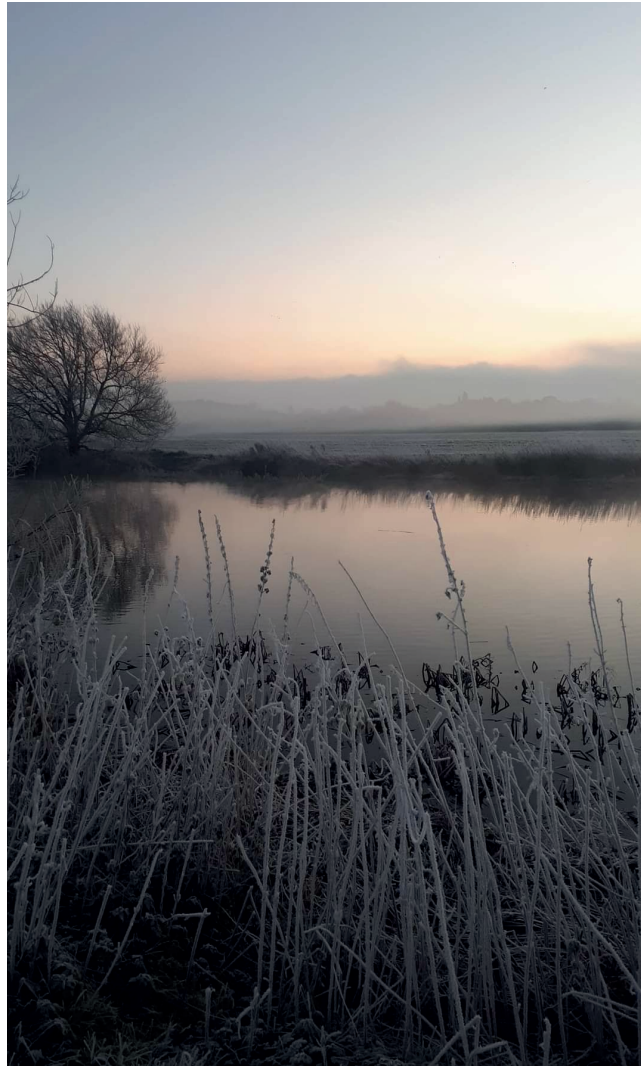


# *Twynning Bulletin*



*The Newsletter of Twynning Parish Council*  
*No. 147, February 2023*

## Twyning Parish Council

### Is looking for new talent:

Are you enthusiastic about the environment?

Do you want to make a difference to the place you live in?

Would you like to contribute views on consultations and be in the know?

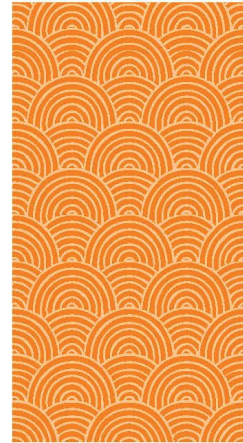
Are you a decision maker?

Would you like training in budgeting, community engagement, community governance?

Do you have 2 hours to spare once a month?

With elections looming in May 2023 it has never been a better time to join your local council as a co-opted member to get a flavour of what is involved.

Want to hear more? Please contact the Clerk [clerk@twyningcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@twyningcouncil.co.uk)



Front cover - the river meadow, December 2022. Karen Buckley, winner of the Photography competition

## Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Twyning Bulletin in 2023. It seems too late to say Happy New Year as we tip into February but with spectacular frosts and cold sunny days it still very much feels like winter. Which is why the winning photograph from the Bulletin Competition on the theme of 'Winter in Twyning' is so apt a cover. Congratulations to Karen Buckley for this beautiful image.

If you have any news about clubs and activities you would like to share with the village please do send it my way using the email address below. We also have a calendar of village events on our Twyning village website. If your event or group is not featured please contact me on the email address below. And don't forget to visit the village website for up-to-date news and information [www.twyningvillage.co.uk](http://www.twyningvillage.co.uk).

