Church was a veritable musical extravaganza, a fitting anniversary event, with the church adorned with Lyn's incredible pictorial history of the church and generations of its inhabitants.

Lyn, Sally, and Revd David welcomed a select but enthusiastic audience.

Music began with Sam Cooper singing some of his own compositions....



....followed by new Hat friend Jonny Owens playing rousing and fiendishly complicated Spanish Flamenco numbers.



Our firm favourites Ami, Marcia, Penny and Paul, aka the Clee Liberty Band - with their amazing assortment of instruments and much humour, gave us great classics and had us singing along to the Biggest Aspidistra, then hanging out our washing on the Siegfried Line.

Revd David led our singing in Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer, and afterwards gave us his blessing.

There was time to enjoy Lyn's

exhibition, and, after the more formal hour, whilst the audience had cake and soft drinks, Paul, Penny and Jonny had their own impromptu jam session, featuring 'Summertime'.



Sally deserves great praise for the DH initiative – now well into its fourth year – and must have help from above, because DH attracts first rate musicians who share their talents just for the sheer pleasure of playing in the atmosphere and acoustic excellence of our beautiful churches.

It was all just lovely.

Just what all those guests on Escape to the Country mean when they say they are looking for Community.

It's here.

Come and join it.

Molecule of the Month: PROTACs

Revd David Poyner writes:



The drug industry still very largely relies on what a former professor of Medicinal Chemistry at my institution, Aston University, described as “nasty little molecules”.

Most drugs work by binding to large molecules, proteins. In the majority of diseases, one or more type of protein has gone rogue; they are misbehaving. Malcolm Stephens, the professor in question, spent his career designing small “nasty” molecules which would bind to the rogue proteins and stop them from working. He and his colleagues at Aston had one spectacular success, the drug temozolomide, used to treat brain cancer. To be precise, temozolomide targets the DNA of cancerous cells, not the proteins, but the principle of the “nasty little molecule” still holds. The nasty molecules need to be small to be absorbed into the blood and then get into cells to attack the misbehaving large molecule.

Malcolm had one block-buster but in this he was exceptional; most medicinal chemists spend their entire careers working on drugs that never make it into the clinic. Drug discovery is hard; a molecule that works brilliantly in the test tube may never be properly absorbed in the body or may have serious side-effects. I have never even attempted drug discovery.

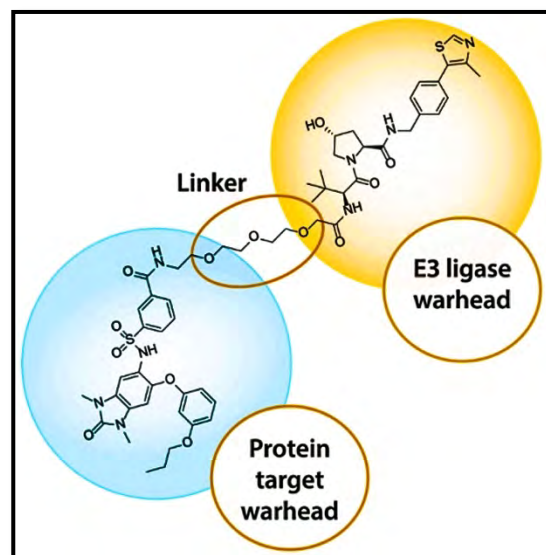
In the search for new ways of tackling disease there are other problems with the “nasty little molecule” approach. Classically, this works by stopping (inhibiting) proteins from carrying out a particular chemical reaction in the body; the class of proteins that do this are called enzymes.

However, diseases are not always caused by enzymes going wrong. For example, in many brain diseases, the problems are caused by accumulation of “junk” proteins; these need to be removed, not inhibited. For many other proteins it is really hard to find a molecule that will bind in the right place to stop it from working.

Recently, a new class of drugs has been developed called “PROteolysis TArgeting Chimeras (PROTACs)”. Cells have a natural way of removing proteins when they are not needed. The unwanted protein is “labelled” by another protein called E3 ubiquitin ligase. A small molecule called ubiquitin is stuck onto the unwanted protein. This is a type of label and it sends the unwanted protein to what can be thought of as scrapyard inside the cell, called a proteasome. Here the protein is broken up.

The PROTAC is a drug that encourages the unwanted protein to interact with the E3 ubiquitin ligase and so be labelled for destruction. One end of the molecule binds to the protein, the other to the ligase, so bringing them together. Once the ligase has labelled the protein, the PROTAC falls off and seeks another of the unwanted proteins, so it is also labelled. Only a few molecules of the PROTAC are needed in a single cell because they act in this way.

