

BREASTON & DRAYCOTT VILLAGE NEWS

50p

September 2020




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Thought for the month

Since I last wrote in this magazine a lot has happened and our world is very much changed.

When we all went into lockdown it was soon clear to me that the people of Draycott are well organised and very caring. This care for others is still shown by your generosity in donating food to the Derby City Mission food bank.

Many people have told me how much they appreciate phone calls and people checking that they are okay. Let's hope that this continues as we face an uncertain autumn and winter. Caring for our village and our neighbours will be even more important during the darker days to come.

In the gospel according to Mark chapter verse 31, Jesus says "love your neighbour as yourself." For those of you who know your Bible, this is the second most important commandment, the first being to love God.

As Christians we are called to show our commitment to Christ and to God by the way we conduct our lives and taking time to care for those about us is one way we can do this.

As the Methodist Church in Spondon, although our building was physically closed, we did not close as a church. The church is the people of God, not a building. We will continue to care for the village of Draycott and we look forward to the time when we can all meet up again for time to talk, laugh and share our stories.

God Bless

Judith Neal

(Local Pastor, Borrowash, Draycott and Spondon Methodist Churches)



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From the editor

"Keep calm and carry on" say our smiling faces on the front cover. And that's what the villages are doing. The churches are beginning to open again: St. Michael's is adding a Wednesday morning communion service, and the other churches are making their plans – see page 12. And even though summer may be officially over (meteorologically!) there are signs of new life now that things are relaxing: the opening of new shops and relocating old ones (see page 10).

Jonathan Lupton, Editor

Verse of the month

"You will keep them in perfect peace, whose minds are stayed on You,
because they trust in You.."

Isaiah 26:3

Publishers

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Contact the editor by post c/o St. Michael's Church Hall, Main Street, Breaston, Derby, DE72 3DX, or see details on page 25.

Copy Day

For the next issue of the magazine is the 17th of the month.

All copy to be submitted to Breaston Church Office by email please (magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk or give us a ring on 872094). Draycott news can be passed to Rev'd Gary Dundas 872893 by the 15th of the month.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED!

Still Space

Thoughts and reflections to help us find peace in our busy lives

Remembering

Mary paced the room, bare feet slapping the cool stone. She hadn't been sleeping well lately. Her eyes itched, her head ached. It was so frustrating being cooped up in the house like this while nearby, in Jerusalem, violence was erupting again. Few pilgrims were passing by. Their small home church had stopped meeting for worship. Instead, the tramp of soldiers' feet echoed day after day through the streets of Bethany.

What should she do?

She dropped to her knees with a sigh. This was the very spot where she had sat and listened to Jesus all those years ago. If only he was here now. Perhaps she wouldn't feel so helpless. She tried to remember his words, his face – but it was a blur.

'Mary!'

A sturdy figure touched her arm and led her to a comfortable seat before a low table, set with fresh bread, cheese, olives and dates. Martha poured out dark red grape juice. Slowly, without words, the sisters broke the bread and began to eat.



'D'you want to talk?' said Martha, collecting up the empty plates. Mary closed her eyes.

'I don't know. I keep thinking about Jesus – how he used to stay here, talking about the Kingdom, healing, helping... He said we should remember him but it seems so long ago. I can hardly picture his face anymore. What about you?'

Martha said nothing for a while, just reached out and held her sister's hands in hers.

'To me it seems like yesterday,' she whispered. 'I'll never forget that time when I stormed out of the kitchen and demanded that you help me with dinner. I remember the look in his eyes: so full of love – and pity – and hurt. Jesus said I was eaten-up with worry – and he was right. But who wouldn't be stressed with all those great, hungry men stomping around! Makes my heart race just thinking about it. The thing is, I wanted everything to be perfect for him. But then I saw you – sitting so close, there at his feet. It made me furious, made me want to cry. If only I could have sat there with you...

'But it's OK. I've learned a lot since then. I do like cooking and making a home. I like welcoming people so that they feel warm and contented. I know we can't do much at the moment but I'm sure those times will come again. Sometimes, even now, as I knead the dough or stir the stew, I find that Jesus joins me. I only get a glimpse, the faintest, fleeting sense of his presence, but I know it's him. After all, he said he'd never leave us, however tough things get, and he never has. That's something to hang on to, don't you think?'



But Mary didn't answer. She was asleep.

Martha smiled to herself. Gently blowing a kiss across her sister's greying head, she slipped quietly back into the kitchen.

