

# BREASTON & DRAYCOTT VILLAGE NEWS

**March 2021**

**50p**



*Corona, April 2020* by Des Powe  
(page 15)

# Fiona Frankland

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ALWAYS  
DREAMED OF



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## Photo of the month



*New dawn, by Des Powe (see page 15)*



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## Thought for the month

I worked alongside somebody many years ago who was a workaholic. When he got to about sixty he wasn't well and there were a few occasions when his mind blanked out. He went to the GP who told him that he was suffering from sleep deprivation. His employer agreed to giving him six weeks off work to recover. He came back to work with the best intentions of cutting down on his hours with the firm support of his wife. However, life took over and he went back to his previous pace of life. His years leading up to retirement felt like a marathon as he limped towards it.

Everybody's story in the last twelve months is different. Some have struggled with being busier than ever and the pressure of juggling work and home-schooling. For many, there has been less to do, whether because of being furloughed or not being able to do the activities that were happening before lockdown. A widespread sentiment is 'I don't want to go back to the way things were before' recognising that life needs to become less busy. However, slowing down when we're feeling fine is one of the hardest things to do as my work colleague found when he came back from his six-week layoff.

I believe one of our greatest needs but most difficult challenges is for a 'slowed down' spirituality. It is impossible to grow in awareness of God if life is too fast. The psalmist wrote 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10).

I recently read the following, 'Time presses upon us and tells us we're too busy to be reflective, but our souls know better. Souls die from lack of reflection.... responsibilities distract us and tell us we're too involved with the 'real' world to be concerned about spiritual questions. But it is always the spiritual questions that make the difference in the way we go about our public and everyday lives' (*Reflections for Lent, Church House Publishing*).

I would like to encourage you to slow down with the following simple exercise. Take a few moments (or longer) to be still, simply focussing on your breathing. Choose a psalm (maybe 23) and read it and listen to a phrase that attracts you. Sit in silence and repeat the word or phrase in your head. Then say it aloud. Read the psalm a second time and ask how the chosen phrase speaks into your life? Sit in silence and say out loud what this phrase says to you. Read the passage a third time and ask what Christ is calling from you. What do you need to do or consider or relinquish or take on as a result of what God is saying to you? In the silence pray for the Holy Spirit to plant this word in your heart.

As we learn to slow down and know God, we will be like the tree planted by streams of water (Psalm 1), which yields its fruit in season.

*Rev'd Chris Smedley*

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## From the editor

### Cover pictures

Des Powe, of Breaston, is a research scientist specialising in breast cancer. He is also something of an artist and a photographer – his painting “Corona” is on the front cover, and his “New Dawn” photo taken in January is on page 5. Read more on page 15.

I've been watching some of the *Mindful Escapes: Breathe, Release, Restore* on BBC4 recently (the series has now ended, but you can catch it on the iPlayer). They are very restful 30-minute programmes, with minimal commentary and glorious pictures of nature. They are a great way of “slowing down”, as recommended by Chris Smedley in his *Thought for the month* (see page 6). You can achieve a similar calmness by studying Des's picture on the front cover!

### Bee in bonnet

Perhaps it's the wet weather forcing me off the field paths onto the pavements, where I have to dodge the puddles, but is it my imagination or are the pavements narrower than they used to be? Perhaps they are like Mars bars or other confectionery which I'm sure were bigger when I was a child! It's often difficult to walk two abreast without turning the grass verge into mud. Could it be because the hedges in people's gardens have grown too big for their boots? Sometimes they encroach halfway across the pavement! It's worth taking a look at your hedges to see if you can put them on a diet!

### Your stories

Do you have a story for us? We want your news and views. Let us know what is happening in your neighbourhood - about clubs, businesses, charity organisations, events and individuals.

Is there an organization, business or individual doing something to help others in the community during this unprecedented crisis?

Is there a project you want to launch and need volunteers to get it off the ground? Has your business won an award or contract, launched a new product or service?

You can also send us your birth announcements, engagement notices, wedding and obituaries. Include a photo if appropriate.

And if you have an opinion or advice about anything you think would be of interest to your fellow readers, please send us a letter. This should be no more than about 400 words and may include a photo (no less than 700kB and no more than 4MB).

Whatever is going on in the area we want to know about it, so do get in touch!

Send your information, editorial contributions and letters to [magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk), or contact us by telephone on 01332 872094.

*Jonathan Lupton, Editor*

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## **Verse of the month**

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Psalms 46:1*

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## **Publishers**

Breaston and Draycott Village News is published by St. Michael's PCC on behalf of churches and organisations in Breaston and Draycott. It is printed by Elson & Hall, Derby Road, Long Eaton.

Contact the editor by post c/o St. Michael's Church Hall, Main Street, Breaston, Derby, DE72 3DX, or see details on page 33.

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## **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](mailto: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.



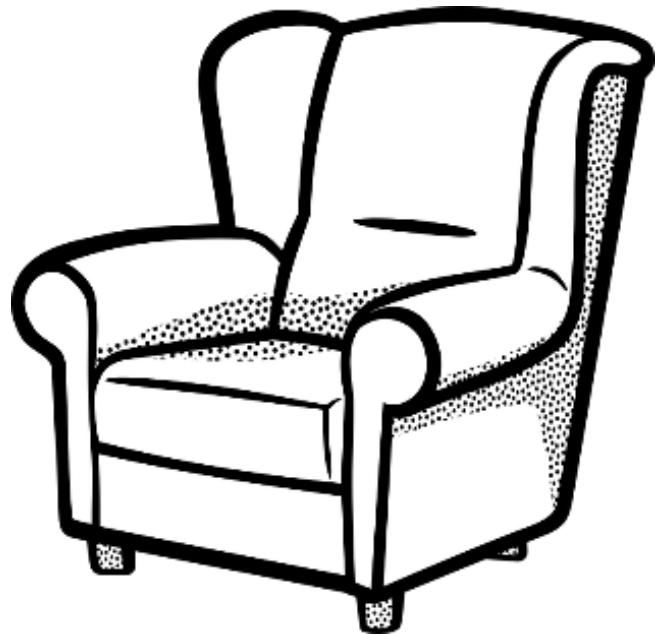
## Still Space

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

### The Empty Chair

*'when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father...'  
(Matthew 6: 6)*

Time to meet with God?  
Communication's not been great  
of late:  
odd emails; shouted greetings  
as I scurry past his door.  
Too tired, too busy,  
too wrapped up with stuff.  
What will he say?  
He's sure to be fed up with me,  
my lack of faith,  
my inconsistency.  
Yet, as I come before him,  
gazing up into his face,  
he leads me to an empty chair,  
comfy,  
just my size.  
'Let's sit awhile,'  
he seems to say.  
'Sink deep into the stillness.  
Don't try so hard to pray.  
Let's talk, one to another,  
allow ourselves to rest.'  
God stretches out  
in his own battered chair,  
closes his eyes  
and waits.