Sarah Don-Bramah  
editor@wyningcouncil.co.uk

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## Keeping in Touch with Your Village

### Twyning Village Website

[www.twyningvillage.co.uk](http://www.twyningvillage.co.uk)

All sorts of useful information on the village and its amenities - everything from councillors to footpaths.

### Facebook

Twyning Community on Facebook is a great way to keep in touch with up-to-date information on events, get advice or share any security concerns. There are other village pages for selling, for photos and for many of the village organisations.

### Twyning Bulletin

Published three times a year by the Parish Council, and delivered to your door.

### Village Noticeboards

The Parish Council has noticeboards outside the shop, at Lynworth Lane, TRAC, Hillend, Church End, Stratford Bridge and Shuthonger. The Village Hall and church have their own too. There's also a noticeboard on the side of the school, and one in the shop which will display adverts for a small fee ***Event organisers are encouraged to use the boards to reach village residents who aren't on Facebook!***

### Parish Council

Twyning Parish Council meets on the third Monday of every month (excluding the August recess, and December) at Twyning Village Hall or occasionally at the Ann Townend Hall. Meetings commence at 7.30pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. Agendas are normally posted on Parish Council notice boards one week prior to the meeting. Minutes can be viewed on the village website and on the notice board outside Twyning shop.

### Quick Contacts

*Parish Council Chairman* : Peter Hadley - 07950 046951  
[cllr.hadley@twyningcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.hadley@twyningcouncil.co.uk)

*Tewkesbury Borough Councillors for Twyning* : Mike Sztymiak 01684 299743,  
Philip Workman 07885 931772

*Gloucestershire County Councillor:* Cate Cody - 07817 726069

*MP for Tewkesbury Constituency* : Laurence Robertson - 291640

A full list of parish councillors, along with email contacts for local representatives, can be found on the Twyning Village website (see above)

## Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first Twyning Bulletin of 2023 and Happy New Year to all!

The new year has started with a cold spell of weather but there is still a warm glow from the amazing activities that happened in Twyning over the Christmas holidays:

Twyning Players yet again excelled themselves with their pantomime, this year it was Hansel and Gretel. The ever-popular and hilarious performances were again sold out and we must thank everyone involved for the tremendous amount of effort (and talent) that goes into these shows. We look forward to other productions from Twyning Players later in the year.

Father Christmas was spotted on a couple of occasions in the village this year, before his customary Christmas Eve visit: He was handing out gifts at Twyning School's Christmas Fair which was again a great success with many parents receiving festive gifts prepared by the children from the ingenious 'wrapping room'.

His main appearance was at the annual Santa's Sleigh event, brilliantly organised by the Twyning Community Parade Team. I still do not know how Santa, his noisy elves and cheeky reindeer manage to find the stamina for such a busy day! Charity and food bank collections, the extensive tour around the village and the warm welcome for the village children at Santa's homely grotto at the Fleet. Well done to the team and thanks for creating such amazing memories each year, all with the unerring musical accompaniment of Too Young To Know; Too Old To Care.

Our Parish Church, of course, plays the leading role in the village at Christmas with St. Mary Magdalene Church hosting a number of services and gatherings. The Christingle Service held on Christmas Eve brought together many village families in aid of The Children's Society and was a truly wonderful festive service.

The Twyning Carol Singers sang enthusiastically outside the village shop, around the village, at private parties and for the church carol service. Well done to the hardy singers, raising money in support of the Air Ambulance based at Strensham and Tewkesbury Food Bank.

The Boxing Day Walk continued as a village tradition and a welcome excuse for some fresh air after a busy Christmas. We hope this tradition continues and perhaps other events are organised to experience our wonderful village countryside.

Housing development proposals continue to threaten our lovely surroundings and put pressure on our Parish amenities. The Parish Council continues to resist inappropriate and excessive development in Twyning and we welcome the active support from residents. We are hoping that Tewkesbury Borough Council's Local Plan (that does not allocate any more sites for housing in the Parish) will move us away from the presumption in favour of development which has dominated how planning applications have been determined over the last couple of years, no matter how strongly we feel.