PROTACs are now in advanced clinical trials for breast cancer (ARV-471) and prostate cancer (GT20029). Improvements in the way they work are also being developed. They are a very promising approach for “hard-to-treat” diseases where we know the protein we want to target.



A PROTAC has two chemical parts and a linker. The part shaded in blue binds to the protein target. The orange part binds the E3 ligase, the enzyme that labels the protein target for destruction. The linker ensures these come together ([PROTAC Assays - Successfully measuring Protein Degradation](#))

DRP

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: <i>post vacant</i> so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens or volunteers as below		
St Mary, Stottesdon <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007</i>	St Giles, Farlow <i>CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT – please contact the key holder, Pam Phillips – 01746-718745</i>	Holy Trinity, Sidbury <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149</i>
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583</i>	St John, Middleton Scriven <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Ann Constable</i>	St Michael, Silvington <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman</i>
In an emergency, please call Revd Jeannetta Stokes, on 01746-716698		

June message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 20

As this edition goes to press, we have just completed work on the service plan and clergy cover for the autumn – whilst we await details of the coming re-advertisement of the vacancy here. Hopefully, there'll be more on that next month.....

Meanwhile, as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in the parishes, in our two schools and in the wider communities we serve, please:

- ✝ cherish and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens, the parish reps and members of the PCCs;
- ✝ remember to thank the volunteer, visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship.

Clare and Chris Tibbits

Services for July in the Stottesdon Churches

July	Celebrant	Stottesdon	Other parishes
Sunday 6 th	Justin Bailey	10:30 - Morning Prayer - Book of Common Prayer	Farlow: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	Val Smith	10:30 – Group Holy Communion at Stottesdon St Mary	
Sunday 20 th	Justin Bailey	10:30 – Informal Worship	Sidbury: 11:45 Holy Communion with David Poyner
Sunday 27 th	Ann Constable	10:30 – Group Morning Prayer** at Stottesdon St Mary <i>Holy Communion services are available on this date at Ditton Priors, Bridgnorth and Cleobury Mortimer</i>	
Sunday 3 rd August	John Daniels	10:30 – Morning Prayer – Book of Common Prayer	Farlow: 09:00 Holy Communion

During the continuing interregnum there will be some changes to the service pattern. These times are correct at the time of going to print, but it's always worth checking on our website (A Church Near You: Stottesdon benefice) or your churchwarden.

Pastoral Visits and support

If you or someone you know need a visit or communion or other support at home or elsewhere during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden or other volunteer (see above) who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.

Benefice website (A Church near you: Stottesdon) We are trying to keep this updated during the vacancy, so if you need something added – or spot an error - please get in touch by email with chris@stottystores.co.uk

Wheatland News –the deadline for the August 2025 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 - Thanks!

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

Stottesdon St Mary 100 Club

Congratulations to our winners – David Powell, Shirley Humphreys, and David Tibbits

Community Fete – Friday 4th July – on the School Field – 5:30 – 8:00pm!

The main annual fundraiser for St Mary's Church and Stottesdon Primary School. BBQ, Bar, sideshows and stalls. Raffle tickets £1 – great prizes!! Car parking in Pound Lane field courtesy of the Evans' family.



STOTTESDON COMMUNITY FETE 2025

Fundraising for our Church and School on

FRIDAY 4th July
5.30-8pm on the School Field

Fun and Games

Licenced Bar

B B Q

Cake Stall

Plant Sales

Grand Draw Raffle – great prizes!



Six Mile Sponsored Swim

Stottesdon WI had a presentation from Nicky Green of Severn Hospice in June. We learnt all about the vital services that the hospice provides throughout Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid-Wales to those with incurable illness. All that care is provided free and about 70% of the cost has to be met from voluntary, charitable donations!

Inspired by Nicky's talk, 7 intrepid members undertook a sponsored swim at the brilliant open air Lido at Highley's Severn Centre. Over 375 lengths of the pool later – yes, that's 6 miles between them! – a magnificent **£1,822** was raised for the hospice.

Thank you to those that swam, and a big thank you too to everyone who donated. The vital work of Severn Hospice could not be done without all of your help!!



Chorley News

Revd David Poyner writes:

Taking my cue from Satan in the book of Job, today I have been roaming the earth - although more in search of tea and cake than looking for righteous individuals to test.

Acting on a tip-off from one of the congregation at Billingsley this morning, I alighted at Chorley Baptist Chapel, where tea and cake were being sold in aid of funds.

The event was organised by Sue Vernon, (standing, 2nd left, short hair) helped by other volunteers from the chapel. Seated are Ken and Gwen Edge; Gwen was my informant from Billingsley. The tea and cake were indeed splendid.



