

The Grapevine online

No 331

August / September 2025



The hollyhocks at the Beauchamp Community are enjoying the summer.

Your news about *your* community -
Guarlford, Madresfield, Newland

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A Special Service for pre-schoolers, their parents & carers

You are warmly invited to join us at the

PreSchoolers' Service 1.50 - 2.20 pm

in St Mary's Church, Madresfield

on **Tuesday 30th September** for

Harvest

Do come along, sit on the carpet, sing songs and listen to a story.

Everyone is welcome.

Editor: Cora Weaver E: cora.weaver@talktalk.net

The Grapevine will be posted online in the last week of January; March, May, July, September and November.

GUARLFORD

Guarlford Parish Website: www.guarlfordparish.uk

Churchwarden: David Fellows

Vergers: Vacant

Malvern Hills Trust representative: David Fellows

Parish Council: Clerk: Mrs Gill Hollick, 2 Bamford Close, Guarlford WR13 6PF

Mob. 07816 533 251

E: parishclerkguarlford@gmail.com

Parish Path Warden: David Fellows, Green Fields, Rectory Lane, Guarlford

Tel: 01684 574243

Tree Warden: Rev. Peter Hughes

Chairman, Village Hall Committee: Phil Thomas

Village Hall: E: guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Village Hall Website:- <https://guarlfordvillagehall.co.uk/>

W.I : meets 7.30, Guarlford Village Hall, second Tuesday in the month. All welcome.

President: Carol Murphy E: wifolk@guarlfordparish.uk

MADRESFIELD

Bell Ringing: Practice Mondays 7.30 at Madresfield Church; contact Geoff Titmuss 01684 572495

Churchwardens: Mr Christopher Bennett, Hayswood Farm, Madresfield, 01684 891047; Mrs Elizabeth Palmer, 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Secretary: Wendy Palmer 01684 899223 E: wendy.palmer@outlook.com

Treasurer: Situation vacant from Spring 2024 - church finance's enquiries to The Vicar.

Cricket Club: Secretary: Peter Hughes, Holly Lodge, Madresfield 01684 572649

Early Years Centre www.meyc.co.uk 01684 574378 (9am-2pm)

Mrs Alice Bennett 01684 574378

Movement Club: Children's gym, dance, drama and ballet 01684 574378

Parish Council: Clerk: Mr David Sharp, 20 Farley Road, Malvern Link 01684 573213
E: mrdasharp@btinternet.com

Madresfield C E Primary School: Head of School: Mrs Rebecca Hibell 01684 573620
E: office@madresfield.dowmat.education

Friends of Madresfield School : Chairman: Helen Morgan;

Vice Chairman: Hannah Willey; Secretary, Christine Warner ; Treasurer, Hannah Hollick ; Press Officer, Tracy Williams

Madresfield Club : Secretary, Mrs Jo Morgan 01684 573363

Madresfield contd.

Parent & Toddler Club: Tuesdays 11-12; Gymini classes throughout Wednesdays;
Holiday Play Schemes; After School Collection & Care
Babies to PreSchool Care 8am-6pm daily

Movement Club: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at Madresfield Early Years Centre
01684 574378.

Parent & Toddler Groups run daily in term time at Madresfield Early Years Centre
01684 574378 or Mrs Elaine Ward 01684 565714.

NEWLAND

Malvern Hills Trust representative: Duncan Westbury

Parish Council: Clerk: Jacqui Barker, 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB 01684 567674
E: newlandpc1@gmail.com

Newland Parish Council meets bi-monthly at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at The Beauchamp Community (January, March, May, July, September, November)



Community Support Officer: PC Dee Stanley

County & District Councillor: Tom Wells, 27 Upton Road, Callow End WR2 4TY
Tel: 01905 831752 07702 996203 E: talwells@btinternet.com

Malvern Hills Trust: Chase representative: Richard Fowler

Malvern Hub: for reporting abandoned cars and flytipping 01684 862151

Meditation Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm 01905 831048

Parochial Church Council: Rector - Rev. Gary Crellin 01905 830270
E: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Palmer 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Parishes' Administrator: Liz Edwards, 07726 927 046 E: oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Ginny Pavey E: virginiaipavey@btinternet.com

Parish Website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

WHERE TO FIND THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

- * http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/vill_mag.htm This site displays past editions.
- * <https://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk/useful-links>
- * www.madresfieldschool.net
- * <https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>
- * <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=94>

A note on the St Mary's organ and its setting

On Saturday, 14 June, the Worcestershire Organists' Association visited the church, following a visit to Madresfield Court and the chapel organ. They were led by their member, Dr James Berrow and here he writes of our historic St Mary's organ and its setting.

