

St Bees Priory Church

Rev'd Becky Gibbs, Priest in Charge

(01946 822279 or 07460 990631)

revbgibbs75@gmail.com

Retired Clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate:

The Rev'd Jim Marshall (01946 64259)

Rev'd Canon Jim Baker MBE and Rev'd Anne Baker (01946 822498)

The Rev'd David Cox

The Rev'd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE

The Rev'd Richard Lee - 07841 398088

Sunday Services (Suspended until further notice)

10.30 a.m. Live Stream service

See website for details

For weddings, baptisms, funerals and other religious occasions, please contact

01946 822279 or email enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Priory Web Site - <http://www.stbeespriory.org.uk>

Hire of Priory & Halls

The church, Old College and New College halls are all available for hire for meetings, functions, lectures, concerts and recitals, etc. Contact booking officers for details.

Booking Officers

Ian & Rosalie McAndrew - 01946 822326 or imcandrew@stbees.org.uk

Priory Secretary - enquiries@stbeespriory.org.uk

Magazine production & distribution

This magazine is free but production costs are about 50p per copy. Contributions from the Parish Council and our advertisers, to whom we are most grateful, pay much of the costs.

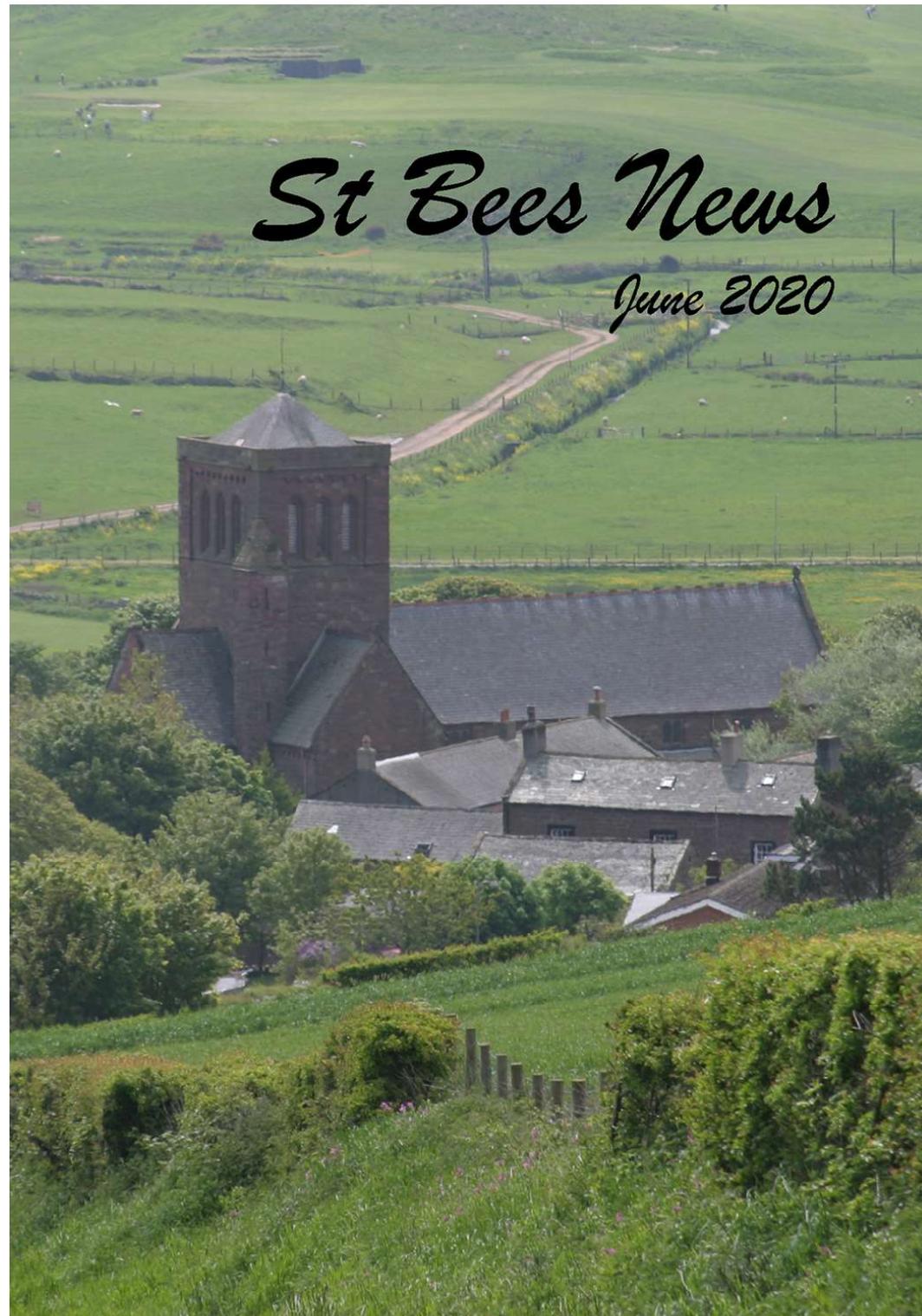
However this leaves the balance to be paid by the PCC. Donations to the Treasurer or your Magazine Distributor are most welcome.*

