

Broughton Gifford

December 2018

CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH CORSHAM TOWN BAND

Saturday 8th December

6.30 for 7.00pm

Broughton Gifford Village Hall

**Complimentary mulled wine
and a visit from Father Christmas**

Admission £5 (accompanied children free)

**Village
Magazine**



December 2018

Welcome to the final issue of the Village Magazine for 2018 which also marks the end of my first year as editor and is a good opportunity for me to thank everyone who has supported me over the past year. There is the rest of the magazine committee, our proof readers, my technical guru and photographer, all the contributors and also all those people who distribute the magazine for us every month. Thank you to all of you.



November was a busy month in the village. Thank you to everyone involved with staging another amazing BG fireworks display at the beginning of the month and, more recently, the events to commemorate the centenary of the end of the 1st World War. This began with the Remembrance Day Service and was followed by a very successful supper in the village hall for nearly 100 villagers. More about that later in this magazine. Lots of people work very hard to make these things happen in our village and it is much appreciated.

Village magazine funds have been boosted this month by a generous donation from the Church and also £66 was raised from the Quiz organised by The Bell. Thank you very much for these donations.

There is always lots going on in December — it begins to feel like a mad dash to Christmas once the end of November has passed — and this year is no exception. There is a coffee morning and a quiz organised by St Mary's, a Christmas disco in support of Crisis at Christmas, the Christmas Concert in the Village Hall, a Christmas Fayre at Great Chalfield and a Winter Fair in St Mary's school. Full details elsewhere in the magazine.

There is no magazine in January so the next issue will be for February 2019. As always, if you have anything to be included in the February issue, please let me have it by 19th January. You can send me an email (address below) or drop it through my door at 12 The Street.



I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Margaret Lomas

Editor

Email: bgvillagemagazine@gmail.com



Friends of Great Chalfield

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER

Starts 10.30am till 4.pm

at Great Chalfield Manor in the great hall.

There will be a variety of Christmas food stalls and presents to buy around the open fire, and decorated ceiling-high Christmas tree with carol singing during the morning.

Requested donations - Adults £5, Children free

Call 01225 782239 for details

Email: patsy@greatchalfield.co.uk

<http://www.greatchalfield.co.uk>

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you to all who attended the Remembrance Parade Service held on 11th November at St. Mary's Church. We were pleased to welcome the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, their leaders and families. The total congregation was a magnificent 230 and the offertory for the Poppy Appeal amounted to £445.51.

BROUGHTON GIFFORD WI - November 2018

After last month's meeting of craft and chatter, we had a fun time making Christmas trees out of an old paperback book. This month's meeting is after the magazine deadline, we are having a lovely slide show on the Golden Land of Burma by Sara Buttenshaw.

Our December meeting is on 19th December and will be a singalong with Christine Jeavons and songs from the shows and past decades. Hopefully we will have some tasty Christmas treats to eat too.

Our January meeting is on the 16th and is on UK Calendar Customs by Daphne Atkinson. If you want to come along and visit with us, you will be most welcome, we are a friendly lot. Remember the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.



BROUGHTON GIFFORD MAGAZINE

Why not advertise with us?

NEW PRICES FROM FEBRUARY 2018

Half page £26 (£13 for Village residents and businesses)

Quarter page £14 (£7 for Village residents and businesses)

NEW size a sixth of a page £10 (£5 for Village residents and businesses)

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Never underestimate the power of the Village Magazine!

Most people read it cover to cover and people like to support local business

For more information email:

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BROUGHTON GIFFORD GARDENING SOCIETY

Visit to Hestercombe Gardens on Saturday 1st June 2019

Members £17.50

Non-Members/Guests £20

Coach will leave The Bell at 8.45am and The Rusty Stag at 9.00am

Please indicate which pick-up point is required

Please complete and return by 2nd February 2019 to

Iain Rosie at 4 Brook Cottages, BG, SN12 8PT or any Committee Member

Name of Member/s Amount paid

Number of Non-Mem/Guests Amount paid

Names of Non-Mem/Guests

.....

Cheques should be made out to Broughton Gifford Gardening Society

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Job Advert – Finance Assistant

Broughton Gifford Village Hall Committee is looking for a Finance Assistant, the role will include the following:

- Raising of invoices for regular users
- Monitoring and chasing payment of invoices
- Paying bills
- Producing monthly finance report for Committee meetings
- Co-ordinating event finances
- Checking and renewing insurance each year
- Paying and monitoring electricity bills

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A QUIZ EVENING IN
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**SATURDAY, 1ST DECEMBER
AT 7.30 P.M.**

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**PROCEEDS WILL BE IN AID OF ST.
MARY'S CHURCH**



This month, I met long-term treasurer of this magazine and president of the village hall, Tom Chippendale, who has lived in the village with his wife Maggie for nineteen years. Tom, who was born in 1938, recently turned eighty, and I loved hearing about a life spent largely on the ocean waves, but not without its dramatic ups and downs.

