

Parish Link

**The Parish Magazine for the Benefice of
Bagendon, Baunton, Coberley and Cowley, Colesbourne,
Elkstone, North Cerney, Rendcomb and Stratton**



February 2022

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Pastoral Letter - from *Ruth Edy*

On 6th January, I 'de-frocked' the Christmas tree, (it was the perfect shape and height and had come from Geoff and Carol's wood on the Whiteway!) and lovingly wrapped up again the olive wood nativity set which I bought in Bethlehem in 1999 (I'm still using its original box and packaging!). These January rituals are almost as nostalgic as the Advent rituals when Christmas begins to happen. A few days later, while reading about the Festival of Candlemas which is at the beginning of February, I found out that in some countries and in some traditions, Christmas decorations aren't taken down until 2nd February. Ah, I could have had the tree and the nativity scene on display for a bit longer!

But I do still have in place a sort-of home-made Advent calendar, well, not home-made so much as pick-your-own! I bought it one year at Dobbie's garden-centre in one of those after-Christmas sales. [note to self: look out for some more good offers!]. It has 24 pockets for you to fill as you wish and, when I hang it up, I find the little bits of paper I put in the pockets in previous years. Confession - I didn't look at all the pockets through the days of Advent this year, so it's nice to have it to dip into now. Today, I looked in pocket number 10. The little bit of paper had the words - '*Hope has a name...*'



I guess that must have been the experience of the elderly priest, Simeon, and Anna - the prophetess, who both encountered Jesus as a baby in the Temple at Jerusalem, when his parents brought him there for the Jewish purification rites (see Luke 2. 21 - 40). As well as the Feast of Candlemas, this special day is also called The Feast of the Holy Encounter. Simeon and Anna had been waiting and waiting all their lives for God's salvation to appear, and now their hopes had been realised - *Hope has a name - Jesus*.

Early in his ministry Jesus said, '*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*' [Luke 4. 18 - 19]

I haven't done new year's resolutions for a number of years now: instead, I try to find a phrase I can carry with me through the year. It's a whole lot more manageable and comfortable!

This will be my *mot juste* for 2022: '*Hope has a name....*'

Happy Feast of Candlemas! Happy Feast of the Holy Encounter!

Thank you!

For the Bags of Joy

The response to the Christmas Appeal '*Bags of Joy*' was truly extraordinary. Wonderful gifts arrived from across the area. Gifts which made a real difference to the festive season for so many people.



The recipients of this **love** were families in two Women's Refuges - the only one in Gloucestershire and another just outside the county; families supported by GARAS (*Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers*); the *Salvation Army* (SA) who prepare gift parcels for local disadvantaged children and their families; the *Cirencester Food Bank* who linked with the SA to extend their standard range of items over the festive season; *Gloucester City Mission* providing everyday essentials and festive extras for those who have 'nowhere else'; *Knit for Peace* who ensure that hand-made items are directly forwarded to those in greatest need across the World; *Gloucestershire Mothers' Union* who gave £190 worth of £5 Coffee Vouchers for the benefit of women on discharge from prison to ensure that they can get themselves a drink and snack. These eight destinations all make sure that the gifts you generously donated benefit those most in need. I would also like to thank that small band of cheerful helpers who collected; carefully stored; helped sort and then delivered these Christmas Gifts on behalf of us all. Thank you!

Pauline Farman

To Penny Carlton and Friends....

Thank you to Penny and David who organised a collection in aid of St Giles' Church on the occasion of Coberley's Carols on the Green. This is a wonderful annual Christmas event involving the whole Coberley community and we are very grateful for the donations received.

Benefice News and events

House for Duty priest appointed for the Churn Valley

We are delighted to announce that the Revd Dr Janet Anderson-MacKenzie has been appointed as 'House for Duty' priest in the Churn Valley Benefice!

Janet and her family will move into the Rectory in Cowley shortly and she will be licensed to the post on *Sunday 27th March*. Details of the service are still being finalised.

Janet has a lot of experience in rural ministry, and we are very much looking forward to her joining us here as we work together to share God's love in our communities along the Churn Valley.

Churn Valley Community Choir update

The Choir re-convened on 18th January. Its leader, Fiona, has been working hard to put together a great selection of music for 2022. Members are pictured here in full festive spirit at the Choir's first informal Concert, which took place in North Cerney



Village Hall on 14th December! The Choir meets every Tuesday evening at 7.15pm in North Cerney Village Hall. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Amanda Morgans: amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday Prayer Group

Do come along to this friendly group which meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7pm in Stratton Rectory (GL7 2LJ). Revd David will be very pleased to welcome you. If you have any questions about the group, please call David on: 01285 655199.

News from around the Benefice

Coberley: *Lady Chapel restoration work completed*

Restoring the Monument Wall in St Giles, Coberley



The monument wall in St Giles needed urgent repair work. Water had penetrated the wall and soaked into the lime plaster. As a result, the plaster had become unstable, blistered, and large portions had begun to fall away. The first action was to identify where the rainwater was penetrating the external wall. After careful inspection by the churchwarden, it was discovered that the rain gutters and down pipes were totally blocked. So the cast iron rainwater pipes were carefully removed and cleared of years of built-up silt.

Consultation with the Diocese of Gloucester then followed - a necessity when working on a listed building. The appropriate faculty application was made, and all conditions of the certification followed. One condition of the faculty was to have a comprehensive inspection and report from our architect, Mr Middleton (*NickJoyce Limited*). He inspected the monument wall and identified an area of concern which PCC member Mrs Mary Hayward advised the churchwarden about.

A local stonemason, Mr Ian Bishops, completed the specialist work on the external roofing area between the church main area and chapel in June 2021. The area was then monitored regularly to ensure the work undertaken had resolved the problem of water seeping into the chapel.



A further inspection was then required to ascertain the composition of the paint pigment on the monument wall. In the month of May, Mr Bryan Roe “*Keim Mineral Paints Limited*” visited St Giles church and from his inspection produced a comprehensive report, which was acted upon.