Sidbury News

Mandy Williams writes:

On Saturday 24th May we held a book and bric-a-brac sale at Sidbury church. The local community were incredibly generous with their donations, and we had a huge amount donated to us. From 10am until 2pm we had a steady stream of visitors through the door, who enjoyed their refreshments while sat in our beautiful churchyard.

Several people commented that they were unaware that Sidbury had a church but "wow!" what a beautiful church and churchyard it was.....



As we totalled up the money we realised with delight that we had made the grand sum of **£700** and felt overwhelmed by the wonderful generous community we live in.

So a huge thank you to everyone who donated and all who supported us on the day!

Sidbury continues overleaf....

And Revd David Poyner writes:

At our May service, there were five of us; for a community the size of Sidbury, I thought this was a good effort. However, behind this, was something even more remarkable; only two of us were Anglicans. One was a Roman Catholic and two were Muslims. We were united in worship of God. All may come to our local churches: we do not question or judge where Love bids us welcome.

The very successful bric-a-brac and book sale in the church indeed raised around £700 for church funds, which of course was welcome. But the real value was that the event brought so many people together! Around 100 people came through the church to browse and chat. The church at Sidbury is there to serve the community, those who come regularly, those who would never consider coming to a service.

See above: Love bids us welcome, Love bids all welcome.

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes:

Knit and Natter continues every Wednesday at 10:00 am in church.

May 100 Club results

- £20 Carol Howells No 81
- £10 Janet Percival No 2, £10 Erin & James Lewis No 77,
- £5 Sue, The Vallets, No 33, £5 Martin Smith No 97

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Next church service:

- ✝ Sunday 31st August at 10.30 - and remember we are most welcome at services in the other five churches around the Benefice too!

Coffee Morning and other events in July - please check with Ann and Sally for details

Severn Hospice Coffee Morning – and Seasonal Card sale – lots of notice for this popular Autumnal fixture: save the date! It's on Wednesday 8th October at Damson House (Ann and John Williamson's).



Silvinton News

- ✝ The next church service at St Michael's will be Communion, 9:00 am Sunday 24th August.



Farlow News

Caroline Billson writes:

Please could you help? The church notice board at St Giles, Farlow needs maintenance and repair. If you can help, please could you contact Pam on 01746 718745?

The Big 100th Picnic Party Fun Day celebration of Farlow & Oretton Village Hall serving the community for 100 years took place on Saturday 14th June and was followed by a Historical Photo Display on Sunday 15th June. The festivities included best dressed 1920s Teddy, optional 1920s Fancy Dress, 100th Anniversary Cake competitions and lots of games. The event was open to all for picnics, there was a Ukulele Band, Maypole Dancing, Raffle, ice creams and light refreshments. **Thank you to everyone who supported the fun weekend which was enjoyed by all.**

Farlow 100 Club Winners for June:

- £20 – Neville Carter
- £10 – Jen Lewis, and Stephen & Deb Phillips
- £5 – Steve & Pip Tolley, and Sylvia Best

Community Notice Board

Summer Farmers' Market

On Saturday 19th July, is "under and around the crooked spire" at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on the **THIRD SATURDAY** each month from 09.30-12.30.

Our local food banks

Both are **always** in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, and of money to sustain their services, and never more so than in this season of plenty. You may have seen in the news that donations of foodstuffs are way down and that the Food Banks are having to buy in produce to make up their family supply packages!

Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER

Finally...

School's Out for Summer!!!

And to celebrate, **Daddy's Hat** will be in the splendid Church of St Mary Magdalene, East Castle Street, Bridgnorth, on Saturday 19th July at the usual time of 3:00 pm, when magical Geoff will be on Grand Piano, and Jonny Owens, fresh from his DH debut at Glazeley (see page 22), will give more of his traditional vibrant flamenco music on acoustic guitar.

Parking – no space at the church, so please use public car parks in High Town – or in Low Town and ascend via the Cliff Railway! Location of St Mary Magdalen is

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Bee Aware!

Cathy Beards writes:

Most of us know bees are important for pollinating crops and all the flowers and produce in our gardens. However often when people think of bees they only consider honeybees. These are the ones that live in hives, are kept by bee-keepers and are often moved

around the country by them as needed to pollinate farmers' crops. British honeybees are just a single species of social bee that we have effectively domesticated for this purpose, this single species producing all the British honey we consume.

Bumblebees are quite easy to spot, as they have a low humming buzz and are generally big and fluffy compared to honeybees. In Britain we have 24 species of bumblebee all from the genus *Bombus*, down from 27 former species due to nationwide extinctions, and only about 8 species that you are likely to see in your gardens.