© April McIntyre, Lay Minister, St. Michael's, Breaston

Remember that when you forgive, you heal  
and when you let go, you grow.

Anon

# Breaston Village News

## Breaston Parish Council

Thankfully after a month with all weathers signs of spring are popping up all over the parish! It was good to see so many residents out and about enjoying the open spaces during the wintery spell. The news on the roll-out of the vaccination programme is extremely promising; let's hope we can get back to a more normal life in the coming months.



*Perks Park*



*Duffield Close*

## Cemetery

Work continues around the parish and work to repair and maintain the cemetery chapel is still ongoing with investigative work on the drains being undertaken.

We are approaching the final hurdle with the Memorial Safety Inspections at the cemetery and the remaining unsafe headstones which were laid last year are due to be sunk flush in the ground within the next few weeks. Any plot owners who haven't yet made their memorials safe should contact the clerk as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements. Any headstones not made safe following this final step will be removed from the cemetery to comply with health and safety regulations.

## Half mast

The Flag was lowered on the Memorial Garden to mark both Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27th of January and on the 3rd of February to mark the sad passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

## Dog walkers

Another reminder to dog walkers in the village: poo bags are available at the Parish Rooms and Dundas the butchers – free to Breaston residents. All litter bins in the village are dual use and can be used for litter and dog bags. Remember that the open spaces in the village are covered by a by-law regarding picking up after your dog and keeping your pet on a lead.

## Defibrillator

The new defibrillator has now been installed and registered at the Pavilion at Perks Park. This vital life saving equipment makes the park a safer place for all. Both the device at the park and the one at the Parish Rooms are registered with the East Midlands Ambulance Service and should you need to use it please call 999 and they will provide the code to access the cabinet.



*Cllrs Parkinson and McCaig with the new defibrillator*

## Facebook page

Please follow us on [www.facebook.com/Breaston-Parish-Council-100893088372240](http://www.facebook.com/Breaston-Parish-Council-100893088372240).

*Nicala O'Leary, for Breaston Parish Council*

## Neighbourhood Watch

We are looking to reactivate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Breaston

The purpose of the scheme includes:

- Sharing information to enable improvement of home, vehicle and personal security (including cyber safety)
- Helping residents to feel safe in their homes and neighbourhood
- Gathering community information and liaising with Derbyshire Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood Teams



To be successful, we need more volunteers.

If you wish to live in a safer, more secure Breaston, please consider joining the group.

For more information, please phone 01332 870119 or email [breastonparish@outlook.com](mailto:breastonparish@outlook.com)

# BREASTON IN BLOOM

## Litter seekers

There is little to report on the blooms and planting front, but a new group has been propagated over the winter – welcome to the **Breaston in Bloom Litter Seekers!**

Over the last couple of months, a few dedicated Bloomers have swapped trowels and paintbrushes for litter pickers, in a bid to keep the village clean and tidy. During January and February, the whole village has been covered, some areas more than once and other areas on numerous occasions. Scores of bags have been filled. Individuals and pairs have done their picking, then updated the village map electronically:

The most disappointing fact is that certain roads are cleared and then within days, sometimes hours, are just as bad. The main roads through the village are perhaps the worst affected but the volunteers have also collected plenty on the side roads. Disposable masks now feature highly among the usual (and some unusual) rubbish, along with industrial and recyclable waste.



Unfortunately, the conclusion reached is that the number of individuals dropping litter, dumping rubbish and leaving dog waste by far exceeds the number of volunteers who are clearing up after them. Plans are underway to join forces with neighbouring litter-picking groups in order to get help and advice. You can help this hard-working bunch by keeping a

check on your own front or please consider joining them. If the latter, you will need to complete a short risk assessment form.

All litter-seeking has been done following social distancing rules and this will obviously continue to be the case. Communication between group members is via a designated WhatsApp group.

## Compost scheme

Continuing the 'waste' theme but this time on a positive note – your donations of vegetable and fruit peelings (no onions or citrus thanks), tea bags, coffee grounds and eggshells are still welcome for the compost bins on Duffield Close and the Jubilee Garden. Please place your bags in the small plastic boxes. The bins are currently full as the worms are a little slow at this time of the year, but they will hopefully get busy again as spring approaches.

New volunteers always welcome, whether for bloomin' or litter-seekin'. Please contact Julie on 07900 241886 or see the Facebook page.

*Jane Bentham*

## The Navi

Sad news that Gaynor and Dave are leaving the Navi. It seems that the boss wants to keep things local, and a local couple has applied, so here's hoping for the best (and a speedy re-opening of pubs!

We wish all the best to Gaynor and Dave for the future.



## Clubs and Societies

### Lunch Club

Although the Friday Lunch Club has not been able to function as normal since last March, that doesn't mean that nothing has been happening. Principal Lunch Club organiser Nancy Plummer had the idea of arranging a Christmas Lunch. So she and two others, Sue and Chris, got to work. With the invaluable help of drivers sourced from the Covid 19 Support Group by Sarah Warburton, lunches were delivered to the homes of 14 or 15 Lunch Club patrons on the Friday before Christmas.

This was so well received that they decided to do it all again for Valentine's Day. So the Friday before Valentine's (12th February), the patrons received another delicious meal. The grateful thanks included comments that it was wonderful not to have been forgotten.

