



Marden News & Views



June 2026



JUNE DIARY

Date	Event	Place	Time
2nd	Mothers Union	Nash Hill	2:30pm
2nd	Marden Wildlife Trust	Community Centre	7:00pm
6th	Repair Cafe	Marden Hub	10:00am-1:00pm
10th	Marden Gardeners	Garden Visit	2:00pm
11th	WI	Bodenham Hall	2:00pm
13th	Yardbirds	Marden Church	10:00am-1:00pm
16th	Parish Council Meeting	Community Centre	7:30pm
24th	Marden Arts and Crafts	Bodenham Hall	2:00pm
<i>Advanced Notice July 2026</i>			
4th	Repair Café	Marden Hub	10:00am-1:00pm

Parish Contacts

COUNTY COUNCILLOR		ASSOCIATIONS	
Peter Bryce Hamblin, Tel: 07792 880222 peter.hamblin@herefordshire.gov.uk		Afternoon Whist: Leader - Lesley Day	CLOSED
PARISH COUNCIL		Amberley Crafters: Sue Price	01432 882231
Parish Councillors		Art & Crafts: Wendy Steadman	01432 880203
Chairman: David Bennett 07702 582584 david.bennett@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk		Brownies: Katy Brandwood	07527 689718
Vice Chairman: Kate Ryan 07980 310696 kate.ryan@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk		Rainbows: Laura Marsh	07966 960708
Paula Barrett 07985 576230 paulabarrett942@hotmail.com		Guides: Alison Thomas	01432 880094
Mike Blake 07753 197718 mblake777@hotmail.com		Gardeners: Angela Sasso	01432 882102
Lesley Hayward 01432 801505 lesley.hayward@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk		History Society: Lin McCoy	01432 880413
Rod Lees 01432 880679 rodlees1234@btinternet.com		Morse Bags: Wendy Steadman	01432 880203
Chris Morgan 01432 880449 chris@morgan-shack.co.uk		Marden Band of Ringers: Ian Thornewell mardenbells@outlook.com	
Richard Paske 07753 398435 richard.paske@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk		Mothers Union: Penny Godfrey	01432 882101
		Pilates: Emma Caldwell	07971009691
		Playing Fields Booking: Steve Miles	01432 880976
		Pre-School: Paula Barrett	01432 880034
SAND BAGS: Andy Owens	07792 827184	Volunteers' List: Kate Ryan	01432 880369
Parish Clerk: Richard James Tel: 01432 683787 parish.clerk@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk		Womens' Institute: Moira Thomas	01432 880143
Footpaths Officer: TBA		Wildlife Trust Marden: Jess Tidball	01568 797227
Tree Warden: Andrew Matthews	07973 837564	SPORTING ORGANISATIONS	
COMMUNITY HALL		Badminton Club: TBA	
Booking Clerk: Mrs Chris Wathen	01432 311565	Riding Club: Hollie Cartwright	07707 075285
		Shortmat Bowls: Carol Rawlings	01432 880056
		Tennis Club: David Bennett	07702 582584
NEWS AND VIEWS		TRAVEL INFORMATION	
Doug Cross		Bus information: Call Traveline 7 day/week, 7:00am – 8:00pm	
Hilary Lees	01432 880679	Lugg Valley Travel (local buses)	08712 002233
			01568 612759
CHURCHES		INNS	
St Mary's Parish Church		Amberley Arms: CLOSED	
Churchwarden: Jessica Tidball	01568 797227	Volunteer Inn: CLOSED	
J Tidball—Mobile	07983120580		
Churchwarden: Janet Hewlett	01432 880061	MARDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL	
Church Library: Sandra Watkins	01432 880258	Head Teacher: Elizabeth Orton	
Amberley Chapel			
		Police Safer Neighbourhood Team	
Hon. Churchwarden: Jo Erskine	01432 880821		101
		Crime Stoppers	0800 555111
Marden Chapel		S&A Produce	
Jill Brooks	01432 880583		01432 880235
For changes and additions, please contact Doug Cross—Email: mardennewsandviews@hotmail.co.uk			

News & Views Monthly Picture Competition

The picture on the front page shows colourful trees in Queenswood.

