

Community News

Badsey and Aldington

March 2012

Badsey Brownies visited "Caring Hands in the Vale." They took with them 11 blankets made from squares knitted by friends of the girls and many others living in Badsey. Diane Bennett told the girls about the work of Caring Hands. The brownies saw what happened to their Harvest gifts. Bella wrote this story afterwards.

One day a boy and a girl called David and Sophie were two children living in a house. When their mum and dad got fired, they became homeless and they lived in boxes on the street. One day someone who worked for "Caring Hands in the Vale" came by. They said to David, Sophie, mum and dad. "Come to Caring Hands in the Vale." David, Sophie, mum and dad set off to "Caring Hands in the Vale." When they got there they were offered a hot meal. After a while they went to their boxes, but they weren't empty handed, they came home with a backpack with lots of stuff to help them. There was a wind up torch, blankets, toilet paper, plastic knives and forks and plates and some food and lots more. The End. The blankets will help those less fortunate than we are to keep warm this winter. Badsey Brownies would like to thank the people who knitted squares.


Sue Cole 831260



NEW EDITOR

As from next month the Community News will have a new editor. Please make sure that all articles are sent to the following email address badseyeditorial@ourbenefice.org.uk by 10th of the month

A rolling diary of local events can be found under Fridge Dates at www.ourbenefice.org.uk

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2 LETTER FOR THE MONTH

Dear All,

I wrote in January about stepping out into the uncharted waters of 2012 and acknowledging that we will make mistakes along the way, but that there is an ever-loving God who is watching over us. As we move further into 2012 the uncharted waters seem to be getting even more turbulent. The economic future in Europe and at home looks bleak, prices seem to be ever rising and there are more households in fuel poverty.

There is a phrase I am sure you have all heard: 'there is no gain without pain' and I am sure that some will say that all of the current problems will be 'character building', and 'will do us good in the long run'; others may say that it is all part of the break-down in society highlighted by the riots last summer the reasons behind which, I suspect, are many and varied. Another excuse is that it is all part of our modern culture, but what exactly do we mean by culture? This is a question discussed in a book I have been reading recently called *The Wild Gospel*, in which the author discusses that the Gospel today must be seen in the light of the culture in which we live. What then is culture? One definition suggests that culture comprises of language, habits, ideas, beliefs, customs, social organization, inherited artefacts, technical processes and values. Another relates it to the way of life of a particular people living together in one place, and an integrated system of beliefs, and institutions which binds a society together giving it a sense of identity, dignity, security and continuity. Neither of

CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar:	The Revd Richard Court	834550
	The Vicarage	
	High Street	
	Badsey	
Assistant Curate:	The Revd Anne Potter	424429
Churchwardens:	Mr Chris Smith	830217
	Mrs Sue Cole	831260
Readers:	Mrs Penny Christison	830367
	Mrs Sue Cole	831260
	Mrs Sheila Lancaster	833929
	Mrs Margaret Pye	833537

CHURCH SERVICES

MARCH

Sun 4th	11.00 am	Family Worship
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Wed 7th	10.00 am	Eucharist followed by coffee
Sun 11th	11.00 am	Praise & Worship
	6.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun 18th	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday Service
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sun 25th	9.30 am	Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong

Morning Prayer is said at 7.45 am each weekday at Badsey except Tuesday, which is a Eucharist.

FROM THE REVD RICHARD COURT

these definitions however talks of 'retail therapy' or the need to have 'stuff' – some of the arguments put forward as contributing factors to the riots.

Another phrase that is often used is that it is part of our 'western culture' but for me that is on too much of a global scale, I think that there is a need to understand culture at a more local level – the culture in a small rural parish in the Vale of Evesham is, I think, very different from that of inner city Birmingham, Manchester or London for example. It is very much part of 'the way of life of a particular people living together in one place' and as the custodian of one of our belief systems the Church has its part to play in the culture. The question the Church must ask itself is where does the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus Christ) fit into our modern culture?