Breaston Village News



Spot the difference



Yes, a further Bloom planter has been stolen. It was very heavy, and its' theft must have involved two people and transport. This planter has been nurtured for 3 years by the owner who is, understandably very upset.

On a happier note...

...the area around the boat (next to the Navi) has been tidied and planning for repairs to the boat itself is underway. One litter pick has taken place, and another is planned.

Fruit and veg scraps are composting away on Duffield Close and the Jubilee Garden. Feel free to add your bagged vegetable and fruit scraps/peelings, eggshells, coffee grounds and tea bags to the red lidded containers in either area, but no meat, fish, cooked food, dairy products, onions or citrus, please.

As ever, we are always looking to extend our team (especially for watering when necessary) – new volunteers are most welcome.

Please contact Julie Rowlinson on 07900 241886 if you are interested in joining the Bloomers or see the Facebook page.

Breaston Parish Council

Dog poo

A perennial problem reported is dog poo... it seems unbelievable that it is still a problem in this day and age. We all know the dangers related to dog mess and yet still some dog owners don't clear up after their pets. The Parish Council provides free dog waste bags for residents and they can be

collected from the parish rooms, when they are open or from the Parish Caretaker when you see her out and about, there is also a supply at Dundas the Butchers on Main Street. Even more inexplicable are the dog owners who bag it and then leave the bag on the ground! Please bag it and bin it. All Borough Council and Parish Council litter bins are dual-purpose for litter and dog waste.

Open spaces



Perks Park

It's been pleasing to see residents and visitors alike enjoying the recent good weather in the Parish Council's open spaces, there have been many more people than

usual using Duffield Close and Perks Recreation Ground, groups unable to meet indoors have used the spaces to meet in a socially distanced fashion as they try to get back to some sort of normal. At the beginning of the lockdown we had to make decisions on whether to continue with the usual maintenance and grass cutting of the Parish sites and it is great to see that it was worthwhile with so many people taking advantage of the lovely green spaces in the village.

In Bloom

Great thanks go to the In Bloomers who despite many difficulties with sourcing plants etc managed to provide the hanging baskets again this year I'm sure you will agree they look a picture. Great thanks also go to Mrs Davis and Mrs Harvey for all of their hard work keeping the Sensory Garden in perfect shape.

Facebook

The Parish Council have created a Facebook page which residents may find useful - please follow us on www.facebook.com/Breaston-Parish-Council-100893088372240.

Nicala O'Leary, for Breaston Parish Council

Clubs and Societies

Breaston Belles W.I. News

In July some of our members had their first virtual meeting on Zoom. We sang Jerusalem which was inspiring to us all. We had a good

catch up on the things we had been doing during lockdown and everyone was very cheerful.

In August we planned to have our first Zoom speaker. Kathryn Steenson from the University of Nottingham kindly agreed to give her talk on "Sex and Scandal in Nottingham's Church Court" via Zoom on 13 August 2020. We were able to offer 100 women the opportunity of listening to this talk, and all WIs in Derbyshire have been notified. A few WIs around the country are now arranging speakers via Zoom and we are proud to be the first in this area. Hopefully, we will be able to invite more speakers in the months to come, whilst meeting as a large group is not feasible for us.

However, due to easing of regulations, we will soon be holding a series of informal meetings in the gardens of some of our members, and we are trying to encourage more to join with this activity.

Monthly newsletters have continued, as has the weekly exchange of books and jigsaws. Regular contact via phone calls and the WhatsApp group also continues.

If you are interested in applying to be a member please contact Chris Barker tel 01332 873115. Breaston Belles WI meets on the second Thursday of the month between 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm at Breaston Methodist Church Hall.

Janice Dawson on behalf of Breaston Belles WI
breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net

Foodbank collection

The Covid Support Team are hoping to organise another collection of donations to the local food banks – no date has been set yet.

"Let's go Bargain Hunting!"

Fans of the lunchtime show "Bargain Hunt" will recognise that cry! Charles Hanson came to St. Michael's in May for a valuation session. As well as doing a multitude of valuations, he auctioned three pairs of tickets for a recording of Bargain Hunt to be screened in the autumn. The ticket prices were donated to St. Michael's youth and community work in Breaston.



As Jonathan and I regularly watch Bargain Hunt, we were excited to see just how it was done, so I successfully bid for one pair of tickets! We went to the recording in July at Bishton Hall (near Rugeley). The auction was held in a large marquee so that everyone could be socially distanced. We didn't

actually bid for anything, but it was fascinating to see how the TV crews and the experts put the programme together. We hadn't realised before that they record several episodes on the same day – three shows were being done at the same time. A very interesting day, and well worth the trip.