At the consecration of the new church of St Mary, Madresfield, near Malvern, in 1867, 'Mr. Nicholson ... played on Sunday morning' to the assembled dignitaries on his 'capital little organ', a rare mention of the organ builder's musical abilities.

From the 1840s, there were great changes in the design of English churches, their decoration, furnishings and liturgy. Looking back, it can be difficult to understand how such buildings could spark the great concern they did, even to the point of riots, Parliamentary debates and the imprisonment of clergy for daring to put lit candles on the altar. In the 1860s, Newland and Madresfield presented new ways of expressing the faith. The Revd James Skinner arrived in Newland, escaping the stress of the reaction to such innovations at London's fashionable, St Barnabas, Pimlico, where he was a curate. Here, in rural Worcestershire, with the support of Earl Beauchamp, matters were very different and once Skinner had settled in, he soon established services in the catholic tradition, with one commentator noting that 'the music must have been among the best in any English country church'. It led to queues for seats at the weekly Eucharist (itself an innovation) and the residents had to be given priority to claim their seats until the bell stopped tolling.

The beautiful and slightly earlier ensemble of Newland's chapel, alms house and choir school, were designed by the Court's architect P.C. Hardwick and the 'capital' organ by Nicholson was placed at the east end of the south aisle. The chancel was arranged after the manner of collegiate churches, with seating set apart for the residents. But instead of Oxbridge academics, the almsmen occupied the chancel, the women the aisle adjoining and the parishioners generally the nave. The striking decorative scheme was added later, by Clayton and Bell and the organ's chromatically arranged pipe front echoes that of its Madresfield neighbour. But, unlike Madresfield, the organ has been much (unnecessarily and unsuccessfully) altered.



The beautiful ensemble of Newland's chapel, alms house and choir school.

With the encouragement of the Earl, the Court chapel, the Newland Community and the parish church made bold statements in the expression of their faith, demonstrating that the Church of England was rediscovering its 'Catholic' heritage. The Earl was generous in funding this progressive work and there are many examples of this generosity around the Worcester diocese.

The present Madresfield church replaced an earlier, short-lived building (by E.W. Pugin, the designer of nearby Stanbrook Abbey). Close to the Court, it was later demolished, having been built on unstable ground. Its organist, until her marriage in 1865, was Lady Georgina Lygon. As at Newland, the St Mary's organ case was an example of the progressive movement of 'truth and honesty' and, in line with the rules instituted by these pioneer Ecclesiologists, it had the prospect pipes running in a chromatic, tapered line (just as their notes would appear, in order, on a keyboard). The simplicity of the Madresfield case is also its great success and reflects the views of the then Earl who would have been intimately involved in the design and commission of the new church. He was also a supporter of the plainsong revival, another manifestation of a return to 'Catholic' roots and out of Skinner's work grew the foundation of a choir school at Newland, with daily choral services, this tradition continued into the twentieth century and these buildings and much of their traditions survive.



Lady Georgina Lygon

Skinner was also a friend of the Revd Sir Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley, the baronet priest and another refugee from Pimlico, who built St Michael's College, Tenbury, out of his own pocket. Ouseley would, almost certainly, have been involved in the design and purchase of the new organ.

St Mary's was designed for the village by a local architect, Frederick Preedy, incorporating some of the earlier church's more expensive materials *e.g.* stone arches, window tracery, *etc.* In 1867 John Nicholson 'constructed a capital little organ' of two manuals and eleven speaking stops, sited in the north chancel chamber, east of the choir stalls. The strict ecclesiologically correct case, with polished and decorated pipes, has a tall, illustrated screen concealing the player. This was provided to protect the sensibilities of worshippers who might otherwise be distracted and even offended by the sight of a female organist in the new 'correct' chancel, reserved for male choristers and clergy.

We should be pleased that the far-sighted vision adopted by the then patron, his architects and organ builder can offer what is still desirable (and adequate) music provision today. The St Mary's organ is an important survival.

Dr Berrow is the author of *The making of an English organ builder: John Nicholson of Worcester*, 2021. (With thanks to the Worcestershire volume of Pevsner's *Buildings of England*, 2007.)