There was unfortunately no answer to this question in the book, not that I really expected one. Perhaps the answer lies in our ability to acknowledge the culture in which we live but not to be contained by it, and at times we are called to challenge it, Jesus was after all countercultural, he challenged the 'norms' and the culture of his day and tried to build relationships, for it is only once we have built relationships that we can understand the culture in which we live and then to challenge the parts of it which may have led to the so called break-down in society.

Richard

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:	15 January 12	Lily Mae Castle
	05 February 12	Harry James Rowe
Funerals:	18 January 12	Stephanie Jean Ingles
	20 January 12	Cicely Grace Jelfs
	24 January 12	Edna Phylis Ford
Weddings:	14 January 12	Natalie Melissa Locke and Ashley Mark Dawe
	11 February 12	Emily Jayne Earle and Steven Andrew Bott

HELP!!!

Urgently required:-volunteers to deliver Community News. The average number of houses to visit once a month is 40. Please contact Wendy Morrey (831080) if you are willing to help.

Compassion is what makes a person feel pain when somebody else hurts.

ST JAMES' FLOWER GUILD

MARCH ROTA

1st Sunday	
2nd Sunday	No flowers in church
3rd Sunday	during Lent
4th Sunday	

Thank you ladies for the flowers in Church during February. Any queries regarding Church flowers please contact me.

Hazel Stewart 832007

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

It's taken me years to discover, but Badsey has a wealth of wonderfully creative artists. Some of them 'came out of the woodwork' last year, during the Arts Trail in May, others pop up for the Flower Show, but more, I am sure, remain hidden. If there is anyone in the village who would be interested in exhibiting in an Arts Trail this year, from Saturday June 9th to Sunday June 17th, I would be really pleased to hear from you. Also, there may be some of you who would love to learn how to draw, paint or create with any number of materials such as pencil, pastel or paint, paper mache, fabric or inks. You may simply want the chance to join a class to give yourself the time and space to work in a friendly environment. If so, you are in luck, because I am running classes in Badsey Remembrance Hall, which will enable the beginner to learn 'from scratch' or just give you the opportunity to try out new techniques and materials. The classes will run from 2-4pm on Tuesdays, starting on April 17th. Anyone interested in either the Trail or the classes should call Sue Barnes on 01386 830110/07918 182303. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

WICKHAMFORD GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting of the Club is scheduled for Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. This month it is our Spring Show and all members are invited to take part. For further information please contact Dorothy Turpitt 01386 830834.

MOTHERING SUNDAY CRAFT TIME

Come along to St. James Church, Badsey
on
Thursday 15 March
between
6.00pm- 7.00pm

Make your mum a card and small gift.
All children welcome.

Then you can give it to her at the Mothering Sunday
service
on
Sunday 18 March at 11.00 am

ROUND ROBIN



3

On 16 February we tried our hand at hand-bell ringing with Hilary. This is always a happy and enjoyable activity. This was my last meeting as leader as I am selling up and going to live in the Peak District near to my daughter. It has been a difficult year with my husband's illness and subsequent death and I need to move whilst I am still able. I shall miss you all and wish my successor all the very best. I will be back to visit and hope to see some of you again. We have had about 8 very successful years and long may it continue. We have supported many charities over the years and I know you will continue to do so. My love to you all. I shall miss you.
Sheila

INDEPENDENCE AT HOME SERVICE

Home is where the heart is. It's where you feel safe and secure. It's the place you fill with memories and the place where you belong. Living independently in your own home is what most of us aspire to. However, as we become older we can find we need some additional support to help remain independent. You may have a relative, a friend or a neighbour in this position. The Independence at Home service can offer the extra support, advice and encouragement that makes a positive difference to lives. This well-established service is provided by Rooftop Housing Group, a local 3-star accredited housing association.