The programme will be screened sometime in September I believe. We will know when it's on, as Charles will be sporting a handsome "lockdown beard" (see photo on previous page)!

Jean Lupton

Baby donkey



Baby donkey Jeremy was born Saturday 15th August in Breaston (on the field near the Golden Brook).

Sarah's animals are a joy to see. We hope the alpacas will look after the new arrival!

New shops in Breaston

Thank you, Breaston for making my Nephew Luke Briggs and me, Marie, feel so welcome to the village.

We both started in Draycott, next to each other, and moved our businesses within lockdown. Luke ran JB Barbers, named after his grandad John Briggs and his son Jacob Briggs, for 5 years and when the shop next to him came up for rent he contacted me, I was ready for a change. After working as a Nursery Nurse since I was 18, I loved my job but was ready for something different. I was in the Draycott



sandwich shop for 4 years. We both loved being in Draycott but when we were offered 2 adjoining shops in the prime location of The Green in Breaston we couldn't refuse. We look after each other and we are enjoying our time in Breaston.

Marie May

P.S. Don't forget that Dundas Butchers in Breaston is relocating to Number 48, near the corner of Stevens Lane.

Draycott Village News

Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council News

In these uncertain times, the best way to contact the council is via phone on 01332 875278 or email draycottpc@gmail.com. Our website is www.draycottparishcouncil.org.

Draycott and Wilne Women's Institute

Draycott & Wilne members continue to have the opportunity of socially distanced outdoor get-togethers to discuss how we can move forwards at the moment. We were able to hold our July meeting because it was an outdoor event and equipped with an excellent guide, suitable masks and kind weather, off we went around St Chad's Water. We all know that it is a delightful place, but we are now knowledgeable about the plant and insect population. Our extra August meeting will also be a garden event as we try to cram in those missed official meetings! As we await news on the reopening of meeting rooms, September needs to be fine weather too. Our meeting may have to resort to an evening/tea time one, to allow all members the opportunity to attend. We will keep you posted.

Draycott & Wilne WI usually meets on the 3rd Thursday in the month at the Methodist Church Hall, Market Street at 7.30 pm. We would love to see any ladies join us, once we get the go-ahead. Further information through draycottandwilnewi@hotmail.com.

Kris Bingham

10 Fun Facts

1. You can't count your hair.
2. You can't wash your eyes with soap.
3. You can't breathe through your nose when your tongue is out.
4. You just tried number three.
6. When you tried number three, you realised it's possible – it's just that you looked like a dog!
7. You're smiling right now, because you were fooled.
8. You skipped number five.
9. You just checked to see if there is a number a five.
10. You really ought to stop reading this and get on with something!

Church News

Church Services

Because of the Coronavirus, all services in both villages were cancelled and the buildings closed. During August, St. Michael's in Breaston was open for private prayer from 10-12 am on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and for a service of Holy Communion on Sundays at 9 am. Numbers are limited, so we hope you will understand if you have to be turned away because there are no more seats available.

From the beginning of September, the Wednesday opening is a service of Holy Communion at 10 am, to provide more people with the opportunity to worship in this way. Social distancing should still be observed. Please follow the instructions from the person in charge.

St. Michael's will continue to stream a service at 10:30 each Sunday. If you have internet access you can join in by visiting the church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stmichaelsbreaston) and clicking the *Videos* link on the left-hand side. The service is also available on YouTube at the same time – and you can view it with subtitles there too.. You can find the link for this at the very bottom of any page on the church's website (www.stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk). There will also a short morning prayer service on Facebook most weekdays.

St. Mary's are hoping to re-open soon, and Draycott Methodist Church is working with other churches in the circuit on their plans.

Breaston Methodist Church

Alive and moving forward

Breaston Methodist Church building may be closed but our minister Rev'd Arnold Dixon, pastoral lay worker June Farrant and the church stewards are working hard to solve the issues involved in reopening according to Government and Connexional guidance (www.methodist.org.uk).

The aim is to be Covid-19 safe and we hope to begin some form of worship in the building from mid to late September.

Many members are worshipping through the local radio service at 8 am on Sunday mornings, television services or for those with internet there are many services online. Regular phone calls offering prayer and a chat will continue until the church reopens.

Please continue to pray with us as we think through the ways forward.

Angela Stanyon

Articles

My Earliest Wartime Memory

The 3rd of September marks the anniversary of Great Britain's entry into World War II. Hazel King of Breaston has written this poignant memoir from that time.