At the time of writing, we are in the middle of the 'Landslip / Petticroft / Nut Orchard' Planning Inquiry. The developer is proposing to remove over 2000 mature trees planted to celebrate our late Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, currently protected by a Tree Preservation Order. The landowners are also challenging the site's status as an 'Asset of Community Value' at a Tribunal.

Twyning's residents continue to do an amazing job in making their feelings known about this development, despite the petty attempts to remove our banners, ribbons and posters from the completely inappropriate fencing. We really hope that the Planning Inspector shows her professional skill and sees beyond purely boosting the housing numbers to protect this important community woodland!

The major sand and gravel application at Bow Farm is due to be heard by the Planning Committee on 26th January 2023 and the Parish will need to pull all the stops out, working with other local stakeholders to help resist this proposal.

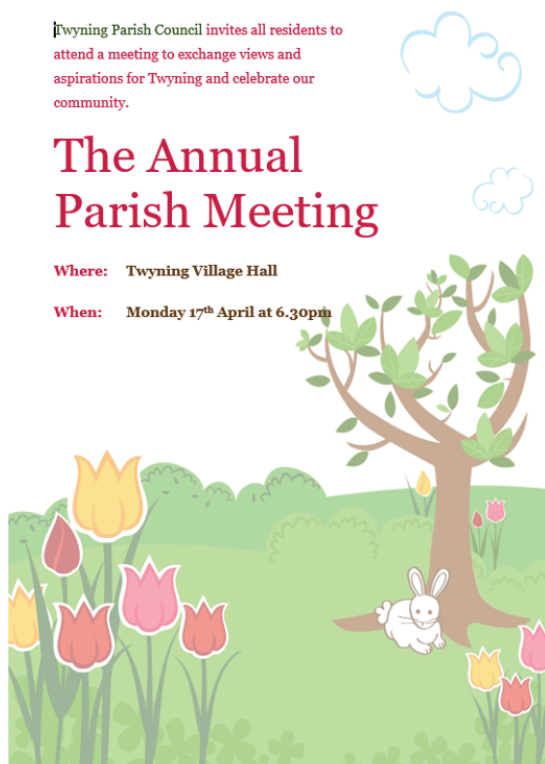
### The Annual Parish Meeting - 17th April 2023

Twyning Parish Council invites all residents to attend a meeting to exchange views and aspirations for Twyning and celebrate our community.

## The Annual Parish Meeting

**Where:** Twyning Village Hall

**When:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm



We are very keen to make this year's Annual Parish Meeting an open, village-wide and family event. We would like to celebrate with our local groups, societies and clubs looking forward so that the village continues to thrive as a wonderful place to live, work and visit. Suggestions for who or what we can include at this event should be sent to [clerk@twyningcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@twyningcouncil.co.uk). See you there!

Happy New Year and best wishes to you all

**Pete Hadley**, *Chairman*

## Village Hall

This is a second reminder that in order to function properly and meet the requirements identified by the Charity Commission, village halls should have a properly constituted Management Committee made up of Trustees and participating organisation representatives.

There is a considerable reluctance or indifference prevalent in the parish for volunteers to come forward to meet these type of obligations in order to sustain the way of life and activities that many enjoy. This is apparent in both the Village Hall and Parish Council numbers

I have recently been adopted onto the Parish Council to assist with the management of parish affairs and after 5 years as Chairman of the Village Hall, and having seen through a comprehensive programme of improvements and updates, feel that it is time someone else took on the Chairmanship role. I have given notice that I intend to resign the Chair at the AGM in February.

In addition we have a vacancy for a replacement trustee after the resignation of one of the team. This is not an onerous task, but an important one that we need to maintain.

If you, or anyone you know may be interested in filling either of these roles, please contact our Secretary, Christine Skelton, Maggie Ball or myself for further information.

