



May 2024

**March winds and April showers, bring forth May flowers**

Dear Friends,

This magazine gets delivered to you in May, but is printed a couple of weeks before – which means that all contributions have to be written before that. So I am writing this just after Easter.

We returned from a holiday in Spain a couple of days ago, so my head is still full of the amazing places we saw, the delicious food we ate, the sounds of the language, and the sights that we saw as we travelled on the trains, in the restaurants, and the different attractions we visited - I even recall the conversations that we had throughout the week. Despite some weeks of regular practice on Duolingo beforehand, my Spanish could not exactly be described as fluent, but I enjoyed reading menus and street signs and anything else that I saw on the way. One of the things I noticed was the instruction *esperar*, which anyone who has learned a Romance language will know means both “wait” and “hope”. In English, we use completely different words for these two things. But, of course, we can see that “waiting” and “hoping” are related once you stop to think about it – because why would you bother waiting for something if you didn’t have hope that it was actually going to happen?

We have been waiting and hoping for spring, waiting and hoping for warmer and drier weather, and waiting and hoping for longer and lighter days all through the winter. All through the 40 days of Lent, and especially in the days from Good Friday until the Sunday morning, the Church waited for Easter and the good news of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. We waited - not in despair - but in hope and expectation. What are the things that you hope for? Is there some change or shift in your own circumstances (or in someone else’s life that you are waiting for) that you hope will happen? So often, waiting and hoping is all that gets us through bad patches. Jesus talked quite often to his friends about the importance of waiting in hope and expectation for God to act – “ Look for the Kingdom of God which is closer than your own hand” – but the Bible also makes it clear that it is also up to us to take action, in hope, that God is here and is involved with our lives.

We have to jump in and help be the change that we want to see to make the world a kinder, better place - that is one way of loving our neighbour as we love ourselves. But we don’t do that work by ourselves; instead, we can reach out and help each other in the knowledge and in the hope that God IS here, is present among us and continues to call us into a knowledge of His love for each of us, day after day, week after week, throughout all the seasons of our years.

**God bless you, Rev. Jo Fielding**  
 Revjo.eastvale@gmail.com Tel 07561823135

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*(Badsey, Bretforton, Offenham, The Littletons & Cleeve Prior)*

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Email **joanna.fielding@hotmail.com**

And at The Vicarage, High Street, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 7EJ

Day off is usually Fridays.

Please do get in touch with Jo directly for any enquiries about weddings/baptisms/funerals across our group of parishes or alternatively you can contact our administrator (see above for details)

## Do you have just 30 minutes per month to help the Community News?

We're looking for a deliverer to distribute 45 copies of the Community News for the new part of Banks Road. Could this be you?

If so, please contact Alex Christison on 01386 830367 or [xtison13@gmail.com](mailto:xtison13@gmail.com)

## Services this month

Please see the noticeboard in Church Porch for more services within the Benefice. For more information about any of our churches please visit [www.eastvaleavon.com](http://www.eastvaleavon.com)

Please do take the opportunity to share fellowship and enjoy worship in any of the parish churches in our benefice

Date	9.30am Morning Praise/Family Service	11.00am
5 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 6	Badsey	Offenham Eucharist  Cleeve Prior Eucharist
9 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension Day	South Littleton 7pm Benefice Eucharist	
12 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 7	Bretforton	South Littleton Eucharist  Cleeve Prior Morning Praise & APCM
19 <sup>th</sup> May Pentecost		Badsey Benefice Eucharist
26 <sup>th</sup> May Trinity Sunday	South Littleton	Bretforton Eucharist with Baptism Cleeve Prior (Matins)



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To raise funds for the continuation of the Badsey & Aldington Community News, we are holding a quiz night complete with ten rounds of questions and a picture round!

When Friday 24th May at 7pm for a 7:30pm start

Where Badsey Community & Sports Club Entry is £3 per person, with a maximum of six people per team.

A raffle will take place during the interval - if you would like to donate a prize, please leave it at St James Church before Friday 24th May. We look forward to welcoming you all!