Bumblebees, like honeybees, live socially, with a queen, her many daughters – called workers - and later in the season her few sons. If you watch the bumblebees in your garden you will see similar marked bees some of whom are very large – generally the queens and many smaller ones – the workers. Most bumblebees live in holes in the ground (often previous mouse or vole holes) or tufts of long grass, and feed on pollen from a wide variety of native plants, many we consider to be weeds.

Surprisingly, there are in Britain around another 225 species of wild bee aside from these two commonly known groups. These are generally referred to as **solitary bees**, though a few do have a social structure, and some nest so close together they seem like a single colony. Mostly they lay single eggs in a cell they fill with pollen. These bees can be found in holes in the ground, hollow stems, gaps in stonework and most other crevices which are left

undisturbed. They come in a range of sizes from just a couple of millimetres long to almost honeybee size and a variety of colourations. Often they look like wasps – from which they have evolved. Some feed only on a single

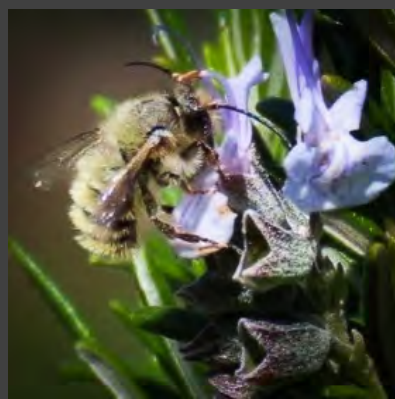
species of plant and so become critically endangered or locally extinct if that plant is eradicated from an area. All are subject to the vagaries of the weather and suffered a horrible wet Spring in 2024 – though a much better one this year, touch wood.

All these bees are critically important for pollination as well as for biodiversity. It is often difficult for bees to find the patches of weeds and wildflowers they need for food, and the scruffy grass, dead hollow stems or bare patches of ground that they use to make their homes. It is important then that we try to provide these habitats and food sources in our gardens, leave dead stems, don't

tidy all the leaves and debris away – bees may be hibernating there. Grow a wide variety of flowers that bees can use (look for the bee symbol when you buy a plant) and allow some weedy areas where natural wildflowers like clover, trefoil, oxeye daisies and thistles can grow. The longer we can keep that vibrant buzz alive in our gardens the better off nature will be and so will we.



Clockwise from top left
Honeybee
Red-tailed Bumblebee
Common Carder Bee
Red Mason Bee



If you want to find out more about bees why not start with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust:

www.bumblebeeconservation.org or join a BeeWalk to help monitor local bees (and improve your identification skills). Abdon Wildlife Group run a local BeeWalk on Brown Clee, contact me for more info: cathy.beards@hotmail.co.uk

What about July?

Anni Holden Calver writes:

July already! The last month must have been the fastest month in 2025 – well in my life if not yours. The second half of the year begins now.

So what do we know about this particular month? It used to be called Quintilis, the fifth month of the year. But when the very famous Julius Caesar died, the Romans decided his achievements were worth remembering and as he was born in this month, they changed its name to July in his honour. Julius was associated with youthfulness, a feature admired in Roman times.

In many cultures around the world, the number 7 and thus the 7th month holds deep spirituality; it connects transformation, creativity and personal empowerment; it reveres leadership. All positive vibes I think.

So what else do we know about this very strong month? It is summer so hopefully lots of sunny weather and holidays. Dare I mention barbeques and the enjoyment they often bring particularly as family events? Then there's Wimbledon on the TV too. And did you know that the flower associated with this month is the larkspur or delphinium, one of my favourites. I have had a good show in my flower beds since last month, and still producing startling bright blue flowers.

Celebrations this month include the 4th July marking the independence of the United States from us Brits, and Bastille Day on the 14th in France, as they recall their successful revolution more than 200 years ago. For Shropshire Churches Tourism Group we have five saints' days to mark. On the 15th it's St Swithun's Day: Cheswardine church will be celebrating. On the 20th it is Margaret of Antioch and Moreton Say and Ratlinghope are the two Shropshire Churches dedicated to her. But goodness knows why. It is believed now that she never existed but that did not get in the way of good pious stories about this woman and she had quite a cult going in the later Middle Ages.

On the 22nd, we remember a far more famous person, St Mary Magdalene. There are four churches with her name, at Ashford Carbonel, Bridgnorth, Hadnall and Quatford.




Finally we have St James at Cardington and Shipton on the 25th of the month. He will be celebrated in many countries around the world, but mainly in Europe. The pilgrim route to his resting place in Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain is still very popular today and the church dedicated to him there, will be full to overflowing on the day.