Key posts in the Committee are a requirement, not a nice to have'. If these posts remain unfilled, the Committee will have to consider its position in regards whether it is fit for purpose and the hall can remain an open and viable enterprise.

## Ann Townend Hall

(Couldn't be much closer to Twyning - it's in Church End, if you are new to the area.)

### Facilities

It has seating for up to 60 people, with a fitted kitchen and enough tableware to cater for this number. There is a large, enclosed garden behind the hall. Plus, there is a drop-down screen for films which can be used in the daytime as blinds are on all windows! Car parking is available in the Church car park.

### Booking

We do have just a few regular bookings but there is lots of capacity for others. The Hall can host a variety of events such as children's parties, family events, community occasions, you say, and we can probably do.

All charges are per/hour

Event type	Summer (Apr-Sept)	Winter (Oct-Mar)
Children's party	£ 8.00	£ 9.00
Parish Council / adult party / wake.		£12.00
Commercial / one off hire	£12.00	£13.00

To book call Bill Chescoe on 01684 295352

We look forward to your enquiries and hiring of the Hall. PLEASE USE IT.

## Freecycle Saturday

### Keeping Items Out Of Landfill Dates For 2023

Many thanks to all those who took part in any of the first three Freecycle Saturdays that took place in 2022 and I hope for those that did it proved to be a generally worthwhile activity. Each time that we organised one of these events more and more people were leaving items out for anyone to take away which is really great news as by doing so we are all managing to keep increasing numbers of items out of landfill.

As a result, it is intended to keep the momentum going although this is not of course the most practical of events to hold during the winter months. Therefore the following dates are proposed for Freecycle Saturday in 2023:

- 1st April
- 3rd June
- 5th August
- 7th October

For those who might be new to Twyning or who have not previously taken part, Freecycle Saturday is a really simple initiative that aims to keep as many items as possible out of landfill. To get involved it might help to get started by finding a corner for a small Freecycle Saturday box where you can keep out of the way all those items that you no longer need but somebody else might be able to use.

Big or small items it really doesn't matter. Items could include books, DVDs stationary, A4 folders or box files, old crockery or kitchen utensils, spare tote or other bags, unused nuts & screws or ironmongery, old tech devices or mobile phones (even if they are broken!) and/ or the original boxes they came in, old software installation CDS, items sitting unused or unwanted in your shed, camping equipment, your old curtains, even small items of furniture – absolutely anything that someone else might be able to fix, use or repurpose. There are no rules except keeping stuff out of the bin and landfill. Once you have your items ready all you need to do is leave them at the end of your drive after 9:00am on the next Freecycle Saturday date for anyone to take away. It really doesn't matter if you only have one item or hundreds.

Also, as these proposed dates are spread out over the year, I will be posting reminders nearer each date on the village noticeboards and on the Twyning Facebook page. I therefore do hope that even more people will take part this year and if you can please do start collecting any items over the winter months or from early Spring Cleaning or clear outs ready for the first event in April.



## Appleyard Dancers



**We are recruiting!**

We are a group of female dancers. We dance traditional style dances such as folk, border and Morris to live music. We have male and female musicians who play a variety of instruments.

We meet on Thursday evenings at Earls Croome Village Hall to practice. We perform at all sorts of events, such as folk festivals, garden festivals, fetes, Christmas celebrations or at a local venue on a summer's evening.

In January and February 2023 every Thursday evening will be an open evening, when anyone will be welcome to come along to see what we do, learn a few steps and have a friendly chat.

We meet at Earls Croome Village Hall,  
Church Lane, Earls Croome, WR8 9DE.  
Thursday 7.30pm to 9.30pm

For more information  
[www.appleyardfolk.co.uk](http://www.appleyardfolk.co.uk)  
[info4appleyard@gmail.com](mailto:info4appleyard@gmail.com)



Tewkesbury Weekly Record 26<sup>th</sup> September 1857

That pathway which commences at the foot of the steps in Upper Avon Ham, and terminates in the lane near Mrs Tolley's Farm [*this is Woodend Farm*], at Twyning forms one of the most beautiful foot-roads in the neighbourhood of Tewkesbury.