Independence at Home can offer you help and advice on any aspect of income, including pension, welfare benefits and equity release. Guidance on the selection, supply and fitting of specialist equipment like grab rails, stair lifts or other aids. The putting in place help with shopping, gardening, cleaning and DIY assistance. Practical advice on home security and personal safety. A wide range of activities where you can make new friends, from gentle exercise to trips to the seaside, gardening clubs, learning new skills and more. Just a reassuring chat and friendly face. This service is available to any older person living in South Wychavon regardless of what type of property you live in.

We all have differing needs so support is tailored to suit each person. Life has its ups and downs so the service can be used as much or as little as required and you remain in full control at all times.

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BADSEY W I

In February we were pleased to welcome members from Wickhamford W.I. and Littleton W.I. who joined us for our meeting which featured the Evesham Vale Singers.



This talented and well known Chorus were a joy to listen to. Their songs were varied and their range of voices was amazing, making those of us in the Church Choir most envious. This wonderful group of singers have raised over £15,000.00 for charity. Their enthusiasm and joy in their type of singing was obvious and this along with their talented musical director gave us a lovely evening enjoyed by both our visitors and our own members.

Our skittles team under the captaincy of Anne Ellender had won their first match in the County Tournament and look forward to our next match on 09 March. Our Saturday afternoon walks have started up again being led by Maureen Davies and our art group recommenced on 23 February at the Royal British Legion Club. Jane Bayes is starting up an embroidery group to be held twice monthly. Jane will be tutoring and no experience or knowledge of embroidery is necessary as Jane will teach us all we need to know.

The winner of our February competition for "something blue to please the eye" was Lynn Evans with a beautiful watercolour of blue delphiniums. Lynn is a member of our art group.

Our meeting on 14 March will welcome speaker Anne Morton from St. Basils, a charity that works with young people and the competition is for a 'pretty teaspoon'. Everyone is welcome so do come along and pay us a visit. The meeting starts at 7.15pm. at Badsey Village Hall and visitors are always made welcome and looked after.

RUMBLE IN THE JUMBLE

Evesham Volunteer Centre, which looks after the Community Car Scheme amongst other activities, is holding its popular 'Rumble in the Jumble' on Saturday 24 March at Badsey Remembrance Hall. Doors open at 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm. Admission 20p. Refreshments are available. If you have any donations (not electrical goods) and would like them to be collected, please telephone 831104.

STARSHIP ENTERPRISE IS LANDING

Calling all senior citizens: If you would like to see what all the fuss is about and enjoy our food, but cannot get out easily then let us know and we will endeavour to deliver it to you as we do for other customers who order regularly in Aldington, Badsey and Wickhamford .

We understand that times are hard for everyone, and would also like to give a FREE childrens' meal away with every order over £10. ,

During March, the following are available at lunchtime or dinner time for only £3.50 !!!

Sausage, chicken, or filleted, premium fish cake,

Available with all of the above are mushy peas, gravy ,or curry sauce.

Happy Meals are available with chicken nuggets or fillet chicken poppers and toy/gift AND a free sugar free drink AND a retro packet of sweets

Gemma Herbst

Starship Enterprise Administrator

01386 570 469

www.starshipenterprise.co.uk

BADSEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Monthly Branch Meeting was held on 25 January 2012, at 7.30 pm. Instead of the usual format, ie. attending to the business first, the meeting commenced with an illustrative talk by Lesley from Evesham Public Library. Lesley showed us pictures of different areas in the building and explained their uses. Whether you wish to borrow books, CDs, DVDs for recreation or study, surf the net or use the well-stocked reference library, there is always help on hand. Photocopying can be done. Children's activities are arranged and exhibition facilities are available. If you wish to read a newspaper or a magazine you can do so. Lesley was thanked for a very informative talk.

Lesley was then asked to judge the 'Alphabet Competition', which this month is letter X. This proved rather difficult, as there is no obvious name of an object starting with X. However Pat Gorin had brought a large cardboard cut-out of 'XL Bloomers'. This was judged the winner.

We do have enjoyable meetings and would always welcome new members.



