

Withington News

April, 2013



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April, 2013



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the April Withington News.



Wow, what a glorious start to the month of March; lovely crisp fresh air, endless blue skies, glorious sunshine, longer evenings and best of all, NO RAIN and what's more, the tractors are busy on the fields behind my house ploughing wonderfully straight, deep furrows, despite getting stuck on the odd occasion. What a change, it makes one feel that it's good to be alive!! Daresay it will all have changed dramatically by the time you read this letter.

A reminder to those who have children of school or college age, i.e. under the age of 25 years, that grants for educational purposes are available from the Elizabeth Byworth Trust the trustees of which will next meet in early June. Claims may be made for books, school uniforms, school visits, tools and other equipment perhaps linked to an apprenticeship etc., (see the item later in this magazine). Don't miss out on this as it could well help you in these rather difficult days when money is scarce. All you have to do is to apply to me in writing, stating the age of the child or children (secondary school children should be able to write the letters themselves). If you are uncertain, then give me a ring on 01432 850672 to discuss it.



Over the past years children and young people have received help from the Byworth Trust to travel the world visiting countries as far away as Jordan, China, the United States, France etc., usually as part of an organised visit by their schools. I urge you to think seriously about applying as you have nothing to lose. **There are conditions as to where applicants reside** (see item later in this magazine), so pick up that pen (or phone) and get in touch with me now. Good Luck!

I wish you all Happy Reading.

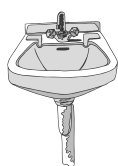
Bryan Davies / Editor



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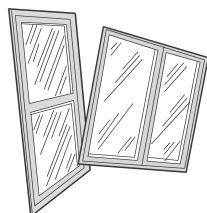
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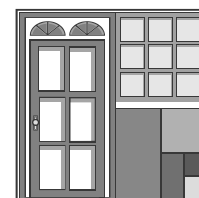
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YESTERYEAR continued....with excerpts taken from a recent publication, "New Quay, a History in Pictures".

DYLAN THOMAS

I never know whether to call my home town a village or a town. It is in fact too large to be a village and certainly too small to be a town, although town would be nearer the mark, or would it? Are there such terms as 'townette' or 'grande village'? I don't think so somehow.

In September 1944 (I was 12 years old), Dylan Thomas and Caitlin, with their two children Llewelyn (5) and Aeronwy (18 mths.), moved into a spartan, timber-built bungalow, Majoda, rent £1 a week, on the cliff tops across the bay overlooking my home town. Dylan described it as, 'this wood and asbestos pagoda' 'a shack at the edge of the cliff where my children hop like fleas in a box.'

He described it to a friend: "The rooms are tiny, the walls bum-paper-thin." It appears though that he was quite happy there with a really wonderful bit of the bay, with a beach of its own. Catilin wrote, 'Right below us was the roaring ocean. I used to have marvellous times down there in the waves.' She refers to a beach called 'Traeth Gwyn' which I have written about on previous occasions. The bungalow was basic, cold and draughty, but it made up for that with its wonderful views back to the 'cliff perched town' of New Quay. While there Dylan wrote, 'Quite Early One Morning', which was recorded by the B.B.C. in December of that year and was considered to be a prototype of the yet to be written Under Milk Wood.

A very strong case for New Quay being the model of **Llareggub** (try reading this backwards) in Under Milk Wood has been made and a sketch by Dylan himself is in many ways a sketch of New Quay from his pagoda at Majoda.

Almost every day Dylan and Catilin would walk to New Quay, passing the old police house which he described beautifully as 'black as a helmet, dry as a summons, sober as Sunday.' They were regular visitors to the few pubs in the town. He received a mixed reception from the locals, some being critical of his drinking and others clearly impressed by Dylan as a poet and writer. Bearing in mind that his

residency was 68 years ago and that Wales was still strictly Puritanical in its views, (no drinking on a Sunday and no plying passenger trips off the beach), perhaps this criticism of him is a little unfair.

