

[www.orletonvillage.co.uk](http://www.orletonvillage.co.uk)

# ORLETON VILLAGE MAGAZINE



*April 2026*

# How to be included in Orleton Village Magazine

This magazine will be published on the first day of each month on the Village Website:

[www.orletonvillage.co.uk](http://www.orletonvillage.co.uk).

Notification of publication, together with a link, will be given on Nextdoor and Orleton Village Chat (Facebook)

Articles of general interest, club or association reports and advertisements for community events may be included without charge. Commercial advertisements are charged, dependent on size. (Rates available on request from:

[orletonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:orletonmagazine@gmail.com))

Small private sale advertisements may be accepted without charge if space allows

All content is accepted at the discretion of the editorial team. Articles that are disrespectful or prejudicial will not be accepted.

Copy should be submitted as Word or PDF files. If hard copy is submitted there may be a charge for scanning and input.

All copy must be accompanied by the name, address and telephone number of the author, although this will not be included unless incorporated into the article.

Articles for publication should be emailed to: [orletonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:orletonmagazine@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to desired publication

## Orleton Village Hall

**Ideal venue for family events, parties, weddings, concerts, dances, training courses, drama performance, exhibitions, classes and craft fairs.**

**Large hall (160 seating capacity) with proscenium stage, theatre lighting and sound system, electric piano, video projector and radio mike.**

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**Superb five star rated kitchen, cutlery and crockery. Large car park. Free Wi-Fi**

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**For bookings /quotations: [bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk](mailto:bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk)**

**Tel 01568 780583**

## Contacts

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Art Group	Geoff Trotter	<a href="mailto:Geoffrey.a.trotter@gmail.com">Geoffrey.a.trotter@gmail.com</a>	
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	John Berry		01568 780321
Doctors			01584 831300
Evergreens	Sue Turner	<a href="mailto:sue.a.turner@gmail.com">sue.a.turner@gmail.com</a>	01584 831324
Gardening Club	Nick Russel		01568 780678
Good Neighbour Scheme			07467 535503
Herefordshire Councillor	Clr. Dan Hurcomb	<a href="mailto:dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk">dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk</a>	07792 882147
Land Drainage Group	David Lane		01568 78036
Orleton Footpath Maintenance Volunteers	Matin Bradford	<a href="mailto:emimart@hotmail.com">emimart@hotmail.com</a>	01568780151
Orleton Relief in Need	Barry Rogers		01584 831514
Orleton Junior Football Club	Mel Williams	<a href="mailto:cherry.brook@me.com">cherry.brook@me.com</a>	07511 920515
Orleton Toddlers	Bethan Jenkins	<a href="mailto:Bethan.I.edwards@hotmail.co.uk">Bethan.I.edwards@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07534 726222
Orleton Young Farmers Club	Bell Beaumont	<a href="mailto:orleyonyfc@hotmail.com">orleyonyfc@hotmail.com</a>	
Parish Council		<a href="mailto:clerk@orleton-pc.gov.uk">clerk@orleton-pc.gov.uk</a>	
Pre-School	Tara Morris		01568 780143
Primary School		<a href="mailto:admin@orleton.hereford.sch.uk">admin@orleton.hereford.sch.uk</a>	01568 780366
Primary School PTA	Nicola Goodman	<a href="mailto:nicolagoodman1989@gmail.com">nicolagoodman1989@gmail.com</a>	
Rainbows	Carly Morgan		07788 236628
Recreation Association	Graham Shaw		01568 780783
Village Hall		<a href="mailto:bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk">bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk</a>	01568 780583
WI	Sue Copson		01568 780956



**Orleton Village Hall has regular weekly activities to which new members are always welcome. Contact details can be found here...**

**Monday's**

- Orleton Toddlers** Every Monday morning 10-11:45am  
Contact: Bethan 07534 726222 or Charlotte 07964 981036
- Orleton WI** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, October to March at 2:30pm  
Contact: Sue Copson [susancopson934@gmail.com](mailto:susancopson934@gmail.com)

**Tuesday's**

- Rainbows** Every Tuesday in term time 4:30-5:30pm  
Contact Kaye Harrison [kayemharrison@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kayemharrison@yahoo.co.uk)
- Orleton Ramblers** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month - Meet at Village Hall 9:50am, leaving at 10:00am  
Contact: Jan Greatrex [tandjgreatrex@gmail.com](mailto:tandjgreatrex@gmail.com)
- Gardening Club** Last Tuesday of the month 7:30-9:30pm  
Contact: Monica 01568 613861 [orletongc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:orletongc@hotmail.co.uk)
- Yoga** Every Tuesday evening 6:30-7:30pm (Commences again in September)  
Contact Rosie 07834 851656

**Wednesday's**

- Coffee Morning** Every Wednesday at 10:30am-12:00 (Closed in August)  
Contact: Cathy Hardwick [cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk)
- Library** Last Wednesday of the month at Coffee Morning 10:30-11:45am  
Contact: Sue Rogers 01584 831514
- Sequence Dancing** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month – 2-3pm  
Contact: Amy Whitby [amyelwynwhitby@gmail.com](mailto:amyelwynwhitby@gmail.com)

**Thursday's**

- Evergreens** Last Thursday of the month – 2-4pm  
Contact: Sue Turner [sue.a.turner@gmail.com](mailto:sue.a.turner@gmail.com)
- Craft Group** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 1:30-4:30pm (No sessions in August)  
Contact Sue Turner 01584 831324 [sue.a.turner@gmail.com](mailto:sue.a.turner@gmail.com)
- Table Tennis** Every Thursday at 7:30pm  
Contact: Geoff Lewin [geoffnlewin@gmail.com](mailto:geoffnlewin@gmail.com)

**Orleton Village Hall is available for private bookings**  
Contact Barry Gandy 01568 780583 or [bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk](mailto:bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk)

All entries are, as far as we know, correct at the time of going to print.