Congratulations to Nancy, Sue and Chris, and to Sarah and the Covid 19 Support Group for your hard work. And they're not finished yet: there are plans to repeat deliver an Easter lunch on Good Friday – although it might have to be fish rather than lamb!

## Breaston W.I.

Breaston WI is definitely getting its money's worth from Zoom these days!

As well as our monthly meetings members are getting involved in our "Coffee and Book Chat" mornings and our afternoon sketching group, "Doodlebags".

Sharing books that we've read has been great and encouraged us all to try new authors. It's also a great chance to see each other, chat and drink coffee.....what's not to like! Some safe swapping of books is happening but we are all looking forward to being able to reopen and revitalise our WI library.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



Our Doodlebags group have been reducing their anxiety levels by exploring Zentangles defined as "a form of meditative doodling that has patterns, or tangles, put together to form a Zentangle". It really is a relaxing and free-flowing activity and we have increased our zen feelings by listening to relaxation music as we doodle. If you fancy having a go search Zentangle on YouTube.

Meanwhile, the days are getting longer, the spring flowers are starting to appear and many

members are receiving their first vaccinations so there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel.

*Sally Jury*

## Breaston Belles W.I. News

After some informative and educational speakers recently, this month's meeting was just FUN - Jo May zoomed in to teach us to play the spoons! From how to select the right set of spoons, to how to protect your leg from bruises, Jo worked hard to make sure that everyone was managing to follow, and even keep in time, with the rhythms. The tension was clear in many faces as they

**theWI**



focused on the instructions, but so was the relief and pride when it all came together in a final mass rendition on the Drunken Sailor!

Members are also able to keep in touch using Zoom and WhatsApp for the book club, daily quiz, and weekly drop-in and chat sessions. The craft group meets fortnightly and has made woven hearts for Valentine's day and a variety of green hearts to 'Show the Love' to raise awareness of the WI/Climate Coalition's campaign to protect the environment from climate change.

The speaker for March will be Elizabeth Gowing – 125,000 flowers: what it takes to make a spoonful of honey.

*Suzanne Tate on behalf of Breaston Belles WI  
breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net*

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## **Des Powe**

Retired medical scientist, Dr Des Powe, is a man of many parts. Des is a keen artist, charity fund-raiser, and relaxes by walking and observing nature. Of his painting on the front cover titled Corona, April 2020, Des says, "it is to remind me about how I felt at the time. The sun's light and the threat caused by the pandemic share a common word: corona.



"The picture was inspired by a solitary walk along the towpath, adjacent to the Navigation pub at Breaston, one Saturday morning in early April 2020. The UK's first Covid-19 lockdown was in its infancy. On looking behind I was stopped in my tracks by the hazy appearance of the early-spring sun, surrounded by a corona-backlit mackerel sky.

"The poignancy of the moment was not lost. The uncertain times ahead associated with coronavirus were tempered by optimism and rejuvenation that spring brings, nourished by the sun.

"One year on and vaccine development is cautiously showing us a path forward."

Des is also a trustee of FAB (Friends and Breadrins) a Notts self-help group for men with prostate cancer. FAB was established to promote awareness in predominantly (but not exclusively: we have white members too!) African-Caribbean men. Black men are at double the risk of developing prostate cancer and it tends to develop at a younger age and be more aggressive. 'We are an entirely voluntary charity run on donations and each year we field a sponsored cycle team in the Notts Cycle Live Event.

# Draycott Village News

## Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council News

Let's start with some good news.....

### CCTV at the Leisure Green

Our thanks to the Police and Crime Commissioners Vulnerability Fund for the financial contribution of £1000, to the Army Cadet Force for £1528.90 and the Draycott and Long Eaton Table Tennis Club for access to their broadband. The remaining costs will be met by the Parish Council (as will the annual maintenance charges). Works will be completed by March to upgrade and expand our CCTV Cameras and system at the Leisure Green and change the floodlights to LED. This will mean that ALL areas of the Leisure Green will be covered by cameras. We hope this gives our residents the confidence to use the facilities when the Covid restrictions are relaxed. As of the date of writing this (15th Feb) the Multi-Use Games Area which includes the area where the new concrete table tennis table and Chess Table are **closed** as per the government's restrictions. We are receiving regular reports that "gatherings" are taking place in this area and we ask residents to report these Covid breaches – we must support the efforts to save lives and stop the spread..

### St. Chad's Local Nature Reserve

Works on the new picket fence and stock netting had to stop due to the flooding; the company will be back on site on the 1st March to finish (flood depending). Also, the same applies to the felling and maintenance of trees at St Chad's. We are only cutting down trees that are dead or identified by the Tree Surgeon as requiring work. The recent flood has caused some damage to the circular paths so please take care when walking around St Chad's; the path may not be suitable for all users. We will re-instate the damaged parts when we feel confident that St. Chad's won't flood again...

### Annual meeting of the Parish – Save the date!!!

Last year, we had to cancel the annual meeting of the parish due to COVID. Legally the meeting must take place between 1st March and 1st June. Due to the uncertainty of when we will be able to safely meet in person again, we have decided to hold this meeting virtually.

The meeting will take place on Thursday 28th May 2021 from 7-8 pm, we are asking all parish groups to either submit a written report (we will produce a parish groups booklet) and/or submit a short video telling the parish how your group has continued throughout the pandemic. As a resident, you can also submit a question to the Parish Council that we will try our best to answer or signpost you to the relevant authority if it's not us.



Two years ago, we changed the format of the Parish Meeting and we were so pleased with the community engagement and ideas about what you want from the Parish Council-owned facilities – Covid halted that last year so we are hoping that this will re-start your engagement and interest in what we do for you and what you would like us to focus more on – funding dependant....

Sheena (the Clerk) will be contacting all community groups soon to ask for input into the meeting, but in the meantime feel free to send in your report/short video to [clerk@draycott-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@draycott-pc.gov.uk). The deadline for all reports/videos will be 30th April 2021.

The deadline for resident questions will be 16th May (although there may be an opportunity to ask questions on the night via a chat function).