The pedestrian who uses it, crosses the large meadow from one corner to the other, and then ascending the uplands, in front of the Villa, over the stile near the Mythe Farm, casting many an admiring glance around him as he goes, continues his walk till he gets to the gate beyond, and then—he stops!

Just beneath him lies the quiet Avon, perhaps unruffled by a single wavelet, retreating from him in many a bending curve and winding reach, and paying back the gold of sunshine in the bright reflection from her own silvery face.

Just before him rise the noble farms of Mitton, their rich pastures dotted with hundreds upon hundreds of sheep and cattle. The middle ground, expanding as it recedes from the eye, is filled in with villages, farms, fields, lanes, and well-timbered hedgerows, till it terminates at the wooded heights of Dixton.

Right and left, embraced in the same bright prospect, stretch the Cotswolds in a segment, from the rocks of Leckhampton on one hand, to the magnificent inland promontory of Bredon Hill on the other, a glorious panorama of some five and twenty miles, filled with the teeming wealth of plenty which bounteous nature gives back unstintedly in return for the industry and enterprise of man.

Our pedestrian having gazed his fill at all this, turns and pursues his walk through the upper meadows till he emerges into that pretty lane, well known to all the children round—as producing the earliest violets and primroses of spring, and the largest and sweetest blackberries of autumn—which terminates near Twyning Church.

Thanks to Wendy Snary for discovering this, and Philip Workman for sending it in.

## Historic Twyning



*Photo- The Lodge, built in circa 1881. Photograph courtesy of Margaret Parkin  
Do you have a historic picture of Twyning that you would like to share? Send a copy to [editor@twyningparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:editor@twyningparishcouncil.co.uk) letting us know where and when it was taken and we'll feature it in a future Bulletin or on the village website.*

## Twyning Over 60s Lunch Club

Lunch Club has returned to serve meals on Fridays since July and in December we held a Christmas meal with turkey and all the trimmings and a raffle. It was an enjoyable event with cooks and helpers attending and a good start to the festive season.

The Minibus Committee have kindly helped with transporting some of our members from Tewkesbury and outlying areas. They are also picking up members in the village. We are grateful to them for their help and we hope to continue this arrangement.

We would also like to thank all our volunteer cooks for their continued support. We now have four full teams of cooks, also thanks to members who have helped with serving the meals. We have been very lucky since my last report to have received several offers of help with cooking so we now have a few more reserves. We have a small team of helpers who set up tables early in the morning. However, they could do with an extra helper or two for about half an hour.

If anyone has time free early on a Friday morning please let me know - Judith Allen on 292123/07817984737.

## Twyning Parish Church & Twyning Chapel

### *The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene*

From Twyning Parish Church

**The Parish Church is 'timeless' but not quite as we would wish it to be. If you've walked past recently you will have been met with this sight...look no hands!**

The Cumbria Clock Co have been renovating our 155-year-old clock mechanism. At the same time, they were asked to examine the clock face and minute and hour hands. On the 22nd Nov 22 was fortunately a fine day for the abseiling operation which was



necessary to attend to the clock faces. This uncovered considerable deterioration to the tubes and mechanism that operate the hour and minute hands. These items will be newly built in their workshop and the completion of the clock face work will be done soon (weather permitting!) The clock itself has been renovated so the bells continue to ring on the hour !

In the history of our Church the clock is a relatively new-fangled device. Twyning Parish Church has served the community since Saxon times. It has seen it all...wars, plague, family successes and failures, births and deaths. Have you ever taken time to stroll around the Church and take in its history? There are guidebooks available and nowhere is off limits, except for the Vestry and the Bell Tower (and even they can be visited by arrangement). This building is as much yours as it is mine. Just one caveat, you can't sell your share!

For centuries Churches have been places of sanctuary. I'm not expecting to shield you from the law but now and again you might just need somewhere to sit, reflect, and perhaps pray. Please do consider making it your oasis of calm but wrap up warm at this time of year! The Parish Church is opened every day. It is there for you.

On the table, just inside the Church, you will find copies of our latest Newsletter. The circulation has really grown recently. I try to keep it topical and interesting whatever your view of life. If you decide you want to be on the circulation, you don't have to speak to the vicar! Just contact [sheilahendy@sky.com](mailto:sheilahendy@sky.com)

On most Sundays we have a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am. If you've not been why not try joining us. You do not need any special preparation to join fully in this service. On the 3rd Sunday of the month the service is Morning Praise which is more informal and suitable for young families (but all are welcome). Morning Praise is followed by refreshments.

At our Communion Services we are conscious that Covid is still around so there is an option to receive the wine on a communion wafer or to receive the wine and wafer separately (as we did pre-Covid). Baptisms and other occasional Services are still happening. Up-to-date information can be found on the Church website and the Twyning Village website. For more information on any of these or other events, please give Ron or the Churchwardens a ring or look at:- [www.achurchnearyou.com/twyning-st-mary-magdalene](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/twyning-st-mary-magdalene)

Everyone is always welcome at all our services.

Ven. Ron Hesketh	CB 01684 299773	mobile 07745 758 899
Parish Lay Minister Angela Cole	01684 294 325	
Churchwarden Chris Cole	01684 294 325	
Churchwarden Emeritus Margaret Bailey	01684 298 268.	

## *Twyning Chapel*

As always, we've been busy at chapel. Here is a break down of some of events and activities which have been going on.

### **Open The Book**

This Autumn saw a new focus for me as a Youth Leader, as I joined Open the Book, which takes place at Twyning School. It was an honour to attend the preliminary meetings and get to know the team a bit better, and wonderful being in school acting out the stories with them. The children liked a familiar face, as I know most of them from either drama, chapel events, or school itself, as many are friends with my own children. I still have one son, Jude, at Twyning School. The other, Luke, is now in high school, but one session took place on his inset day, so he was able to come back to his old school and help, which was a great hit. The teachers seemed pleased to see us as well, and being that it involves acting, it really is right up my street.

### **Remembrance Service**

In November we took part in the Remembrance Service at the cross which, as always, was a fantastic event for the whole village.

### **Dinkies**

Dinkies continues to thrive, with lots of young families, and we enjoyed a festive special on the last week of term. This runs every second term time Friday, with friendship group operating on the alternate weeks. Please see posters around the village or contact me for specific dates. There is also a Facebook page dedicated to Dinkies.

### **Neurodiverse Coffee mornings and Family Events**

We continue to run our Neurodiverse coffee mornings at the chapel approximately every six weeks, in term time, and have built up a great network of families who join us regularly for these. Our next one is Monday 30th January at 10am. It's great for people to share tips and stories. Not wanting the children to feel left out, we also run events for the whole family, still dedicated to this demographic, at Tewkesbury Baptist Church in the school holidays. We had a very successful Christmas event on the 22nd December, and will be planning our next one very soon.

### **Christmas**

We had a wonderful Carol Service on the 18th December which brought in some different families and the children were able to put a bauble on our prayer/wish tree which was inside this year. They also had Christmas goody bags to take home.

The Christmas day service was wonderful too, with some fun activities for all, and a great turn out where we saw many new faces.

#### **Extend**

There is an exercise class which runs at chapel every Wednesday morning. This is facilitated by the Devereux Centre and particularly recommend for those over 60. If you would like to find out more about it please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the chapel team, and we will gladly pass your information on.

#### **Drama Classes**

These run on Saturday afternoons at chapel and I have sessions suitable for children from aged 3 upto teens. [www.actinguptheatre.co.uk](http://www.actinguptheatre.co.uk).

#### **What's Next**

This year will hopefully see more work with Open the Book, and a continuation of what we have achieved with our Neurodiverse events.

We have a new Youth Group starting at chapel on 3rd February which is very exciting, and I will be having a Pancake Party at chapel on 21st February.