**Please book a table by emailing [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com) or message our brand new Facebook page!**

### In times of trouble, the community comes together

As seen by now in both Badsey and the local news, April saw three families from The Lankets suffer a terrible loss after a tragic fire broke out in one of their homes, spreading to two more in the process. We are thankful that no one was hurt, but it took the courage of multiple fire crews to tackle the blaze which left a large amount of damage in its wake. Due to the vast amount of coverage this story has already received, we are not looking to discuss the fire in detail and would like to give the affected families space to continue navigating this difficult time. Instead, we would like to use the Community News in the way it is intended: to highlight the kindness and generosity of the community that we are so proud to be a part of. It was truly wonderful to see how those in and around Badsey came together to support those affected in their time of need. From local businesses providing shelter, funds and a place for donations to be left, to the thousands of pounds in donations generously given by friends, family members and residents, we just wanted to use our newsletter to highlight that even in the darkest of times, hope and light can always be found in those who surround us.

### Could you help provide the community with a route to the stars?

In September 2022, a resident suggested to the Parish Council that Pear Tree Fields would be an ideal site for residents of the village to observe the night sky. An exciting project was then proposed to build an observatory for the village, with a permanently placed telescope in a dome that can be used by all those interested, with the aim of supporting the introduction of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to young people in a practical environment, as well as people already interested in astronomy as a hobby. This would include youth groups as well as young people in formal education.

An informal meeting was then held to find out the level of interest, attended by several amateur astronomers to discuss the feasibility of such a project, and it was agreed that there was enough support to go ahead. Since then, quietly in the background, plans have been drawn up, estimates of work have been gained and youth organisations have been approached to gain an understanding of their level of interest, and presentations have been made to county councillors. **Most importantly of all, though, planning permission has been gained for the structures that will be required.**

We are now moving into the later phase of the planning of this project: deciding what purpose we want the observatory to serve, and securing the funding required. We now need people who would be willing to help bring these ideas and concepts together, and realise this thrilling project in practical form. **No special skills or knowledge is required - just an enthusiasm to help influence the direction that the project can take.**

If you would be willing to help shape this project and make it a reality, then please contact Alan Tutton by email at [alan.tutton@badseypc.net](mailto:alan.tutton@badseypc.net), or phone 01386 831539.

## SPRING CONCERT WITH AVONBANK BRASS BAND



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AC Sparrow, Terry's grandfather, with a hundred of asparagus.

## Upcoming Badsey Society event

The next Badsey Society event is a talk by Terry Sparrow about Market Gardening in the Vale of Evesham, and Badsey in particular. This will take place on **Friday 10th May at 7.30pm** in St James' Church, Badsey.

The talk is free to members and £2.50 for non – members. Terry is Badsey born and bred, and a member of a well-known local market gardening family. He is a founder member of the Badsey Society, and author of Digging for a Living, published by the Badsey Society.

Membership of The Badsey Society costs £5. Please pay via Paypal at [www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions](http://www.badseysociety.uk/the-badsey-society/subscriptions), or contact the Treasurer, Will Dallimore, on 01386 831012.

## Jane Neill's Nature Notes...

"March winds and April showers, bring forth May flowers", as the saying goes. The hedges are full of hawthorn blossom, named mayflowers, along with honeysuckle in full bloom. Comfrey stands tall along the brook with its clusters of pink a purplish drooping flowers and hairy leaves. Also named knitbone, bruise wort or boneset, telling the long time medicinal use of this herb. Its juice promotes the growth of connective tissue and bone.

The first damselflies emerge. The orange tip is a special spring addition to the variety of butterflies. It lays its eggs on the underside of leaves, or sometimes flowers, and feeds mainly on ladies smock (cuckoo flower). Only the male has orange tips whereas the female is plain white.

Traditionally, sheep are sheared in May. Birds are enchantingly vocal; May is the dawn chorus month. I love to hear the blackbirds chattering away so tunefully while the thrush has perfected its repertoire of phrases. The last of the migrants have also arrived, including the swift. If we are very lucky, we might hear the cuckoo sing its heart out (I have a recording of such a moment).

Lastly, we are being advised to be kind to slugs and snails. Now there's a dilemma for gardeners!