# Editorial

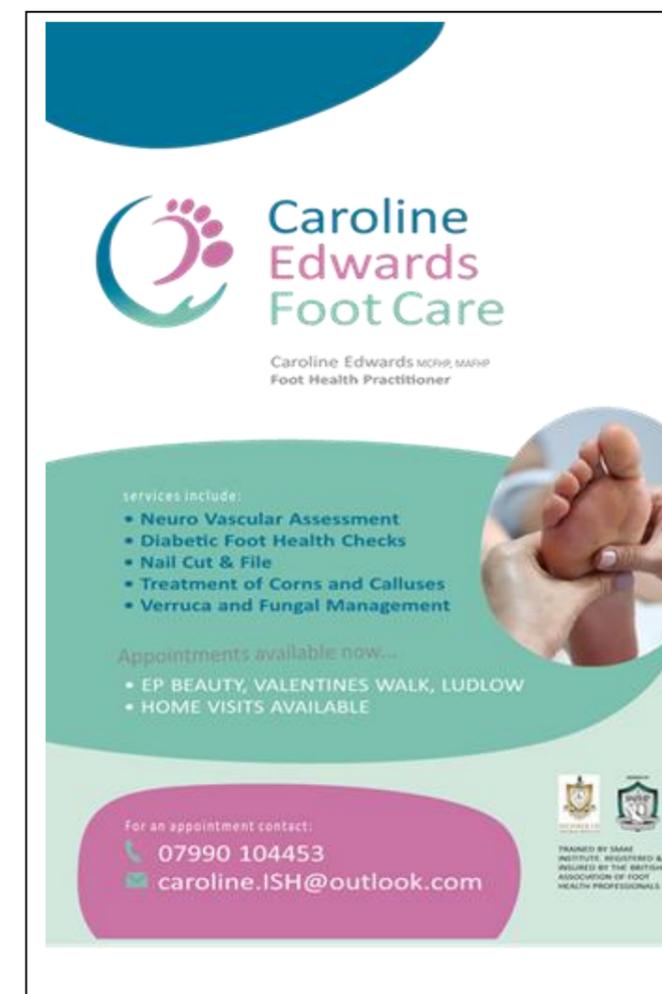
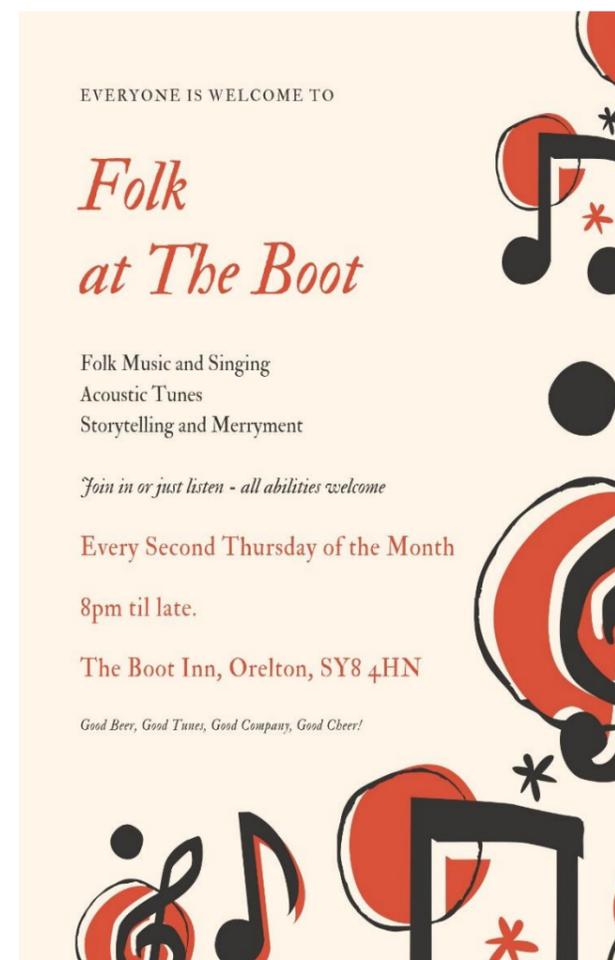
There have been a number of requests from villagers, without access to the internet, for printed copies of Orleton Village Magazine. Although we have every sympathy with these requests, the cost of paper and ink makes this unviable. Even if a charge was made to cover this, the production time would be beyond the resources of our volunteer publishing team.

It has been suggested that a printed copy of each issue could be provided to the Boot, the Maidenhead, Village Shop and Coffee Morning. Comments and suggestions are very welcome.

We will continue to publish the following:

- Reports of local activities
- Free adverts for events open to the community.
- Paid adverts from local businesses offering local services
- Free private for sale adverts

The last two categories will be limited as we do not want to swamp the magazine with advertising. Our production costs are low so only a few select adverts from local services or sale items will be accepted for publication.