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THE GROUND
FORCE TEAM



JIGSAW

•The meeting held in February focused on the story of Bartimaeus, the blind man who was healed and could then see.

•We played games to see if we could imagine what we may feel like, if we could not see.

•We talked about the difficulties that a blind person may have.

•We paired up together to see if we could put our trust in our partner.

•We made name plates using pasta for the writing and traced this with our finger, like Braille.

•Paper puppets were made one with closed eyes and one with open.

We all got a better understanding of what it may be like to be blind and how wonderful it would have been to suddenly be able to see.

Come along to our next meeting

on

Sunday 25 March

11.00 am - 12 noon

at St. James church Badsey

It's free and fun



ST PATRICKS DAY QUIZ NIGHT

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Please let, Yvonne 830063; Wendy 832283, Maureen 832492,

Chris 831236 or Hazel 832263 know if you want to book a table.

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April 2012 Sunmarine

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BADSEY MOTHERS' UNION



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The Reverend Alma Organ told us about her work as a Day Chaplain in Worcester Cathedral. She spoke about the routine of the day, the people she meets and the stories they told. She said it was a privilege to offer this listening ministry.

Our next meeting is on 13 March when The Reverend Richard Court will lead us in a meditation for Lent. Please join us if you can, we will be pleased to see you.

Penny 830367

MAYPOLE BEARS OF OFFENHAM

The new spring collection of my bears can be viewed and adopted on 23, 24, and 25 March or any other time to suit by phoning Jean 01386 48217. There are many interesting new characters to see including an engineer, doctor, a rocking horse and rider, and bride etc. not forgetting traditional and contemporary bears. Phone me or email me jean@maypolebears.co.uk to let me know when you would like to visit. A warm welcome awaits you along with light refreshments. Jean Jeffcote

LENT LUNCHES

The Mothers' Union invite you to our Lent Lunches. They will be held:

Thursday 15 March 12 noon at Bretforton Church

Tuesday 27 March 12 noon at Offenham Church

We will be serving soup and a roll for £2 proceeds will go to the Mothers' Union Overseas Fund.

Please come and support us.

Contact Penny 830367

TOWER NEWS

February & March seem to be running into each other with Saturday night bookings for W & DCRA Southern Branch practice 25 February at 7.00- 8-30 pm and The Four Shires Guild practice night on 24 March 7.00 - 8-30 pm. Prior to the Four Shires there is nothing more to date, other than Sunday Service and Monday nights practice.

John and I would like to convey a big thank you to everyone who helped to make our 'Golden' anniversary a time to reflect and remember.



BISHOP JOHN'S LENT MESSAGE

Lent Message 2012
Abundance in an Age of Austerity

The Bishop of Worcester

We have become used to living in what is often referred to as an 'age of austerity'. All of us will know people who are suffering significantly as a result of the recession and the hardship it has created. We may well be feeling the pinch ourselves. It is heartening to see the response of our churches to such hardship, in initiatives such as the new food bank in Worcester or the homeless shelter which was set up over the Christmas period by Churches Together in Redditch. What I want to concentrate on in this Lent message, however, is God's abundance in this age of austerity. I don't for one moment want to neglect the genuine hardship and anxiety which some are facing at the present time, but that seems to me to be all the more reason for us to concentrate our attention on all that God has given us.

Materially, pretty much everyone in this country is better off than the vast majority of people in the world today, and of the overwhelming majority of people who have ever lived. When ministering in one of the most deprived places in this country on Tyneside, I would sometime muse about what 'the poor' in places I had visited in Africa would feel about 'the poor' in my parish: I am sure they would have thought them unimaginably wealthy, with hot and cold running water, heating, fridge, television etc. But it's not just counting our blessings as far as our material wellbeing is concerned that will do us good this Lent. It's reminding ourselves of the overwhelming abundance of God's love, material and spiritual.

The gospel accounts tell us of the amazing extravagance of God's love: the first miracle of which we read in St John's gospel is of Jesus changing water into wine at Cana of Galilee when, according to my calculations, he created 1140 bottles of wine at a stage in the party when some might have thought that 'enough is enough'. It's worth noting, too, that it was our 'gladness' rather than our 'sorrow' that Jesus visited in his first miracle. Then we read of the five loaves and two fish being transformed into enough to feed five thousand, with twelve baskets of bread left over. Jesus offers both material and spiritual substance in abundance.

These episodes remind us that we have been given all we need to be a Eucharistic community. A Eucharistic community is, literally, one that gives thanks. That is our primary duty and joy: 'it is meet and right at all times and in all places to give thee thanks and praise', as the Prayer Book puts it. We give thanks for the abundance of God's love for us in Jesus and the blessings he pours down on us. As we do so, God will work wonders through us just as he did through the servants at the wedding at Cana in Galilee and the disciples who distributed the bread to the five thousand on the hillside in Galilee. It was in their hands that the miracle took place, not Jesus's. Abounding in thanksgiving, we are called to let the power of Jesus love be shown through us.

What about our church life? It's all very well to speak of God's abundance, you might say, but what about all the problems we face as a Church? – lack of money, lack of people, and lack of influence in an increasingly secular society. As far as this is concerned, I was struck recently by something written by Sam Wells, who preached at the ordination here three years ago. Sam has ministered mostly in deprived areas in this country and is shortly to return from a stint ministering in the United States to become Vicar of St Martin in the Fields in London. He says that he considers himself lucky to have recently had the experience of living in the American South where the churches, considered together, have all the things the Church of England thinks it needs - numbers, money and social influence. 'But it turns out,' he goes on 'that the Kingdom of God is no closer. Living in this rather different culture and seeing the same questions from more than one point of view has helped me better understand and appreciate where the power of the gospel truly lies.'

Cont'd on next page

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BISHOP JOHN'S MESSAGE CONT'D

The power of the gospel lies in God's love in Jesus - and the fact that through it he is able to work wonders through you and me, poor broken vessels that we are. It's worth remembering, too, that the changing of the water into wine and the feeding of the five thousand occurred at moments of crisis - when the wine had run out and when people were hungry. If things seem to be in crisis for the Church in this country, maybe that all the more reason to believe that Jesus can and will do great things with our meagre offering, just as he did with the five loaves and two fish brought by the boy on the hillside. It's a moment of opportunity in which we can no longer be complacent.

In my travels I see God powerfully at work through the people of the churches of this Diocese. One parish in vacancy I visited recently, for example, invites the families of those who have been baptised during the previous year to breakfast in church before a family service once each month. Many people respond to the invitation and learn about God's love and how to share it: the atmosphere of love and joy in that church is great to behold as young and old and 'in-betweeners' come together to worship and encouraged to serve others. I think also of the good work being done among refugees in the Halas team to Street Pastors just getting off the ground in Bromsgrove: there are so many examples.

The 2020 Group is asking us to share examples of the good things that God is doing in our diocese, however unspectacular we might think they are, in order that we might be able to encourage one another in being Kingdom people. I know there are lots more good news stories to be told about things that are happening in our parishes and we are looking forward to hearing them - and to learning, too, about how use is being made of the particular opportunities presented by the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics.

May God give you grace this Lent to become ever more aware of God's abundance in an age of austerity so that we might together become a truly Eucharistic community, at all times and in all places giving thanks to God and sharing his love.

+John

January 2012

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MARY CAMPBELL

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LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

A member of a certain church, who had previously been attending services each week, stopped going.

After a few weeks the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead and dark.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The two men sat on in reflective silence.

A little while later, just before the minister was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.'

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Hello to all of you with young babies and children under five. We meet every Thursday (term time only) at The Wheatsheaf Inn, Badsey from 9.15 to 11.30 am. All are welcome whether you are a parent, grandparent, child minder or carer. We have indoor and outdoor play space; an activity session in conjunction with The Children's Centre, singing time and provide you and the children with drinks and snacks. At present we are seeking funding for further toys etc, to enable us to meet the needs of all our children. A warm welcome awaits you and we welcome suggestions as to what we could provide. For further information contact Heather Gibbons 01386 48943.

Fitness Classes

at 'K' Fitness

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Tuesday evenings

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Badsey

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

NEW COUNCILLORS

At the January meeting the Council co-opted Elizabeth Noyes and Gary Bailey as new councillors. Mrs Noyes will be well known to many residents for her involvement in the Flower Show and with the School and Mr Bailey has previous council experience with South Littleton Parish Council. The Council is therefore back to its full complement of 13 Councillors.

JANUARY MEETING

At one of the shortest meetings of recent months the Council was reminded by County Councillor Tom Bean of his divisional fund from which payments can be made to assist with community projects. These funds must be allocated before the end of the financial year. The Council also appointed a working party to put forward proposals for the New Homes bonus.

IT PROVISION

At the time of writing the Council is about to take delivery of a digital projector which will, among other things, allow planning applications to be screened for all those attending planning committee meetings. Wychavon District Council indicated some months ago that where applications are made for large scale developments the planning documents will be provided to the Parish Council in electronic format, as is already the case in many other

USEFUL NUMBERS

PETER LUFF, MP for Mid Worcestershire holds regular surgeries in Droitwich and Evesham.

Tel: 01905 763952

E-mail: luffpj@parliament.uk

Website: www.peterluff.org.uk

or write to: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Badsey Remembrance Hall 01386 834852

Police (General Switchboard) 0300 333 3000

Pressure Point(Local Drugs Helpline)0800 652 9664

FRANK (National Drugs Helpline) 0800 77 66 00

Victim Support 0845 3030 900
(helping people cope with crime)

Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 980 2946

Childline 0800 11 11
(Children and young people helpline)

Crimestoppers 0800 555111
(Report information about crime, anonymously)

CAB 01386 443737
(Advice and information on a range of issues, including housing, benefits, consumer, employment, money and debt)

parts of the country, so the projector is a necessity. The Council will be considering whether the projector can be made available to other community groups.

PARISH PLAN

Many residents are generously giving of their time to join in the various committees set up to consider what questions need to be answered by residents and business owners to enable the Parish Plan to be formulated. The Plan should be of great assistance to the Council in helping to formulate responses to planning applications so when the questionnaire lands on your doorstep sometime in the next few months please be ready to give your answers.

REMOVAL OF TREE ON BREWERS LANE

The Council did object to the felling of the second conifer and the issue is on the Planning Committee agenda for 15 February. Please see the minutes of that meeting for further details (should be on the noticeboard on the wall of the Spar shop from about 21 February).

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday, 21 March 2012. Amongst matters to be discussed will be the Council's proposals for the New Homes Bonus referred to in the January edition of the Community News. It is anticipated that there will be a Planning Committee meeting on the same evening.

Clerk's contact details: Alexandra Owen (Mrs), White House, Main Street, Aldington WR11 7XB.

Tel: (01386) 830083. Mob: 07824440380.

e-mail: badseyipc@yahoo.co.uk

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Help is needed to tidy the Garden of Remembrance:- weeding, light digging, pruning, washing benches and sharing ideas of what to plant. Bring some tools if you can.

10.30 - 1.30 Saturday 24 March Drinks and cakes provided. Contact Sue Cole or Chris Smith

NEW EDITOR

As you may have seen on the front page, next month we will have a new editor, this is nothing to do with phone hacking or other scandals - Sheila is moving out of the area - we wish her all the best with many thanks for all she has done for the Community News over the past few years. Please continue to send your news items to the address on the front page. Richard Court

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 07 March 10-12 noon
Badsey British Legion

To raise funds (£3000) in support of
Karen Chilvers and her husband's attempt to run
The London Marathon for The London Hospice
Further details from
Jean Dyke (830714)