Circulation - 900 households in St Bees, Sandwith, Rottington, Linethwaite, Coulderton, Middletown, Nethertown.

* - Treasurer - Norman Killip, Honeybee House Seamill Lane, St Bees, CA27 0BD.

DTP & Final Editing - Ian & Rosalie McAndrew

Printed by Printpoint (01946) 64305



Please Note

We are not publishing the ABC this month as space is limited.

Also, for obvious reasons, there are no events taking place, so there is no Calendar page.

This digital edition is laid out in such a way that if you have a printer, by printing the pages in landscape format, “back on front”, flipping the pages on the short edge, it is possible to produce a printed copy.

If you are aware of local family and friends who do not have access to the internet, please consider printing a copy of the magazine for them.

Live Stream Sunday Services - Every Sunday in May at 10.30 am from the Vicarage with Rev'd Becky Gibbs.

At 10.00 am a separate video of the hymns will appear on the Priory web site - www.stbeespriory.org.uk.

News extra - We hope that the July/August issue will be printed by Printpoint. We await their confirmation.

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Editor - July/August 2020 Magazine

The **July/August 2020** issue of St Bees News will be edited by **Anthony Payne, Croeso**, **83A Main Street, St Bees**, who would appreciate all contributions not later than **Sunday 8 June** please.

Email: payne.croeso@btinternet.com Tel: 01946 822637

St Bees News

June 2020

Last November, when the church was open for visitors, the Friends of the Priory hosted a Family Film Night. About forty of us gathered together to watch “Mary Poppins Returns” on the big screen, with plentiful supplies of popcorn and cartons of juice. Knowing technology can often prove to be unreliable I spent that afternoon in the Priory setting up the audio visuals, hanging the projector screen, arranging the projector on the uneven floor, testing the sound. An hour before everyone arrived, the popcorn was popping, the lights were dimmed, the film was set up and we were good to go. Or so I thought.

At 5pm we were all settled in our pews and ready for an evening’s entertainment. Just like at the cinema, well, sort of. You see despite my best efforts and an afternoon’s preparation about five minutes in the audience noticed a problem. The opening credits appeared on the screen, backwards. As the film began, all number plates appeared reversed – what was going on? And then it dawned on me, I had forgotten to change the projector from front to rear projection. The best seat in the house was behind the screen, not in front of it.

Rather than disrupt the movie I decided to leave it. And mostly, it was fine, the movie was as watchable back to front as it was the normal way. But at the end it did get a little confusing when Big Ben’s clockface hands appeared to be travelling backwards!

Much has changed in the last six months and there sadly won’t be any movie nights in the Priory for a while. Lately, I’m more likely to be in church trying to get streaming to work rather than projector screens. The other week I had a sense of Deja vu when “Facebook live” chose to reverse the image of our Sunday morning service. Parishioners at home intuitively knew that something was “just not right” with what they were seeing, even if it was a bit more subtle than “Mary Poppins Returns” in reverse!

Since our government announced rules back in March to stop the spread of Covid-19 we’ve all been following guidance which goes against our natural inclination. Intuitively, we may have wanted to visit someone who is unwell, attend a funeral or travel to see family but we’ve resisted. We’ve done this because we know what feels right for us may not be what’s best for everybody. It sometimes felt a bit back to front but we’ve just got on with it.

I think that’s why I personally struggled with what Dominic Cummings did when he chose to interpret the guidelines in a way that benefited his immediate family. Who of us hasn’t wished to do the same? But we’ve resisted our instincts to put ourselves, even our own children, first, to keep others safe.

As we look to celebrate Trinity Sunday this month, a reminder that even God is not an individual. Let’s keep devoting ourselves to putting the welfare of the other before our own. However back to front that may feel.

With love and prayers

Reverend Becky Gibbs

Priory News

Life goes on at the Priory – but in different ways to the norm!

The amazing Mowing Squad is keeping the churchyard and grounds in good order, after permission from on high (the Diocese) to restart mowing – with necessary precautions of distancing/sanitising.

The church remains closed but parishioners are in touch with the vicar - via the livestream Sunday service on the priory website, and a recorded service of Evening Prayer, both from the vicarage.

Our faithful organist Frank Bowler reaches us with recordings of the Sunday hymns on the Willis organ, and live on his keyboard for weekly renditions of ‘You’ll never walk alone’ and WW2 songs – heard on Thursday evenings for the ‘Clap for NHS’ slot either in his garden or in the churchyard - if he can find a power source which he did thanks to kind neighbours! Many Thanks to Rev Becky for her online services and to Debbie for recording Frank’s alfresco recitals.

Christian Aid Week Follow-up – Details for giving to the global charity relieving poverty and deprivation appeared in the May Mag, but were for donations online or by phone. If you wish to donate by post it’s possible but the cheque takes longer to process, but better than nothing!

So please send your cheque to Christian Aid, 35 Lower Marsh, London. SE1 7RL.

Christian Aid reports increasing CoVid-19 cases in poorer countries lacking clean water and sanitation. Help provide hygiene kits, soap, safe water and training in pandemic protection.

Thank you for supporting the Christian Aid emergency appeal this year.

From the Priory Registers

Christian Funeral

28 April Carolyn Hall 8 The Crofts, St Bees

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Carolyn Hall whose husband sadly died two weeks previously. They remain in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Remembering Jackie Dean – Adrian Dean wishes to announce the death of his mother Jackie Dean on 17 April. She lived with her husband Ellis, Adrian and his sister on Abbeyvale, until their divorce in 2005, when she moved to Grange-over-Sands. Jackie had worked as a teacher at Harecroft Hall, and then at Sellafield. She was always happiest outdoors, walking on the fells, or on the beach, golf course, or St Bees Head. She would love to stop for a chat with many villagers and remained a frequent visitor after her move, enjoying a break at the beach Café. After a year-long illness, she died of a brain tumour – peacefully at Cartmel Grange nursing home. A private cremation was held but an event to celebrate her life is planned at a later date.

Community Volunteers Support Group

The St Bees parish support group has been operating since mid March and now numbers over three dozen volunteers. They are ready to meet the needs of those who require assistance with everyday tasks, such as shopping, prescriptions, and other practical assistance. Grouped by geographical area, they have already dealt with a small number of requests and would welcome more. My heartfelt thanks to them all: the response to my initial request six weeks ago has been phenomenal!

Should you require help please ring the most convenient contact as listed below.

Jon Mellor

Sandwith & Rottington.

Tracey West: info@sandwithvillagegroup.co.uk 01946 823112 / 07739806445

Facebook page: @sandwithvillagegroup

Linethwaite, High & Low Walton, High House Road, Finkle Street, The Crofts.

Julie Cox 0774 3267527 jools232@me.com

Grant Gilmour 0771 0030524 grantgilmour@yahoo.com

Donna McMullen. 0785 4575230. donnamcmullen11@btinternet.com

Stephen & Carole Woodman 01946 822375 or 0784 2174871

sandcwoodman@outlook.com

Abbey Vale, Abbey Road, Monks Hill, Holly Mews, Abbey Farm, Scalebarrow and Richmond Crescent to Flatt Houses, Beach Road.

Hilary & Steve Hemm 0773 1385152 hilaryh51@btinternet.com

Richard Lee 0784 1398088 & Deb Lee 01946 823470 lee535877@aol.com

Beach Estate, Seacote Gardens, Peckmill, Station Road & Rowan Terrace.

Demi McDowell 0784 0301712 DMcDowell14@aol.com

Alice Hinsley 0779 2187815 a.r.hinsley@gmail.com

Zoe Crossan 07751331202zjhay@hotmail.com

Lower Main Street (North of Village school lane to Station), Seacroft Drive, Outrigg close and further up.

Mark Smedley 0795 8455926marksmedleym@hotmail.co.uk

Stuart Burgess & Yvonne Leech. 01946 824712leech.burgess@btinternet.com

Mid Main Street (School lane to Outrigg and Outrigg terrace.).

Simon & Rachel Walker 0777 2211656 rachelwalker825@gmail.com

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Christian Funeral

18 May Freda White 14 Finkle Street, St Bees

Deepest Sympathy is offered to the family and friends of the late Freda White who died peacefully in the Cumberland Infirmary on 7 May after a short illness. Freda had lived in the village for many years and was well-known to friends and neighbours. Thinking of her daughter Sandra Cura from Teignmouth, Devon, who was most grateful for Rev Becky's support. A private funeral was held at Distington Crematorium.

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Letter from Michelle Proctor

I recently had the opportunity to travel, with my friend and colleague Buumba, to the town of Zambezi, a 6 hour, 400km drive away. Amazingly (if you are from the UK) this is not only still in the same country but still in the same province, North Western! By the time you reach Zambezi the local language has changed a couple of times and as neither Buumba nor I speak Luvale communication was at times fun. As the name suggested Zambezi is on the banks of the river Zambezi which at this time of year overflows to fill the floodplains with water. The result is beautiful with houses that are normally on the banks of the river now on small islands and tree tops poking out of the water. It is particularly spectacular at sunset.



The main purpose of our trip was to visit two hospitals with a view to returning with one of our visiting surgeons to help them out with some surgery. Both hospitals were excited at the proposed visits but sadly due to coronavirus this is now on hold. Sometimes supplies are short at Mukinge but visiting other places reminded me how much we have in the way of supplies, equipment that works, and help from visiting doctors. Seeing dedicated medical and nursing staff struggling with so



little in the way of resources was heart breaking.

The second purpose of our trip was to visit and check up on some of our own nursing students who are on placements in hospitals in this area. It was lovely to see them and hear how well they are doing. A highlight for me was also bumping in to some of our graduates from a while back who are now working as nurse tutors.

Many of you have asked about coronavirus in Zambia. As I write this there are 28 cases in Zambia. All schools, universities and colleges, including our own nursing college have been closed. Churches had been asked to limit their services to just one hour, quite a challenge when services often run to three hours,



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Parish Council News

Meetings – The Parish Council is preparing to hold its first virtual meeting on Monday 15 June. This will be another significant ‘first’ in its 125 year history! It will pose some challenges with 14 parish councillors, the Clerk and two ward councillors taking part but it will enable us to approve the annual governance statement and annual accounts and transact any other business which can’t be done under delegated powers. Members of the public will be able to join the meeting and details will be published on the web-site together with the agenda for the meeting. In the meantime the Parish Council will carry on essential business using the delegated powers granted to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

West Cumbria Mining– West Cumbria Mining has submitted some amendments to its original planning application which was approved by CCC some months ago. Full details are on the County Council web-site (cumbria.gov.uk & search for planning application ref 4/17/9007) and the deadline for comments is 15 June. West Cumbria Mining’s web-site also has full details of the amended documents (westcumbriamining.com)

New Lease for the Village Hall – The Pagan Trust which owns the Village Hall has granted a new 50 year lease to the Village Hall Committee. As the Village Hall Committee is not an incorporated body the Parish Council has agreed to act as Custodian Trustee but the day to day management of the Hall remains the responsibility of the Committee. The new lease will secure the future of the hall for the coming years and enable the Committee to apply for grant funding for projects. Despite the current restrictions we managed to get the legal documents signed by all parties and appropriately witnessed without breaching social distancing rules!

Bin collections – Refuse collections are continuing and brown bin collections have resumed but on a revised timetable (see copeland.gov.uk). CBC is continuing to request that bins and recycling boxes should only be put out if full. If it can wait until the next collection, it will reduce the workload for staff who are having to adapt to new safe working practices.

..... **and finally**, the Parish Council would like thank everyone who is continuing to help friends and neighbours during this difficult time. The easing of restrictions is going to be gradual and it is likely to be some time before we can all socialise freely again. The Parish Council will continue to provide as much information as possible via the web-site, Facebook page and noticeboards. If you have any questions, the Clerk (pc_clerk@stbees.org.uk tel 822560), the Chairman (Doug Sim tel 824898) and Vice Chairman (Grant Gilmour tel 822677) are available to help.



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but as of today they are cancelled too. Hand washing facilities in the form of buckets have become the norm everywhere you go.

As a hospital we are preparing for the worst-case scenario and praying for the best. Honestly it is daunting to see how countries with advanced health care facilities are struggling to cope and think about how we will manage if it becomes wide spread in Zambia. We have no ventilators for severe cases, our supply of masks is nowhere near enough (Several of our non-medical team mates have offered to make masks for us to meet the shortfall) We have made changes including cancelling visiting hours and cutting back on elective surgery. A tent has appeared in front of the hospital to triage patients before they even enter and a large banner tells you to



“Protect yourself from Coronavirus. Wash your hands with soap”

Of course while we prepare and screen for potential coronavirus cases there is still all our usual work to do: Pregnant women still need to deliver and some need caesarean sections; children with malaria, sickle cell disease, pneumonia or diarrheal diseases still fill my ward; accidents still happen and there are wounds to be sutured and broken bones to be made straight again.

Michelle Proctor, Missionary Nurse Mukinge Hospital, Zambia

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As Once We Were: Main Street

Can anyone advise me over this picture? The building in the left foreground carries several advertisements, and in the original photograph the single word “PERAMBULATORY” can be seen. But perambulatory what? Nothing else is readable. Could we be in the early days of the “pram” trade? If so it seems an odd place to promote it, but if not prams, what else could it be?

Village blacksmith Joe Nixon had the property when this photograph was taken – he who was “handy for making fenders, fire irons, shovels and coal-scuttles”.

The date must be pre-1900, for in that year he moved his smithy to Cross Hill, making way for what would be only the second Co-operative Store in



West Cumberland. The Co-op smartened the building, mounted three of their “beehive” emblems on the gable end, and opened for business with a free basket of groceries worth 2/6d. for each customer. They did a roaring trade - in that first week, at least.

Incidentally, only one “beehive” remains on the building now. Does anyone know what happened to the others? Garden ornaments somewhere, perhaps.

Something else in the photograph is worth mentioning. Halfway down the hill, behind the horse and wagon, is what was the village barber’s shop. But only in the afternoons and evenings, for Herbert Hopkin Rees worked at the Public School in the mornings, where amongst other jobs he cleaned the Foundation boys’ shoes. Whether he cut their hair as well I don’t know, but in his own shop he charged 3d. for a haircut, or 6d. for haircut and shave. Sadly Herbert Rees would not survive the War, dying at Arras in 1918. “Known to everybody”, the papers said, “and everybody’s friend”.

The road surface in this picture looks good, but it has not yet been paved. Holes and ruts were filled with household ashes, and a farmer was paid to “water the roads” when the dust needed laying. The rate was one shilling an hour, horse and man.

This is one of the oldest village photographs we have. No-one here when it was taken can be around now. But at first glance at least, little else has changed – our Main Street and theirs look very much the same.

Bob Jopling Village History Group

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Grassroots

Best Wishes to Guy Mawson, formerly of Outriggs, St Bees and for several years in sheltered housing at Penrith, on his move to the Good Companions Silloth Care Home, Criffel Street, Silloth, Wigton. CA7 4BT. We do hope he will settle in to his new home comfortably.

Warm Wishes also to Elizabeth Cotes who is staying with her daughter Katy Heap and her family in Cockermouth for the time being at 34 St Helens Street, Cockermouth CA13 9HX

St Bees Community Radio is now available on Alexa if you say “Alexa play Saint Bees community radio”. You should say this clearly as she often doesn’t recognise the word saint!