### **Draycott Litter Pickers**

Draycott has formed its own litter picking group, which is part of the Long Eaton Mess Collectors group on Facebook. The team has been formed to tackle litter in and around our community. The parish council pay for our Lengthsman to litter pick on Parish Council land every Monday and Friday (Draycott Playing Fields, Cycle Track area, the Leisure Green and the Cemetery) we also pay the Fishing Club to litter pick at St Chad's Local Nature Reserve. We fully support the Draycott Litter Picking Group and have supplied a number of litter pickers and hoops for our residents to use. If you want to join the group, just search for Draycott Litter Pickers on Facebook. Our thanks to all who are involved in this; studies show that people are less likely to litter if there isn't any litter around...

Now for the bad news...

### **Graffiti**

The back wall of the Parish Rooms was graffiti painted between 1 pm Friday 12th Feb and 1 pm Monday 15th Feb. The person used pink and purple paint. This has been reported to the police and a crime reference number issued. If you know anything about this incident, please contact either the clerk or the police. This is the second incident of graffiti we have experienced in the parish and we don't want it to become a regular occurrence – we have to pay to have this removed which takes away monies that could be spent on facilities or maintenance of land and equipment.

### **Parish Rooms**

The parish rooms remain closed to the public and Councillors for meetings. We are still conducting our meetings using ZOOM conferencing, all members of the public and press are welcome to join us, the ZOOM meeting details are always published on our agenda's which are on our website and noticeboards.

The council wish you all to be safe and well and we hope to see you in the future when it is safe to do so.

In these uncertain times, the best way to contact the council is via phone on 01332 875278 or email [draycottpc@gmail.com](mailto:draycottpc@gmail.com). Our website is [www.draycottparishcouncil.org](http://www.draycottparishcouncil.org).

## **Draycott and Wilne Women's Institute**

Draycott & Wilne members still cannot now meet due to the latest Covid rules. We were hoping – obviously in vain – for an opportunity to meet near Christmas.

Members were spending their time over Christmas, making, painting and enjoying the contents of their goodie bags. This reminded us of our friendship even though we are apart.

There have been some opportunities for members to 'meet' people from other WIs over the Zoom experiences. These have been organised by our local Headquarters. The Quiz (soon to be monthly) is really exciting.

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](mailto:draycottandwilnewi@hotmail.com)

*Kris Bingham*

## **Church Wilne Rotary Club**

Rotary Club of Church Wilne Guest Speaker Meeting

***Guest Speaker Rachel Page from Borrowbrook Homelink***

At the Club Zoom meeting on 15th February, we were treated to an informative talk from Rachel Page who, along with one assistant and five trustees, runs the local charity Borrowbrook Homelink.

The Charity was set up in 2002 and has been supported by our Rotary Club for many years. In 2012 they received The Queens Award for Voluntary Service and currently have some 175 Members. They hope to expand their membership in the coming year by involving more of the 1400 residents of Ockbrook and Borrowwash who are over 65 years of age and need assistance or companionship following the pandemic restrictions. Also, to increase their take up with residents of the 146 local Social Housing Bungalows from which they currently have only 22 Members.

The membership falls mainly into three categories: very active people who can assist by volunteering; residents who are becoming lonely due to a

decreasing circle of friends; and people who due to infirmities find it difficult to get about.

Currently, services provided include telephone befriending, shopping assistance, providing advice and links to local groups. They have recently distributed 200 Gift Bags through the Ockbrook and Borrowash Neighbourhood Network and the local Churches.

Looking ahead they are looking at linking with the Parish Council Green Spaces Scheme which is good for mental and physical wellbeing. An approach has also been made to Erewash Sound with a view to providing radios for Members. It is the intention to become known as a proactive "Local Hub".

After a question-and-answer session, the vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Nigel Roberts who praised their activities and asked for regular updates so that The Rotary Club of Church Wilne could become more involved.

If you wish to know more about the Rotary Club of Church Wilne and how the members aim to make a difference in the local community, please visit the Club's website [churchwilnerotary.org.uk](http://churchwilnerotary.org.uk).

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## **Draycott resident awarded MBE**

Kelly Vere of Draycott was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to Higher Education. Kelly is responsible for leading on and delivering the *Technician Commitment*, a university and research institution initiative, led by a steering board of sector bodies, with support from the Science Council and the Technicians Make It Happen campaign.



The Commitment aims to ensure visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians working in higher education and research, across all disciplines.

Kelly said of her award: "It was a fantastic surprise and it still feels very surreal! It means so much to my family and it's a great honour to be recognised in this way. I am so fortunate to work with wonderful colleagues, at the University of Nottingham, Midlands Innovation, Science Council, Gatsby Charitable Foundation and beyond.

I'm hugely grateful for all of their support over the years and I'm excited about continuing our work to advance recognition and opportunity for all colleagues who enable research and teaching across our sector".

# Church News

## Church of England Services

St. Michael's, Breaston and St. Mary's, Draycott

Sundays 10:30 am Live-streamed service on YouTube (see below)

Saturdays 10-12 St. Michael's Church open for private prayer

During Lockdown 3, both churches are closed for public worship. The live-streamed service is streamed from St. Michael's, with only the minimum number of people needed to create the service in attendance.

Both churches believe that although the regulations permit public worship, the new, more infectious, variant of Covid-19 makes it more important to prevent the further spread. As soon as the situation improves we plan to re-open our buildings.

To find our YouTube channel, search YouTube for St. Michael's Breaston, or go to [www.youtube.com/channel/UCgdvvgDUn4WfuSIHlwsSz3JA/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgdvvgDUn4WfuSIHlwsSz3JA/).

Our website is [www.wdbchurches.org.uk](http://www.wdbchurches.org.uk).

### Facebook

Keep in touch with what's happening at St. Michael's and St. Mary's by looking at our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/stmarysdraycottandstmichaelsbreaston/](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysdraycottandstmichaelsbreaston/)

Do join us for daily prayer at 9:30 am on weekdays on our Facebook page.