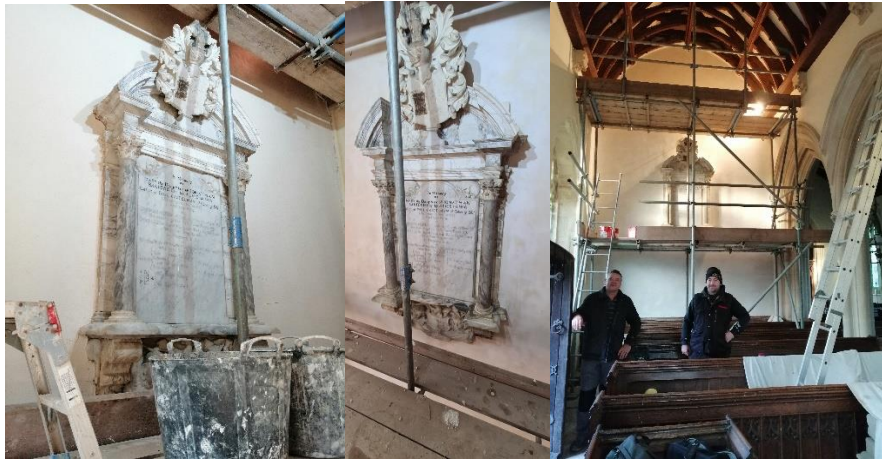
With all the administrative paperwork in place, and all contractors engaged; work on the monument wall was started in November by *Carrington Lime Limited*. Scaffolding was erected and closely monitored by Ben in accordance with the recommendations mandated in the architect’s report.



With the scaffolding in place, work on the removal of the loose lime plaster started. As much of the original lime plaster that was found to be in good condition was retained as recommended.



With the removal of the defective plaster, work then proceeded on applying two layers of lime plaster to the area. This was completed in early December. However, a period of (28) days was then needed to allow the new lime plaster to cure and dry out naturally. The application of a Fix Additive and two coats of paint was scheduled to start on 7th January. Our contractor, Mr Keith Elliott, was able to complete the painting of the monument wall and attended to the area in the mid-section of the chapel on 11th January.



Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

**This church has received a grant from
Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust towards the
cost of works to the building or churchyard.**

GHCT is a charity which raises funds and gives grants to communities to help them look after their church buildings. We can also help with repairs to furnishings as well as alterations and upgrading facilities such as heating, lighting and toilets.

Our aim is to help keep the county's churches, chapels and meeting houses alive as places of worship, active centres of community life and landmarks of our architectural heritage.

We welcome new supporters, so please take a leaflet, or visit our website at www.ghct.org.uk to find out more. You can also email us at hello@ghct.org.uk, follow us on Twitter @GlosHCT or find us on Facebook.

Our Ride and Stride sponsored event takes place on the second Saturday in September and is a fun way to support GHCT and explore the county's diverse and fascinating church buildings.

Patron: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

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We are most grateful for the generous contributions from events held in the churchyard and donations from community members and visitors both local and as far as from America.

Special thanks for a substantial donation received from [Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust](http://www.gloucestershirehistoricchurchestrust.org.uk)

With thanks to Project
Manager *Mr AM Dykes MBE*
Churchwarden
for contributing this article.

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Colesbourne: *Volunteers sought for snowdrop teas*

The snowdrop open weekends at Colesbourne Park begin on Saturday 29th January. The gardens will be open from 1pm - 4.30pm. If you are able to help bake cakes or to serve teas in aid of St James during the weekend of *Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th February*, please contact Carolyn Elwes: 01242 870262 or email snowdrop.cde@outlook.com. Let's try and raise another £2,000 for the Church once again!



Sir Henry Elwes.

Update from Elkstone - *Amanda Morgans*

On Sunday 2nd January, the Revd Jan Moore led a warm and well attended Christingle Service in St John's. A collection made at the service means that a generous donation will be sent to *The Children's Society*. Thanks go to Jennie Howlett for all her hard work in helping to organise this community occasion.

This is not the only example of Elkstone's generosity over the last year. I am very proud to be part of a team that always ask: 'What can we do to help?' and without fail, or hesitation, always respond positively.

Donations have also been made over the last year to:

The British Legion

The Newton Family Ministry

Severn Free Wheelers

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Gloucestershire Action for Asylum Seekers

Gloucestershire Farming Friends

The Children's Society

The Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers

In addition, the Elkstone Open Gardens Event in June 2021 was very successful. The whole community came together, and funds were raised jointly for the church and village hall. A very good example of the church working collaboratively with a friendly, generous and thriving village community.

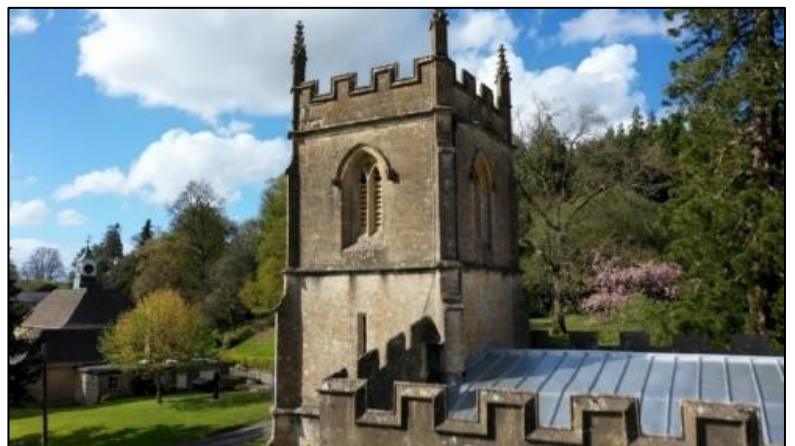
Latest from Rendcomb - *Ruth Edy*

Rendcomb College finished the autumn term with the usual parties, visits to the pantomime and the Infants' nativity play. The carol services took place as well but in different circumstances. The Junior School had their Carol Service in the parish church but with no congregation: the service was filmed for the parents as it was decided that was the most sensible option.