How to Contact News & Views

EDITORS:



Doug Cross: Email: mardennewsandviews@hotmail.co.uk

Hilary Lees: Rosemary Cottage, Marden, Herefordshire, HR1 3DX. 01432 880679.

Although, emailed contributions are preferred, hand written contributions are also accepted. Please address hand written contributions to 'The Editors' and deliver to Rosemary Cottage, Marden, Herefordshire, HR1 3DX

All articles must be submitted to the Editors no later than the 15th of each month to appear in the next edition of the Newsletter, **(that's the deadline, but there is absolutely nothing wrong with being early)**. Articles should be relevant to the parish. Subject to space being available, the Editors will always do their best to try and include all submitted articles.

TO ADVERTISE IN NEWS & VIEWS — contact the Editors.





FREE EVERY Thursday with Ruby & Rose

National Year of Reading

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FREE Parking & Dog Friendly

From 10:00am to 12 Noon @MissRubyHeart1



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Marden Arts and Crafts

At our meeting in June we shall be painting on tiles with Rachel Fenton as our guide. Please bring some form of protective clothing to help to keep your clothes clean. All materials needed will be provided. If you have not been to a MACS meeting before you are very welcome to come along and see what we do. We look forward to seeing members and visitors alike on Wednesday 24th June at 2.00pm in Bodenham Parish Hall.

Wendy Steadman

Marden Gardeners Club

In May, the Marden Gardener's welcomed Mike King of Shropshire Sarracenias as a speaker. Mike told us a his highly entertaining story of the exponential growth of his greenhouses, as his passion for carnivorous plants developed over the years. I think everyone came away with an appreciation for these amazing plants – and many of us came away with one or two to take home.

In June, the Marden Gardeners will visit an NGS Garden near Malvern, details are as follows:

Date: Wednesday 10th June, arrival 5-10 minutes before 2pm

Address: Rhydd Gardens, Hanley Castle, Worcester, Worcestershire WR8 0RB

Cost: £12pp includes tea, cake, scones. Money to be paid in cash to Angela upon arrival, so we can pay in all at once.

Jan Cross has started a list of those planning on going, who is driving, and those who will need a lift. We will finalise this list as the date gets closer. Final numbers will need to be given to the Garden a week before our visit. So if you have not yet signed up, please contact June Poole 07990 970539 by the 3rd June.

"Now summer is in flower, and nature's hum is never silent round her sultry bloom."

– John Clare

Angela Sasso

Bodenham Bowling Club

We continue with our programme of friendly games both at home and away and our Monday evening roll-ups on our green at the Siward James Centre.

We always need new members to replace those who move away or for some reason are unable to continue to play, so if you are interested, come along on Monday evenings at 5pm to have a go and find out more about our sport.

Jean Fryer (Secretary) 01568 797338

Mothers' Union

See page 13

Girlguiding News

Marden Guides have just returned from camp at Blackwell Adventure near Bromsgrove.

We had a fun packed weekend with pitching tents, cooking on fires, kayaking, zip wire, giant 3G swing, following a blindfold obstacle course, pioneering – making a giant catapult, and finishing up by cleaning the billy cans until they shone. We were even quite lucky with the weather!

We had 3 older brownies join us for the final night of camp and Sutton Rainbows even got into the camping spirit by cooking smores at their next meeting!

Sutton Rainbows and Marden Brownies are looking for some new members to join them!

Rainbows welcomes all girls from 4 to 7 years old to laugh, learn and have fun in a creative safe space.

Brownies welcomes all girls from 7 to 10 years old for nonstop fun, learning and adventure.

If your daughter would like to join us you can register your interest on the Girlguiding website <https://girlguiding.org.uk> - just click on 'Register a child' and fill in your contact details.

Or contact our local groups directly for more information:

For Rainbows (Age 4-7) please contact Laura at Suttonrainbow@gmail.com

For Brownies (Age 7-10) please contact Katy at mardenbrownies1@outlook.com

For Guides (10 – 14) please contact Alison at mardenguides@outlook.com

Volunteering with Girlguiding is very rewarding and great fun. If you would like to join us please contact mardenguides@outlook.com or register on the Girlguiding website, and we can find the best role for you.