## Wickhamford Gardening Club

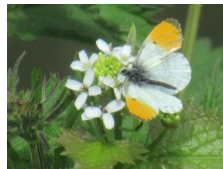
We are always very happy to welcome new faces and our meeting costs are still very affordable. Yearly memberships have remained the same for many years, at £5.00, with our monthly charge remaining the same for members and visitors at £2.50 & £3.00 respectively. If you would like to attend one of our sessions or be a part of the Wickhamford Gardening Club, please contact Barbara Bennett at [bennett.barbara@sky.com](mailto:bennett.barbara@sky.com).



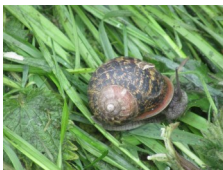
Hawthorn



Honeysuckle



Orange tip



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We now have our very own Facebook page! Search 'Badsey & Aldington Community News' to find us!



## Badsey Film Club



The next film will take place on  
**Saturday 4th May**

We will be showing:

### AT ETERNITY'S GATE (PG-12a)

*This film strives to capture the ecstatic immersion in the moment and the blazing, almost athletic certainty with which Van Gogh painted.*

The film will start at 8pm in the backroom of the Wheatsheaf, and we sell ice creams at the mid-film interval.

**Do you have a film idea? If there is anything you'd like to see shown, or a particular genre - please let us know!** Contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539 or send a message via our Facebook page. If you would like to be an official member of the Badsey Film Club, it's just £5 per year.

## The Round of Gras Charity Bingo Night

The fantastic team at The Round of Gras are back to host another brilliant bingo night. This time, fundraising for **Winston's Wish; a charity who supports bereaved children, young people, their families and the professionals who support them.**

For any young people experiencing grief, their freephone national helpline can be contacted on 08088 020 021 (Mon – Fri, 8am – 8pm) or alternatively you can also email [ask@winstonswish.org](mailto:ask@winstonswish.org)

The event will be held at The Round of Gras pub, on **Friday 31st May** - eyes down at 7:30pm prompt. The team will be very grateful to receive any raffle prizes, or bingo round sponsorship to help support the event. **Table booking is essential** - please call the pub on 01386 830 206 to reserve your space, our best advice is to book sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.



## Pet of the month!



Introducing Blue! Blue is a 3 year old Labrador/ Patterdale cross who adopted Lisa and Malc Bennett as his humans from Wickhamford Dogs' Trust around 18 months ago.

Blue is a regular 'helper' at the Wednesday Work Group and likes to greet everyone with either a 'high five' paw or friendly tigger style bounce! He enjoys long walks around the village, as well as cuddles on the sofa.

If like Blue, you would also like to get involved with the Wednesday Work Group, they hold meet ups at Badsey Church between 10.00 and 12.00 on Wednesdays

This is a building and churchyard maintenance volunteer group which meet regularly on Wednesday morning. Everyone welcome to join this sociable and friendly group even if it is just for tea and biscuits.

**Send us your 'pawesome' pets or even a community member that deserves a special mention (with their consent). Email [badseycn@gmail.com](mailto:badseycn@gmail.com) or send us a message via our new Facebook Page**

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## Virgo, Andromeda and the Mindboggling Cosmos

By Stargazer

By now you cannot have helped but notice that the evenings are drawing out nicely, and on clear evenings later in the month, the sky to the north never gets fully dark. Therefore, this month's object is in the southern sky during the early evening, and has a story behind it that goes a little way towards showing just how large the cosmos really is.

As Douglas Adams said in his novel *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*: "Space is big, really big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mindbogglingly big it is."

The constellation of Virgo is due south towards and above the horizon at about 10pm during May. The brightest star in the constellation is called Spica and is relatively easy to spot, being one of the 20 brightest stars in the night sky. Spica is a blue giant star that is nearly twelve times as massive as the Sun and is about 250 light years away.

Within the area of the Virgo constellation, there are a large number of galaxies. Some can be seen with a small telescope, and even more can be seen with much larger professional instruments. These galaxies that are far beyond our own Milky Way are known as the Virgo cluster. Our galaxy, along with the Andromeda galaxy (our neighbour) and other galaxies such as M81 and M82 that were mentioned last month, are all moving in the direction of the Virgo cluster. In that direction, there are even more galaxies, and together with our local group of galaxies, we are part of a super cluster of galaxies.