The senior school had their Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church, albeit in a slightly different format. The service was recorded on Monday December 13th, with the use of the parish church's live-streaming software, cameras and microphones. A small number of Sixth Form leavers' families were in attendance, this being their last opportunity to experience a Rendcomb College Carol Service. At the time of writing, this event was still available to view on Rendcomb College's website, or you can google [Rendcomb College senior carol service 2021](#). There is even an Order of Service on there!

Unfortunately, back in Rendcomb parish, it was unanimously agreed by the PCC that the Christingle service planned for December 17th should not go ahead as Covid numbers were rising. However, the service on Christmas morning took place with a socially distanced congregation, and when the Revd Bob Edy, who was leading the service, suggested that we spread out as much as possible for singing, at least one Old Rendcombian took the opportunity to return to the choir stalls (with his family!) where he had sat as a boy over thirty years ago!

The village shop was closed during the school holidays to give Vipin and Amerlit a well-earned rest: now it has re-opened, with reduced, and more manageable, hours. The parish church of St Peter's, Rendcomb, continues to have a monthly service at 11am on the fourth Sunday of the month - January 23rd, February 27th and March 27th. These are usually led by Rendcomb College school chaplain, the Revd Bob Edy.



Tributes to former Stratton School Head from his colleagues at Stratton School

Heartfelt tributes have been paid over the festive period to Mr Mike Hughes, former headteacher of Stratton School.

Mike, who was head at Stratton for over 20 years, sadly passed away in December. Local people, including former colleagues, parents, and pupils, shared fond memories of the long-standing head who prided himself on knowing each child's name and family.

Mike retired from Stratton School in 2014.

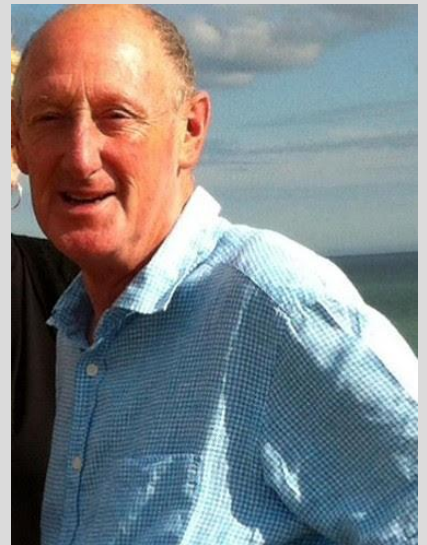
Before coming to Stratton, he worked as a teacher at a number of schools in Gloucester and the Forest of Dean.

During his years at Stratton, he was well known for his assembly stories, which were often hugely entertaining but always had a moral. Many former pupils have happy memories of visits to the school by Mike's dog Penny. Mike also introduced residential visits from Stratton School to Biblins, Viney Hill and London and these are fondly remembered by those who took part.

His main ambition after retirement was to cycle across America, which he proudly achieved!

The funeral took place in Gloucester on December 29th and was attended by family, friends, former colleagues, parents and pupils.

Donations were gratefully received on behalf of the [Motor Neurone Disease Association](https://www.mndassociation.org/) [<https://www.mndassociation.org/>].



Margaret Taylor - 1934 - 2021

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Margaret Taylor on Friday, 31st December. Following periods of ill health in 2021, Margaret, of Roberts Close in Stratton, had been staying in a nursing home in Painswick.

In the years prior to February 2019, when her husband - Philip - passed away, both were active members of St Peter's Church, Stratton, and also worshipped in other churches in the Benefice. Before COVID intervened, Margaret appreciated attending church with Beth Hamid. Our thoughts are with Mrs Taylor's son Nigel and the family at this time.

Articles on Cowley and Coberley continued

Online studies of the history of Coberley and Cowley: Part 5 *By Alan Jordan*

To follow is the fifth excerpt from Alan Jordan's online research findings about the history of Coberley and Cowley, which he conducted during the Covid lockdown of early 2021.

[The key sources he used included: the national censuses, which took place every ten years from 1841 to 1911, and the mini-census made in September 1939; Coberley parish records of births, marriages and death; Gloucestershire electoral registers; British History Online and Coberley Tourist Information.]

Many thanks to Alan for allowing us to publish his findings in *Parish Link*.

Coberley Mill

Coberley Mill, a corn-mill southwest of the church, had possibly been established by the late 17th century and was let with a bakehouse by the late 19th century. It stopped working in the 1930s and the building was converted to domestic use^{xivi}. Censuses show that it was run by the **Wilson family**^{xivii} - first William, then his widow Mary and finally by his son William.

In the 1891 census the family consisted of William senior (born in Brimpsfield in 1843) described as "miller/baker", his wife Mary (born in Gloucester in 1848), and their children - Mary (1871, Brimpsfield), Frederick (1872, Brimpsfield), Annie (1874, Brimpsfield), William (1876, Brimpsfield), Elizabeth (1884, Coberley) and Emily (1886, Coberley). The younger Mary was described as "miller and baker's bookkeeper", Frederick as "baker", Annie as "schoolteacher" and William as "baker's assistant". Elizabeth and Emily were still at school. William senior died in 1898, aged 55.

The younger William Wilson moved away from Coberley. He was in Cardiff in 1901 and in Charlton Kings in 1911. He described himself as “flour mill delivery man” in 1901 and as “miller and baker” in 1911. He returned to Coberley Mill after his mother’s death in 1915 and was there until at least 1927^{xiviii}.

The two photographs below^{xlix} show the mill during William Wilson’s tenure and then later when it was a private house. Actual dates of the photographs are not known, but the second picture bears the note “Approx 2003. The Mill has since suffered flooding and was being refurbished [in] 2013”.