Alison Thomas – Guide Leader

Marden WI

Rob Sidwell will be our speaker at the June meeting when he will be teaching us some of the basic moves of Tai Chi. It is low-impact exercise which involves slow, gentle movements, deep breathing and focused attention and is designed to improve physical balance, strength and mental calm. So come along and join us on Thursday 11th June at 2.00pm in Bodenham Parish Hall and have a go. Visitors are always welcome to come to our meetings

Moira Thomas

Marden History Society

The History Society is currently not meeting. However, Lin McCoy can still be contacted for any enquiries regarding Marden Parish history.

Lin McCoy

News from your Parish Church

St Mary the Virgin, Marden & the Amberley Chapel

Rector: Rev Paul Roberts (01568 797863) email: maundchurches@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Jess Tidball (01568 797227); jessicatidball70@outlook.com & Janet Hewlett on 01432 880061.

Amberley Hon. Churchwardens: Jo Erskine (01432 880821) & Viv Gumble (07842272928)



SERVICES

Church Sunday Services in June:

Sunday 7th **Songs of Praise** 3pm Sides person: Sally. Readers: Penny & Jess. Readings: tbc . Refreshments: Penny & John

Sunday 14th 11.15am. **Holy Communion**. Sides person Jean. Readers: Janet & Rhoda. Readings: Exodus 19.2–8a; Romans 5.1–8; Matthew 9.35 – 10.8 (9–2)

Sunday 21st 11.15am. **Holy Communion**. Sides: person Dave. Readers: Jess & Dave. Readings: Jeremiah 20.7–13: Romans 6.1b–11; Matthew 10.24–3

Sunday 28th 9.30am. Holy Communion at Amberley Readings: Jeremiah 28.5 –9; Romans 6.12–end Matthew 10.40–end

Please note sometimes services and times are changed at the last minute due to a change of circumstances, so please check the church notice boards or phone the Churchwarden.

Rector writes:

Dear Friends,

It was good to see so many of you at our consultation day in April, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing even more folk coming to our Celebration Events on 6th June – more information in our Churchwardens' news below.

It seems rather fitting that I am writing this in the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost. It's a time that speaks deeply about change, uncertainty, trust, and promise. The disciples watched Jesus depart from them, unsure what would come next, yet holding onto his promise that they would not be abandoned, and that God still had good things in store for them.

By the time you read this, many of you may already have heard that I shall soon be moving on from the Maund Benefice and concluding my ministry here as your parish priest. I have been appointed to the West Hereford Team Ministry, with particular oversight of All Saints Church in the centre of Hereford. This post will begin in September. My last services in Marden will be at 11.15am on 19th July, at Amberley on the following Sunday at 9.30am, and the final service in the benefice will be at Bodenham on Sunday 23rd August at 10.30am. I hope there will be opportunities over the coming weeks and months to say thank you properly and to share memories together.

Rector Writes continued on—page 7; Church Warden's News page 8

Yardbirds

Saturday 13th June 10am – 1pm. New Volunteers are very welcome.

Contact Dave T: 07980 653118 or Dave L on 07931 427140

Rector writes continued from page 6

It is difficult to put into words quite what a blessing it has been to serve the parish of Marden and Amberley. Priestly ministry is never simply about services and meetings; it is about relationships, shared stories, and walking together through the seasons of life – which sometimes has involved wellington boots through floodwater! I have been richly blessed in the friendships formed here and in the generosity, kindness, humour, and faithfulness that I have encountered.

I want to say how profoundly grateful I am for the support that I have received from so many people over the years, particularly during the difficult and uncertain days of the COVID pandemic. The care shown for one another, the willingness to adapt, and the quiet acts of kindness and perseverance revealed something deeply hopeful about this community and our churches.

While it is always difficult to single out individuals when so many have contributed so much, I do want especially to thank the wardens who have supported me over my time here: David Evans, Jess Tidball, Jo Erskine, Viv Gumble, Chris Burles and the late Henry Netherway. Their hard work, faithfulness, wisdom, and practical support have sustained the life of our churches in countless seen and unseen ways, and I have valued their friendship and partnership in ministry enormously.

And I want to reassure you that the churches in Marden and Amberley remain here for the whole community. They are places of prayer, welcome, celebration, remembrance, comfort, and hope — open not just for regular worshippers, but for everyone, in every season of life.

As with any change, there will naturally be uncertainty ahead. Yet Ascension reminds us that the Church's future rests not finally in one priest or one person, but in the faithfulness of God. The same God who sustained the disciples in that in-between time between Ascension and Pentecost continues to guide and renew his people today. The Church has always lived by prayerful and expectant trust that God is at work, even when the path ahead is not fully clear.

My prayer for Marden is that this will continue to be a community marked by warmth, generosity, faith, and hope, and that in the years ahead you will continue to discover anew the presence and blessing of God among you.

With every blessing,

Paul

Marden Church 200 Club

The May draw was held at the Repair Cafe and the winners are :

Place	Prize	Ticket No.	Winner
1st	£20	299	Mike Steadman
2nd	£15	211	Caroline Wright
3rd	£12	190	Laura Banham
4th	£12	30	Brian Hurrell

Churchwarden's News 2026

In April the PCC put on a consultation day where the parish could come and look at, discuss and give ideas about the proposed STEPS project . Also to view ideas to re-order the church and to make it more of a usable space for the community while retaining its history and spiritual status but taking the building into the 21st century and beyond. Also to make it as flood resilient as possible. Many parishioners came and added useful information for the PCC. The PCC wishes to thank them for their important input.

On June the 6th between 3-6pm supporters of Marden Church have been invited to come and celebrate the 800th Birthday of the church. The event will include stories from a former churchwarden, and short enactments from the school and guides. A beautiful new banner made by our crafters will be unveiled, and we will be entertained by a local hand bell group. The Celtic bell, found near the church in 1847, will be on display from Hereford museum. We will share light refreshments and a birthday cake and many of the helping hands will be available to ask about the Church voluntary roles as well as launching our new STEPS project. We pray the weather will be kind and that everyone will have a great time.

An extension to the cremated remains area has been created and the voluntary Yardbirds team are doing their best to keep on top of the tidying up of the church surrounds. Anyone interested in the church grounds are very welcome to come and help out on the monthly tasks that are needed to keep on top of the work. The sponsored Rogation Walk with 9 participants took place on the first May bank holiday and 14.9 miles was completed by the core of the team. Thank you to all the sponsors, the refreshment providers and to the team for such a great effort.

Jess T

Helping Hands in June:

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: The Baptism of Romi Reign Mills took place on Sunday 26th April and she was welcomed into the church. An interment of ashes of the late Raymond Edmonds took place on Saturday 25th April. The burial of Brian Skinner took place on Tuesday 28th April. May Brian and Raymond, Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Cleaning: Penny & John.

Flowers: Cheryl .

Events: Saturday 6th June 3pm 800th Birthday Celebration **by invitation only.** 3-6pm .

Marden Church Library

Why not cuddle up with a good read. We have a good range of fiction & non-fiction books to suit everyone. You can borrow or buy. Or you can tackle one of our jigsaws.

We are open when the church opens at 10am subject to a church service.

All are welcome.

Sandra Watkins

Marden Links—Last month's Hub tabletop sale raised an impressive £450—and counting. The beautiful weather helped make it a busy and enjoyable day for everyone. We are now planning several events for the New Parish Hall, including the **Grand Opening on 30th August**.

During lunchtime and the early afternoon, there will be a family-focused event with food, drinks, and activities for children and families. In the evening, there will be a licensed bar, street food vans, and live music. We hope the whole parish will come to see the new hall, take a tour, and meet fellow parishioners in this welcoming new social hub. There will be more details to follow in future editions.