We also have a new preacher coming on Mother's Day and I am in the process of planning some exciting children's activities for that session.

For more information on any of my youth work or drama classes please contact [Emilyhastingsactingup@gmail.com](mailto:Emilyhastingsactingup@gmail.com) and I will be very happy to assist.

Sunday services at the chapel are held every Sunday from 10.30am and all are welcome.

### **First Aid Skills Training in 2023**

Are you keen to learn or update your first aid skills for work and personal safety?

#### **The Devereux Centre offer lifesaving skills training courses**



- CPR and Defibrillation
- Mental Health First Aid
- Fire Safety and Practical Fire Extinguisher
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- Emergency Paediatric First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid, Level 1

**SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR 2023 COURSE DATES**



[www.thedeveuxcentre.co.uk](http://www.thedeveuxcentre.co.uk)

T: 01684 214333

E: [info@thedeveuxcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@thedeveuxcentre.co.uk)

Consultation, Counselling, Conference and Meeting rooms are available for hire. If you are interested and would like a tour, please contact us.

## Twyning Playgroup

We started the second half of the Autumn term with a Halloween dressing up day and we had fun doing Halloween crafts and experimenting with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to make magic potions inside empty pumpkins.

Our Forest School sessions continued with hunting for bugs and exploring the fallen leaves, tossing them into the air amid much hilarity. We learnt about different birds and enjoyed looking for garden birds as well as noticing the geese and swans that were alongside the river bank.

We have had a visit from Miss Copson, the reception teacher at Twyning School and she was eager to meet the preschoolers and begin to get to know them. Shortly after her visit we arranged for the preschool children to make a visit up to school to visit the reception classroom and listen to a story.

It was really lovely to be able to hold the nativity play for a real audience this year and everyone looked amazing in their nativity costumes. All the children played their parts really well and we had some lovely feedback from the parents. Mrs Halling, the headteacher from Twyning School was able to join us and it is great that we are continuing to work closely together.



As the term drew to a close we had some unexpected cold weather and we were excited about sharing our experiences in the snow. We also had fun making Christmas cards and doing Christmas activities in the lead up to Christmas. On the last day of term we had a little party with a game of pass the parcel, a party snack and a visit from Father Christmas.

This term we will continue to enjoy Forest School, French lesson with Madame Aurore and more visits from Miss Copson.

## The Children's Society

Many thanks to all who attended the Christingle service on Christmas Eve. Although numbers were low, with 64 children receiving Christingles, the kind donations totaled £306, which the Church generously made up to £350. Thank you! Further donations (£13.90) have been received since the service. If you were unable to attend and still have your donation, please feel free to drop it off or contact me and I will happily collect.

The service is always a great way to start Christmas and to give the children time to reflect on those less fortunate than themselves and it has become a tradition with many families within the village to come along each year.

Members of the uniformed groups led the prayers and gave the reading and Angela Cole led the service, with Ellen Hallett playing the organ.

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway, big or small, with the preparations for the service and to everyone who came along. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

### **Box Holders**

In a time when we seem to rely mostly on card payments, we are all handling less cash and don't seem to have much loose change available. For that reason, some of the box holders have decided not to continue supporting the Children's Society in this way and have opted to make annual online donations. However, even from the few boxes that have been emptied this month, I have paid in a fantastic sum of £125.90.

The box-holder scheme continues to be very valuable to The Children's Society and the money raised goes directly towards helping the children supported by the Society, so if you would like to receive a box, please let me know,

Lorna Herold 294292

## Twyning Bridge Club

The Club had a successful 3 day break in October at The Imperial Hotel, Barnstaple. They made us very welcome and the food was excellent. We have decided to return for a second year again in October.

We also treated all the members to a Christmas party at the club fully catered which 32 of our members enjoyed. We have 44 members and we still meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Ann Townend Hall. If you are interested in playing please contact me or if you would like to learn I will try and suggest someone.

Please look at our website under [www.bridgewebs.com/twyning](http://www.bridgewebs.com/twyning) which will give you more information or ring me or e mail me.