The Second World War had already been declared. I was three years old, four maybe. There's no one left to ask.

My father lay in a long, wooden chair bed, padded in brown leather. He was tall, very tall. His feet hung over the end. He was thin to the bone.

My father lay in the front parlour of our little terraced house in Nottingham. My mother stood at his side, a light brown envelope in her hand. I knew it wasn't a proper letter from one of my aunties or my grandma. People always use white envelopes for proper letters.

She opened it and read it silently. Or maybe she didn't, maybe she read it out loud, because I knew what it was about. My child's voice pipes out from over the decades:-

"Has my daddy got to go to the War?"

I can see the letter in her hand, drooping, nearly falling to the floor.

"No," she tells me quietly. "Daddy's too poorly to be a soldier. They won't send for him."

In my innocence, I clap happily.

The memory is too compelling to let go now...

It is 1942 and I am six years old.



Hazel's parents, Louise and Cyril Sissins, on their wedding day

We are in grandma's house, in her familiar kitchen. I spend a lot of time there. My mother takes me upon her lap. She has just come from the



Hazel with her grandson Joshua

sanatorium, from my daddy. She has something to tell me. Her arms are tight around me.

"Daddy's gone to Heaven."

I see him in my mind's eye, floating in the sky, which is a deep blue, winging his way towards Heaven.

"Has his bed gone with him?"

Well, why not? How would he manage without it? After all, I had never seen him out of his bed, never seen him able to walk about...

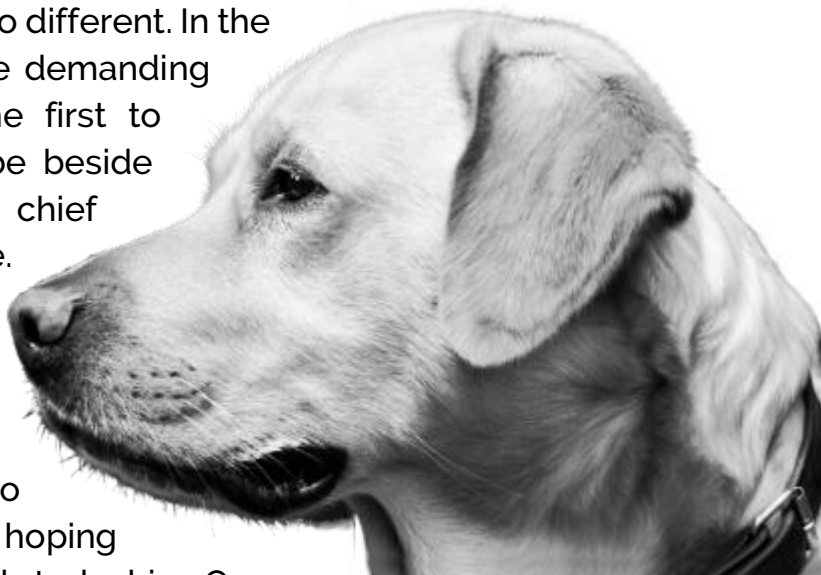
The Army didn't get my father. Hitler didn't get him.

But the TB did.

Hazel King

Dogs – man's best friend (and woman's, too)

Many people reading this magazine will own at least one dog or enjoy meeting a dog. It is estimated that 25% of the population in the UK own at least one dog, the greater majority as a pet for their companionship, their unique personality and their forgiveness. We have two dogs, brothers, but their personalities are so different. In the house, Barty is the one demanding the cosiest places, the first to jump on the sofa to be beside you but Hugo is the chief outside the house. When I'm in the front garden he is the one watching through the gate and barking at any other dog who passes and passers-by hoping they will talk to him and stroke him. On



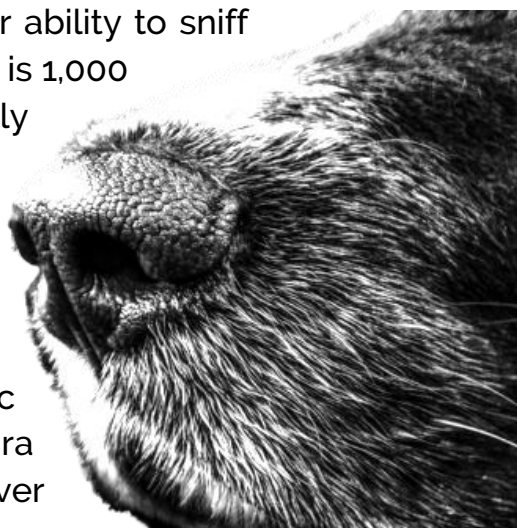
walks, he is the one who always wants to be in front. Tracks off the path we are going are a mystery for them to explore.