The Chippendales were a West Yorkshire family, originally. Tom's father was killed at Dunkirk in May 1940, and a few years later his mother married a Devonshire man, so, in 1946, the family moved down to Newton Abbot in Devon. To eight-year-old Tom it seemed a world away from Yorkshire, and he remembers some communication problems when he started school! In 1954, at the age of sixteen, Tom joined Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, as an officer cadet.

At that age, Tom's main interests were singing, hockey and sailing, and he was able to do all three at Dartmouth. "If you were careful," he says, "you could get a bit of work done as well." His years there were very happy ones. Having crewed in dinghies, and in a dragon (a type of boat) called *Wasp*, he was sought out by John Day, head of the dragon fleet in Torquay. Day had bought a new, state of the art dragon from Denmark, and chose Tom to crew for him for five years, during which time "we just won everything, the boat was so fast." They were even selected to try out for the British team for the 1960 Rome Olympics, though sadly they weren't selected.

Tom left Dartmouth in 1957, and in his last year there he also crewed in the first ever tall ships race, in a three-masted schooner called *Creole*. The thirty-strong cadet crew had three weeks on board to get to know the boat, before starting the race from Torbay and finishing in Lisbon, Portugal. "It was just a brilliant, brilliant experience." Once he was in the navy itself, it was harder to find the time to race in this way, but Tom continued to sail whenever he could, and skippered or crewed for various people right up until about ten years ago.

After Dartmouth, Tom joined a ship in the Home Fleet and spent the winter in the West Indies — to show the flag, enjoy the weather, and go to parties. "For a chap just out of Dartmouth, aged twenty, it was absolutely marvellous!" He then joined a frigate on a twelve month solo journey from South Africa up the east coast of Africa, over to Pakistan, down to the Seychelles and Mauritius, and home again via Brazil and the Azores. "That was all parties too," Tom admits, cheerfully. Other adventures included going ashore in Hamburg, in 1962, to dance to a new band he'd never heard of — The Beatles. Other postings followed, including eighteen months in Singapore, but Tom returned to the UK when his mother was diagnosed with cancer, and later died from it. It was during this time in England that Tom met and married his first wife.

"I had a really stunning time in the navy," Tom says. He'd intended to make a career of it, but left in 1966. His first wife's father had been a navy chaplain who'd been away during the war, and then in Korea, and Tom's new mother-in-law (known for being "a fairly forceful sort of person") was concerned about her daughter having to raise a family alone in the same way she had. It was "quietly suggested" that Tom might move on from the navy. So move on he did, to begin four years of training in chartered accountancy, in Oxford. His father-in-law was by then the vicar of Stanford in the Vale, a village the other

side of Swindon, and Tom and his wife moved to live in an apartment in The Vicarage. Tom started work as an article clerk in 1966. "I had to start right at the bottom again, in a different profession."

He enjoyed the work, though the commercial world was something of a culture shock after the ordered life of the military. He missed sailing, but continued to sing, and ran the church choir in Stanford in the Vale in the late 60s. By the time he began work as a qualified accountant, Tom and his wife had three young children, "and we were broke." So, in an effort to make funds stretch, Tom got a job with a firm in The Gambia, West Africa. The family spent two enjoyable years there, made many friends, and had fun exploring.



When they returned to the UK in 1972 a job opportunity took them to Chippenham, where Tom soon set up his own accountancy practice. By this time, Tom and his wife had four young children.

They were over-stretched, and the cracks began to show. Things fell apart in the mid-1980s. There was constant financial strain, which led to over-borrowing, to having to sell their house, and then to divorce. Ultimately, the stress of it all caused Tom to suffer a nervous breakdown. He was diagnosed with manic depression, for which he would receive treatment for a number of years. Through all of it, however, the business carried on: "It was the one thing that saved everything."

Tom's other silver lining was Maggie, who'd been a client of the firm's. The pair married in late 1988, "which was when things started to turn around for me." Tom and Maggie moved to a rented house in Tytherton Lucas, the other side of Chippenham, and "gradually, gradually, got back on track. Maggie's much better with money than me, so all the loans and credit cards and all that horrible financial business got under control," Tom tells me. Maggie encouraged Tom to get back into singing (he sang for a number of years with the Malmesbury singers) and also back into sailing. Maggie herself had never sailed, but she soon took to it — one year in the late 1990s the pair sailed in every month of the year. They've also crewed for The Royal Yachting Association, under their scheme to help blind people go sailing.