## Methodist Church Services

### Draycott

We are continuing with a Sunday morning service on Zoom at 10:30 each week, which you are welcome to join. The code for this is 827 0960 1674 and the password is 248724. You can also access this via telephone: contact Rev'd Colin Emerson on 670587 to obtain the phone number.

### *Draycott Methodist Church from your armchair!*

Since the start of Covid, many of us are really missing our regular church services. We love to meet with our friends, fellow Christians, sing hymns of praise and worship, pray together, listen to the Bible being read and hearing someone giving us new thoughts and inspirations for the week ahead. The church buildings may be closed, but the church (the people who meet there) are still active and worshipping together!

Services on Zoom (internet) may seem strange at first, but after meeting that way since April last year it has become normal. The same Zoom service is accessed by people from Draycott, Borrowash and Spondon (all

churches under the care of Rev Colin Emerson and Judith Neal) and so each week we have between 40 – 50 households represented. When the service is finished we have the choice to unmute ourselves so that we can chat with each other on-screen. We have renewed old friendships, made new friends and kept contact with our own church friends. It is a time to share news of others, exchange ideas and thoughts and pray for each other. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you are missing church, or wouldn't normally want to go into a church building why not give it a go. It's easy, painless, rewarding and reinstates that structure to the week. Maybe see you next Sunday at 10:30 am!

**Meeting Code: 827 0960 1674, Passcode: 248724**

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## **Behind the Mask**

One of my favourite TV programmes has been The Masked Singer. The idea is to guess the identity of a celebrity disguised behind an elaborate costume by using clues and by listening to the singing voice, and I love nothing more on Saturday night than being an armchair detective with my notebook trying to guess who is who (albeit not too successfully this time around!).

One of the appeals of going on the show I suspect is that the celebrity feels they are not as exposed and can be themselves a bit more without the pressures that come with being a celebrity and being recognised sometimes on a daily basis.

It may feel a little scary at times but Jesus does not want us to hide behind anything and, just as the celebrities sometimes feel relieved to be free from their hot costumes when their identities are revealed and they sing as themselves, so we are only free to be ourselves when we are honest and open with Jesus, whatever form this may take.

Whilst we all wear some kind of a mask, especially at the moment, it is important to remember that Jesus sees behind our mask and never wants us to hide behind it. He wants us to be our true selves and sees beyond any elaborate front we may put on for others.

We need to keep positive and have faith that life will return to some kind of normality again but we can only do this by taking off whatever mask we wear and, no matter how scary, taking a risk with Jesus.

The final words of my favourite verse of the bible are “now these three remain – faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love” and we have seen many examples of this through these difficult times that help to shine a light in the darkness and give us hope for the future.

*Lauren Twells*

# Articles

## The Park in Lockdown

Grass, blue sky and open space  
 No lockdown here; this park's the place  
 To meet and greet, to chat, explore,  
 Against the law, but no-one saw.  
 And so we look the other way  
 Waiting for that longed-for day  
 When flask in hand and pals in tow  
 May have freedom of where we go,  
 Who we see, drink tea, eat buns,  
 A hubbub of expectant mums.  
 The park café, sit there all day  
 And watch the children laugh in play  
 Who will care  
 No Covid there.

But for today, we all troop round  
 At most to have some sight and sound.  
 Escape our walls of isolation  
 Imprisonment,  
 Virus violation  
 Deprivation

In the park we're free to do and see a pink flash  
 of smiling girl on bike and dashing  
 dad, jogging, proud  
 Now alone and thinking only  
 Of that joyful "park run" crowd.

Basketball guy, the court his own,  
 One hand, the ball; the other, his phone.  
 Time after time he throws to score  
 Desolate  
 No team  
 No more  
 But gleeful OAPs trudge round and round  
 Carefully spaced, masks abound,  
 Glum or cheerful, it's all the same,

They join us in our exercise game.  
 "Good morning", "Hello", "A beautiful day":  
 There's really nothing else to say.

Today it offers damp and fog  
 Man in scarf drags his dog  
 Past dripping bush and hurries on  
 Making the most of his marathon  
 Joyful for this time outside  
 Maximum that he's allowed.  
 Or not!

Scooters weave round endless legs  
 Cyclists dodge along the edge  
 Of crowded paths and cycle lane.  
 Skateboards fly and twist in rain  
 That does not dampen their desperate aim  
 For contrived normality.

Teenagers gather; they aren't in school  
 Worrying not for the two-metre rule.  
 They jostle and hug, appear not to care.  
 Selfish? No.  
 It's what we want. We just don't dare.

One year passed, and the park doesn't care.  
 Happy to share  
 It's brightest daffodils in spring.  
 First time for some, noticed birds sing.  
 And its scorched summer field  
 Would very soon yield  
 To a carpet of brown  
 As the leaves fluttered down.  
 Then the whiteness of snow as we onward go  
 And trudge toward our second spring  
 Of this tiresome, killing, virus thing.  
 And the park looks on as we deign to hate  
 Our thousandth pandemic perambulate.

---

## **A very special thank you**

We would like to say a huge thank you to Breaston-based Mark Simpkin from East Midlands Minibus Co. In two weeks in January Mark took over 24 residents from the Breaston and Draycott area to the Vaccination Centre at Derby Arena for their appointment. This service has been provided free of charge.

East Midlands Minibus Co. has taken over 100 people to the arena. "It's been quite a humbling experience so far, everyone I have taken has rebooked my services to go for their second vaccinations which start early April," said Mark.

East Midlands Minibus Co is working closely with A52 Executive Cars and Ripley Minibus Company to help cover the local areas.

If you are struggling to get to your vaccination appointment and are over 65, please contact East Midlands Minibus Co on 0115 9461000, 01332 405241 or 07707 209183. Before booking your vaccine appointment, please note that Mark is available for appointments throughout the week but only from 9:30 to 1:30 and 4–8 pm. Mark is also able to cover areas other than Derby Arena if required.

Further information can be found on their Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/eastmidlandsminibus](http://www.facebook.com/eastmidlandsminibus)

A huge thank you on behalf of us all!