When Judith and I are together either at mealtimes, watching television or sitting in the garden they relax with us. When we are in different parts of the house they are rarely at rest, wanting to know where each of us is, padding about from one to the other. Anyone who comes through the back gate can expect an overzealous welcome, be it relatives, friends, delivery personnel or the window cleaner. "Beware of the Dog" at our house means, "Be careful you don't fall over one."

There are times when Judith and I go out together and leave the dogs, a visit to friends, a meal with relatives or friends, a show where our grandchildren are performing, church, or singly to our various clubs and Judith's many coffee dates—before COVID-19, of course! Wherever they have been resting they hear the car door shut, the back gate open and are there at the back door to welcome us, delighted that we have returned. A dog's forgiveness is total, there are no thoughts of "Where have you been?" "Why were you away for so long?"; it is pure happiness that we are together again.

Because of a dogs' love for us and their willingness to please we use them in many different ways. When we lived in Draycott a neighbour had a 'Hearing dog for the Deaf' to inform her if someone was at the front door. Guide Dogs are an aid to many people not only in helping them walking along the street but with the daily tasks in the home. Therapy dogs visit Care Homes, Hospitals, Classrooms, Disaster Relief Areas and many other places where they make people feel comfortable with physical contact they may not be used to and this helps their treatment. Dogs are a great comfort because when we are feeling blue they don't try to find out why. They are just there for us.

The fact that a dog's nose has a superior ability to sniff the multitude of smells is unbelievable. It is 1,000 times more sensitive than ours. Possibly 30% of a dog's brain is dedicated to analysing odour, 40 times more than a human. You know whether or not your tea/coffee has been sweetened. A dog can detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water – two Olympic swimming pools – according to Alexandra Horowitz but how she managed to discover that I have no idea.



However, we have used and honed this ability in a variety of ways. The Police and Border Police have trained dogs to detect drugs, food, money, etc. They can distinguish between all currencies. This includes being able to tell the difference between £5 and £10 notes! We had an example of this at Men's Danger Club and it was amazing how quickly they can identify the suspect package and how happy and keen they are in their search and eventual success.

Alsations (German Shepherd dogs), a powerful and intelligent dog, were often trained as guard dogs and were known to be very aggressive and are still used by the police in catching criminals who try to escape capture. Kept as pets German Shepherds are very calm, friendly and loving pets. Spaniels are well known for their ability, trained to collect fowl shot during hunting parties, especially if the bird fell in the water, they too are ideal in searching for contraband. It's not only contraband but also terrorist devices that these dogs are sent to investigate to prevent the lives of humans being endangered. Having said that I am sure that their handlers, who are so emotionally attached to their dog, ensure the dog's safety in such dangerous situations. Pointers were also used to find game shot by a hunting party. After finding the bird they would stand still, looking at it so pointing to where it was. It's easier to see the dog rather than the bird on the ground, but the dogs do have to be trained not to eat a 'freebie'!

Many dogs are trained for search and rescue from avalanches to those lost on the mountains and in the fells of the UK and the forgetful, wandering the streets and missing from home.

Dogs are used as transport pulling sleds and Scott of the Antarctic used them in his search for the South Pole. In Norse mythology, the Goddess of marriage and fidelity, Frigga, travelled in a chariot drawn by dogs. Sled races are still held in many parts of the world.

Most of us at some time will have watched "One Man and his Dog" where the top shepherds with their dogs drive a few sheep through a variety of challenges eventually herding them into a pen. For them this is real life, bringing the sheep from their grazing in the hills to the farm either for lambing or shearing. We are familiar with, "Come by", "Stay", "Lie down", "Away". Collie dogs are extremely intelligent and need to be constantly stimulated.

Dogs can detect a change in the weather (barometric pressure) especially when thunderstorms are coming. They are also aware of their owner's moods and so some are trained as Medical Detection dogs. Some dogs are owned by diabetics and the dog detects low blood sugar levels. The dog will tell the owner, often by putting its paw on them, and if the owner does

not react nor take their medication the dog will persist until they do. They will even fetch the medication.

We all know of guide dogs for the blind. It amazes me the wide variety of tasks these dogs learn to help their owners and my praise goes to those who foster and train them.