Dylan left New Quay rather hurriedly after a shooting incident at Majoda. Dylan's neighbours were William and Vera Killick who lived quite near, Vera having been a close neighbour of Dylan's when he was in school at Swansea. Killick, who was in the army, was home on leave and had been drinking heavily in one of the pubs in the town. Feeling he had been slighted by Dylan and his friends, he went home, took a Sten gun and a hand grenade from his store of weapons and determined to give Dylan a taste of war, he sprayed Majoda with a hail of bullets. An officer in the R.A.F. (my pal's dad) who was present at the party that night, made his getaway by climbing down the cliffs to the beach and running home as I gather did some of the others.

Dylan was quoted in the News of the World as saying that there was a rattle of machine gun fire and the sound of smashing glass and that everyone dropped to the floor. It was a serious incident which frightened Dylan, but clearly Killick, who was a crack shot (in special services at the time) aimed to miss just to give Dylan a fright.

Killick was sent for trial at the Assizes in Lampeter in June 1945, but the judge directed to acquit Killick on all counts including attempted murder.

Soon after this, Dylan and family moved from New Quay to live elsewhere for good. Under Milk Wood was finished in 1953, just before Dylan died in New York.

Although living there at the time, I never saw or met Dylan Thomas, but I was told about this Welsh poet who lived locally. However, a friend of mine who baby sat for Dylan on the occasions when he visited some of the pubs bragged that she was the only person in the town who was able to get any money out of Dylan and his family as quite clearly the family lived a hand to mouth existence. Visitors to the town today can follow the Dylan Thomas trail featuring people and places that inspired him while in New Quay. *Ed.*

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Saint Peter's Church, Withington – Flower Rota

SUNDAYS

7th. April Kay Davies

14th & 21st April Lyn Dodds

28th. April Magaret Soutar



LIVING IN THE 1500s



Life today can be tiresome despite all the modern aids we have to see us through our daily routines. Spare a thought however for those who lived over 500 years ago.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of brides carrying a bouquet.

Baths consisted of a big tub full of hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice, clean water, followed by all the other men in the house, sons etc. They were followed by the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies were washed, by which time the water was so dirty you could lose someone in it, hence the saying, 'Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.'

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to keep warm, so all cats, dogs, mice, vermin etc. lived in the roof. When it rained it got wet and slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and slide off the roof, hence the saying that, 'It's raining cats and dogs.' There was nothing preventing anything from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your lovely clean bed. Hence a bed with posts and a sheet over the top giving some protection. That's how four poster beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt – hence the saying, 'Dirt poor.' The well off had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to keep their footing. As the winter wore on they added more and more thresh until when you opened the door, the thresh would start slipping outside, so they placed a piece of wood in the entrance-way. Hence; a thresh hold. In those days they cooked in the kitchen with a large pot hanging over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot, mostly vegetables as meat wasn't readily available. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving the remainder in the pot to get cold overnight and they would then start again the following day. Hence the rhyme, 'Pease porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.'

Sometimes they could obtain pork which made them feel quite special. When visitors arrived they would hang up their bacon to show it off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon.' They would cut off a little to share with guests and they would all sit around and, 'chew the fat.'

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach on to the food causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous. Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and the guests got the top, or the, 'Upper crust.'

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the 'imbibers' out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and would prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather round and eat and drink waiting to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of, 'Holding a Wake.'

Folks would run out of burial space, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a 'bone house', and re-use the grave. When re-opening these coffins, one out of twenty-five coffins had scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive, so then they would tie a string to the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, 'Someone could be saved by the bell,' or was considered a, 'Dead ringer.'

Now that's the truth, so who said that history was boring!



Ed.

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St Peter's Church, Withington – Special Services & Fund Raising 2013

Everyone is welcome to these events – Please come!

Whist Drive.....Thursday 28th March
Dick Brice – Music & Laughs..... Saturday 6th April
Car Boot.....Saturday 18th May
Whist Drive.....Thursday 30th May
Group Benefice - Vicar's Strawberry Tea Party.....Sat 6th July
Garden Party & Auction.....Sunday 21st July
Whist Drive.....Thursday 25th July
Churches Festival (*incorporating Ride & Stride*)...w/end 14/15 September
Whist Drive.....Thursday 26th September
MacMillan Coffee Morning.....Friday 27th September
Car Boot.....Saturday 28th September
Harvest Service.....Sun 6th October
Film, Food, & Fizz – Benefice Event.....Sat 12th October
TBA.....November
Whist Drive.....Thursday 28th November
Christingle Service.....Sunday ? December
Carol Service.....TBA December

St. Peter's Church, Withington, Herefordshire



For extra information, phone Kevin/Ruth on 850074, Bob/ Gwen on 850840, Margaret on 850448

Whist

Gwen would be pleased to receive prizes for the Church Whist Drives.

Lent Withington hosted 2 successful occasions for the Benefice during this Lent period – both in the Village Hall.

Cafe Church included an act of worship followed by refreshments, and the **Lent Lunch** was a very enjoyable and relaxed soup, bread & cheese meal with donations going to charity – “Hereford Open Door”. (about £150)

The other churches in the Benefice have also hosted special Lent Services and Lunches.

More Events

We are planning **2 joint village events** this year, together with the others in our Group Benefice – Dormington, Lugwardine, Weston Beggard and Westhide.

Our original thought of a giant fete has mutated into the **Vicar's Strawberry Tea Party** on 6th July, and **Film, Food & Fizz** on 12th October.

The films will be archive local history material.

****DON'T FORGET TO BOOK FOR **DICK BRICE** - TICKETS ARE GOING LIKE HOT CAKES!****

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News from Westhide

It has been another quiet month in Westhide. The cold weather continues and it is clear that spring will be late, although work on the land continues in its timeless cycles.

By the time you read this, Easter will likely have been and gone – do refer to last month's edition of the News for details of the various events planned at that time. As anticipated then, the Bishop of Hereford came to St Bartholomew's on Thursday 28 February, to lead our Lent Taizé Service – a thoughtful and moving evening of quiet prayer and contemplation.

Just to let you know a forthcoming date - for the Bartestree Cross Group summer fete, on Saturday July 6th. Details are being finalised as I write, and there will be further information nearer the time.

Well, that's all for now. I did say it was a quiet month...

David
School House

Preston Wynne News April

Hello Everyone,

We do hope you had a very happy Easter break. I (Hilary) was debating if my Grandchildren were too old for the usual Easter egg hunt round my garden this year, well three of them anyway, then I decided that **Hilary** wasn't too old for it so it was going to happen. It is nice if there is a younger sibling too, so we can all do these things "just for Emmy" a bit like the Father Christmas thing if you know what I mean.....!

Hey! Was that really a penguin in Veldo Lane in January (see March Withy News) most intriguing, more info please?

Church News:

April 14th 3.00 p.m Family Service

" 28th 9.30 H.C.

The BIG BREAKFAST for Church funds on 17th Feb was well attended and dare we say it better organised than our initial venture, it turned out to be quite a social event perhaps next time we should provide Sunday papers too?

Hall News

The St. David's Day Supper on 2nd March was great, a friend who travelled over from Bromyard to join us for the evening said the three course meal "was to die for" fortunately both she and husband are still with us and eagerly looking forward to our next one. Thanks are due to all the cooks and helpers, and also to Village Folk who provided us with great Welsh entertainment, and to Simon Crowther who rounded off the evening with some great sing-along fun on the keyboard.

PUB NIGHT QUIZ Saturday 27th April

HALL AGM Friday 19th April in the Hall. All welcome

Finally, congratulations to Patsy and Andrew Marson on the arrival of twin Grand-daughters, born to son Ben and Tatiana. They are doing so well that Tatiana has been asked by the London Hospital where they were delivered if she would be the "pin-up" girl for them advocating their preferred feeding policy, well done Tatiana!

That's all for now,
Love, Hilary and Tricia

An Evening of Music and Humour
In aid of St Peter's Church, Withington



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Withington Village Hall

Saturday 6th April
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Under sixteen: £5

BAR Tickets: Phone Ruth 01432 850074
or Gwen 01432 850840



Withington Village Hall



Hall Committee: Volunteer Committee members required.