In the September 1939 Register Coberley Mill was occupied by **Richard Hugh Barlow**, who described himself as “*Flight Lieutenant retired and Civil air pilot*”, and his wife Rosamund S Barlow. Sir Richard Hugh Barlow was born in 1904, the son of Sir Hilario William Wellesley Barlow. He married Rosamund Sylvia de la Fontaine Anderton in December 1928. He gained the rank of Wing Commander in the Royal Air Force. He fought in the Second World War and was awarded the Air Force Cross. He succeeded as the 6th Baronet Barlow, of Fort William, Bengal in October 1941. He was killed in a plane crash in December 1946, near Quito, Ecuador, aged 42ⁱ.



The Newspaper extract above right records the tragic news.^{li}

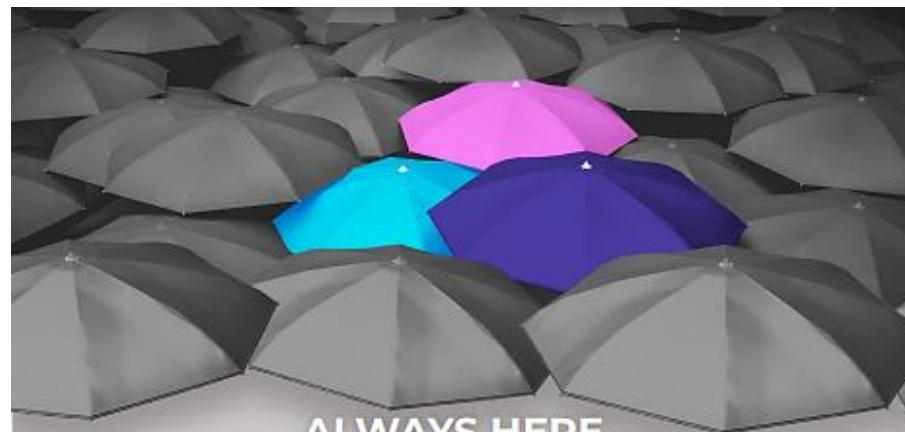
From at least October 1939 to 1956 Coberley Mill was occupied by **William Ellis Barrington-Browne** and his wife Cecilia Muriel Hargreaves Barrington-Browne^{lii}, née Elwes. The name Elwes was also the name of Amelia Maria, the first wife of the Revd William Hicks. William Ellis Barrington-Browne was a well-known artist. He was born in December 1908 and died in Cirencester in 1985.

Sources:

- xlvi British History Online.
- xlvii No relation to the Rector of that name.
- xlviiii Kelly's Directories 1923 - 1927.
- xlxi From the Underwood family tree on: ancestry.co.uk
- I thepeerage.com
- li From the Fairbanks family tree on: ancestry.co.uk
- lii Electoral Registers.

More on Coberley Mill and School in next month's edition.

See page 17 for this month's entry about Cowley School and Post Office.



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Cowley School and Post Office

The School

The first reference to a school in Cowley in censuses and electoral registers was in the 1881 census when **Sarah Nicholls**, aged 23 and born in Devon, was there. There is no mention of a school in the 1891 census.

In the 1901 census, **Mary Harrison**, aged 58 and born in Manchester, was there. She described herself as an '*Elementary School Teacher*'. She was still living in the School House in 1911, when she described herself as "*retired schoolmistress, elementary school*". Also living there were the Head Teacher **Decima Frances Triese**, aged 29 and born in St Ives - Cornwall, and an assistant teacher **Mary Dorothea Klein**, aged 26, born in Coverham, Yorkshire.

The occupants of the School House from 1918 onwards^{xxx} appear not to be connected to the school. One was a baker and one a gardener. It is not known when the school ceased to function.

The Post Office

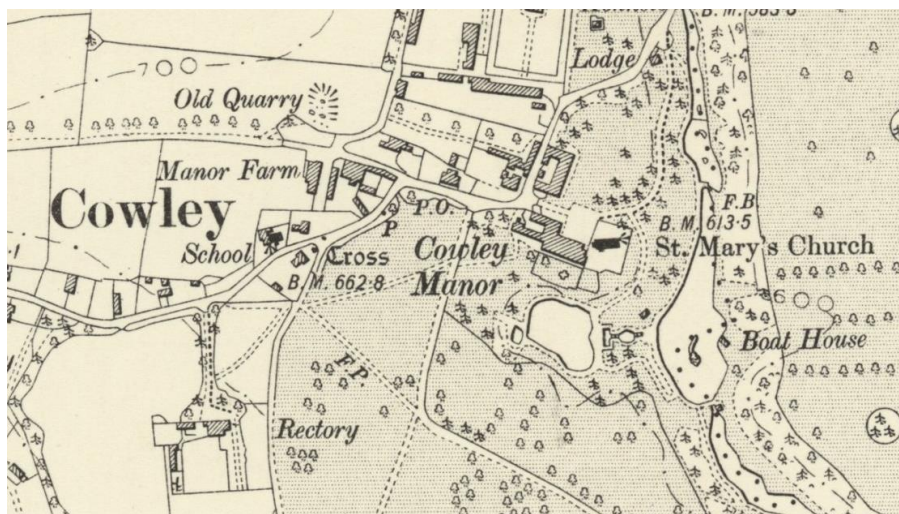
The first reference to a Post Office in Cowley in censuses and electoral registers was in the 1901 census when **George Plumbe**, born in Wiltshire in 1853, was there as “*sub-postmaster and garden labourer*”. His wife Ann had taken over as sub-postmaster by 1911^{xxxi} and remained so until 1921^{xxxii}. George Plumbe died in 1915.

The next incumbent at the Post Office was **Ernest Charles Stanbridge**, born in 1898. In 1919 he had married Hilda Jessie Plumbe, born in 1893, one of George Plumbe’s daughters. Their marriage certificate describes George Plumbe as “deceased” with an occupation of postmaster. Ernest Charles Stanbridge, who was described as a soldier at the time of his marriage, remained at the Post Office until 1923.

From 1924 to 1926 **Archibald Steven Leach**, born in 1885 in Cowley, lived at the Post Office with his wife Frances Mary Leach. They stayed in Cowley after that, and in the 1939 Register Archibald Steven Leach was a central heating boiler attendant at Cowley Manor.