Within the structure of our cosmos, matter isn't evenly spread but forms in clumps. These clumps form stars and planets and the stars and planets form galaxies. These galaxies then form clusters and filaments and super clusters. At present, we know of about 10 million of these known super clusters.

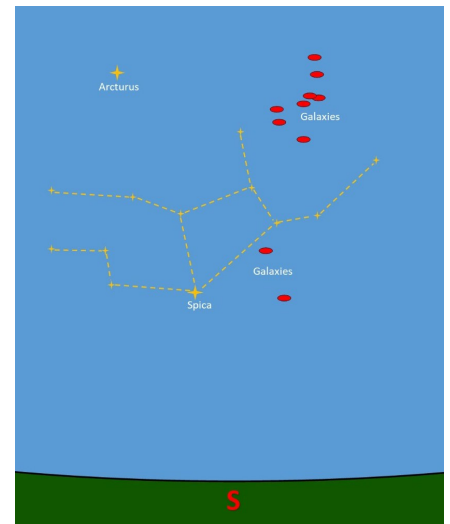
Our Milky Way is moving towards a point close to the Virgo Cluster, and the entire Virgo Super Cluster appears to be moving towards a point much further away. It has therefore been suggested that there is something gravitationally attracting all of these galaxies, and this has been given the name of The Great Attractor. However, it has also been suggested that the Great Attractor may not actually exist, and what is being measured is the natural motion of the galaxies like twigs in a river in a giant game of Poohsticks.

At the current velocity of the Milky Way, it is calculated that it will reach the other galaxies in the Virgo Cluster in about a trillion years, a staggeringly large amount of time. It is also the amount of time that it has been calculated that there will be no more hydrogen left in open space to form stars, and the age of light will come to an end.

**However, the Milky Way will not reach the Super Cluster, because something else strange is happening to space itself: empty space appears to be expanding.**

The empty expanse of nothing appears to be not fully empty and it is expanding, and this is pushing galaxies apart. We do not currently understand what is causing this expansion and scientists call it Dark Energy. At the current rate of expansion, the space between us and the Virgo Cluster will eventually be greater than the speed of light. Nothing can travel faster than the speed of light, but the accumulative expansion of small increments of space will make it appear that the Virgo Cluster is receding at this velocity and at that point it will disappear from view. This will not be for several billion years.

So, why not spend a little time to find the Virgo constellation and take a few moments to wonder about just how big and how weird the universe really is?



### Badsey Flower Show

**Do you have an independent business you'd like to promote?**

We have lots of exciting stalls lined up for this year's Badsey Flower Show, but we can still find room for a few more - particularly for locally produced items!

If you would like to have a stall at this year's Show, please contact Shirley Tutton at [shirleytutton@talktalk.net](mailto:shirleytutton@talktalk.net) for more information.



### Puzzler

Many flowers bloom in May - can you fill in the blanks to name a few of them?

G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ m

P \_ \_ \_ y

L \_ \_ \_ c

T \_ \_ \_ p

F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ e

M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a



## Computer Club

If you need help or advice with using your computer, why not drop in to one of the computer group sessions run on alternate Monday mornings at 10:30am in the back room of the Wheatsheaf. Sessions are very informal, and usually consist of a short presentation and then time to chat about individual issues over as much coffee and tea as is necessary.

**Also, we now have spare laptop computers that you can use during the sessions if you can't bring your own.**

Over the next two months, we shall meet only on:

Monday 13th May                      Monday 27th May (Bank Holiday, no meeting)  
Monday 10th June                     Monday 24th June

Each week we will give little hints and tips to help improve you get the best out of your computer and give a little more depth in how to use specific applications. In April we looked at File Manager and where your files are stored. Next, we will take general questions from the group and explore solutions and difficulties.

Everyone is welcome. For further information, contact Alan Tutton on 01386 831539 or email [alantutton@talktalk.net](mailto:alantutton@talktalk.net).