The Revd Gary Crellin revgarycrellin@gmail.com

John Swindells musicjs1856@gmail.com (contact)

John de la Cour john@elmley.org.uk for info

James Coupe jascoupe@gmail.com



GUARLFORD ANNUAL SUMMER COMMUNITY GATHERING

Guarlford Parish Council and the Trustees for Guarlford Village Hall held their annual Summer Community gathering on Saturday 20th July. Fortunately, this year, the event was held in the village hall as the weather looked a bit changeable, so most people managed to avoid the late afternoon downpour!

Play Your Cards Right was also popular and even Reverend Gary joined in the fun with this. The hot pork rolls and home-made cakes were a big attraction with many people opting for this instead of their own picnic. Throughout the afternoon visitors were invited to take part in a village detective trail. Everyone really enjoyed this; although there were some easier clues, one or two questions were a bit more challenging so there was something for everyone. The prize, a tin of biscuits, was won by **Harriet Lester and her mum and dad**. Well done to them.



There were games on offer with some very competitive table tennis.



Harriet Lester and her mum and dad were hot on the trail.

There were lots of raffle prizes to be won with all the proceeds going towards the renovation of the **Peter Mayner room**, which will be downstairs in the village hall. The village hall will be having solar panels and a new heating system installed over the summer, all ready for the autumn and winter activities.

The next two events at the village hall will be a **coffee morning and book sale** on 6th September and the popular **Summer Quiz** on 23rd August.

The Guarlford Village Hall website can be found at: guarlfordvillagehall.co.uk

Gill Hollick, Secretary, Guarlford Village Hall 07816 533251



GUARLFORD GOSSIP

GUARLFORD WI News June /July

In June, our members celebrated the birthday of our oldest member, Liz Tidball, who is now resident at Albion Lodge in Hanley Swan. As Liz is no longer able to attend our monthly meetings, we had a birthday afternoon tea kindly hosted at the lodge by the staff there. All of our members were able to attend, and we all enjoyed delicious cakes and tea, and of course plenty of chatting, to make it a most memorable afternoon.



Liz Tidball, at her birthday afternoon tea.

In July, our speaker was Lorna, from the organisation **Community Action**, who are a countrywide scheme, and Lorna is based in Malvern Link. She gave us an insight into the wonderful work they do, which includes things such as getting those without transport to hospital and GP appointments; outings to such places as National Trust properties, and shopping trips.

They run a group called **Men's Shed**, for those wishing to learn new skills, or pass knowledge on, and there is a film club, based at The Cube in Malvern. They also hire out wheelchair adapted vehicles, and wheelchair ramps. Community Action is obviously a valuable local asset. They are always looking for new volunteers to drive their minibuses, and they fundraise at local events.

I am sure many of us were unaware of quite how much they have to offer, so this was a most worthwhile and interesting evening.

Paula Parsonage



GUARLFORD NATIVITY 25

Despite having had more than one heatwave recently, at St Mary's, Guarlford, we are already making plans for Christmas.

'**Nativity 25**', our lovely and interesting exhibition of Nativity sets, will take place in December, and we are looking for offers of sets to put on display once more. If you would be happy to loan a crib set or other craft linked with the Nativity, could you please contact Judith (01684 310756) or Rosemary (01684 565118). The village hall will once again be open to provide refreshments and facilities.

Many thanks,
Rosemary McCulloch



Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3rd August

Trinity 7

9.30am Living Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Living Communion at POWICK

(Both with Revd Gary Crellin)

Sunday 10th August

Trinity 8

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

(With Father Chris Sterry)

Sunday 17th August

Trinity 9

~~**8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK - CANCELLED**~~

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD

(With Rev Stephen Sealy)

11.00am VJ 80 Service at POWICK

(With Rev Canon Eric Knowles)

Sunday 24th August

Trinity 10

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

(With Father Chris Sterry)

Sunday 31st August

Trinity 11

10.30am Café Church at CALLOW END

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green

Thursdays 14th & 28th August from 10.30-11.30am



01905 830270 www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via
revgarycrellin@gmail.com or oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com

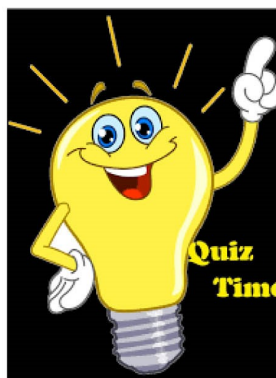


SCAN ME



GUARLFORD VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity number 523145