The hall relies upon volunteers to help run the committee. We meet every 3 months for about an hour to decide upon maintenance, hiring's, fund raising and spending. In order to maintain our charity status we need new members now to come on board. If you can spare some time for this worthwhile community asset please get in touch. Please contact Kevin on 850074 if you are interested in helping. New members will be accepted at our AGM on the 18th April 7.30pm.

Youth Club: Adult & Parent volunteer helpers required NOW .

The club is no longer funded to support paid youth workers, so it is solely reliant on adult volunteers coming forward to help. We need more help NOW. If the club cannot get more helpers there is a good chance that the club may have to fold. The current small team of helpers are being stretched so please consider giving up 90mins of you time on a Friday night to help give something worthwhile the youngsters of our village. It doesn't need to be every week. The more helpers we have the rota can be spread evenly. It would be really nice if some of the parents of those children who attend can come forward to offer assistance.

The youth club meets every Friday. 6.30-7.30pm for ages 8-10rs. 6.30-8.00 for ages 11-17rs. Admission is £1 per family (allowing for larger family groups). Activities include a range of sporting games, team building exercises and social skills learning. Children from the club help run a tuck shop which seems to be very popular. If you can offer your time to help or have skills to share then please get in touch. Call Steve on 851857.

BARTESTREE CROSS GROUP OF PARISHES

SERVICE ROTA—April/May 2013

	Dormington	Lugwardine	Westhide	Weston Beggard	Withington
Wednesday 3 rd April		10.00 am Midweek Communion			
Sunday 7 th	10.00 am United Service				
Sunday 14 th		9.30 am Family Service	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	8.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	11.00 am Family Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion			9.30 am Family Service
Sunday 28 th		9.30 am Morning Prayer	4.30 pm Evening Prayer	11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion
Wednesday May 1st		10.00 Midweek Communion			
Sunday 5 th	3.00 pm Rogation Service	9.30 am Holy Communion			9.30 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 12 th		9.30 am Family Service	11.00 am Family Communion	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	8.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	11.00 am Family Communion with Baptism	9.30 am Holy Communion			9.30 am Family Service with Baptism
Sunday 26 th		9.30 am Morning Prayer	4.30 pm Evening Prayer	11.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion

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WITHINGTON FAMILY FAIR

AUGUST 10th 2013

at Withington Hall and Fields

**Sadly this Event will not now take place,
partly due to lack of volunteers to help
organise this community Event, but also
because there is to be a**

Five Churches Fete

at Withington Village Hall on Saturday July 6th



Dear Friends

Over the last twelve months we've been looking at ways of bringing bible stories and aspects of the Christian faith to young people and families in ways that are relevant and exciting. There are many children today who aren't familiar with bible stories and so, as a Church, we must seek opportunities to tell them. There are lots of new initiatives to help with that and as a group of churches we are exploring 'Messy Church' and 'Open the Book'.

Messy Church involves lots of fun activities, perhaps one evening after school, based on the bible. This requires a lot of planning and 'hands on' help so, if you enjoy doing crafts, games or music with children and think you could help, then we'd love to hear from you.

Open the Book is a new way of telling bible stories which involves a small number of people and a few props. After discussions with our primary schools who are positive about the project, we need a few people who enjoy story-telling to form a group to go into school once a month and tell a story as part of school assembly.

These are very exciting and important projects, please get in touch with me if you can help.

Best Wishes

Jane

Pilgrimage to Iona 2014

We are planning a trip to Iona Abbey in June next year. (We were too late to book for this year). Bookings have to be made in July.

There will be a meeting for anyone who is interested in coming on **Thursday 25th April 7.30 in Lugwardine Church** to discuss

- preferred dates
- travel arrangements
- costs
- the programme for the week

Iona is a wonderful, peaceful place with amazing scenery, fascinating wildlife and plenty of opportunity to just 'be'.

Lent Lunches

At the time of going to press there is still one Lent Lunch to go but so far we have raised

Alzheimers Society	£142
Hereford-Muheza Link	£100
St Michael's Hospice	£200
Hereford Open Door	£167
	£609

That's wonderful. Many thanks to all those who've hosted and attended these lunches.