New Novel by Katie Swartz – Her new book ‘Into the Darkest Day’ by Kate Hewitt (her pseudonym) has been released, on Kindle at Amazon, and is her first WW2 historical novel, about a little-known operation during the war. Amazing how Katie achieves so much – this year the family is coping with floods in Monmouth, all five children home schooling and a dismal WiFi connection! Thinking of you.

Congratulations to Jack & Claire Hale of Abbey House on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary in May. Sending warmest wishes for good health and happiness – especially when you can eventually celebrate!

St Bees Post Office & Convenience Store – The grocery shop is open 7 days a week 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. and customers are welcome to order by phone, or just ask for goods they would like to see in stock. Free deliveries – pay by card if possible, more than £5. For those home-bakers we now have a variety of flours, yeast, caster sugar, baking margarine, etc. Also your favourite Cartmel Sticky Toffee Pudding or Apple Crumble! Please order the previous day to help us. Phone 01946 822343.

Annie Southam sends her many thanks for the all he good wishes, gifts, Get Well cards, Christmas and Birthday cards and ‘phone calls she has received, and to all who visited her during her stay in hospital.

Belated but nevertheless warm welcome to Louise and Daniel and their children Willow and Bhodri residing at Willowhayne, Abbey Road.

Post office raffle raises £250 for St Bees RNLI - Over the last few weeks St Bees Post Office have been selling raffle tickets to raise money for St Bees RNLI and the NHS. On Tuesday one the RNLI volunteers drew out the two winning tickets and received a cheque for £250.00 for St Bees RNLI. The volunteers at St Bees RNLI would like to thank everyone at St Bees Post Office and all their customer’s for their support.

WI News

75 Year Anniversary of VE Day. This was an opportunity to reflect on WW2 and remember the sacrifices made by the servicemen and women for the freedoms we enjoy today. It was lovely to see homes decorated with Union Jack flags, and bunting. All the neighbours on Abbey Vale enjoyed the lovely warm weather on their own front gardens/driveways. There were a few BBQ’s, and picnics, Anna Beddowes kindly offered Prosecco for the adults and ice cream for the children and Helen Taylor showed us all how to Morris Dance with a member of your own household, and Social Distancing being observed, what a great afternoon, also, a chance to have a chat and a catch up with everyone, albeit 2 metres apart, thank you to Amanda Smith for organising the event.

I do hope you are all continuing to stay at home and stay safe, the good weather has certainly helped. The landscape around St Bees is breath-taking, we are so lucky to live in such a beautiful place, where we can enjoy a local walk along a footpath, on the beach, Priors Grounds, etc, with current restrictions on movement we are unlikely to bump into anyone, so it makes you feel as safe as you can be under the circumstances. No one enjoys self distancing least of all me, being a social person, however, it is in place for a reason to keep us all safe and well, so continue to follow Government guidelines.

A reminder that our WI June and July meetings have been cancelled. No meeting in August. However, we do intend to go ahead with our 14th September meeting an evening of poetry and verse, if deemed safe to do so, this is almost 4 months away, so a decision will be taken nearer the time. In the meantime stay safe everyone. Further details/updates www.facebook.com/St-Bees-WI.

Roxanne Benson



Where is this?

Recollections of VE Day 1945

As village celebrations for VE Day 2020 were sadly cancelled due to Covid-19; some magazine readers have given their own recollections of VE Day 1945.

Sally Kennedy recalls - My memories of the VE Day celebrations are not of street parties, or knees ups. Those were more evident when VJ Day was celebrated in August - the real ending of the war. My lasting memory of VE Day 1945 is of holding the hammer when my dad's homemade flags were fastened up around our front door. He was in cockney lingo 'a fiddler and conjurer'. In other words 'an entrepreneur'. He had managed to buy (or procure from somewhere) a number of large paper union jacks. He then proceeded to cut the flag in half, fold it down the middle and paste it. Sticks were shoved down the crease and voila - you had a flag. A number of these were fastened round the door frame. Where he could, the surplus was flogged for pennies and he recouped his investment. However, our neighbours were a bit bemused by these until they took a closer look! It caused quite a lot of amusement and I can remember being somewhat embarrassed that our decorations were different! But in wartime a quarter of a flag was better than no flag at all.

