



**Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the
Badger, Beckbury & Ryton Newsletter**

If you would like to receive this monthly newsletter online please email Heather on heathert806@gmail.com. Or if you cannot access it online please request a paper version which will be delivered to you. Either email Heather or phone on 07938544804. **But please only request a paper copy if you really can't access it any other way as we wish to minimise the amount of paper we use.**



For the last few years Beckbury Shop we have had a box accepting donations of your used stamps for charity.

During 2023 you have handed in a huge 1.5 kg (3 1/4lb) of British and foreign stamps.

These stamps will be sent to Parkinson's UK in January. Your donations will raise money for people living with Parkinson's by funding research into the most promising treatments and the fight for fair treatment and better services.

THANK YOU for all your used stamps and please keep donating during 2024.

If possible please leave 1cm of envelope round each stamp. This is a recommendation and stamps trimmed less or more will still be accepted.

Julie Pleydell

'ARTS ALIVE' in BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL

We had a sell-out performance of 'Shakespeare's Fool' in Beckbury Village Hall last week and a wonderful evening of song and music from 'Tango Calor' in Autumn last year. I do hope that those of you who attended enjoyed your evening.

We will be staging more performances later in the year and maybe even showing some films via Flicks in the Sticks who are part of the Arts Alive offer. Arts Alive is a wonderful organisation bringing top class performances of all sorts to rural venues at a heavily subsidised rate. Read all about them here: [Arts Alive - Films and live events for rural communities : Arts Alive](#)

I am compiling a list of contacts from across the parishes and beyond who would like to receive an email from me about the next performance. If you would like to be notified in this way please email or phone me via the contact details at the bottom of this newsletter. Otherwise there will always be advanced notice of performances in this newsletter.

There will be a licensed bar at every performance and light meals on sale when there is an interval.

We look forward to seeing you at the next performance!

Heather Thomas

Badger Parish Council Meeting

A meeting of Badger Parish Council was held on Tuesday 9 January 2024. One parishioner was present for the Open Forum.

Matters discussed included problems with notifications by NumbersPlus when the defibrillator is needed, planning application updates and setting the budget and precept for 2024-2025.

The date for the next Council meeting will be on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 7pm.

Full details of the January meeting and all other meetings can be found on the Badger Parish Council website (www.badgershropshire.org.uk)

An extract from a book by Wendy Mitchell.

On Dreams.

Do dreams count as hallucinations? If our brains can run riot in the day, then why not at night? My dreams have definitely changed post my dementia diagnosis. Sleep now is a visitor who drops in infrequently. Most nights are spent lying in bed, my eyelids closed, my eyeballs staring into the nothingness behind them. At first I would find this night-time routine exhausting, but now I have given in to it. I simply lie there, allowing my body to relax, waiting for the morning, grateful for any few minutes that I drift off, in and out of the blackness of the night.

It is said that people regress to a different era in the latter stages of this disease, that the mind somehow chooses a shelf of a former life in the great bookcase that makes up our story. I no longer dream of the present, only the past. It's as though my dreams have regressed before my brain has, and are opening a window to the reality that I may be immersed in during the latter stages of dementia. Perhaps my dreams return me there because, for a time, it was a happy period of my life. My daughters are always young, usually around six and three. Sarah is often doing an adult job like working in an NHS call centre-she sits, all three feet of her, at a giant desk in an oversized office chair, her feet dangling mid-air, unable to quite reach the floor. Gemma is still a tiny child and I am a young mum- our roles reversed just for that moment in time, when once again it is me holding their hands. In my dreams I rarely have dementia, which should be comforting, until I wake and find it keeping me company on the pillow.

John Webb

Six Parishes Dementia Friendly Co-ordinator.

The logo for Beckbury Community Shop is a dark green rectangular box with the text "BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP" in white, uppercase letters. The text is centered and flanked by two thin white horizontal lines, one above and one below.

Please help!

You may have noticed that we recently had to close the community shop for a short time due to shortage of volunteers. We hate doing this but sometimes it is just unavoidable.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers, not only serving in the shop but, looking after the structure of the shop, gardening, sorting the newspapers, collecting the bread, keeping the shop supplied with stock, baking cakes etc etc.

but we always need more. Just two or three more would make a big difference. One session a month or once a fortnight is a big help.

We have only had to close a total of three times for a short period in the nearly 6 years since we opened, but this is solely down to the generosity of volunteers who often step in at the last minute and do what is really beyond the call of duty, doing two and sometimes three sessions per week. This isn't sustainable, if we want to keep the shop open we need just a few more volunteers.