Dogs love fun, and in all of the above they enjoy the work they do. However the most visible of dogs having fun is chasing a ball, digging in the sand, meeting and playing with other dogs, splashing through water and agility courses. I enjoy watching the agility courses and races at Crufts. The standards are so high and the dogs are so eager to enjoy it. The latter is not for all dogs, especially ours, but for those who do like it, it can be the highlight of their day. They are so eager, barking their enjoyment and wagging their tails in delight. They do not care whether they win or lose, they do their best and enjoy it. It is only the humans who covet the prize. Dogs teach us to enjoy every moment of our lives. It is the unique wish of all dogs to love and please us no matter to which purpose we put them.

This has been a brief glimpse into the world of dogs. If you know of any other ways in which dogs are used please send it to the magazine. All dogs have unusual habits, quirky behaviour, attention-seeking tactics, favourite toys, etc. so please send yours in even if it's a couple of sentences. I'd love to read about it and I'm sure that many others would like to as well.

To finish with, a few quotes:

"Every dog is brave on his own doorstep." *Irish Saying*

"If you want the best seat in the house.....move the dog."

"My goal in life is to be the kind of person as my dog thinks I am." *Paul Dunn*

"My little body and whole span of my years are thine, my owner and my man."
Rudyard Kipling

John Skinner

Lessons from Lockdown

So what will we take from our time in lockdown?

We have been for lovely long walks, seen the skies as clear as they have ever been, spent quality time with loved ones, perhaps learnt a new skill, watched those box sets we never got round to watching and read a book instead of a magazine with time on our hands. Some of us may also have learnt about new technology and different ways of communicating with others.

But most importantly we will remember seeing our neighbours on the Thursday clap for carers and the waves and the kindness of others, or it may be just simply saying hello and talking to others (at a safe distance of course) on our daily walks and catching up with old friends.

We have all looked forward to going out again but hopefully the kindness and time to think it has given us will not be forgotten.

Jesus learnt a lot and taught us a lot from his time in the wilderness, so we can learn from ours in 2020.

Lauren Twells

DCC Members' Community Fund

Because of the Covid-19 situation, recognising that many organisations are struggling with cash flow, Derbyshire County Council has increased the money available to members under this scheme. I ask that anyone connected or acquainted with community organisations to encourage them to contact me (robert.parkinson@derbyshire.gov.uk) with details of any suitable project and their contact details. Running costs cannot normally be considered BUT, for this year, *this rule has been relaxed*. Because of social distancing, cheques will not be issued and a presentation cannot take place. Therefore, it will be necessary for organisations to include their account name, bank sort code and account number so that grants can be sent via BACS.

A Day in the Life of Covid

Sally Pulfer of Hoggs Bistro in Breaston is fund-raising for Treetops Hospice by writing a book. Or to be more precise, she is assembling a book that is going to be written by *you!* The idea is for you to write a diary entry for one day during "the Covid season". It can be an ordinary day, or it can be something humorous or touching. It can be about how you have missed being with others or have enjoyed having a bit of peace and quiet. About how you couldn't buy what you needed because the shops ran out of essentials early on, or how it changed your normal diet and routine to fit what could be found on the shelves. Use your imagination, but get scribbling!



Your contribution – on paper or online – will be most welcome at Hoggs Bistro (on the main road next to the Co-op in Breaston) or by email to hoggsbistro@msn.com.

Derbyshire hospice offers Care Home counselling

Treetops Hospice Care is offering free bereavement counselling to care home staff left devastated by the Coronavirus pandemic. Treetops has been offering bereavement counselling to children, adults and families for over twenty years but has recognised the huge impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have on care home 'communities'.

It is estimated that at least 200 residents from care homes in Derby and Derbyshire have died from COVID-19 since the start of the outbreak. Carol Stevenson, Treetops Therapeutic Services Manager, said the counselling service is 'needed now more than ever':

"Care homes are very much communities in their own right, where residents have lived and been cared for, for many years in some cases. Naturally, residents and staff develop close relationships and friendships, so when residents die this has an enormous impact on everyone in the home.



"Over the last few months, hundreds of residents have died in care homes across Derby and Derbyshire. But staff have had to carry on working and they've been unable to just stop and process their grief or to share their anxieties and stresses of working through the pandemic.

"We have a team of highly qualified counsellors, student counsellors and trained bereavement support volunteers and we're ready to offer one-to-one sessions, online or face-to-face within the hospice's bespoke counselling centre. We can also offer to lead more informal group sessions in care homes themselves."

Counselling is available to care home staff who work in the southern Derbyshire and Derby city areas.