*Sarah Warburton*

---

## **Marriage in Myanmar**

Hi! It's Maureen Hayne again, but I'm not talking about dogs this time. I would love to share with you the wedding of my no. 5 grandson Alex in Burma, or as it is called today, Myanmar. (I have a total of eight grandsons and one granddaughter).

Alex and his lovely Burmese long-term partner Joanna tied the knot on the 30th of December last year. They had hoped to get married here in the UK in July 2020, but that was originally postponed until July this year. As the pandemic situation did not improve, and Myanmar is not allowing anyone back from the UJ, they decided to marry in Myanmar, where they are living permanently.

Joanna came to the UK about 15 years ago to study. She lived at St. John's Theological College (in Bramcote) with her mum's best friend and her husband (who I believe was the Dean).



At school, Joanna was in the same class as my no. 6 grandson Tom, and through her friendship with Tom, she met Alex. When they were 16, Alex and Jo went on to further education at Derby College. Finally, education finished, they went to Myanmar to work in the English Speaking School set up by Jo's mum (who is English by birth but has lived in Myanmar for many years with her husband who was Burmese).

The young couple decided to make Myanmar their home and became very involved with a Vineyard church there that had been started by some British Christians. They were re-baptised by immersion in the sea. It was lovely to see them and watch as they were prayed for by their minister.

The wedding was a very moving ceremony in a huge Anglican church that had been built during British rule in Burma.

Joanna was given away by her mother Carol, as her father died two or three years ago. There was social distancing in the church amongst the guests who were a mix of Burmese and British (we watched it on video from here in the UK). The promises they made to each other and the prayers that were said were very touching, especially to those of us who could not be there, but



still love them very much.

They are making their life in Myanmar and will bring their children up in a very mixed and wonderful environment, full of love for each other and the Lord Jesus.

They have opened a gym there and are working hard to make it a success. We as a family are praying for them and all of Myanmar. Until recently the government was shared between the military and Aung San Suu Kyi's party, but after a landslide victory for her party, she was due to take office in February. As we now know, this has not been allowed to happen as the military has seized the reins of power. As Christians, we can now only pray for a long-standing peace in Myanmar for *all* her citizens. Your prayers would be much appreciated by our

fellow Christians in that troubled land.

*Maureen Hayne*



## Bringing the pub to the people

The coronavirus pandemic is having a devastating on pubs, with thousands closed nationwide. We all miss going to the pub, but right now the whole country is under attack from a deadly virus and when people congregate they risk spreading it.

Anyone can be infected by anyone, even by someone who has no symptoms of the disease, which is the reason why the emergency lockdown restrictions have been imposed by the Government. However, there are fears that a prolonged period of closure could tip many bars and pubs over the edge.

According to the British Beer & Pub Association, the leading trade association representing brewers and pubs, by the beginning of February, up to 87 million pints of beer have had to be disposed of because they couldn't be sold by its members, costing the beer and pub sector £331 million since the coronavirus pandemic started.

While many pubs are struggling to survive, the Tap House in Draycott has responded to the challenge of lockdown by introducing a delivery service for locals.

Explained Greg Maskalick, owner of the micropub and the Draycott Brewing Company: "As our customers can no longer come to the pub, we are bringing the pub to their door."

So now, even though its many regular customers are unable to visit the premises in the centre of the village, they can enjoy an extensive range of premium alcoholic beverages in the comfort of their home.



Orders are placed by text (07834 7285 40), or on Facebook (Inbox Draycott Tap House), during the week for delivery on a Saturday. Payment is via electronic banking to avoid the risk of Covid-19 infection via physical contact. The minimum order for a delivery is £30.

A complete list of all the beers and spirits available for home delivery customers is available on the pub's Facebook page: [facebook.com/draycotttap](https://facebook.com/draycotttap).

"Our three award-winning beers are the most popular - California Steam, our own Irish Red, Lamb and Flag. Also very popular is our Pittsburgh Porter and Eve's Temptation," said Greg.

"I used to drink Irish Red in the US. It has an appealing light, bitter flavour and reddish tinge, and I was keen to reproduce it here.

Pittsburgh Porter is described by the innovative publican as "a dark brown brew with a toasted malt aroma and a dry, bitter taste".

"People are ordering a wide range of drinks, not just beer," he added. "Two flavours of the Moonshine are doing well (Peach and Jalapeño), while our gins and the SSVASKY are moving reasonably well."

Introduced at the end of last year, SSVASKY, a 46% single malt spirit is available in traditional American Oak, Tahitian Vanilla and Hickory Wood flavours.

"We use Stainless Steel Vats with pieces of charred wood and age distilled spirit in them for a month or so. SSVASKY stands for Stainless Steel Vat Aged \*\*\*sky!

"It's an amazing taste and competes with entry-level whiskies like Glenlivet, though we are not allowed to call it whisky,"

As for Moonshine, "that's our true American hooch," explained Greg proudly, who hails from Pittsburgh, USA.

During the Prohibition era of the 1930s in America, moonshine was an illegal strong alcoholic beverage produced by bootleggers.

"Our artisan moonshine is unaged liquor with a beautiful clear texture, as well as an intense and rich flavour. You can enjoy it neat, on the rocks or used in cocktails to give that little extra kick and taste."



*Greg Maskalick with some of his gin*

When it comes to gin, there's the exotic selection includes the brewery's own Dr Aycott's *[do you see what he did there?!]* London Dry Gin - 45% and made with 13 plants, that include heather and sage, as well as a hint of lemons and oranges, to provide an exceptional flavour.

The home delivery operation has now expanded, mainly through word-of-mouth recommendations, to include supplying customers as far away as Ockbrook and Long Eaton.

Should the lockdown be getting you down, I suggest you get in touch with the Tap House and placing an order to lift your spirits.

\*The Tap House opened in Draycott in March 2017. It was the first new pub there in 126 years.

Located in premises that at one time served as a greengrocer's and before that as teas rooms, the delightful intimate pub features ornate Victorian signage to the exterior. The large windows inherited from the former occupants providing a light and airy interior.

A fabulous selection of beers, ciders and gins, along with friendly service and relaxed ambience, ensured the new micropub soon became a favourite with discerning tipplers, both locally and further afield.