☛ **Save the date: Sunday 30th August.** Other events planned are the ever-popular **Race Night on 19th September**

Repair Café—Join us for our regular Repair Café on **Saturday, 6th June, from 10:00am to 1:00pm**. Please book in advance through the website so we can pair your repair with the right volunteer and, if needed, arrange parts ahead of time. This helps us fix as many items as possible on the day.

You can book online, by phone, by email, or in person at the Hub.

To book your repair, visit **www.marden-links.org/repair-cafe** or call **07980 310696**.

Community Garden—A few weeks ago, we held our first volunteer tidy-up session of the year and made a real difference. Our next session is on Sunday 24th May at 10am, so do pop along if you have an hour to spare. We will be planting grow-bags, cutting grass, strimming, and tackling the usual weeding.

Please remember that you are always very welcome to use the garden, including the brick-built barbecue.

New Parish Hall —The doors and windows are now in place, and the building is fully watertight. Internal work is progressing quickly. Floor and wall finishes have been selected, and the kitchen plans have been approved with units on order. We can't wait to welcome everyone to the Opening Day Event on **☞Sunday, 30th August 2026**.

For more information, see Newsletter No. 15 on the Marden Links website under the New Parish Hall page: **<https://www.marden-links.org/marden-parish-hall/>**

Hub Café every Wednesday & Friday 2-4 pm

Repair Café first Saturday of the month 10-1pm

Email; contact@marden-links.org

Website; www.marden-links.org

Community Wine Glasses

The Community Wine Glasses that were given for the use of Bodenham and Marden Parishes are now stored at Jess Tidball's. Therefore if a community group needs them for an event please contact Jess Tidball on 01568 797227 or email: jessicatidball70@outlook.com



SAVE THE DATE

New Parish Hall Grand Opening Day



30 August 2026

More Details to follow.... & much more

- 
- Games
 - Tours
 - Licenced bar
 - Street food vans
 - Live music



MARDEN CHAPEL

JUNE SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM

SUNDAY 7TH	COMMUNION SERVICE
SUNDAY 14TH	WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY 21ST	WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY 28TH	SHARING SERVICE

*Services last about 1 hour and
everyone is welcome*

For further details contact: Jill Brooks 01432 880583



The Table Top Sale on 9th May at the Community Gardens and Hub was a great success.

We Raised over £450 for the audio equipment at the new Marden Parish Hall.

We would like to thank our intrepid helpers for all their wonderful support, as well as those who donated 'things' to sell, cakes, etc., and of course, to YOU for coming along, supporting and having a good time! Nice weather too!

Lesley Hayward

Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust

We awarded **£62,000** in grants to Herefordshire churches at the last meeting. Please support us to help our churches. www.hhct.co.uk

Saturday 13th. June 6.30pm Music in Country Churches in Dore Abbey featuring the internationally renowned Gothic Voices.

Dore Abbey's grandeur tells the remarkable story of England's monastic past. This concert is an opportunity for you to experience what that past sounded like. Gothic Voices will explore the music of the Old Hall Manuscript – an extraordinary artefact and the most substantial source of music from 14th– and 15th-century England. The evening promises to be a celebration of the magnificent architecture of Dore Abbey and the music which adorned it.

Tickets from <https://musicincountrychurches.org.uk/concerts-in-2026/>

Saturday 20th. June 6.00pm 'Come and Sing' A collaboration between HHCT, Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and Dudley and Worcester Historic Churches Trust. In addition Octavo will be singing in impressive surroundings.

Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria and Zadok the Priest in the wonderful 'mini' cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Tenbury with conductor John Moore.

Tickets from <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/herefordshirehistoricchurchestrust/2040067>

For members AGM at Elton Church and tea at Elton Hall. Or visit our website www.hhct.co.uk

Wellington Parish History Society

All are welcome to attend the Wellington Parish History Society meetings in 2026. They are all Thursday evenings, 7.30pm at Wellington Community Centre. The talks are £3 for visitors, followed by refreshments (donations). Follow our Facebook page @wellingtonphs or contact Gill Bullock on gillbullock@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

24th September - Wellington Charities - Gill Bullock

26th November - Wellington Court - Marc Willimont

Woodland on Sutton Walls – 2026 Update

In **early 2024**, the Sutton Walls Conservation Group began looking at ways in which we might be able to improve the sustainability of the woodland on the site, and in **Spring 2024** we embarked on the preparation of a “*Woodland Management Plan*” (WMP).