Treetops provides nursing care and emotional support for adults with life-limiting conditions such as cancer, motor neurone disease and heart and respiratory conditions.

Last year, Treetops Hospice Care provided over 1,100 bereavement sessions for children and families, over 3,000 adult bereavement

counselling sessions, and over 600 support sessions for people dealing with a life-limiting condition.

Gardening tips

Hello gardeners!

I can't believe it's September! But then again, next year's spring bulb catalogue has already landed on the doormat, and these are the bulbs that we buy and plant now which will then give us our spring displays.

September is a lovely month in the garden, still giving lots of colour. It's a little more relaxed compared to the busy months of spring and summer, but it is the ideal time to plant new plants and to divide existing plants while the soil is still warm, and there's less need to water as the days will be cooler.

Just recently I have been back out on the road with Erewash Sound visiting local projects and gardens it's nice to see them returning to a new normal with volunteers slowly coming back. A couple of weeks ago I visited Darley Park and Hydrangea Derby where the national collection of *Hydrangea paniculata* can be found, see below for more on this.

So autumn is waiting in the wings to put on its performance and what a show it always is! Keep a lookout over the next few months, as I will be sharing plants we can grow in our gardens that give us stunning autumn colour.

Jobs in the garden this month

Here are some jobs for you to do in your garden this month.

- You can feed your lawn with an autumn fertiliser now, which is rich in potassium and low in nitrogen.
- To help pumpkins ripen in time for Halloween remove any leaves shadowing the fruits.
- When beans and peas finish cropping simply cut the plant away at ground level, leaving the roots in the soil. These crops fix nitrogen which is slowly released into the soil as the roots break down.



- Continue to feed and dead-head hanging basket and containers and they will keep flowering till the first frosts
- Now is the time to buy and plant spring-flowering bulbs

Gardener Steve's Plant of the Month

Sedum Spectabile 'Autumn Joy' (Stonecrop, Herbsfraude)

Sedum is a perennial with thick, succulent leaves, fleshy stems, and clusters of star-shaped flowers. There are many types of Sedums, they all have different uses: such as low-growing varieties for ground covers and rock gardens and tall varieties for borders. Sedums are easy to care for and are good for cut flowers. Sedum Autumn Joy is a taller growing variety.



Sedum specable 'Autumn Joy' has succulent, lettuce-green leaves, topped with salmon-pink flower-heads in summer, maturing to pinkish-bronze then coppery-red in autumn. This is an ideal perennial as a filler plant for a sunny, well-drained spot in the front or middle of the border. A valuable source of nectar for butterflies and bees in late summer to early autumn, the dried flower heads provide structure and colour in the winter garden.

- Flowering period: Late Summer - Early Autumn
- Height and Spread: 60cm x 60cm (2ft x 2ft)
- Soil: Any garden soil, well drained
- Hardiness: Hardy
- Propagation: By division in spring or by softwood cuttings of non-flowering shoots in early summer
- Pruning: Chelsea chop technique in May, Cut back after flowering or leave till spring as faded flowers give interest through the winter months
- Pest and Diseases: Slugs, snails and vine weevil can attack also root rot

Hydrangea Derby

Last month I headed off to Derby and to Darley Park to visit Hydrangea Derby.

Situated in a secret walled garden within the park, it is home to the national collection of *Hydrangea paniculata*. Never have I been amongst so many Hydrangeas. The reason for my visit was that I did *Gardening Time* from there for Erewash Sound's *Prime Time Saturday Lunch* and was able to explain all about this wonderful plant and garden to our listeners.

Hydrangea paniculata is a deciduous shrub with conical panicles (cone-shaped) flowers produced in late summer and early autumn, made up of showy, pinkish-white sterile flowers scattered amongst the smaller creamy-white fertile flowers making them a great plant for any summer garden.

Garden favourites such as *Macrophylla* and *Serrata* species are both popular and they contain the 'Mophead' and the 'Lacecap' varieties. Other species include *arborensis*, *quercifolia*, *aspera*, *petiolaris* and *seemannii* and can all be seen in the garden.



Hydrangea Derby is run by volunteers who work closely with Derby City Council, Plant Heritage and the local community maintaining the garden by pruning, dead-heading and keep the beds and borders free from weeds.

The group meet on Tuesday mornings and the 4th Saturday of the month between 10 am-12 pm. *Hydrangea Derby* is completely self-funded and

needs your help to continue. Sponsors are welcome and donations can be put in the post box in the Darley Park café.