So lots to celebrate and enjoy this month. If your name is July, Jules, Julie or Juliet, you can celebrate your name too. Oh and before I forget the 31st July is the start of the Oyster season. Not a big deal in a landlocked county like ours!

Background: the clock tower of St Mary Magdalene's Church in Bridgnorth

Useful local contacts – updated May 2025

Please let us know if you have any corrections to this list, or you want to suggest additions – thank you

Brown Clee Surgery PPG	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email BrownCleePPG@gmail.com , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
Brown Clee Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact secretary Ms Bev Harris on 01584-841845, bev Harris15@yahoo.co.uk
Burwarton & District WI	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm first Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
Chelmarsh Bowling	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
Chelmarsh Games Group	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Walking Group	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
Chetton & Glazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. For enquiries re trying a session or two and membership please contact Elisabeth Buggins, Secretary - Phone: 07855 018288 Email: elisabeth@buggins.com
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
Chetton Village Hall	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
Cleobury North Village Hall	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
	National Centre for Domestic Violence https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/ Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
Daddy's Hat Music & Poetry	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you will get a call-back!
Ditton Priors Art Group	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532
Ditton Priors History Group	Please contact paul.wilson8992@gmail.com
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - dittonpriors@shalls@gmail.com
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644
 Little Explorers Pre-School Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact 01746-712506 littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
Tae kwon-do	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055

Air Crew lost on the Clee Hills

With our grateful thanks to Ditton Priors Local History Group for providing the display panel artwork for our covers this month –see page 3

Brown Clee hill is thought to have had more wartime crashes than any other hill in Britain, however the surrounding area and Titterstone Clee hill have also had their share of tragedy.



The first recorded crash was a **Bristol Blenheim Mk1**, which crashed, killing 3 crew, at Stanton Long on the 30th June 1937. This was training flight from Bicester, Oxfordshire.

The haunting photograph at the top shows the site of a German **Junkers JU88** which crashed on Brown Clee hill on the 1st April 1941. The aircraft had failed to reach its bombing target of Birmingham, due to bad weather. An aircraft from Polish squadron 306 was scrambled to intercept it but also failed in its quest due to the conditions. Ultimately the Junkers was flying too low and hit the eastern side of Brown Clee, travelling 250 yards into the trees with a full bomb load, resulting in the deaths of all 4 crew.



Today you can still see a simple memorial at the crash site: a cross made from a fence post, using a large bolt from the aircraft and a metal plaque written in German. Confusingly, the plaque must have come from the aircraft as its memorial statement refers to another event. "In memory of four colleagues and the ring HR, 1st October 1940" However the aircraft crashed in 1941!

On the 15th November 1940 a **Heinkel He 111** had taken off from Lille, France, the main target being an aircraft works in Coventry and then a bombing raid on Birmingham. After failing to hit the target in Coventry due to poor visibility, the aircraft dropped its bombs on Birmingham.



The Heinkel He 111 wreckage spread almost one mile with the main fuselage coming down at Derrington and the tail in Netchwood

On the return journey the aircraft climbed to 19,000 feet over south east Shropshire but the wings started to ice up, which resulted in the bomber going

into a steep dive and breaking up. The tail wreckage landed in Netchwood with the main body of the aircraft ending up at Derrington.

Two of the crew members died with the other two managing to parachute out, landing near Callaghan, Much Wenlock. Although both were injured, they were treated, recuperated and taken prisoner.

An American **Flying Fortress B-17G** crashed on Titterstone Clee on the 25th November 1944. The plane left Stansted on its way to RAF Langford Lodge in Northern Ireland. It should have been east of the hill but was 28 degrees off course.



Unfortunately at the time, the summit of the hill was in a sleet storm with zero visibility, and the pilot, Lt George C. Johnson would not have seen the quarry face until the last moment. Witnesses heard a "huge roar" as the crew tried to gain altitude, but the left wing tip hit the top edge of the Dhustone quarry.

On board were 5 American servicemen, 3 were crew and 2 were passengers, plus one British servicewoman, originally from Belfast, who was just hitching a ride home on leave. All died in the crash.



The Flying Fortress crash memorial at the American cemetery near Belfast

A **Jet Provost XM360** went down on the 4th January 1969. The trainer from the Central Flying school at Little Rissington crashed into the Northwest side of Brown Clee, sadly resulting in the deaths of both the instructor and pupil.



There was a lucky escape for Flight Lieutenant J. Buckler when he ejected at 3,000 feet from his **Harrier GR3** on the 9/4 1975 after engine failure. He survived with minor injuries, with the plane coming down near Ditton Priors.