In **November 2024** we submitted a first draft of this to the Forestry Commission. At this time we also went out to consultation on our draft aims with Herefordshire Council, the 2 local Parish Councils, the land’s owners, and neighbouring farmers.

The aims are to promote woodland diversity while preserving the integrity of the Scheduled Monument and its associated archaeology, to managed diseased and damaged trees, and to maintain and enhance responsible public access and community involvement with the site.

We appointed an Institute of Chartered Foresters’ Registered Consultant to provide us with expert support and advice, and over the following months we remained in dialogue with both the Forestry Commission and Historic England, culminating in a joint site visit to Sutton Walls in late **July 2025** where detailed discussions were held on the opportunities and challenges presented by the site.

The Woodland Management Plan has now been approved by the Forestry Commission and is live from 25th March 2026 until 4th April 2036.

Next Steps:

- We have applied for a grant from the Rural Payments Agency to pay for the production of the plan.
- We hope to be making an application for Countryside Stewardship funding to support the future delivery of the plan.
- We will need to produce an annual detailed programme of works to deliver the Plan over 10 years, including Felling and Restocking and Species management.
- We will need to appoint advisors to support production of the detailed programme and to oversee its delivery.
- We hope to start implementing the WMP before the end of the year.

Further details and a copy of the WMP will be found on our website
www.suttonwalls.co.uk

If you have any queries or observations about the WMP then please do contact us at: suttonwallscg@gmail.com

Sutton Walls Conservation Group
May 2026

Welsh Water Phone Number

Welsh Water Emergency Operations. Leaks, Blockages (incl. blocked drains), etc. can be reported on:

Freephone 0800 052 0130



DEFIBRILLATOR

**The Marden defibrillator is located outside the
Marden Primary Academy**

Marden Branch of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

The June meeting is on Tuesday 2nd at 7.00pm. Where Fiona Smith and Jess Tidball will talk and show pictures about 'A Touch of New Zealand' from their trips there in 2025.

Held in the Community lounge in Marden School HR13EW

Donations are HWT members: £3 non-members £4

There will be an in house raffle and refreshments at the end. There will be a HWT sales table at this meeting (cash only).

In July on Tuesday 7th the meeting will be at Bodenham Lakes at 7pm where Retired warden Trevor Hulme will give a tour and talk about the wildlife that can be found there.

There is a planned visit to The Newport RSPB nature reserve on 12th September. If you would like to go we have a sheet to put your name down at the meetings or contact Jess

For more information contact: Jess on 01568797227 or WhatsApp on 07983120580 or email: jessicatidball70@outlook.com or Gwyneth on mardenhwt@icloud.com

The Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on 01432 356872, email - enquiries@herefordshirewt.co.uk, visit www.herefordshirewt.org, or visit 'Queenswood' Country Park and Arboretum, Dinmore Hill, Leominster, HR6 0PY

Mothers' Union

On Tuesday 2nd, at 2.30 pm, we will be holding our annual Tea Party with Sutton St Nicholas MU branch – at Nash Hill, Marden. On Wednesday 10 June at 5 pm there is a MU service in St Paul's Cathedral in London to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the organisation by Mary Sumner. We hope that we will be able to watch via Zoom at Nash Hill – I will contact members to give details nearer the date. At the time of going to press, there are no definite instructions.

The St Paul's service is one of many events to mark the 150 years since the MU was founded. In the Hereford Diocese there are two services in August this year – one on Sunday 9 August at Colwall where Mary Sumner lived before she married, and there will be a special evensong in Hereford Cathedral on Sunday 23 August. Members of Marden Branch hope to attend both services when the Marden MU banner will be processed.

At our May meeting we were pleased to welcome a new member to the Branch, and Jess Tidball was presented with her St Ethelbert's award certificate and badge by the MU Diocesan chaplain, Rev Penny Littlewood.