From 1927 to at least 1946^{xxxiii} **Jesse Sly**, born in 1893 in Cowley, and his wife Lizzie, also born in 1893, occupied the Post Office. In the 1939 Register Jesse Sly was described as “*GPO postmaster and postman*”. Jesse Sly died in 1946. Lizzie Sly and her daughter Nora continued to live in Cowley until her death in 1973.

1888 map of Cowley^{xxxiv}



Sources:

xxx Electoral Registers.

xxxi 1911 census.

xxxii Electoral Registers.

xxxiii Electoral Registers.

xxxiv archiuk.com.

This concludes Alan's online research findings about Cowley.

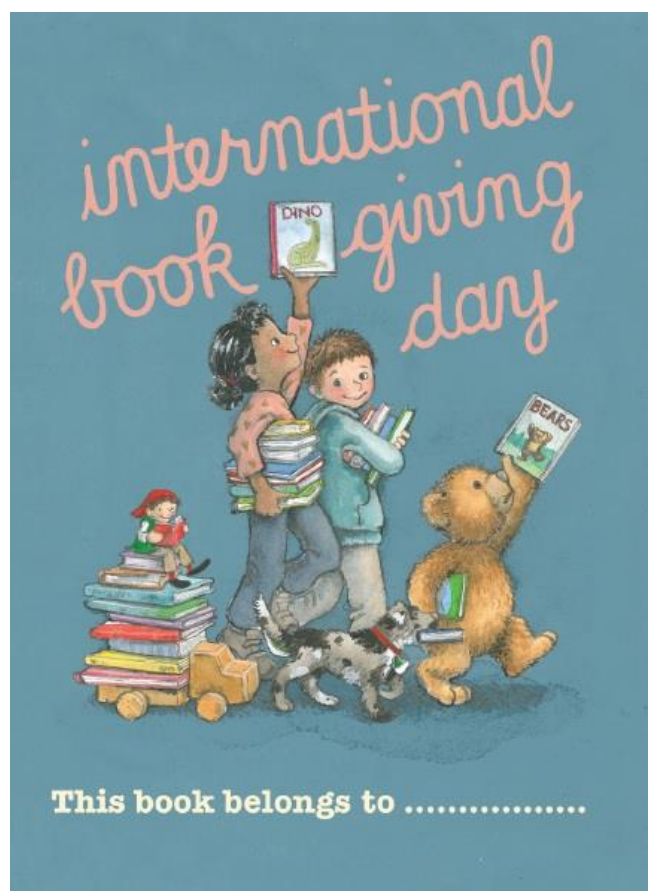
Positive things you could do in February....

Make St Valentine's Day memorable - give a book!

[International Book Giving Day](#), on 14th February, is about getting books into the hands of as many children as possible. The idea was started in 2012 and is now run entirely by volunteers in 44 countries. In the UK it is organised by Emma Perry of *My Book Corner*, emperry@gmail.com. According to the National Literacy Trust, in 2012 only one in every eight children in the UK owned a book and today generally literacy remains much lower than most of us would expect. The Covid lockdowns have slightly boosted the amount of reading children have been doing, although much of this is not always with printed books - online activities and games were a prime source.

Perhaps one of the most important comments the Literacy Trust's latest report, published last year, made is that: *'Some children and young people reported that a lack of access to books (with schools and libraries closed), a lack of quiet space at home and a lack of school/peer support had negatively affected their ability to read and their motivation to read for enjoyment'*.

As this is being written, the Covid pandemic is ongoing and restrictions on people's lives continue to be made around the world. Getting books into the hands of children remains, therefore, as important as ever. To find more about how you can help visit <https://bookgivingday.com> where



you can also download a free printable bookplate (as on page 19) to use with the books that you give away.

Make Valentine's Day truly memorable this year and show your love for a deprived child by giving them a book of their own to read.

Source: *Association for Church Editors.*

Thinking of others: *Fairtrade Fortnight* February 2022

This year's [Fairtrade Fortnight](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/) is from 21st February to 6th March.

Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses, and governments to make trade fair so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods. (Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed *Isaiah 1:17* and, Love your neighbour as yourself *Matthew 22:39*).

The climate crisis is the biggest threat to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide. Without a fairer income, farmers and workers are unable to invest in the types of mitigation and adaptation techniques needed to protect the environment, and their businesses. This represents a vicious cycle of poverty in which steps towards environmental protection and decarbonisation are likely to be beyond the reach of those who aren't even able to earn a living income because the price they receive for their produce is far too low.

When thinking of *Fairtrade*, most people think of bananas, chocolate or tea and coffee, but there are many other *Fairtrade* products, including gold, wine, clothes, beauty products and flowers. There are over 70,000 people growing, harvesting, packing, and caring



With thanks to www.fairtrade.org.uk for this photograph of a worker on a Flower Farm - Ponte Tresa, Ecuador.

for *Fairtrade* flowers which are traceable to the original farm. *Fairtrade* certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a *Fairtrade* Premium of 10% for every item sold, which allows workers to invest in healthcare, education and other social benefits.

Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Uganda and Tanzania. *Fairtrade* flowers are available from *Aldi*, *Asda*, *Co-op*, *Lidl*, *M & S* and *Moonpig*, which may be worth bearing in mind with the approach of Valentine's Day and then Mothering Sunday on 27th March!

For more details about *Fairtrade* Fortnight please see:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

Source: Association for Church Editors

Community News and Events

SNOWDROPS AT COTSWOLD FARM THIS FEBRUARY

Supporting National Garden Scheme (NGS) & A Rocha

Saturday & Sunday - 19th & 20th February (11am - 3:00pm)

Also open Mondays in February - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th (11am - 3:00pm)

A beautiful Arts & Crafts Cotswold Garden in a stunning location, overlooking a quiet valley on descending levels with terrace designed by Norman Jewson in the 1930s. An established **snowdrop** collection with over 80 varieties, named and naturalised, in the borders and along the woodland paths. A **winter step garden** with scents and textures leads down to the magical **bog garden** with streams and waterfalls.