How to find Hydrangea Derby: The walled garden is located in Darley Park, Derby just off the A6 near to the terrace and café. Nearest Post Codes for Sat Nav's: Upper Car Park = DE22 1EN (entry via Daley Park Drive only) Lower Car Park = DE22 1DX (All vehicles and contents left at the owners' risk)

The walled garden is open between the end of July and beginning of November when the Hydrangeas are in flower, the outer garden is open all year and both are free of charge to visit.

Happy Gardening, Everybody!

Please get in touch with your stories, photos, events, general gardening advice and help with plant identification. I would love to hear from you – just email me at gardenersteve24@live.co.uk.

Steve Walton

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Treasurer	Sarah Johnson	
Secretary	Kris Bingham	
Sunbeams	Jodie Kirk	07711 270109
St Mary's Hall	Caroline Riley	01332 874339
Friends of St Chad's	Lynne Blackburn	01332 873874
	Keith Wright	01332 875641

Draycott Methodist Church

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Senior Steward	David Murden	01332 873388
Hall Hire	Alison Hill	01332 872902
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Draycott Messy Church

Pat Stevenson		01332 928412
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Other contacts

Draycott Village Fund Will Batchelor	draycottvillagefund@hotmail.com
Draycott W I	Kris Bingham krisbingham@hotmail.co.uk
Draycott Brownies	Caroline Riley or www.girlguiding.org.uk Carolyn Bassett
Draycott & Church Wilne History Group	alesi4@sky.com Clive Wilkinson 01332 872615
Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council	draycottpc@gmail.com Sheena Butcher (Clerk) 01332 875278 www.draycottparishcouncil.org

Would you like your group's contact details here? Do let us know (contact details on page 5)

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St. Michael's	Church Office	01332 872094
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Associate Priest	Rev'd Gary Dundas	01332 872893
	Rev'd Maria Przeslawski	01332 874480
Youth, Children's and Community Worker	Simon Bentley	07791 419 595
Breaston Methodist Church		
Minister	Rev'd Arnold Dixon	0115 973 4474
Breaston Art Club	Julia Gardner	07585 778 207
Breaston Belles WI	Glynis Stafford	07986 961162
	<i>breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net</i>	
Breaston Community Forum	Julie Rowlinson	07900 241 886
Breaston Churches Together Lunch Club		
	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
Breaston & Draycott Village News	01332 872094 or 874838	
	<i>magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>	
Breaston Gala	Sarah Lester	<i>www.breastongala.org.uk</i>
	<i>secretary@breastongala.org.uk</i>	
Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme	07821 657 684	
Breaston Park Football Club	<i>www.breastonpark.com</i>	
Breaston Parish Council	Parish Rooms, Blind Lane	01332 870119
	<i>breastonparish@btconnect.com</i>	
Breaston WI	Josie Morris	01332 874325
Brownies	Louisa Theyers	01332 872323
Men's Danger Club	John Skinner	01332 874417
	Adrian Young	07576 869033
	John Bowley	07793 550595
Methodist Wesley Guild	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
Pre-School Playgroup	Sarah Gallacher	01332 874832
Rainbows	Melanie Arden	01332 875059
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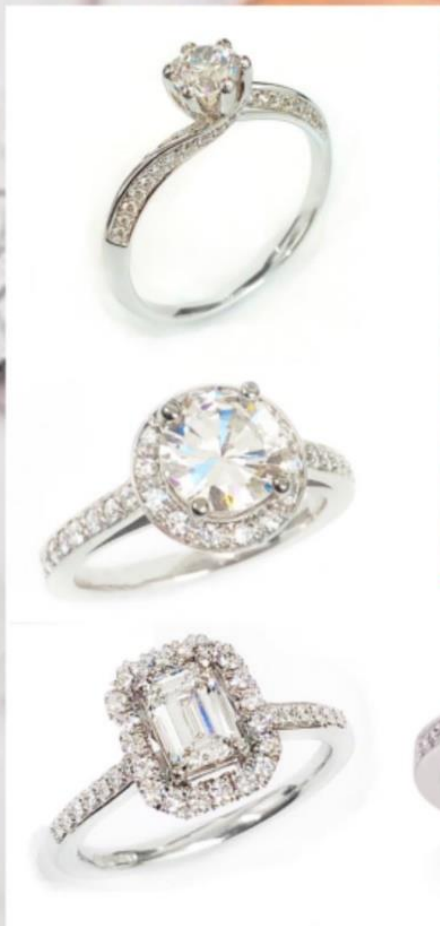
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