Penny Godfrey

Wildside 2026

Recently I went on a long car journey taking in many dual carriage ways and motorways where there are high volumes of fast traffic. I was saddened that there was such a large number of wildlife road kill. There were many foxes, deer (Roe and Muntjac), pheasants and other birds.

However, the largest number of dead mammals were badgers. Badgers are great wanderers and single males(boars) are often pushed out by their clan and will travel to start their own home called a Sett. These are large dug out dens, hence why badgers have large strong claws for digging. The Setts are where a clan will sleep and raise their young called cubs. A female (sow) can produce a litter of up to 5 and these can be born between January and March, or later in July and August, depending on the conditions in the environment and state of maturity of the sows. The young are quite pink when born, but soon hair up and are weaned by 12 weeks. Badgers have an incredible sense of smell through their long snouts which is not just used for foraging but for communication too. They scent mark with special glands by rubbing on objects such as tree trunks and even around their toilets to tell others about who they are. The latrines are little dug outs a short distance away from the setts, so badgers are very particular in their cleanliness. The setts are kept clean and tidy with constant removal of the old soil and bedding and replenishment of new materials.

A clan may have several setts so that they can change homes on a regular basis in the support of hygiene as well. Setts can be found in woodlands, on banks, in fields and urban areas from parks to gardens. I think the majority of people can identify a badger by its distinctive black and white stripey face and lumbering short legged gait often seen on roads at night. They are a nocturnal mammal where they individually forage for food from berries to small mammals, including hedgehogs and invertebrates and slugs.

The largest percentage of their diet are earth worms, which they dig out of the earth. In our area we do have badgers that some of our wildlife watchers observe, but the locations are kept quiet as they can still be a target of persecution. This is an illegal activity and they come under the 'Protection of Badgers Act of 1992.

In recent years there have been some areas in the country that have been designated as cull areas. This is to try and understand whether TB carried by badgers is passed onto cattle, by lowering the badger population. This is still ongoing research. Watching badgers is a delightful pastime and their antics and social behaviour is very entertaining. Many find our largest land predator (Meles meles) very endearing and they are often found in children's stories. The most famous of these being Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame.

jessicatidball70@outlook.com

JT May 2026



To the lady in a black car with a trailer attached who bumped into my black Vauxhall Astra in the parking area in front of the International shop on the 14th January while I was walking my dogs I would like to let you know what happened next.

When you inspected the damage you probably thought it was superficial however apart from a hole in the wing there was damage to wiring underneath and to the lights. After two months of negotiations between the garage and the insurance company it was decided that the repair would be too expensive and therefore the car would be written off. Not only did this mean the loss of a perfectly sound and serviceable car but it has caused a great deal of inconvenience and disruption to our daily life.

A note of apology, at least, would have been nice.

Liz Roberts

We cordially invite you to visit and join the Community Library in Wellington

**We are Open Every Wednesday & 1st Saturday of the month
10am - 12 Noon in the Parish room (next to Shop)**

*A wide range of books for all ages : New books every month
Run by Wellington volunteers: supported by Leominster Library*



**Don't throw your broken items away, let us see
if we can repair them?**

1st Saturday of the Month - 10.00am – 1.00pm

We have a team of volunteer repair experts on hand who are keen to repair:

- household goods
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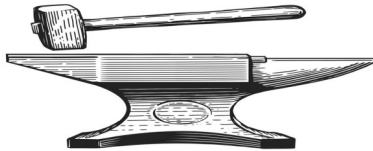
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- Local police Safer Neighbourhood Team – Email herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or ring 101
- The Rural & Business Crime Team consists of Sarah Smith, John Meek & Paul Crumpton, who work across Herefordshire as part of a larger dedicated problem solving team supported, not just by Special Constables and volunteers but also by members of the public. Their message to you is: *“Please, please, please report suspicious activity, people or vehicles. No matter how insignificant you might think it is, if it is suspicious to you, it probably is so let us know at the time.”*
- For a confidential conversation with Sarah, John or Paul contact them directly on:
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