£7.50 Entrance (cash or contactless) **Children FREE**

Soup & Roll, Tea, Coffee & Cakes

Bulbs for Sale

Directions: 5 Miles NW of Cirencester on the A417

Cotswold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, GL7 7JS

Telephone: 01285 821837.



The Tuesday Group - Judith Wood

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you are feeling fit and well and recovered from Christmas. The Tuesday Group will be restarting its monthly meetings on **Tuesday 1st February** with what promises to be an interesting talk by Meg Blumson on 'Project Black Jack'. For anyone new to Cirencester, 'Black Jack' is the name of the statue on Cirencester Parish Church which faces Black Jack Street. Meg will explain the history of the statue and why it was taken down and then replaced.

On **1st March** we will be having a talk by Chris Witts on '*My Life as Mayor of Gloucester*', which should be another entertaining evening. Why not come and join us this New Year at Stratton Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm, admission £2.00 which includes light refreshments? Everyone is most welcome. For more details, please contact Judith Wood: 01285 652713.

Citizens Advice - on *Claiming your State Pension*

Don't forget to claim your State Pension!

In years past you would have received your State Retirement Pension automatically. You may not be aware, but this is no longer the case, so you will have to claim it to receive it! At Citizens Advice, we have been contacted by an increasing number of people who did not realise this situation.



You should get a letter from **the Pension Service** no later than 2 months before your 66th birthday (which is the current State Pension Age) telling you what to do to claim your pension. If you do not receive this letter, you can still make a claim in the 4 months up to reaching your state pension age.

It is important to claim your State Pension as soon as you can, as there may be delays in payment if you leave claiming it too close to your 66th birthday, which could lead to financial difficulties for some people.

How to claim - The quickest way to get your State Pension is to apply online at www.gov.uk/get-state-pension but if you don't have access to the internet you can request a form by calling **the Pension Service on 0800 731 7898**.

You can check your State Pension age online at www.gov.uk/state-pension-age or get a forecast of how much money you might get at www.gov.uk/check-state-pension

Further information on the State Pension is at www.gov.uk/new-state-pension or see our website - www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Some of our clients have experienced delays after claiming which has caused them financial hardship. If you need any help to claim your State Pension or experience problems with the claims process, contact one of our friendly advisers at **Stroud and Cotswold Citizens Advice**. Please call 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm (calls are free from landlines and most mobiles) or use our online email page at: www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php

We are now able to see a limited number of clients whose problem cannot be dealt with on the phone in person at our Cirencester office. Due to Covid, we haven't been offering drop-in sessions but if you need face to face advice you can be seen by appointment. We are planning to open our outreach sessions gradually, Covid allowing.

February Fact!

On 6th February 1952
Her Majesty The Queen acceded to the throne aged 25. Her Platinum Jubilee will be officially marked by an extended bank holiday this year, from 2nd - 5th June.

CIRENCESTER

REPAIR CAFÉ

We can try to mend toys, clothes, small electricals, household items and bikes



12TH FEB, 12TH MARCH, 9TH APRIL,
14TH MAY – 9.30AM – 2.00PM

**THE SCOUT HUT, COTSWOLD AVE,
CIRENCESTER, GL7 1TN**

0752 667 6822 or [facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe](https://www.facebook.com/cirenrepaircafe)
for further information



**Cirencester Drivers
Urgently Needed**
Paid 50p per mile driven

Cotswold Friends
Community Transport Service
supports people who do not
have access to transport.
Journeys are for medical,
social and practical need.
Could you drive for us?
**Flexible role,
hours and journeys
to suit you.**

Contact Us
email:
sheryl@cotswoldfriends.org
Please call
Tel: 01608 697007


Cotswold Friends
Reducing isolation and
supporting independent living
www.cotswoldfriends.org



Cotswold Friends, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0AZ
Registered Charity No: 1106748, Company Limited by Guarantee No:
5182191, Registered in England and Wales, Feb 2020

Scrubditch Care Farm - Emma Costley White

Stop Press! Community Coffee Morning at SCF on Friday 28th January at 10am

We are continuing with our Coffee Mornings; one per month, in the Ark at the Care Farm. This is a relaxed cuppa (with delicious cakes!) and a great way to catch up with friends while enjoying our spectacular views! *Covid rules apply.* We look forward to seeing you.



Sheep News - We are devastated to report that our lovely ram Dennis passed away over Christmas. He somehow managed to get pneumonia, and despite our best efforts he didn't survive. On a more positive note, the ewes are thriving, and ready to see the scanner at the start of February. Our lambs should start arriving the last week of March. Let's hope we have some lovely sunny weather for them.

Veg plans - We will shortly be starting to plant seeds madly, for selling at the gate / planting out in the poly tunnel and, when it gets a bit warmer, planting outside in our raised beds.

Pig News - We are thrilled with Jack. He has such a lovely nature, and is progressing through the woodland, staying with each one of our girls in turn. We are getting them all scanned at the start of February. Let's hope they don't all arrive at the same time as the lambs!

Hens & Ducks - We have netted the duck and hen pens due to the avian flu that seems to be very prevalent this year. The rain is causing havoc with the pens making it extremely difficult to get round safely with the students! We are having to re-think this and are moving all the hens into the field shelter with an outside area to feed them...and making use of our very old stock trailer as an extra place for them to go and lay eggs! The ducks are coming back into lay again, and we are now getting more hen eggs too. These can be left out for regular orders at the entrance to the Care Farm. Just get in touch via the website/landline: 01285 895790.

New for 2022 - We have 950 hedging plants arriving at the end of February and will be looking for volunteers to help plant them. Do get in touch if you would like to help: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Hiring our facilities - We have a wonderful building available for meetings, workshops, and events. Do get in touch if you are interested in hiring our facilities: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Corporate Volunteering - If you would like to know more about corporate volunteering / 'giving back' days do get in touch with us via: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Dementia Sessions - If you know someone who is living with dementia or Alzheimer's, our sessions run every Tuesday 11am - 1pm. Sessions are very informal and are an opportunity to get out in the fresh air with likeminded people in small groups. Please get in touch if you would like to

find out more: gerry@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or have a look at our website: www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Talks - via ZOOM - If you know a group that would like to hear about the work we do here, our talks last about 40 minutes, and give a fun, informative overview of the Care Farm. Get in touch either via the website www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk or e: info@scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk

Dates for the diary

Friday 28th January, 10am: Community Coffee Morning

March 2022 [date tbc]: Spring Quiz

Saturday 23rd April: Spring Fun on the Farm. Please see the website for further information.