# Orleton Evergreens



Our 2026 programme is well under way:

The next five months see us out and about:

**April 30th** Outing to Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power, Cheltenham: Heritage talk & lunch at The Ox Shed £40 (£42 non members)

**May 28th** Spring Lunch

**June 25th** Seaside Outing to Weston Super Mare £20 (£22 non members)

**July 30th** Outing to St Fagan's Museum of History, Cardiff £26 (£28 non members), maximum 30 people

**August 27th** Outing to Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway, Cheltenham £37 (£39 non members)

## **ALL WELCOME**

Further details:

**sue.a.turner@gmail.com** 01584 831324



## **Orleton Good Neighbour Scheme**

The Good Neighbour Scheme supports our community using a team of volunteers to help people who are experiencing difficulty in their own homes essentially, by just doing things that good neighbours do for each other.

Examples of how the scheme can help:

- Fetching prescriptions
- Occasional lifts to the surgery or hospital
- Shopping and running errands, such as posting a letter.
- Practical tasks around the home, such as changing a light bulb or hanging a picture

**Contact Number 07467 535503**

## **Coffee Morning**

**Every Wednesday – Orleton Village Hall 10.30 – 12.00\***

*Pop along, meet your friends & make new ones too. Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us, with toddlers. We have a small selection of toys for them to play with.*

*We have a good choice of freshly-baked homemade goodies including gluten & dairy free, all slices are currently only £1 each. Beverages including Fairtrade are £1 for a cuppa with a free refill.*

*\*Please note that we do not open throughout August, and we have two weeks off during the Christmas holidays.*



- Visiting Library – last Wednesday of the month
- A relaxed informal group with no membership fees
- Foodbank box for local foodbank
- We make charitable donations to local groups



*Are you a local group who would like to run a fundraising coffee morning? Please Contact our Chair Cathy Hardwick via email at [cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk)*

## **Advertising in this magazine**

**Club and association events and other activities open to local residents – FREE**

**Commercial advertisements**

**Half page £20 per year**

**Quarter page £15 per year**

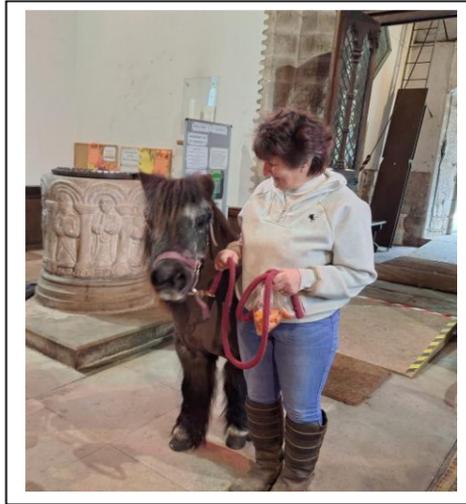
# Orleton Church & Chapel News (April 2026)

## Update

Easter is one of the most important times in the Church's year. During March, we have celebrated Mothering Sunday, and Palm Sunday (including a trip to Church by a real pony, who was absolutely immaculately behaved).

All are most welcome to join us for our Easter services and activities:

- Maundy Thursday fellowship meal, 6.30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, St George's Church. Please let Marion Forrester know if you plan to attend to assist in catering – marion.r.forrester@gmail.com
- Good Friday Family Service, 10am, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, St George's Church, based around drama
- Good Friday Reflective Service, 2pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, St George's Church
- Easter Day, 10am, 5<sup>th</sup> April, St George's: traditional Easter Service in its usual place in the church, with an informal time in the vestry; followed by an Easter egg hunt round the churchyard



Social activities to look out for in April include:

- Pizza & Games evening, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 6-8pm, St George's Church
- St George's Festival, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 2.15pm in St George's with morris dancing and the beginning of the St George's parade, and continuing at The Boot with more morris dancing, the mummer's play, giant games, and much more.

Updates on our other activities, including an update on our Family Services, the Orleton History Group, Singing for Fun, Open the Book, food bank donations, and the 100 Club winners, can be found in our full newsletter, at: <https://stgeorgesorleton.org.uk/news/news>, and click on 'Church & Chapel News'.

## April 2026 Services & Times at St George's & Chapel

All are invited to join us in the Chapel for a short time of prayer and meditation on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 4.30pm.

Date	Time	Location	Service	Readings
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> Maundy Thursday	6.30pm	St George's	Maundy Thursday Fellowship Meal	Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14 1 Corinthians 11.23-26 John 13.1-17, 31b-35
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> Good Friday	10am	St George's	Family Service, exploring the events of Good Friday through drama	Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12 Hebrews 10.16-25 or Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9
	2pm	St George's	Meditative service	John 18.1 - 19.42
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b> Easter Sunday	10am	St George's	Holy Communion in usual place in Church Informal time in the Vestry Followed by Easter egg hunt in Churchyard	Jeremiah 31.1-6 Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Chapel	Chapel Service, Rev Sheila Macinally, Holy Communion	Acts 2.14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1.3-9
	3pm	St George's	Family Service, craft-focused	John 20.19-31
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am	St George's	Common Worship Holy Communion	Acts 2.14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1.17-23 Luke 24.13-35
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	10.30am	Chapel	Chapel Service, Sharon O'Connell	Acts 2.42-47 1 Peter 2.19-25
	2.15pm	St George's	St George's Festival Celebration	John 10.1-10

## Further information

For further information about Church, Chapel, services or activities, or if you would like to get involved either socially or as a member of the congregation then please contact:

Matthew Burns (Vicar, St George's): 01568 614399, teamvicarwest@leominsterteam.org.uk

Rev Denise Hargreaves (Methodist Minister): 01584 318628, dkah26@gmail.com, Ludlow Church Office 01584 879233

Also, why not check out the St George's website: <https://stgeorgesorleton.org.uk/>

## Teme Valley Electrical Services Ltd

☎ 01568 782326 or 07989 838436    @ chris@temevalleyelectricalservices.co.uk

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[www.temevalleyelectricalservices.co.uk](http://www.temevalleyelectricalservices.co.uk)

# Orleton Art Group

**Are you artistic or do you fancy trying your hand at painting and drawing? If so come and join us. We meet Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 until 4.30pm at Yarpole Village Hall.**

**For more information please email Larry Turner, [laurencepturner@gmail.com](mailto:laurencepturner@gmail.com) or Geoff Trotter, [geoffrey.a.trotter@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.a.trotter@gmail.com) Or telephone Larry on 01584 831324**



# Orleton WI

## Spring/Summer Programme

**From April through to August we have four outings and a lunch! Non members welcome, £2 extra to cover insurance costs Please contact Sue Turner, 01584 831324, [sue.a.turner@gmail.com](mailto:sue.a.turner@gmail.com)**

**April 30th Cotswold Farm Park, heritage package & lunch £40 per head. C/D: 8th April**

**May 28th Spring Lunch at The Fountain, Oldwood, Tenbury Wells Menu choices & payment by 6th May**

**June 25th Visit to Weston Super Mare, £20 per head C/D 3rd June**

**July 30th Visit to St Fagan's Museum of History, Cardiff & Meet the Curator, £26 per head, maximum 30 C/D 8th July**

**August 27th Visit to Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway, £37 per head C/D 5th August**

## HOME CLEANING SERVICE

Standard house cleaning- mopping, hoovering, dusting, bathrooms, toilets, kitchen.  
Deep cleaning- fridge, kitchen cupboards, drawers, inside windows ....

### MY SERVICES

- House Cleaning
- Ironing
- Deep Cleaning
- Office Cleaning

### CALL NOW

Please contact me on: 07548 023840



## Your Wedding Reception at Orleton Village Hall



LOCATED BETWEEN LUDLOW AND LEOMINSTER, ORLETON VILLAGE HALL OFFERS SUPERB FACILITIES FOR YOUR WEDDING. IDEAL FOR BOTH SMALL WEDDINGS AND WEDDING PARTIES OF UP TO 130 GUESTS, WITH AMPLE CAR PARKING.



### \*\*HIGHLY PRAISED KITCHEN\*\*

OUR KITCHEN HAS BEEN HIGHLY PRAISED BY WEDDING CATERERS FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL STANDARDS, FEATURING:

- SIX BURNER GAS CATERING RANGE WITH OVEN
- FOUR RING ELECTRIC COOKER WITH OVEN
- LARGE HOT CUPBOARD
- INSTANT BOILING WATER
- FREEZER
- LARGE CAPACITY REFRIGERATOR
- MICROWAVE
- COMMERCIAL DISHWASHER
- STAINLESS STEEL PREPARATION SURFACES

### \*\*INCLUDED AMENITIES\*\*

- CHAIRS, TABLES, CROCKERY, AND CUTLERY
- SMALLER HALL FOR USE AS A BAR AREA
- A SOUND SYSTEM WITH RADIO MICROPHONES (IDEAL FOR SPEECHES AND BACKGROUND MUSIC)
- AN AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM WITH PROJECTOR AND LARGE ELECTRONIC SCREEN
- PERFORMING RIGHTS LICENCE FOR MUSIC
- A TOP-OF-THE-RANGE ELECTRONIC PIANO
- A LARGE STAGE WITH THEATRE LIGHTING FOR POST RECEPTION MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

### \*\*TO ARRANGE A VIEWING\*\*

EMAIL: [BOOKINGS@ORLETONVILLAGE.CO.UK](mailto:BOOKINGS@ORLETONVILLAGE.CO.UK)  
TEL: 01568 780583



### \*\*PLANNING A WEDDING?\*

- APPOINTMENTS FOR VIEWING WITHOUT OBLIGATION CAN BE ARRANGED TO SUIT YOUR COMMITMENTS.
- COSTS ARE VERY MODEST AND MUCH MORE REASONABLE THAN COMMERCIAL VENUES.
- YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR OWN CATERER TO USE OUR EXCEPTIONAL KITCHEN AND YOUR OWN BAR PROVIDER.

# Ludlow Concert Band

Due to the sad loss of a long-serving band member and the virus outbreak in the early part of the year, the rehearsal programme has been disrupted.

The band therefore feels that it is not yet in a position to give the quality of performance for which they are renowned.

The 7<sup>th</sup> March performance is therefore postponed.

However, they will return to Orleton later in the Year and present an evening of excellent music featuring classics, popular music and tunes from musical theatre and films

Watch for further information



## Orleton Village Shop & Post Office

	Shop	Post Office
Mon- Fri	0745-1800	0745-1800
Sat	0830-1230	0830-1230
Sun	0830-1230	Closed

Whenever possible stock is sourced from local suppliers and below is a small selection;

- Tudge's bacon and sausages and hams (from Richard's Castle)
- Locally made cheeses, cakes and bread
- Variety of wines, beer and spirits
- Sweets, newspapers, magazines and local information
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Pet food
- Cards and stationery
- Amazon and Evri collection and drop-off
- Plants
- The shop also stocks all the household basics and a good range of Fairtrade and eco-friendly products.

Post office services include;

- Personal Banking
- Foreign Currency Exchange
- Pensions and Allowances and much more

### Singing for Fun



Enjoy singing but want to just sing for fun? Why not join us at St George's 11am Friday mornings?

We sing old, well-known classics so no need to read music. All welcome, whether you want to hum, sing, or just listen.

Please just come along, or contact John Berry ([jsberry47@gmail.com](mailto:jsberry47@gmail.com), 01568 782321) or Liz Mackay ([e.e.mackay@gmail.com](mailto:e.e.mackay@gmail.com), or drop into Orleton shop)

## Grafted Apple trees

2-3 year old named dessert, cookers, cider varieties

*In pots - £20 (discount for bulk)*

*Trees in pots are easy to look after until you've decided where to plant them!*

Discovery, Ashmead's Kernel, Russets, and many more...

*Root stock: M25 vigorous; M111 & MM106 semi-vigorous*

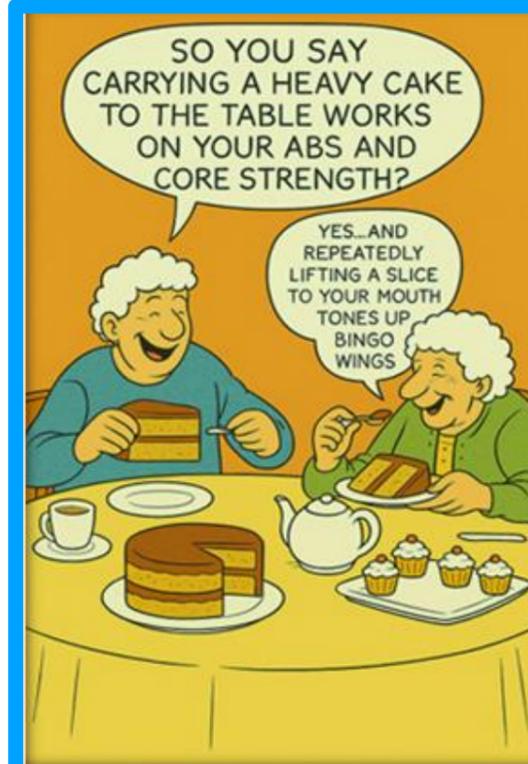
Advice on tree/orchard management also provided

Contact Chris, **07939 864732**

Waterloo Farm, SY8 4JG

[applewoodcourses@yahoo.com](mailto:applewoodcourses@yahoo.com)

**[www.applewoodcourses.com](http://www.applewoodcourses.com)**



### Orleton Coffee Morning needs you!

Orleton holds a weekly coffee morning at our village hall on a **Wednesday morning at 10.30am-12 noon.**

We offer homemade bakes, hot drinks, and a friendly informal place to meet and chat.

We would love to welcome a few more folk onto our team of helpers.

*Do you have a favourite bake you may like to share with us?*

*Enjoy meeting and greeting folk, and maybe you would like to help at a session on an occasional basis?*

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

*Please contact our Chair Cathy Hardwick via email at: [cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathy.hardwick@hotmail.co.uk)*

## Orleton Craft Group



We meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons in Orleton Village Small Hall, £4 per session.

Our Crafternoons run from 1:30 to 4:30, bring along whatever you are working on, enjoy friendship, chat, tea and cake!

## HEREFORDSHIRE WOODTURNERS

There is nothing quite like a piece of wood that's been taken from the heart of a tree, shaped, smoothed and polished into something useful for use around the house or garden or something which you just like the feel and look of.

Woodturners love wood. We cherish a natural material that may be hundreds of years old and which until you cut into it has never been seen before. No two pieces of wood are the same – everyone has its own unique grain, texture and even smell!

Herefordshire Woodturners are in our 21<sup>st</sup> year, based in Credenhill, Hereford with a membership of both men and women ranging from teenagers to

octogenarians and complete novices to professional turners. We meet on the last Thursday of every month to either watch professional demonstrations or have "hands on" events where members can try out new tools and techniques on the club's lathes. We also go to shows and fairs across the county throughout the summer to exhibit our wares and encourage people to "have a go" You don't need a lathe, just a love of working with wood to come along and enjoy our evenings. See our website [www.herefordshirewoodturners.uk](http://www.herefordshirewoodturners.uk) for more information or contact me at [secretary@herefordshirewoodturners.uk](mailto:secretary@herefordshirewoodturners.uk) Peter Dennis, Secretary of Herefordshire Woodturners



### Easter & April Family Services

**All in St George's Church:**

**Good Friday 3 April, 10am**  
(drama-focused)

**Easter Sunday, 5 April, 10am**  
(with an informal time in the vestry alongside traditional service in usual place in church; followed by Easter egg hunt in churchyard)

**Sunday 12 April, 3pm**  
(craft-focused)



## Herefordshire Woodturners

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Male/female, young or old, learn new skills and techniques, meet fellow enthusiasts and enjoy demonstrations by nationally known turners.

Why not come along to one of our meetings on the last Thursday of every month starting at 7.30pm in Hereford.

If you enjoy working with wood this could be just what you've been looking for!

[www.herefordshirewoodturners.uk](http://www.herefordshirewoodturners.uk)  
[secretary@herefordshirewoodturners.uk](mailto:secretary@herefordshirewoodturners.uk)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1199270



### Traditional Easter Services

**All in St George's Church:**

**Thursday 2 April, 6.30pm**  
**Maundy Thursday fellowship meal**  
Share a simple meal as we reflect on the Last Supper

**Good Friday 3 April, 2pm**  
Short meditative service

**Easter Sunday 5 April, 10am**  
(traditional service in usual place in Church alongside an informal time in the vestry; followed by Easter egg hunt in churchyard)



## All you want to know

### Melcourt Peat Free Compost

In February we welcomed Richard Cave, Technical and Sales manager of Melcourt Industries Ltd. This is a small company of 22 people situated on the Gloucester/Wiltshire border and was set up by the proprietors of a sawmill in Bishops Castle, Shropshire and Forest Products, Cumbria in 1983.

Garden compost forms a small part of Melcourt's range. It produces bark products for landscaping, play areas, equestrian purposes and biofiltration. Wood is taken from forest to sawmill for processing and the bark is then graded depending on its future use. The very fine particles, fines, were waste products initially. Stockpiles of fines coincided with the peat extraction debate, and it was realized that they could be mixed with composted bark to provide a renewable and consistent product, low in nutrients therefore versatile.

Coir is added to hold moisture and is carefully sourced from central India to avoid salt contamination from coastal sites. It is washed to remove the pith using monsoon water collected in a lagoon and exported in compressed bales.

In 1995 the first peat free compost was produced for landscapers and growers and the Sylvagrow range for gardeners was produced in 2013. Other ingredients include green waste, a base fertilizer, soluble lime, controlled release nitrogen and a wetting agent. Green waste is variable in quality and therefore Melcourt uses only one source, in Hampshire.

Melcourt trials its products regularly to ensure consistency and tests against a peat based mix. In order to find an alternative to coir interesting experiments have been conducted using dried sphagnum produced commercially in the UK. Peat free composts have been criticized for their lack of water retention, but Richard explained that it is a question of management, water little and often and add feed slightly earlier than required for peat based products. Usefully bags are date stamped.

Melcourt's Sylvagrow products are endorsed by the RHS, approved by the Soil Association and have received a Royal Warrant. They have received 23 Which? Best Buy' accolades since 2013. Richard's informative and interesting talk ensured that his audience are unlikely to view this product as 'just' a bag of compost.

*Ghislaine Arundale*

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Professional organic horticulturist **Nicola Hope** will present a talk entitled

### **Tales from the Potting Shed.**

She has been involved with many well known gardens including Highgrove.

At Orleton Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start. Non-members welcome at £2.50 per person which includes tea or coffee. Annual Membership £15.00

[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)



## **Tales from the potting shed**

A talk by

**Nicola Hope**

Consultant organic horticulturalist



**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
7.30pm for 8pm start**

**Orleton Village Hall**

**Non-members welcome at  
£2.50 per person**

**Complimentary tea/coffee and  
biscuits**

**Membership just £15.00 per  
year**

**Come along to the meeting or  
see**

[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)



2027 CALENDAR

The theme is

"A natural place to be"

The closing date for  
submission of your  
photos will be

3rd July 2026

Photographers,  
We will need your  
images for the  
2027 Calendar ,  
including winter  
shots , so get  
snapping now.

  
**JOIN US FOR...**  
**Orleton St George's Festival**  
 A collaborative event involving...  
 St George's Church, Orleton Recreation Ground  
 and Orleton Village Hall Committees  
**ST GEORGE'S PARADE**  
**SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2:15PM**  
**STARTING AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**  
**AND ENDING AT THE BOOT**  
 Jenny Pipes Morris Dancers  
 Raffle, Cake Stall, Children's Games  
 and St George's Play  





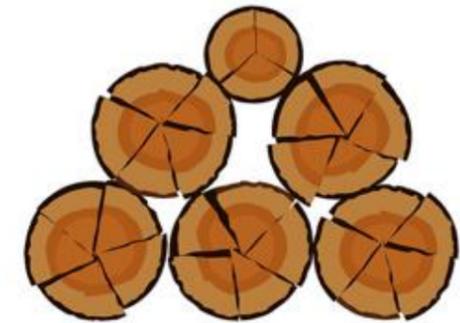

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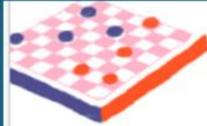
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# PIZZA AND GAMES




## FRIDAY

## 10 APRIL 6-8PM

### ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

For all those who enjoy traditional family games, card games, newer strategy games, or all three

**Do you have a talent for retelling an anecdote or a gift with words?**

Orleton Village Magazine is looking for short stories, (fact or fiction), poetry or even limericks (suitable for publication!)

Maximum length 500 words in 12 point font.

Copy to be emailed to:  
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## Orleton Parish Council appoints New Clerk

The Parish Council is delighted to welcome Stacy Perry as our new Clerk. Many residents will be aware of Stacy's longstanding commitment to the community, acting in recent years as Co-Chair to Orleton Playgroup, as a volunteer with Orleton Food CIC's Meals on Wheels and as a Parish Councillor until 2022.