It's a great way to get to know people and to join a great group of people who often socialise together, especially at our quarterly get-togethers.

PLEASE WILL YOU CONSIDER SUPPORTING US AS A VOLUNTEER, ESPECIALLY SERVING IN THE SHOP?

If you can help please complete a form at the shop or get in touch with me- see my contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Thank you.

Heather Thomas

Thank you for supporting the work of Beckbury Community Shop—we couldn't do it without you!

Before you pay, did you know that every card transaction costs the shop 3p + a percentage of the item cost?

Our average monthly card fee is £68—that's over £800 we could be donating to local good causes...

As a not-for-profit organisation, any surplus we generate goes to support the local community: in the past we have funded school projects, playground work and bulb planting to name but a few.

So delve deep into your handbag and search those pockets.

Could you use cash today?



BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

We held our first council meeting of 2024 on the evening of the 10th January in the Village Hall. It was a very cold night and the heating was not on.

Nevertheless, we continued in good spirit and after some discussion agreed that the precept for the coming financial year should remain at £10,000, the same as last year.

The playground on the Playing Field seems to be well used. A pump (BMX) track is planned to be installed in or around February. Dee Holes has created a "Book Tree" at the entrance to the car park where people can borrow books and donate books.

The Council have approved a quotation for the installation of a street light close to the entrance to the Village Hall so people using the Hall will not be in almost complete darkness. Hopefully this will be installed sometime in the near future and in any event before next autumn/winter.

We had reported to Councils Highways Department the rather deep pothole/subsidence in the road opposite the car park to the Smokey Cow. Regrettably, and surprisingly the Council have declined to do anything about it. If anyone is concerned about any issues of Village Maintenance, roads drains etc, please let us know so we can try and resolve the issue with Shropshire Council.

The Parish Council still wish to recruit a Clerk. There is a short job description in the shop. If there is a computer literate man or woman interested please contact either myself or Peter Gibbins.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm. The first 10 minutes are reserved for parishioners to attend and raise any matters of concern.

David Cummings
Chairman

Vera George

We have had several items sent to the newsletter about the recent passing of Vera, they are all included here:

Vera George passed away on 31st December 2023. She was born in Badger and had lived almost all her life here. Her funeral will be held in Saint Giles, Badger at 12 noon on 1st February

Our Condolences are extended to her family and friends.

Sue Pearce

I have known Vera for over 60 years, since she and her late husband Eric were so welcoming and kind to us when my family first arrived in Badger in 1963. Throughout that time I knew her as nothing but friendly, smiley, interesting and always interested in others. She was full of knowledge and related stories from the past in such an engaging way.

As I have been delivering this newsletter to her for the past year we would grab a chance to catch up and when I delivered the December edition we agreed that I would 'pop up' one day very soon to have a cup of tea and a really good chat about Badger before my time, she had so much of interest to share. Sadly that never happened. I will always remember Vera with great fondness and gratitude for the decent human being she was. My sincere condolences to Vera's family.

Heather Thomas

Vera had a love of gardening, writing and chatting to neighbours and friends in the area, until the outbreak of COVID she was a keen member of the Six Parishes Friendship Club from which she will be sorely missed.

The following is a copy of her ideas of friendship.

Dave Tooth

FRIENDSHIP

FRIENDSHIP IS A CHUCKLE,
FRIENDSHIP IS A SMILE
FRIENDSHIP YOU CAN RELY ON
TO GO THE EXTRA MILE.

FRIENDSHIP DOESN'T QUESTION
IT TAKES YOU AS YOU ARE
NO MATTER WHAT THE DISTANCE
IT REACHES FROM AFAR.

FRIENDSHIP DOESN'T SEE THE WRINKLES
IT JUST KNOWS THE FACE IS DEAR
EYES THAT LIGHT UP WHEN THEY SEE YOU
A LISTENING FRIENDLY EAR

YOU MAY NOT SEE FRIENDS OFTEN
BUT A PHONE CALL NOW AND THEN
A BIRTHDAY OR A CHRISTMAS CARD
BRINGS YOU CLOSE TO THEM AGAIN

SO CHERISH ALL THOSE FRIENDSHIPS
AS THE WAY OF LIFE YOU CHART.
THE PAST THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE
KEEP THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR HEART

Vera Cecil
FEB. 2017.

The paper version of this newsletter is generously printed free of charge by Adfield to whom we are extremely grateful. Thank you.



Please send items for the March Newsletter to Heather at:
heathert806@gmail.com by 23rd February 2024