In 1993, Tom was made a Freeman of the City of London in recognition of thirteen years' work for The Art Workers Guild, which he continued until 2016 — a total of thirty-five years. He and Maggie moved to Broughton Gifford in 2000, and Tom started singing with the Bath Choral Society, and with an *a cappella* group, with which he would continue until about 2010. In 2012, when Tom had run his practice for forty years, he handed it over to Phil Clark (it's now called Chippendale & Clark). "I don't retire," Tom tells me — he kept a selection of clients, for whom he still works from home. Tom has a daughter and three sons, Maggie has two sons and a daughter, and between them they have twenty grandchildren. They've been married for thirty years. "I had a big high early in my life, then it went down, down, down — divorced, lost my house, owed lots of money; so if you know anybody in that place, tell them it won't always be that way," says Tom. Which I think is a wonderful note on which to end.

By Katherine Webb

Do you know a neighbour in the village who has had an interesting life, job, adventure or achievement that you think people should know about? If so, why not let us know at bgvillagemagazine@gmail.com?

Broughton Gifford Village Hall News

Registered Charity 305477

200 CLUB

November	Leslie Holdway	£10
	Richard Francis	£10
	Anita Stratford	£10
	Jenny Adams	£10

For all 200 Club enquiries please contact Amy Harland on 783770.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday 13th December at 8.00 pm in the Committee Room. All organisations that are regular users of the Hall are welcome to send a representative to discuss any issues/requests that they may have.

Please contact Sylvia or Vince on 783332.

Please visit the website www.bgvh.co.uk for further details

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Andrew writes.....

The Greatest Gift of All

These lines were penned by John Betjeman in his poem *Christmas*

“And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?”

For most of us, our Christmas is based around food and drink and presents – the consumables! Family and friends are also important. But this quote gives us a question that is of another order and worthy of our consideration.

Have you ever considered how many of the greatest stories ever written have resonances with the themes of “the most tremendous tale of all”, the story of Jesus, God’s own son – *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, the story of a life turned around, the very thing Jesus came to offer us – *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, the story of a sacrificial journey to save Middle Earth against evil, a picture of what Jesus came to do for the earth and humankind – the Harry Potter literary series by J.K. Rowling, the story of a special child who had the power to save the world from evil, and whom the evil enemy tried to destroy soon after his birth but could not, which are all direct parallels with the life of Jesus. Perhaps the reason these story lines resonate with us so powerfully is that they touch on some eternal truth that is somehow built into all of us.

John Rice wrote, “You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father’s face and tell him you have received HIS Christmas gift, Jesus Christ.” So, how do we receive this greatest gift of all? Jesus offers us a new beginning that makes us clean from our past. We turn away from the ways of living we know are wrong. He offers us a new kind of life, life of a different quality from that which we have known before. We call this ‘eternal life’ and it starts from our conversion and goes on through our death to the life beyond that God has prepared for us. He offers to place his spirit in us to give us the power to live differently. All this happens when we make God our leader, the one we honour in our lives.

The response God calls for is summed up in the final verse of Christina Rossetti’s carol, *In the Bleak Midwinter*:

“What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart.”

Wishing you a very merry Christmas

Andrew Evans



Family Christingle Service



Celebrate Christingle with us

Join us and show a child they're not alone this Christmas
**All welcome to come and enjoy Christingles and sing some carols.
Fun for all the family.**

St. Mary's Church, Broughton Gifford
Monday 3 December 2018 @ 18:30

Supporting and raising funds for vulnerable children across the UK.
Charity Registration No. 221124 XTC062a/0917

BROUGHTON GIFFORD GARDENING SOCIETY

2nd February 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

“For the Love of Snowdrops”

A talk by Lyn Miles, a true Galanthophile

Weather permitting Lyn will bring some snowdrops for sale

Admission: Members £2 Non-members/Guests £3



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COFFEE MORNING

Saturday
01 December
10:00 – Noon

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FREE ENTRY

Hosted by Virginia & John Childe on behalf of St. Mary's Church

Welcome



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 1 December @ 19:30

Broughton Gifford Village Hall

£6 per person to include:

Ploughman's supper and raffle

(Please bring your own drink and glass)

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PROCEEDS WILL BE IN AID OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH