

# Focal Point

£1

October 2019



**Photographic Competition Overall Winner**

***Carolyn Russell***

**More photographs inside**



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# Focal Point

**October 2019**

**Cover photograph:**

Detail from Carolyn Russell's winning photograph in this year's Fête Photographic Competition—see page 22

To advertise in Focal Point please contact the editor.

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*Deadline for the November magazine is 15 October 2019*

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# Jeff Dando

**In October, the Royal British legion begins its annual fund raising campaign through the sale of poppies in the weeks before Remembrance Sunday.**

**Sarah Heavens talked to Jeff Dando, the Chairman and Secretary of the Oldland Common Branch and found he was also responsible for another local charity, Frere's Almshouses.**

If you have attended the service of Remembrance at Bitton, in recent years, you may well have been met by Jeff Dando, with a smile and a hearty good morning and immaculately dressed in an overcoat proudly displaying his medals. It is an important day of the year for Jeff and for the Royal British Legion as the culmination of its annual sale of poppies.

## **The Royal British Legion**

Jeff is Chairman and Secretary of Bitton and Oldland Common branch of the Royal British Legion. The Royal British Legion has been supporting Service men and women, ex-serving personnel and their families who need mental or physical support, since 1921 and the need for its services today are just as important as they were in the aftermath of the two world wars. The Legion is the largest armed forces charity in the UK for all former servicemen and women and their families. Through its family of charities it can provide expert advice and guidance and assist in recovery and rehabilitation particularly in helping members of the armed forces transition to civilian life. In recent years it has helped injured servicemen and women from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, both with physical and mental health problems. In this region, there is a wonderful Royal British Legion home in Weston-Super-Mare offering respite care.



Jeff in the Royal Navy in 1966 at Casablanca

Jeff joined the Royal Navy in 1964 as an able seaman and left as a sub lieutenant in 1971. He saw at first hand the important work of the lifeboats who saved his second in command who fell down a hatch while carrying out an exercise off the coast of Ilfracombe.

Jeff has been involved with the British Legion for 30 years. He helps organise the Armed Forces Day at Avon Valley and the Harvest Auction at the Upton Inn, held this year on 23rd September with David Hawking auctioneering a fine range of local produce. As Focal Point went to press the auction had not yet taken place, but Jeff expects it to raise between £1000 and £1500.

He also organises, with Ken Gibson, the President, volunteers to sell poppies at Asda for Remembrance Sunday, collecting a huge total of £23,000 last year.

Jeff is keen to recruit more members for the committee, which meets four times a year to organise events and plan the way forward. He says: "The more members we have, the more we can do to help those who really need our help." If you would like to volunteer, Jeff says the only qualification you need is a keen desire to help, please get in touch.

## Frere's Almshouses

The other important role Jeff has in the community is Chair of Frere's Almshouses Trustees, a role he recently took over from Richard Baber, who had held the post with distinction for many years.

*Continued overleaf*



The five almshouses in Church Lane were founded in 1854 by the children of Edward and Mary Ann Frere who lived at the Rectory House in Bitton, now known as *The Grange*.

There is a tablet in St Mary's Church dedicated to the pious Mary Ann Frere and inscribed in the wall of the end cottage are the words:

***"In memory of Edward and Mary Ann Frere  
sometime of this parish.***

***These Almshouses were erected by their  
grateful and affectionate children.***

***Anno Domini 1859."***

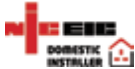
The almshouses are homes for those of limited means within the parish, and once they have been interviewed and references checked and financial records studied, residents can stay as long as they wish. Residents pay a weekly contribution, and for their council tax, telephones and electricity. The houses are repaired and maintained by the Trustees and costs of the central heating, hot water, sewerage and water charges are covered. Jeff says there is currently no waiting list and occasionally they have to look outside the parish for a new resident when there is a vacancy.

The beautiful gardens of the almshouses are well known in the village, largely tended by the residents, but on occasion let out as allotments.

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**- Churches & Services -**



**ST MARY'S CHURCH,  
BITTON**

**Services in October**

**Sunday 6 October**

**TRINITY XVI**  
10.30am Parish Communion

**Sunday 13 October**

**TRINITY XVII  
HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Family Parade Harvest Festival Service  
featuring the work of **Water Aid** followed  
by a *Bring & Share Harvest Lunch in Church*  
with Harvest loaf and cheese provided and  
cider and soft drinks available.

**You are invited to bring a gift of produce  
or non-perishable food (tins and packets  
are very acceptable especially tuna), or tin  
openers, toiletries and larger size nappies  
– for distribution in St Paul's by the Sisters  
of the Church**

**Sunday 20 October**

**TRINITY XVIII**  
10.30am Morning Worship

**Friday 25 October**

9.30am Celtic Communion  
*Followed by tea and cakes*

**Sunday 27 October**

**TRINITY IXX**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Café Church

## **Focal Point, October 2019**

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### **Vicar:**

Rev Jeremy Andrew  
The Vicarage, Warmley  
0117 967 2724

### **Ordained minister:**

Rev Richard Humphrey  
Splinters  
Kenilworth Drive  
Willsbridge  
0117 949 0502



### **Lay ministers:**

Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road,  
Bitton  
0117 932 2122

### **Churchwardens:**

Pete Midgley  
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge  
0117 932 6898

David Bailey, Westover,  
Bath Road, Bitton  
0117 932 8949

Jacqui Harris  
29 St Anne's Drive, Wick  
0117 937 4706

## **St Mary's flower rota**

5 October	Sarah Craddock
12 October	Ros Knight & Jean Hook (Harvest)
19 October	Ros Knight & Jean Hook
26 October	No Volunteers

## Focal Point, October 2019

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### UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church



Sunday services are at 3pm

Services in October :

Sunday 6th Service led by Paul Swift

Sunday 13th Service led by Norman Palfrey

Sunday 20th Service led by Neville Lintern

Sunday 27th Service led by Des and Hilary Colechin

In addition, our coffee afternoon will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 22nd of October



## News from Upton Cheyney URC

Harvest is fast approaching and we are preparing for our Harvest service on Sunday October 13th. This is one of those times at the chapel when we start to think of our neighbours. And just who are our neighbours anyway?

Until a couple of years ago I used to go to Harefield Hall residential home on Willsbridge hill. I would meet with various people there focusing on those who always seemed to be alone or who never seemed to have visitors. It was always very fulfilling to be greeted by a broad smile or two as I walked through the door. Two particular gentlemen always sat by the door were a favourite. One was a cricket fanatic and had captained his team into his late sixties. The other used to preach from a mission in the East



**Stuart Turner**

end of London. The home closed down in 2017. Last week I met a carer at the Chocolate Quarter who had previously worked at Harefield Hall. She had the same two gentlemen as favourites and spent a lot of time with them. So where are they now and why don't I know? Were they my neighbours? Is the carer my neighbour?

A couple of Sundays ago our service was led by the Bristol Evangel Male Voice Choir. Their leader used to live in Upton with his foster parents Les and Vi. His Auntie still lives here. He learnt his evangelism at the chapel and was now back to evangelise to us. On many Friday evenings I shared a Guinness with Les in the Upton Inn. How come I didn't know Vi at all well? How come I didn't know how much Les did for the chapel and why didn't I come at that time?

Finally John Creech has been to the chapel twice in the past month. Last Sunday was the annual RAOB - Buffs - Service. They are a charitable organisation similar to the Foresters. They provide help to those that need it around the area. My father used to be a member of a similar organisation called the Oddfellows even though he had very little spare cash to donate. So what charities do I support and what more could I do? Anyway John's message was on neighbours using the most familiar parable of the Good Samaritan.

Therefore as we approach Harvest and neighbours are in our minds at church or chapel or in our homes and gardens how can each of us provide more neighbourliness in our community or in the wider world?

## St Mary's Matters

By the time you have reached this page, I would think there's a good chance that you have read that our fête was a great success! I don't think I've ever seen so many people in attendance, and of course the weather was kind to us too. It was lovely to see the whole community out together, on what is a very traditional occasion. It was a record breaking event and our thanks to everyone involved, and everyone who attended. What an achievement ... no pressure for the Committee next year then!!



**Jacqui Harris**

On the theme of celebration, many congratulations to Ann and Bob Willis, who have just celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary - 60 years of wedded bliss! They will tell you that they deserve a medal - it's not for us to choose between gold and silver!

As I write this, we are looking forward to an evening of comedy in church with Harriet Beveridge and friends, another community event which should be good for the soul as we all have a laugh together.

October brings us our Harvest Festival on Sunday 13th, amongst other events which have been well publicised. It is important to everyone at St. Mary's that we share our beautiful church with the whole community, it is a community space that is well preserved, and we have hopes and plans to improve the building to bring us into the 21st century, whilst honouring and preserving its most wonderful history. We hope to see you at an event very soon, or at one of our services - everyone is very welcome throughout the year. For now - Happy Autumn everyone.

Jacqui Harris



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*Minister's Letter*



## **HARVEST & THANKSGIVING**

I've been picking tomatoes for a few weeks now and Helen has been busy harvesting peas (sadly over now), beans, courgettes and sweet corn. When we came home from holiday there were loads of tomatoes inside the greenhouse and out. Helen picked the last of the beans, some more corn cobs and four courgettes now turned into marrows. In a week or so there will be pears and apples to pick. The harvest has been quite abundant this year.

In our churches we will soon have given thanks for harvest time and celebrated God's graciousness in worship and feasting. I doubt if many of us will have the opportunity to bring our own garden produce into church as vegetable gardening these days is not a universal pastime. Our offerings will have been of tinned or other non perishable goods which will have been given to food banks or similar to assist communities not so well off as we are. Perishable gifts will have been sold to raise funds or again distributed to those in need.

## **Focal Point, October 2019**

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In years long ago, growers would have brought a substantial portion of their crop to the church to be stored in the tithe barn. The produce would have been used to sustain the ministry of the church throughout the year before the next harvest. As time went by the practice of tithing the crop died out. In some places the requirement to tithe the produce was commuted to a monetary payment based on the land available for growing.

Whatever the age there is clearly a link between thanks and giving. Gratitude gives impetus to generosity and there is plenty of Biblical encouragement to be both thankful and generous in giving.

During the summer months the Diocese has circulated the PCC officers setting out its plans and ambitions for ministry across the Diocese including the staffing of parishes with priests and incumbents. The implication is that those plans need to be funded and that is done substantially through parish share; the amount each parish is asked to give to the diocese to pay for its plans. Each of our PCC's will have decided whether or not it can afford to meet the request the Diocese has made. The implication for us as members and worshippers is that most of what we give to our church in freewill offerings and donations will go to meet the parish share.

Inevitably the amount required to sustain parish ministry has gone up and so therefore has the request for parish share. The knock-on effect of an increase in outgoings for our churches is that there needs to be a willingness on our part to help meet the increase. As we consider our giving it is suggested that we do so in the light of the following prayer:

***God of abundance, the author and giver of all good things, grant us a gracious and humble heart, that we may give you glory through offering the fruits of our lives and grow more into the likeness of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen***

**Leslie Willcox**

# Best Fête Ever



**The Pageant Players:**

Harry, Ruth Chiddy, Annette Vowles and Vienna who was crowned as Queen of the Meadows for 2019.

This year's fête was the most successful ever with a wide range of attractions to delight visitors who turned out in record numbers. After the fine weather last year, expectations were dimmed by rain earlier in the week, but in the end the sun shone and the day remained dry.

Gates opened a little earlier this year, so that visitors could be on the field to watch the opening pageant of the crowning of the Queen of the Meadows. This year the role was taken by Vienna Chiddy.

Activity was not confined to the Glebe Field but to the church and Church Farm. In the church visitors could enjoy a traditional tea and cake and view a fascinating embroidery display by Jean Aldous. In Church Farm, delicious cream teas were on sale and entertainment was provided by the Jazzbeans.





### Popular attractions;:

Left—One of two Pimm's Bars  
Above—Punch & Judy was a special draw for children  
Below— there were some lovely dogs on view at the dog show run by Highcroft Vets

The main events, however were on the field itself, where there were both traditional and novel attractions. There were some excellent stalls with great bargains to be had, a well stocked bar and many opportunities to have a flutter on the tombola or try out your skill to splat the rat or down a coconut. The ladies of the Somerset Morris were there to entertain and there was a beautiful dancing display by the Melanie Holley dancers. Over £10,000 was taken on the day and the net sum raised was £9,336. Our thanks to all who contributed and attended.





**Eggceptional  
skills on show  
at  
EGG  
THROWING  
CONTEST**



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There was no shortage of eggs or participants (or were these eggs being saved for an omelette?)



**It has become a bit of a tradition, but who can resist the final act of the fête and the annual egg throwing contest? In spite of claims to the contrary, they are not hard boiled and participants can't bring their own, but it is great entertainment both for those taking part or just watching.**

# So many “Excellent Entries” in Photographic Competition

The fête’s photographic competition attracted a high number of entries and made the job of judge Robin Allison-Smith a particularly hard one.

The overall winner was an entry from Carolyn Russell (a frequent contributor to Focal Point) with her entry for the *Mad Moment* category. Robin said "This was very difficult because there were so many excellent entries. But in the end the overall winner had to be an image that felt immediately accessible to the viewer, and I loved this one for its sheer humanity and mad humour. It is Carolyn Russell's entertaining shot of women and cars- a Mad Moment." Carolyn wins the David Smith Cup, given in memory of Judge David Smith for fête competitions.

Thanks to David and Jenny Harris for their organisation, to Robin Allison-Smith for judging the adult competition and to Charlotte Mulready for judging the junior competition.



Fête goers view the winning entries on show at Church Farm



**Overall Winner—Carolyn Russell’s Mad Moment**

## **FULL RESULTS**

### **Adults**

#### **Architecture**

- 1st Andrew Harris
- 2nd Donna Baber
- 3rd Sarah Craddock

#### **Food**

- 1st Catherine Midgely
- 2nd Edward Crockford
- 3rd Catherine Midgely

#### **Mad Moment**

- 1st Carolyn Russell
- 2nd Ruth Chiddy
- 3rd Sue Kemp

#### **Happy**

- 1st Carolyn Russell
- 2nd Sarah Craddock
- 3rd Ruth Chiddy

#### **Bitton Scenes**

- 1st Edward Crockford
- 2nd A. Kandeepan
- 3rd Carolyn Russell

#### **Animals and Wildlife**

- 1st John Sweet
- 2nd Ruth Chiddy
- 3rd Sam Roberts

#### **Junior**

##### **Architecture**

- 1st Leon Chiddy
- 2nd Peter Harris

##### **Food**

- 1st April Russell
- 2nd Katie Troake

#### **Mad Moment**

No entries

#### **Happy**

- 1st William Purchase
- 2nd Katie Troake
- 3rd Sam Borgeat

#### **Bitton Scenes**

- 1st Peter Harris
- 2nd Ben Purchase
- 3rd Peter Harris

#### **Animals and Wildlife**

- 1st Sam Borgeat
- 2nd Katie Troake
- 3rd Sam Borgeat



## A selection of the entries

Regrettably, it is not possible to show all of the entries or even all the prize winners, but here are some of the photographs that won a prize

**Above:**  
Adult /Architecture—1st prize :  
Andrew Harris  
**Right:**  
Adult / Bitton Scenes—1st  
prize :



**Left;**  
Junior/Bitton Scenes 1st  
prize: Peter Harris



## Focal Point, October 2019

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**Clockwise from top left:**  
Adult/ Happy 2nd prize:  
Sarah Craddock; Adult/  
Bitton Scenes 2nd prize: A  
Kandeepan; Adult/Food  
2nd prize: Edward  
Crockford; Adult /Mad  
Moment 3rd prize: Sue  
Kemp; Adult/Architecture  
3rd prize: Sarah Craddock



**Clockwise from top** : Adult/ Animals  
3rd prize : Sam Roberts; Junior/  
Food 1st prize: April Russell; Adult/  
Happy 1st prize: Carolyn Russell

# **Dates for your diary**

**Sunday 13 October**

**Harvest Festival**

**Saturday 19 October**

**Adrian Snell– musical evening**

**Thursday 21 November**

**History Society Meeting**

**Sunday 22 December**

**Advent Carol Service**

***And in 2020***

**Saturday 2 May**

**VE Day themed concert by Westerly Winds**



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## **50th Anniversary of the Bristol -Uganda Link**

The main celebration is to be an event at 7.00pm on Saturday 12 October at St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford featuring Uganda's leading contemporary gospel choir - see the poster opposite. There is no charge (but I expect there will be an opportunity to give on the night). We are asked to register attendance on line and to keep it simple if you wish to come just let me know and I will book en bloc.

There is still no confirmation that Bishop Johnson and his wife have visas to come to the UK to join in the celebrations so we can pray that this will be resolved. If they do come then Jill and I hope to host an informal get together at 8 Church Road sometime on Monday 7 October to enable members of our Benefice to chat with the Bishop and his wife. Let me know if this is of interest to you and I will be in touch with details nearer the time.

*Ken Gibson*

*Benefice Uganda Link representative*

## **Cream Teas in the Church**

Our cream tea season has now ended for the summer. It has been great fun to welcome old friends and new to St Marys. We have put the world to rights, talked of times past and times to come, and friends old and new. Many thanks to all those who have helped and to the musicians for their beautiful playing. We raised £141 for church funds.

I hope we can all meet again next year for tea and conversation, meeting friends and visitors from near and far.

**Barbara Merritt**



**50** | BRISTOL  
YEARS | UGANDA  
LINK



## A celebration marking 50 years of the Bristol/Uganda Link

Saturday 12 October, 7pm  
at St Michael's Church,  
Stoke Gifford BS34 8PD



Register at <https://bit.ly/30WuOp9>

Featuring music from Uganda's leading  
contemporary gospel choir AYF Choir

Find out more about the 50th celebrations at  
[www.bristol.anglican.org/bristol\\_uganda\\_50](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/bristol_uganda_50)



Diocese of Bristol  
Creating connections

**#BristolUganda50**



**Diamond  
Celebration  
for  
Ann &  
Bob**



**60 Years  
1959-2019**

Ann & Bob cut a special Diamond Anniversary Wedding Cake  
*Photo: Jacqui Harris*

September was an extra special month for Ann and Bob Willis as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The occasion was marked by a special reception held at the home of Keith and Jo Smith, attended by friends from Bitton and further afield.

Ann, will be known locally having taught at the Meadows School and in recent years was Churchwarden at St Mary's. Bob also had a role at the church as Sexton showing people round the church and its many interesting features.

One of the many well-wishers was Paul Denyer, formerly vicar of Bitton who composed a special poem in their honour of the *Seven Ages of Marriage*. Unfortunately there is not room to reproduce the entire page here, but perhaps his seventh age is appropriate to the celebration and can be read below.

Congratulations Bob and Ann!

### **7. Golden Autumn**

**Good grief! And is it true my dears  
That you've been married sixty years?  
The hair's gone grey, the skin's got wrinkles  
Yet still your eye with love-light twinkles!  
Some ups and downs you have endured,  
But, like a Stilton, you've matured.  
Who cares, we say, how Brexit ends  
When we've such memories and friends?  
A loving husband, loving wife -  
These are the true back-stops of life.**

**You've weathered all life's thrown at you,  
And our best wishes now are due;  
Upon life's stage you've played your parts  
And we're so pleased you've touched our hearts.  
Good friends are sent from heaven above  
And teach us of the Father's love;  
And so, with most sincere intent,  
We celebrate this great event.  
To Bob and Ann, for those blessed years  
We give you now three hearty cheers!**

*Paul Denyer*



# St Mary's Family Café Church

## Fourth Sunday of the month at 9.30 am

An informal café style event with time to relax and listen to music from keyboard and flute. Café Church is designed for families with primary and pre-school children. A Bible story is followed by a craft session and refreshments are available throughout.



Join us on  
Sunday 27  
October at  
9.30 am



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**Bitton Village Residents' Association**  
Invites you to

**Flicks in the Sticks**

on

**Friday 18 October**

when we will be screening

**White Crow**

starring

**Oleg Ivenko, Ralph Fiennes  
and Louis Hofmann**

This fabulous film is directed by Ralph Fiennes, who also plays one of the lead characters, Pushkin. The film follows the story of a boy called Rudie. He was born in Siberia and from an early age has an unlikely passion and determination to dance.

However as a teenager he was limited by the world of 1950s Leningrad. That is, until his flirtation with Western artists and ideas led him into a high-stakes game of cat and mouse with the KGB.

Can he make a successful escape?

*This film delivers on so many levels, it is enlightening,  
entertaining and best of all a thriller.*

*Oleg Ivenko is a breathtaking Nureyev. We loved it  
and we hope you will too.*

**Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.**

**The Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton**

**Drinks will be available from the Licensed Bar, Choc Ices will be served in the interval and there will be time to chat with friends**

**Admission £2.50**

**Everyone is welcome**

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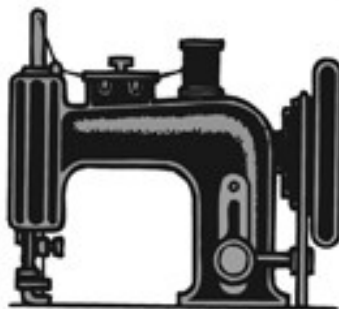
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## **News from Bitton WI**

Avon Federation WI organised a trip to Bradford on Avon. We met in a car park near the canal and walked beside it to the Tithe Barn built in the 14th century. From the barn we took a short path across a field towards the River Avon and saw the Packhorse Bridge which dates from the same era as the barn. We took the foot bridge across the river into Church Street and to the medieval church of Holy Trinity. In the churchyard you can see *Orpin's House* former home of Edward Orpin, who was the model for Gainsborough's portrait "the Parish Clerk"; his tomb lies in front of the church door.

We walked past the Town Hall. Built in 1856 and recently renovated, it now houses the Catholic Church, a Bank, small shops and the Town Council Office. We were then left to look around, so we went through the Shambles and then had lunch, before meeting up again to board the MV Barbara McLellan for a trip along the canal and a cream tea. It was a delightful day.

At the Monthly Meeting, our speaker was Anna Mapson who is a Nutritional Therapist and gave an interesting talk about how to help ageing through good nutrition. She started with the gut and brain and the difference between good and bad bacteria. Her advice was to eat three meals per day with no snacking and not to eat after 7pm. She advised us to try some new foods each week and different things each week, particularly pulses, vegetables and fruit. Sleep is very important, and she recommended Epsom Salts in a bath before bed will help. Further advice was to eat lots of dark fruit, 70% dark chocolate ( I like that one ); take ginger and exercises to lower stress; look after your dental health and chew each mouthful up to thirty times—*Phew!* I tried that and my jaw ached.

President Ann Coles gave the vote of thanks.

Our next meeting is Monday 14th October 6-30 pm at Fonthill Garden Centre on Autumn Pots and Containers.

Jean Hook





# **BITTON GARDENING CLUB**

Invites you to  
**Our next meeting**  
on  
**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> October**

in the  
**Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton**  
**Doors Open 7.15pm. Meeting Starts 7.30pm**

Our speaker at this meeting is  
**Mike Beeston**  
**National Trust Gardens Consultant**  
**(South West)**

The title of his illustrated talk is

## **Behind the scenes of National Trust Gardens**

We all enjoy visiting the gardens of National Trust properties and this evening's talk will let us into the secrets of how they are managed to make them the success that they are.

For more information  
contact Bridget Hetzel - [b.hetzel@btinternet.com](mailto:b.hetzel@btinternet.com) or  
just come along to the meeting

**New members and guests always welcome**

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## **September's quiz answers**

Lat month's quiz was Eponymous inventions, where the discovery or invention is named after the creator. The correct answers are:

1. Dyson ;
2. Beaufort Scale;
3. Van Allen Radiation Belt;
4. Plimsoll Line;
5. Petri Dish;
6. Venn Diagram;
7. Heimlich Manoeuvre;
8. Hansom Cab;
9. Davy Lamp;
10. Mason Jar;
11. Whitworth Screw Sizes;
12. Bailey Bridge;
13. Geiger Counter;
14. Mercator Map Projection;
15. Noonan Syndrome;
16. Goeppert-Mayer Crater;
17. Miss Shilling's Orifice;
18. Clement(ine);
19. Jacquard Loom;
20. Richter Scale

Nobody got all 20 correct but the following people were very close: Jan Wookey & Diane; Alan & Sue Murtagh; Pam & Jon Booth; Mary Younie; James Burmester.

**This months winners are Jan Wookey & Diane**

# The October Quiz

This month's quiz is on games played in the home without the need of a computer or screen. Card games, board games, ...

## Clue

1. Cool current of air in a confined space
2. Getting the exclusive possession or control
3. A situation involving exposure to danger
4. A domesticated member of the horse family
5. The Moor of Venice
6. A dull bluish shade of grey
7. A murder mystery game for 3 or more players
8. Surgery
9. Historic fortified city in southern France
10. Pronounce clearly and distinctly
11. 2015 Number 1 single by Justin Bieber
12. BBC quiz programme first shown in 1972
13. Old Chinese game with 144 tiles
14. 2 player dice game to 'Bear Off' chequers
15. Played with 6 different pieces each with it's own moves
16. An unmarried lady of great age
17. 2 things that can cause fear in many people for vastly different reasons
18. Has many formats, but must, as the name implies, be played alone
19. Game designed by Ephraim Hertzano in 1940
20. A Latin word meaning "I Play"

Name:

Contact:

Please send your answers to Carolyn Russell at Martin House, Church Road, Bitton (the yellow house) or email [mrsrussell@icloud.com](mailto:mrsrussell@icloud.com) by 15 October



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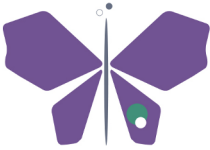
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# The last word



Someone once described October to me as one of those months that's neither one thing nor the other. In a way I know what they mean. Summer is over, but it can often feel warm and sometimes the trees stay in full leaf. But it can also be a time of quite turbulent weather as anyone who can remember the Great Storm of 1987 and its effects on southern England right in the middle of the October of that year.

Perhaps to be sure that the weather has turned, both of our churches wait until the harvest is very well and truly gathered in to be sure of missing such storms, and hold their Harvest Festivals, this year, on 13 October.

I have to mention the fête, in spite of the fact that it has received much coverage in this edition. It was a great day for all and while the money raised helps to keep our ancient church going for another year, it surely serves an additional role as a focus for the community. Summer doesn't quite seem over until that event and it is a real pleasure to see so many people enjoying it and visiting the church.

Finally, may I say the Brexit word. At the time of writing, I have no idea whether October will be our last month in the European Union or not. Will it be *do or die* or another extension, or will we be held as though in a permanent October - neither one thing nor the other waiting for an election or another referendum? Who knows? Whatever the outcome, November will come and with it another edition of Focal Point.

Jim Heavens

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