7th/8th May: Plant sale. We will have lots of veg plants on sale.



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram, Facebook & Twitter and look at our website <http://www.scrubditchcarefarm.org.uk>

News from our NHS Trust - *Anne Davies*

This month I am relating how NHS problems in the news are currently manifesting in the Trust.

Around two thirds of the COVID patients in hospital were admitted for reasons other than COVID which only showed on subsequent testing. COVID positive patients are generally younger with 53% under 60 years compared to 36% in wave 1 and are less likely to have had their booster. They experience milder disease, require less intervention, and go home much earlier than in previous waves. Of great support to the staff has been some especially heart-warming compliments from patients and families cared for in the recent weeks.

‘Critical incidents’ indicate a time of concern which is serious but not major for the whole system and refer to changes in management of the hospitals at the busiest times. They normally last for 2-3 days but recently one lasted for nine days. They are linked to excess patient numbers and staff and bed shortages. A contributing factor is a continuing high number of patients awaiting discharge. Whilst normally around 100, this figure recently reached 205. It was 150 at Christmas when it would normally be 30-40. Another contributing factor has been the loss of about 60 beds to ensure the necessary separation of patients to inhibit the spread of

COVID. Ambulance waiting times are also seriously impacted by the shortage of beds.

Finally, to end with good news, Professor Steve Hams, the trust Chief Nurse, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours for services to the NHS and nursing. He introduced to the Trust an internationally acclaimed Nursing and Midwifery excellence programme, which promotes innovation and improvement and places emphasis on shared decision-making and collective leadership. He also showed extraordinary leadership as Gloucestershire's Senior Responsible Officer for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Anne Davies (Public Elected Governor Cotswolds) anne.davies11@nhs.net

Winstone and District WI - Moira Cima

Our first meeting of 2022 was a much more positive start to the new year - with 6 new members, an excellent speaker, and several visitors to boot. All made for a very lively January evening despite the ongoing restrictions; we have certainly proved very adaptable to the circumstances and continue to make the most of every opportunity to get together.

Our speaker, Sue Davies, had followed a dream to visit Captain Scott's hut in Antarctica and she entertained us with a wonderful film of her trip, which took in stunning close encounters with the wildlife and culminated in her pilgrimage to Scott's base, and then to that of Henry Shackleton.

February's meeting (on Tuesday the 8th at 7.30pm



in the Village Hall) will be a discussion of this year's national WI Resolutions - 4 proposals, put forward by WI members, for instigating change for the better in today's society. We will listen carefully to the case for each and then vote on which we'd, individually, like to see taken forward to the WI's Annual Meeting in June for full debate. All very democratic and an example of how the WI can still be a powerful force for good.

If you'd like to know more, please contact our secretary, Chris, on 01285 821261 and if you're

curious please don't be afraid to come along and try us out! Anyone can come as a visitor, with no commitment. It's a great way to meet people and make new friends.

Sewing Machine workshop - Saturday 12th February 2-5pm

Do you have a sewing machine lurking in the attic gathering dust, that's crying out to be used? Do you use your machine regularly but are wary of some of the features? Maybe you're just stuck on how to thread it! Irene Smith will help to de-mystify operating your machine, answer your questions and boost your confidence to get

you sewing again if you come along to the Village Hall on 12th February from 2-5pm. Just bring your machine (and foot pedal) and the manual if you have it. Bring something you'd like to work on, too - or if you'd like to try out an easy pattern for a bag then bring one metre of suitable fabric.

The cost is £10, and places will be limited, so please register by calling 07960 466348 with your name and the make of your machine (please note that Irene can't help with computerised machines).

Moira Cima

moira@take2-music.co.uk

From the Benefice Registers

Funerals:

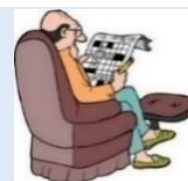
23 rd November '21	Dorothy Violet Ellis	Stratton Cemetery (graveside service)
17 th December '21	Beryl Sibson	Cheltenham Crem.
17 th December '21	Robert Hawley	St Peter's, Rendcomb (ashes burial)
10 th January '22	George Walter Powell	St Giles, Coberley and burial in churchyard
11 th January '22	Gillian Cappi	St Peter's, Stratton then Gloucester Crem.
12 th January '22	Maurice Christopher Cuss	St Peter's, Stratton and Stratton Cemetery

Baptisms:

5 th December '21	Elsie Rose Fisher	St Peter's, Stratton
12 th December '21	Peggy Priscilla Gifford	St Giles, Coberley

Crossword

Please find below the answers to last month's Crossword by Ben Woods.



We are taking a break from the Crossword this month, but are hopeful that it will return again in the March edition!

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD BW77 (December 2021 - January 2022)

ACROSS:

1	BANNED	12	PAIRS	21	RESTFUL
5	AIDE	14	ORDERED	22	DENT
7	ANTIQUE	15	APART	23	REPAST
10	ALARM	16	DEPORTS		
11	SURMISE	20	GREAT		

DOWN:

1	ANTIS	8	QUARTET	17	RENEW
2	LEMUR	9	EMPEROR	18	STRAY
3	MISLEAD	10	ASPECTS	19	JUST
4	BEND	13	SPARED		
6	ERRORS	14	ORDAINS		

Services in February

Key to Ministers: CVB Licensed Ministers:

DM = Revd David Minns (Rector) (*Day off: Friday*)

T: 01285 655199 E: dlkminns@gmail.com

BE = Revd Bob Edy (*Chaplain, Rendcomb College*)

T: 01285 831391 E: bobedy21@gmail.com

MG = Mr Martin Green (Licensed Reader)

T: 01666 577532 E: mgreen282@btinternet.com

RE = Mrs Ruth Edy (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831391 E: ruth_edy6@hotmail.com

MV = Mr Mark Venn (Licensed Reader)

T: 01285 831209 E: mark.w.venn@btinternet.com



Additional Ministers: **JM** = Revd Jan Moore

T: 01285 640077

therevjan@gmail.com

CP = Revd Cliff Pooley

T: 01242 243981

cliff.pooley@btinternet.com

February Services

There will usually be a Service of either *Holy Communion or Morning Prayer* at St Peter's, Stratton, at 10am on a Wednesday morning.