Stacy currently moderates the Orleton Village Chat Facebook page and coordinates the pre-loved uniform shop for Orleton School PTA

We shall value her excellent IT and communications skills, knowledge and experience.



**TUESDAY 12TH MAY AT 8.00PM AT THE BOOT INN**

Hosted by

**Dan Hurcomb**

**TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE ENTRY £2 PLUS RAFFLE**

*Please ring ahead to book your table*

- Made things that you wish to sell?
- Grown plants that you have too many of?
- Spring cleaning or downsizing – need to dispose of things too good to throw away?
- Children's toys or games that they have out-grown?
- Sports equipment that you no longer use?
- Unwanted Christmas or birthday gifts?
- Bored with things- need to change your décor?

**All of these are good reasons to book a table at the Orleton Village Hall Table Top Sale.**

**The Sale will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June, and a table will only cost £10.**

**Based on the demand at the previous sale we regret that we must restrict each seller to a maximum of two tables.**

**Only twenty two tables will be available.**

**Further details will be published nearer the event, but a seller may reserve a table(s) now, without cost, by simply sending their name and contact details to: [bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk](mailto:bookings@orletonvillage.co.uk)**

**Goods on sale must be capable of table top display (or stored under the table). The Village Hall Management regrets that to reasons of health and safety large items that take up floor space can not be accepted.**

# Gardening for Biodiversity by Chris Evans

To say we are on the verge of ecosystem collapse is an understatement. It's already happening in areas around our villages and in our gardens. Green deserts of closely mown, sprayed lawns, beds of hybrid flowers with little nectar for wildlife back onto similar monoculture farm deserts of highly tilled, engineered and sprayed crops. Small "islands" of biodiversity are refuges, but when they're too small, a tipping point is reached and populations collapse, having effects throughout the food chain. I remember in my youth in the village of Luston, many properties had "neglected" orchards behind them, havens for wildlife, teeming with insects, birds and mammals. One by one they have been "tidied up", cleared and usually built upon. In our comfy rural settlements, the story is of declining biodiversity and wildlife populations.

But there are lots of things we can do, from small scale, easy interventions to more radical out-of-the box ideas, and bigger policies that parish, county and national councils need to take up.

1. Lots of websites tell you what you can do in "ten top tips for biodiversity", but rarely the first and most important action – **stop doing harmful things**: spraying pesticides, fungicides and herbicides; less tillage/bare soil (use mulching/min. till); less monocultures.
2. Mow long and less – not short, or often – leave islands of no/less mown
3. Provide habitat for **breeding** and **foraging** – think diversity, create microclimates: ponds (even washing up bowl-sized), rock piles, wild undisturbed areas; planks, sheets of tin on the ground; log piles, brash piles; leaf piles, compost piles, bug hotels, hedgehog hotels; bird boxes, bird baths, bird feeders.
4. Provide food sources (start at the base of the pyramid: plants with leaves, flowers & seeds) – rich soil and organic matter -> food for bacteria & fungi -> food for insects -> food for birds, mammals

5. Understand what you have (resources) – connect with nature; observe

Attracting insects involves planting wildflowers, herbs, fruit trees, and other useful species. Here are some examples:

Ground cover: clover, trefoil, yellow rattle, lawn chamomile, thyme, vetch, pansy, wild garlic, sedum, violets, crocus

Herb layer: coneflower, marjoram, oregano, hyssop, rosemary, lavender, zinnia, nasturtium (also a climber), comfrey, borage, cosmos, mints, lemon balm, ox-eye daisy, poppy, lupin, calendula, marigold, sage, mountain mint, fennel, hypericum, rose

Shrub layer: sunflower, buddleia, tansy, currants/soft fruit, nettle, Oregon grape (*Berberis*), *Cotoneasta*, foxglove, mullein, teasel

Tree layer: crab apple, serviceberry, *Eleagnus*, Buckthorn, hawthorn, Strawberry tree (*Arbutus*), elder, rowan, lime, wild cherry, birch, holly

Vines/climbers: passion flower, clematis, honeysuckle, ivy, wisteria, rambling rose

Plant borders, beds, corners, verges. Most pollinator/insect-friendly flowering plants are also going to give a WOW benefit of beautiful flowers. Don't just get hybrids bred for colour though – they often aren't good nectar sources like native wildflowers are.

It's no longer enough to think that "our" garden is OK as a haven. There needs to be extensive, wide corridors of wildlife-friendly habitat within and around cities, towns and villages. Everyone has a part to play.



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## Orleton History Group

Our upcoming talks and events are:

Sunday 26th April, starting 2.15pm at St George's Church, and ending at The Boot: St George's Festival celebrations, with St George's parade, the traditional Mummers' play, Morris dancing, games, and much more!

Saturday 30th May, 2.30pm, St George's Church, Historic Leominster: Gisela Lehmann from Leominster History Group will use photographs to take us on a virtual tour of Leominster following the route she uses as a Leominster Heritage Guide for visitors to this historic town. She will introduce some of the characters in Leominster's history as well as showing the different architectural styles of the buildings and their stories.

Saturday 27th June, 2.30pm, St George's Church, The Poor Are Always With Us - the Parish and the Relief of Poverty. James Turtle will explore this fascinating topic: For more than 300 years the people of Orleton paid an annual Poor Rate - a tax on land and houses to relieve poverty among its parishioners. What help did they get? Who ended up in the workhouse?