*Peter Anders*

---

## A Mantra

How to do Covid each day

Something productive

Some exercise

Something creative

Something intellectually stimulating

Something "hobby"

It works!

---

## Gardening tips

As I sit here and write we have had another dusting of snow on our gardens but this month we can welcome the arrival of spring with open arms and wave goodbye to the winter blues and as our gardens are starting to wake up from their rest.

It has now been two years since moving house and gaining a new garden. In this time I have started to get to know it; I've seen what's been growing and popping up and where the sun is and the shade and my ideas change all the time on the plans for the garden. I am just enjoying tending to the plants I inherited and a new plant collection which is contained in pots.



If you are getting a new garden this year or you have one it is a very exciting time and I would love to hear how you're getting on let's share the process together, look out for my contact below.

In this month's issue I've got your spring gardening jobs for March to be getting on with, an update from the gardeners at Treetops Hospice, and as usual, Gardener Steve's Plant of the Month.

## Jobs in the garden this month

- Take a look around the garden checking for frost damage. Cut back any affected stems.
- If your lawn needs mowing, choose a dry day to complete this. Ensure the blades are set higher than usual at this time of year.
- Finish cutting back shrubs grown for their colourful winter stems such as Cornus and Salix cultivars. Cut them back to their bases.
- Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a slow-release fertiliser by lightly forking it into the soil surface.
- Plant out any forced flower bulbs in the garden, such as hyacinths and daffodils which have finished flowering indoors.

## Update from the Treetops Gardeners

During this latest lockdown due to Covid-19, the gardeners on site at Treetops Hospice Care were limited but Sarah and a couple of volunteers are making sure the things are ticking over! Apparently it's very wet on site too. I think we can all relate to that in our own gardens!

This winter, Treetops was one of 30 recipients (countrywide, I believe) to receive one of 30 commemorative disease-resistant elms (Ulmus New Horizon Tree). The Tree Council, through their '30 Elms for 30 Years' initiative to celebrate 30 years of tree wardens, invited local tree wardens to apply for one and we have a well-established tree warden scheme here in Erewash.

Other news from the gardeners: despite hardly any visitors coming to Treetops in the run-up to the festive period, the gardeners raised over £400 selling Christmas wreaths, wooden reindeers made by one of our gardeners, and various Christmas decorations.

## Gardener Steve's Plant of the Month

### *Pieris japonica 'Variegata'*

*Pieris* belongs to the *Ericaceae* family and they are native to mountain regions of eastern and southern Asia, eastern North America and Cuba.

They are compact evergreen shrubs with leathery, dark green leaves, often brightly coloured when young.

*Pieris japonica 'Variegata'* ('White Rim') is quite an old variety, the first of the variegated *Pieris*. It still retains a distinctive charm of its own, especially in its prettily cream- margined grey-green leaves, flushed pink when young and clusters of lily-of-the-valley- like white flowers in spring.

It grows slowly to form a medium-sized shrub and thrives with rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and Japanese maples, in acidic moist but well-drained, lime-free soil, in light shade, sheltered from cold, drying winds. It is an ideal plant in any shrub border also excellent in a container, in ericaceous compost.

- Flowering period: Spring
- Height and Spread: 6ft X 4ft
- Position: Partial
- Soil: Acid Loving, Fertile well-drained soil
- Hardiness: Hardy
- Propagation: Propagate by softwood cuttings in early summer or semi-hardwood cuttings in late summer.
- Pruning: Deadheading and removal of dead, damaged and diseased
- Pest and Diseases: Phytophthora root diseases and a leaf spot may be a problem

### Garden Quiz

1. A spring favourite, beginning with the letter P, flowers in spring can be herbaceous or tree types?
2. The Prince of Wales is famous for a royal garden which he has created over the last 38 years. Can you name it?
3. Anagram. Fertiliser which helps green up plants and aids growth GINTONER
4. Rhubarb is botanically a vegetable, True or False?
5. What is the genus name for the Daffodil?
6. Primula veris is better known by which name?
7. Anagram - Rosebush disorder TACKBLOPS
8. To gain shoots on potato tubers indoors is known by which term
9. Spring Green is a variety of which spring-flowering bulb?
10. Stuttgarter and Sturon are varieties of which vegetable?

See page 34 for the answers

### Finally...

I would love you to get in touch to share your gardening stories, news and photos from around and about or to ask a garden question. I look forward to hearing from you. Email me at [gardenersteve24@live.co.uk](mailto:gardenersteve24@live.co.uk).

*Steve Walton*

## **I've gone and won the Lottery**

I've gone and won the lottery  
And I'm feeling really great.  
I've waited for so long  
That I'm now in quite a state.

First I got a text  
So I knew that it was true.  
I went online to register  
And got told what I must do.

I had to go into town  
To a building gleaming and new  
Lots of security people  
Dressed in white and blue.

I expected a celebration  
But extravagance sadly lacked!  
No celebration champers  
No trays of coquilles St. Jacques

I waited at the entrance  
And they checked my ticket number.  
Then they checked my name and age  
So they didn't make a blunder.

And then the moment arrived!  
I was excited and also tense.  
I held out my arm to receive it -  
It was a moment of great suspense!

I rolled up my right sleeve ready  
To receive my special win  
The nurse said, "Just relax Kay!"  
And the COVID jab went in.

There wasn't any money  
But it was a special prize to me,  
When I received my appointment text  
From the COVID lottery!