Parish Church of St Margaret's, Bagendon

Sunday	6 th	9.30am	Matins (MG)
Sunday	13 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (Revd John Martin)
Sunday	20 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (DM)
Sunday	27 th	9.30am	HC [CW] (DM)

Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Baunton

Sunday	6 th	9.30am	HC (JM)
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Parish Church of St Giles, Coberley

Sunday	6 th		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	13 th	11.00am	MP (CP)
Sunday	20 th		<i>Service at Cowley</i>
Sunday	27 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (MV)

Parish Church of St Giles, Colesbourne

Sunday	6 th	10.00am	Matins (CH)
Sunday	13 th	9.30am	HC [BCP] (CP)
Sunday	20 th	9.30am	Matins (MV)
Sunday	27 th	9.30am	Matins (MG)

Parish Church of St Mary, Cowley

Sunday	6 th	11.00am	MP (DM)
Sunday	13 th		<i>Service at Coberley</i>
Sunday	20 th	11.00am	HC (MV by ext.)
Sunday	27 th		<i>Service at Coberley</i>

Parish Church of St John the Evangelist, Elkstone

Sunday	6 th	11.00am	HC (JM)
Sunday	13 th	10.00am	Morning Worship (DM)
Sunday	20 th	11.00am	HC (DM)
Sunday	27 th		<i>Service at Rendcomb</i>

Parish Church of All Saints, North Cerney

Sunday	6 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	13 th	11.00am	HC with Baptism (DM)
Sunday	20 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	27 th	11.00am	Matins (MG)

Parish Church of St Peter, Rendcomb			
Sunday	13 th		<i>Service at Elkstone</i>
Sunday	27 th	11.00am	HC (MV by ext.)

Parish Church of St Peter, Stratton			
Sunday	6 th	9.30am	HC (DM)
Sunday	13 th	9.30am	Celtic Worship (MV)
Sunday	20 th		<i>No Service</i>
Sunday	27 th	11.00am	HC (DM)

PCC Secretaries contd

	Rendcomb	Carol Bailey (temporary)	01285 831836 wrensorttwo@gmail.com
	Stratton	Linda Wilks	wilks1960hlv@gmail.com
PCC Treasurers	Bagendon	Martin Taylor	01285 831253 martin1943@hotmail.co.uk
	Baunton	Lynn Rutt	rutt.stortford@btinternet.com
	North Cerney	Peter Knight	01285 831072 pdknight48@yahoo.co.uk
	Coberley	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Colesbourne	Sir Henry Elwes (temporary)	01242 870264 hwg@colesbourne.net
	Cowley	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Elkstone	Amanda Morgans	07590 245185 amandamorgans@yahoo.co.uk
	Rendcomb	Annabel Purcell	01285 831686 annabelpurcell@hotmail.co.uk
	Stratton	Alan Lowe	01285 657014 talanlowe@aol.com

Organists	Bagendon	Tony Hymas	01285 831728
	Stratton	Robin Baggs	07796 812945 rebaggs1@gmail.com

Pastoral Emergency in	Stratton	Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
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Parish Clerk	North Cerney	Elmore Crump	01285 831275
Bell Ringers	North Cerney	Judy Carter	01285 831425
Vulnerable Persons Rep	Rendcomb	Alex Breal	01285 831213 brealya@rendcombcollege.org.uk

Safeguarding/Child Protection	Stratton	Keith Abraham	01285 643320
Vulnerable Persons Rep	Upper Churn	Vacancy	
	Benefice	Beth Hamid	01285 644895 bethhamid@googlemail.com

Flower Arranging	North Cerney	Anne Norman	01285 831237
	Stratton	Lesley Pollock	01285 653145 lesleyalm@btinternet.com

The Tuesday Group	Stratton	Judith Wood	01285 652713 wood.judith@yahoo.co.uk
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Magazine Editors	North Cerney	Simon Pow	churnnews@hotmail.com
	Parish Link	Corinna Bramley	01285 641523 editor.parishlink@gmail.com

Directory

The Rector	The Revd David Minns	01285 655199 dlkminns@gmail.com
Associate Priests	The Revd Bob Edy	01285 831391 bobedy21@gmail.com
	The Revd Jan Moore	01285 640077 therevjan@gmail.com
	The Revd Cliff Pooley	01242 243981 cliff.pooley@btinternet.com
Additional Minister	Mr Martin Green	01666 577532 mgreen282@btinternet.com
Readers	Mrs Ruth Edy	01285 831391 ruth_edy6@hotmail.com
	Mr Mark Venn	01285 831209 mark.w.venn@btinternet.com
Benefice Administrator	Corinna Bramley	beneficeoffice.cv@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Bagendon Alison Saunders Ghislaine Venn	01285 831352 asaunders@ames1.me.uk 01285 831209 ghislaine.venn@btinternet.com
	Baunton Coberley & Cowley Colesbourne	Deborah Clarke Michael Dykes Sir Henry Elwes
	Elkstone	Geoff Gait-Carr
	North Cerney	Barry Koch Mark Tufnell
	Rendcomb	Carol Bailey Alex Brealy
	Stratton	Beth Hamid
PCC Secretaries	Bagendon Baunton	Caryl Barefoot John Milner
	Coberley & Cowley Colesbourne	Gill Clark Lady Carolyn Elwes
	Elkstone	Vacancy