## Evesham Archery Club AGM

This April saw the Evesham Archery Club AGM and presentations. Saskia Baker took up the committee Chair after Ian Tilston retired to the position of Vice Chair. The departure of Jullian Grant from the committee saw Adam Benyon take up the post of records officer. The officers' reports all rang out with optimism, with particular highlights being the President's praise of the three new coaches and two new judges in the club, the Tournament organiser's thanks to all involved in the very successful national tour stage, and the numerous high rankings of Evesham Archers in the county.

Moving on to the presentations, there were over 30 category awards for both indoors and outdoors, as well as the certificates for the Ultimate Winter Archer. Congratulations to two of our newest members, who both had a huge wedge of certificates each! The specific awards given during the evening began with the Bill Clemson Portsmouth round competition.

First-place medals in the following divisions were given to:

- **Jacquie Holmes** in the Women's Compound
- **Alfie Wilkes** in the Men's Compound
- **Alex Shehata-Morgan** in the Men's Recurve
- **Saskia Bakker** in the Women's Recurve
- **Natalya Stone** in the Women's Barebow
- **Tony Davy** in the Men's Barebow.

Next were the awards for the club Indoor champs. Winners matched the Bill Clemson Portsmouth, but with Luke Birch winning the Men's Recurve! The two most prestigious awards of the evening were saved to the end. First was the Victor Ludorum, awarded to the archer who, across the course of the year, has entered the most competitions, consistently achieved the best scores and shot past their handicap. This year, the beautiful trophy was won by Jacquie Holmes. **Congratulations Jacquie!**

Then the last award of the evening, the President's Medal, was given out for exemplary service to the club. It was awarded to Luke Wilson for his work in developing the all-new [www.eveshamarcheryclub.com](http://www.eveshamarcheryclub.com). Thank you, Luke!

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the event, and here's to another year!



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# Badsey & Aldington Parish Council

The Parish Council can be contacted by:

Email **badseypc@yahoo.co.uk**  
Phone **07591 533557** (Mon - Thurs 9.30am to 3pm)  
Website **www.badseypc.uk**  
Post **Ty Gwyn, Church Street, Offenham, WR11 8RW**

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 15th May

**Meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Remembrance Hall.**

Parishioners are welcome to raise matters that they wish to bring to the attention of the PC at the beginning of the meeting. After that, they can stay to observe the meeting



## 1. How long have you been on the Parish Council?

Nine years in October - my first meeting was 14th October 2015 (my email filing works!)

## 2. What post on the Parish Council do you hold?

I am a councillor for the Badsey ward - so the main part of Badsey.

## 3. What sub-committees are you on?

I am part of the Events committee; I also helped Alan Tutton to set up the computer club (before I was a councillor) and am helping again after a few years work enforced break. I also look after the

administration and website for the Soapbox Races (August 25th this year!); I am one of the admins for the PC Facebook page, and manage online surveys for the PC and any email newsletters."

## 4. What's your favourite village event?

I'm very torn, can I have two? I have a soft spot for the Soapbox Race as I have been involved from the outset, but I do really love the Christmas event as well!

## 5. How long have you lived in the parish of Badsey & Aldington?

A bit more tricky, as my paper filing is not so great! 1989...so about 35 years."

## 6. Where were you born?

I was born in Wolverhampton but moved to Walsall when a few months old - a true Black Country boy!

## 7. What's your favourite meal?

Too many to decide! A traditional Sunday dinner, a good Lamb Dhansak, or Spanish Tapas.

## 8. What's your favourite holiday destination?

Sitges in Spain - we had a big family holiday there a few years ago and I would love to go back and do it again.

## 9. How would you describe your music taste?

Quite eclectic! I'm too fond of Meat Loaf, perhaps, and Prog Rock like Pink Floyd etc. Rock, like Thin Lizzy, right through to enjoying a bit of the Three Tenors or Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor

## 10. What's your claim to fame?

Hmmm, not sure - the actor Kris Kristofferson commented how cute my youngest son was several years back while we both queued at Reception in a hotel in Newcastle. Does that count?

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Apologies - there was a small error in April's edition where we forgot to name the Councillor. April's Councillor was in fact our very own Alan Tutton (sorry Alan)