Bring your own bottle

Summer QUIZ

Saturday 23rd August 2025

7.00 pm for a prompt 7.15pm start

Bring a team of 4 or
come on your own and join a team

Tickets include supper of hot pork roll and
delicious homemade puds

Prizes

£10 per person

Prizes

To book a place email guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Or telephone the secretary on 07816 533251

Website: guarlfordvillagehall.co.uk

All the proceeds from this evening will go towards the refurbishment of the

Peter Mayner Room



GUARLFORD VILLAGE HALL

Registered charity number 523145



Coffee morning and Book Sale



Saturday 6th September 2025

10am – 12 noon

Free admission

All proceeds from sales will go to the renovation of
The Peter Mayner Room

Tea, Coffee, Cold drinks and
Delicious home made cake



For more information email:
Or telephone the secretary on:
Website:-

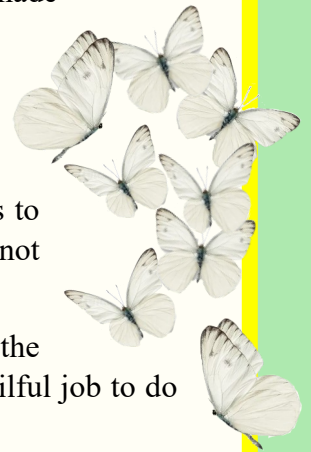
guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com
07816 533251
guarlfordvillagehall.co.uk



Newland News 26

The heat has finally got to our beautiful lawn, but we are enjoying being outside especially under our giant bean tree (Catalpa), which offers us shade from the very hot sun.

A lot of small white butterflies have been flying about in the last few days, even though it's been hot enough to fry eggs on the bonnet of my car. There I was driving out of the gate when two of these little butterflies aimed straight at my windscreen. So guess what? I slammed on my brakes to avoid them. Luckily there was no other cars in the around. Not a good idea but I could not bring myself to kill these lovely little creatures.



The dead old chestnut tree has had to be removed. It was fascinating to watch how the tree surgeon climbed up the tree on a rope and removed the tree bit by bit. Such a skilful job to do this and then remove the stump all in a few days.

The bus stops are back and the shelters will be back before winter. We still do not know who destroyed them or why and we may never know. I cannot think of a good reason for anyone to deliberately destroy a useful public amenity.

Recently, I had to renew mum's blue badge and discovered that Worcestershire County Council only accept renewals online. We got the badge by visiting Malvern library and they helped Mum complete the form, but when I checked we could only renew online. What about the people who do not have help? Do they have to rely on charities to help? I suppose Age UK or the CAB would be able to assist, but should they have to?

But the hollyhocks are enjoying the weather and so are the roses. Nature manages to survive even in the worst weather.

Jane Tinklin



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

Everyone is welcome to advertise their services in our *Grapevine*.

In return, we would like a donation to be paid to the *Grapevine* account. See page 2 for bank details.

When there is enough money to be useful, a small team will decide which community project is supported with *Grapevine* funds. It might be new curtains for a village hall, prefect badges for a school or the hire of a digger to clear a pond.

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Financial Help for Those in Need

The **Madresfield Relief in Need Charity** is an ancient charity for the benefit of those living in the ancient parish of Madresfield with Newland. The charity is overseen by *the Charity Commission* and managed by local trustees including Rev Gary Crellin.

The Covid pandemic has made life very tough for many. The trustees would like to help anyone within our parishes who needs support during this very challenging time.

If you would like to apply for financial support, please contact Rev Gary Crellin through the contact details below.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

To make an application please contact:

Rev Gary Crellin, The Vicarage, 31 The Greenway, Colletts Green, Powick WR2 4RZ

Email: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

YOUR CHURCHES

Church Services - Each church notice board will have a list of services but you can visit the online calendar at <https://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk>



QR Code for the Old Hills Malvern Churches

If you have a phone or tablet, you can use it to scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the churches' website. No need to remember the www. address - scan and be teleported as if by magic straight to the website.



**If you have to dial 999 or 112
and cannot speak Dial 55
You can be found from
your dialling location.**



Guarlford Village Hall is
available for hire for
small gatherings.
For more information contact
Gill Hollick on 07816 533251

PLEASE NOTE that, like hairdressers, butchers and European museums,
Rev Gary's normal day off is **Monday**.