*Facebook@Kay the Yorkshire Poet  
( but lived in Derbyshire for over 30 years)*

# Contacts

## Draycott

### St. Mary's, Draycott & St. Chad's, Wilne

Vicar	Rev'd Chris Smedley	01332 872242
Associate Priest	Rev'd Gary Dundas	01332 872893
Deputy Wardens	Kris Bingham (St Mary's)	
	Kathleen Poyser (St Chad's)	
Treasurer	Paul Stuttle	
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

Minister	Rev'd Colin Emerson	01332 670587
Lay Pastor	Judith Neal	01332 832108
Senior Steward	David Murden	01332 873388
Hall Hire	Allison Hill	01332 872902
Wesley Guild	Mary Murden	01332 873388

### Draycott Messy Church

Pat Hopgood		01332 928412
-------------	--	--------------

### Other contacts

Draycott Village Fund Will Batchelor	<a href="mailto:draycottvillagefund@hotmail.com">draycottvillagefund@hotmail.com</a>
Draycott W I	Kris Bingham <a href="mailto:krisbingham@hotmail.co.uk">krisbingham@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Draycott Brownies	Caroline Riley or <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a> Carolyn Bassett
Draycott & Church Wilne History Group	<a href="mailto:alesi4@sky.com">alesi4@sky.com</a>
	Clive Wilkinson 01332 872615
Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council	<a href="mailto:clerk@draycott-pc.gov.uk">clerk@draycott-pc.gov.uk</a>
	Sheena Butcher (Clerk) 01332 875278 <a href="http://www.draycottparishcouncil.org">www.draycottparishcouncil.org</a>
Draycott Army Cadet Detachment - Fern Marie Denner	07702 086813

Would you like your group's contact details here? Do let us know (contact details on page 8)



## Breaston

<b>St. Michael's</b>	Church Office	01332 872094 <i>office@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>
The Rector	Rev'd Chris Smedley	01332 872242 <i>rector@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>
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
<b>Breaston Methodist Church</b>		
Minister	Rev'd Arnold Dixon	0115 973 4474
<b>Breaston Art Club</b>	Julia Gardner	07585 778 207
<b>Breaston Belles WI</b>	Glynis Stafford	07986 961162 <i>breastonbelleswi@talktalk.net</i>
<b>Breaston Community Forum</b>	Julie Rowlinson	07900 241 886
<b>Breaston Churches Together Lunch Club</b>		
	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
<b>Breaston &amp; Draycott Village News</b>		01332 872094 <i>magazine@stmichaelsbreaston.org.uk</i>
<b>Breaston Gala</b>	Sarah Lester	<i>www.breastongala.org.uk</i> <i>secretary@breastongala.org.uk</i>
<b>Breaston Park Football Club</b>		<i>www.breastonpark.com</i>
<b>Breaston Parish Council</b>	Parish Rooms, Blind Lane	01332 870119 <i>breastonparish@btconnect.com</i>
<b>Breaston WI</b>	Josie Morris	01332 874325
<b>Brownies</b>	Louisa Theyers	01332 872323
<b>Men's Danger Club</b>	John Skinner	01332 874417
	Adrian Young	07576 869033
	John Bowley	07793 550595
<b>Methodist Wesley Guild</b>	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
<b>Pre-School Playgroup</b>	Sarah Gallacher	01332 874832
<b>Rainbows</b>	Melanie Arden	01332 875059
<b>Sunbeams</b>	Jodie Kirk	07711 270109
<b>The Village Singers</b>	Jan Wilkinson	01332 872753
<b>VIPs and Deaf-Blind Group</b>	Nancy Plummer	01332 873619
<b>Youth Café</b>	Simon Bentley	07791 419 595

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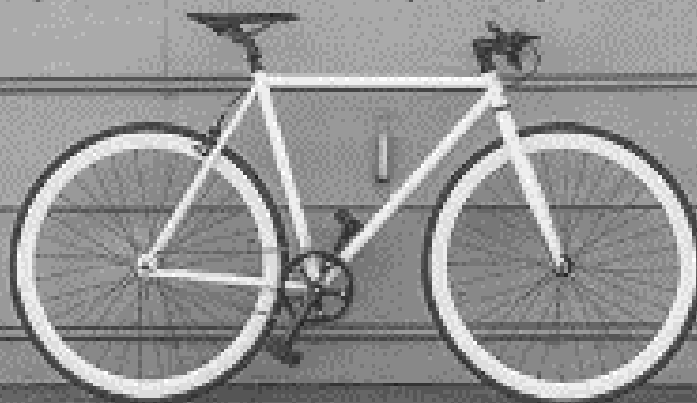
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## Garden Quiz answers

1. Peony
2. Highgrove
3. Nitrogen
4. True – it's botanically a vegetable
5. Narcissii
6. Cowslip
7. Blackspot
8. Chitting
9. Tulip
10. Onion

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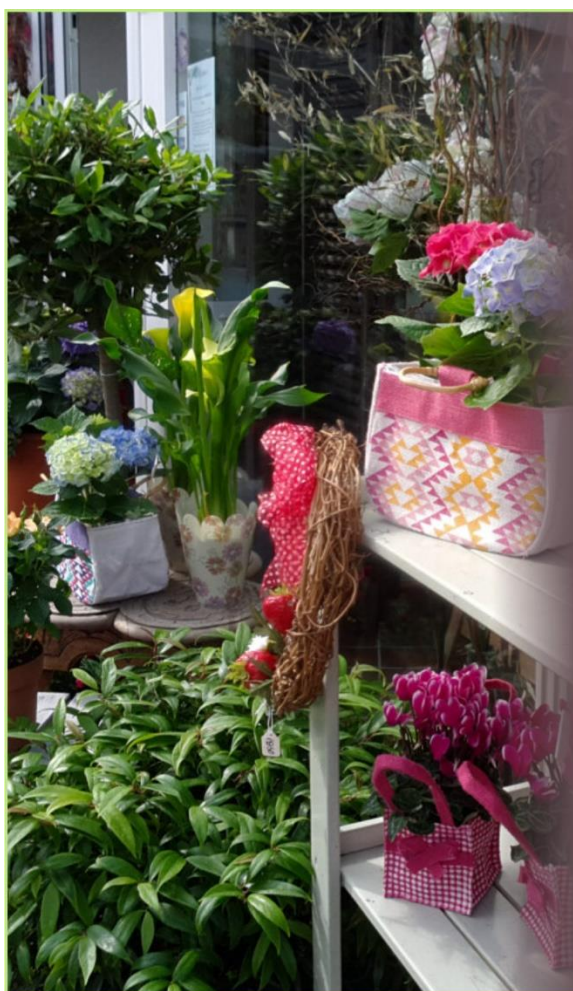
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