Leonie Hill remembers - During the war we lived with my grandparents in semi-rural Kent. Not far from the house was a small military camp used for training purposes. Frequently we were visited by two or three off duty servicemen. I suspect the draw was my mother's 20 year old sister who was not only a stunning blonde but also very personable, rather than the two little girls. On VE Day the house and garden seemed overflowing with excited people, full of laughter and no doubt eating one of Granny's cakes. (She was able to bake using the most modest of ingredients plus fresh air.). The American servicemen showered my sister and I with sweets which were such a luxury. I was also given Victory Ted, a teddy bear, some 18 inches tall, whose head is the usual furry one but his body is made of a maroon fabric covered in Vs and the flags of UK and USA. He is still well loved and although somewhat grubby he took pride of place in my front window on the 75th anniversary of VE Day.



Maureen Barratt's memories - It was a lovely day and I was 7 years old. I went out to play and a child called out to me "Maureen the war is over!" I was old enough to know what it would mean to my parents and I ran home as fast as I could to tell my mother. She was sitting down in the kitchen and I shouted "the war is over!" "Yes" she said "I know." Recalling the way that we celebrated I think it must have been several days later that we held street parties. Everyone made bunting which was strung from house to house. It was made from any scraps of red white and blue material. Some people tried dying white material with ink - a disaster when it rained! "Union Jacks" were displayed. My family is Welsh so my father used household paint to paint a Welsh Dragon on a piece white of flour bag.

For the street parties everyone donated something. In the evening after the tea party a large bonfire was lit in the middle of the road, a neighbour rigged up a gramophone and everyone danced to the music.

The fire burned into the night and on the following morning we viewed a circle of damaged tarmac which remained there for years - many roads sported the same.

Anne Mackenzie - My memories of VE Day are ones of frustration! We lived in a ground floor flat in Rutherglen. My father had a rather nice radiogram which he placed in the window to provide the music. Unfortunately, it was in the room in which my sister and I slept, and we were not allowed to join the party. I had just had my 8th birthday on 7th May and my sister was three and a half, so maybe a bit young, but I still remember the annoyance of missing out on the fun and laughter. So near - and yet so far!

Philip Barratt - I was nine years and fifty weeks old. The occasion was marked by a street party. Buntings had been hung and a large bonfire had been built in the road. Tables had been erected and our household provided two benches. Food was collected and tea provided in a motley collection of teapots.

I can recall nothing of the food because all through the war I can never recall being hungry. The bonfire was a great success. Before it was lit, a cat had to be removed from its interior. We all enjoyed the blaze and on the following and subsequent days the event could be remembered by the damage that has been done to the tarmac of the surface of the road. This damage persisted for some years.

Sometime after VE day, but connected with it, I was scarred for life when I was taken to a celebratory concert in a local church hall. Somehow, I can't remember how, I ended up on the stage as a magician's stooge. Child abuse was as prevalent then as it is today.

Bob Jopling - Isn't it odd? I remember Chamberlain's speech vividly, and Dunkirk and El Alamein and Arnhem and D-Day, and on VJ Day being on a landing-craft exercise on Loch Fyne - but have no recollection at all of VE Day. I just cannot think why.

If you're be looking for local memories - The Village School closed for what the Head (William Cook) recorded in his log as "Two Days Special Holiday".

Claire Summers - I was not yet around but my mother told me she had 2 days off from college where she was studying to be a PE teacher and she would have been in Kent at Nonnington but was evacuated to Bromsgrove so hitched a lift back to Solihull to be with her family. My father was in the army and stationed in France near where the armistice was signed in a school so he walked over that evening to see it for himself together with some of his mates - doubting Thomas or what?? We found the farm where he was stationed much later, I think the year I qualified, and had an interesting conversation in broken French with the farmer's wife!

Anne Hope - I was 4 years old at the time and don't remember anything of VE day. I do remember walking down Main Street in a parade at some point.