You can read reports on previous talks on the history group page at: [www.stgeorgesorleton.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgesorleton.org.uk) (and then click on 'Orleton History Group'). You can also find, at the same web address, the reports on the research undertaken so far into the lives of the men on the Orleton War Memorial

If you would like further information about the group, please contact Liz Mackay on [e.e.mackay@gmail.com](mailto:e.e.mackay@gmail.com), or 07484 679671.



## Report from your County Councillor Dan Hurcomb

Last month I opened this column with news of the cancellation of the works at Ashley Moor due to emergency closures and diversions in other parts of the county requiring the B4361 to remain open. I can now confirm that the works have been rescheduled to take place 13th – 24th April. The road between the Ashley Moor turn and the turn on to Kitchen Hill Road from the B4361 will be subject to a full 24hr closure. I have asked that signage is deployed at Mortimers Cross, the B4361 turn to Luston and the A49 to prevent the village becoming a “rat run” during this period but if you have any problems, please let me know as soon as possible.

The full council meeting in March was held to formalise the council tax, parish precept increases, fire service and police levies for the year ahead, which were supported by all but two councillors present. The meeting in February dealt with the revenue and capital budgets so the March meeting does not reconsider these. On a finance related note, I am delighted to report that despite the budgetary pressures, Herefordshire Council will be continuing to support parish councils via the Lengthsman Scheme, Drainage Grant and Public Right of Way Grant in the year ahead. Together these grants represent nearly £1 million of financial support which allows parish councils to deliver work on the local highway

network using local contractors and funding from Herefordshire Council. If you have any proposals for consideration, then please do let either myself or the Parish Council know.

I was delighted to see that the three vacancies on Orleton Parish Council were filled in time for the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 19th March and I hope you will join me in welcoming Cllrs Mitchell, Wetton and Tipping to the Council. Equally important was the appointment of a new clerk and Stacy Perry who many of you will know, has been appointed to the position. At the meeting we discussed the revised flood alleviation proposals and whilst the detail of these will have to wait for another addition, as consultation with landowners is still ongoing, I am excited that we may finally be on track to see meaningful delivery after all the hard work of the last few years.

As always if you have any concerns, issues or would just like to chat then please do get in touch.

Dan Hurcomb  
dan.hurcomb@herefordshire.gov.uk  
07837726821

## Orleton Charity Quiz Nights

April 14th	Maidenhead	October 13th	Boot Inn
May 12th	Boot Inn	November 16th	Village Hall
June 9th	Village Hall	December 8th	Maidenhead
Sept 8th	Maidenhead		

**All proceeds go to support local organisations in Orleton Village or recognised National Charities.**  
**Special Event: John Robbins Memorial Quiz at Orleton Village Hall on a Saturday evening. Watch for the date!**

**Teams of up to six members. 7.30 for a 8.00pm start**  
**Pre-booking of tables at:**  
**the Boot (01568 780228) and the Maidenhead (01584 831686)**

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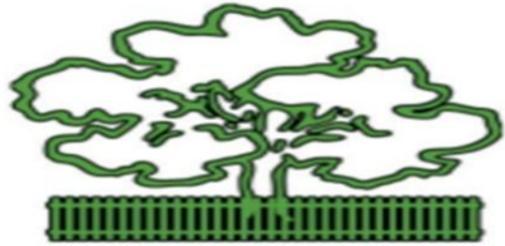
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**Why in the past ten years have:**

**Cellophane wrappers on packets of biscuits got stronger?**

**Ring pulls on beer cans got stiffer?**

**Bags of shopping got heavier?**

**Wheel nuts got tighter?**

**Feet got further away when putting on socks?**

**TV programmes become much quieter?**

**Small print on packets got even smaller?**

**Answers (in very Large Print) to the editor.**



Orleton and District Gardening Club

## Start preparing NOW for the 45th ANNUAL SHOW

on Saturday 15th August at



Orleton Village Hall



**OPEN CLASSES - Anyone can enter**

Including: HEAVIEST MARROW COMPETITION - START SOWING NOW!

Who can ferment the best cider? Challenge your friends and neighbours.

### OTHER OPEN CLASSES

Alcohol-based Cordial; Heaviest Potato; Longest Runner Bean; Most Amusing shaped Vegetable or Fruit JUST 10p PER ENTRY

Save the Date - Saturday 15th August - staging 10 - 11.30 am, viewing 1.30 - 3.30pm For more details and show rules see **SHOW SCHEDULE** at

[www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.orletongardeningclub.co.uk)



What do you think about when you shop? Do you ever stop to think about the people who have produced the foods you are placing into your basket and how far the foods may have travelled and from which countries? Items concerned include tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, sugar, bananas and some cotton goods, to name but a few of the most well-known ones.

Most of the people who produce these foods don't get a fair price and a fair deal; but by supporting foods labelled with the Fairtrade mark you will be helping in a very big way.

What difference does choosing Fairtrade make? Farmers and workers are guaranteed the Fairtrade minimum price for their produce. It means they are more likely to be able to cover their household costs like education, food and healthcare

Fairtrade is all about making sure the people who grow or make the things we buy get a fair price for what they do. Look out for the logo when you shop. Small changes can make a big difference.