St Michael's Hospice Chapel Flowers

Our group of churches has agreed to be responsible for providing and arranging the chapel flowers at the Hospice for two weeks beginning 27th May. If you are a flower arranger and would like to be involved please contact the rector who has all the details.

Midweek Communion

There is a service at 10.00 on the first Wednesday of every month in Lugwardine Church (followed by coffee at the Vicarage). Perhaps if you find Sunday a difficult day to come to church then perhaps this short midweek service may be the thing for you.

ROGATION SUNDAY – 5TH MAY

1 pm Bring and Share Picnic at Westhide
(Venue to be decided)

Leisurely Walk to Dormington

3 pm Rogation Service in Dormington Church

EVERYONE WELCOME!



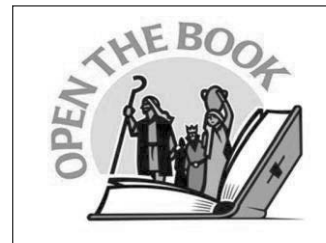
WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Open the Book

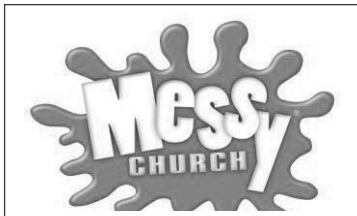
Do you enjoy working with children?

Do you enjoy telling stories?

Have you got an hour to spare once a month?



Perhaps you'd like to become part of our new team going into our local schools to tell the children bible stories in a new and interesting way. We hope to start offering this service to Withington School in the near future. If you'd like to know more please give Jane a ring.



Messy Church – 'Church' but not as you know it

Messy Church is a new and exciting way of engaging with young people through games, activities, crafts and music. Some of us have seen it in action and are keen to get it going in Withington. If you think that you might be able to help then please contact Jane.

'Family Worship'

Our churches offer services that are less formal and 'family friendly'.

Why not give them a try?

2nd Sunday – 9.30 at Lugwardine and 11.00 at Westhide

3rd Sunday – 9.30 at Withington and 11.00 at Dormington



The Elizabeth Byworth Charity

The trustees of the above charity will meet again in **June**. Young persons (under the age of 25 years), students and school children who live in Withington, Westhide, Whitestone, Nunnington and Eau Withington, or whose parents reside in these areas, are invited to apply for grants for educational purposes.

Those who wish to apply for grants for educational visits, please ensure that the visit takes place **AFTER** the above DATE.

All applications to be made in writing to the clerk, Bryan Davies at Swn y Gwynt, Duke Street, Withington, Hereford. HR1 3QD.

*Please ensure that your application contains you
date of birth and your telephone number*

If in doubt, ring the clerk on Hereford 850 672

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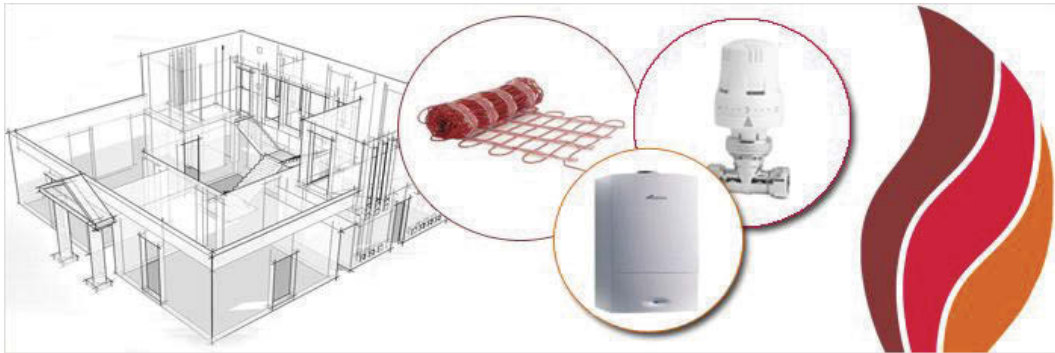
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