Irene Fort 01386553605 or [shay4t@outlook.com](mailto:shay4t@outlook.com)



## Twyning School



As I write this in early January, I'm reflecting on our Autumn term. The new Early Years team, Rabbits teacher Hannah Copson and teaching Assistant Maria Curtis, have made an impressive start. They've introduced some exciting changes to the classroom environment and received extremely positive all-round feedback from a recent parent survey. Hannah came along and gave an update at a governor meeting and we are all very supportive of her approach.

The transition from four classes to five is going smoothly. The teaching staff have worked hard to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of all children and this is working well. The Local Authority has completed the first phase of consultation for a new classroom to be in place for September 2023 and plans are ongoing.

We have been delighted to welcome two new governors to the team. Louise Healey an experienced teacher and governor and Dawn O'Hanlon. Dawn also heads up the PTFA and together with her band of helpers and staff, she organised the hugely successful Christmas Fair.

Christmas is, of course, a special time at school. Many of you as parents, grandparents or family members will have had the opportunity to attend the Nativity and the Carol Service. More children than in previous years were involved in the Nativity, which meant that the singing raised the rafters and we had rather more sheep, angels and other important parts. One of the highlights of the Carol Service was the rendition of 'Silent Night' in Ukrainian. A recognition of how well the children of Ukrainian families in the village have integrated into school and how important they are to us. Now, we are all looking forward to Spring!

Jamie Bartlam

Chair of Governors, Twyning School

## Bulletin Photo Competition

Thank you to those of you who entered the photography competition. The winning photo, gracing the front of this edition of the Bulletin, is from Karen Buckley, and was taken on the river meadow, December 2022.

Congratulations! Your prize will be on its way to you soon!

The runner up was Kate Masters whose photographs are now on the village website.

## Twyning Tigers



Started by some dads and their children having a kick about on the village green, Twyning Tigers is now into its 3rd year and allows more than 50 children in and around the village to come and play football on Saturday mornings.

In a fun, safe and inclusive environment, children can come along at 10am on Saturdays and enjoy some outdoor football fun and make new friends. The Tiger Cubs play on the MUGA and start from age 4 until 6 and then they can join the Tigers up on the pitches from ages 6/7. It's great fun for all local boys and girls who want to come along and get outdoors, learn some football skills and even play in some friendly games against local teams.

We even have an end of season awards ceremony which will be taking place this year in the village hall on Saturday 1st April (no, it's not an April Fool!) at 4pm. Tickets are limited and are on a first come first served basis so see the coaches to get your tickets quick!

Not part of Twyning Tigers or the Tiger Cubs and want to see what it's all about? Then contact Steve Wilcox at [swilcox2039@gmail.com](mailto:swilcox2039@gmail.com) or on 07368 627988.

We look forward to welcoming you!

## Twyning Scouts

Scout Group - Ian Palmer - [theianpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:theianpalmer@gmail.com)

### **Group**

The new year brings new opportunities and new challenges to both the young people who are members of our Scout Group here in Twyning (as detailed in the section reports), and to the leader team.

We are delighted that Matt Wills has taken on the role of Scout Leader. Matt is no stranger to scouting and has been biding his time supporting the Beaver section but has now stepped up to lead the Scout section. Good luck to Matt and sincere thanks to Dan for covering the role for the last two years.

Conversely Julie Catchpole will be stepping down from leading the Cub section at the end of the Spring term after 5 years at the helm due to business commitments, so we are urgently seeking new leaders who can help ensure that Cubs continues in the summer term.

As always Help with running any of the sections is always welcome and if you are interested in joining the leadership team in any capacity please do drop me an email, we would love to hear from you.

### **Beavers - Age 6 to 7 (Thursday) - Anne Green [thefamilygreens@btinternet.com](mailto:thefamilygreens@btinternet.com)**

Last term Beavers were very busy earning their skills challenge badge. They learnt how to make and change their bed, dusting and cleaning the school library, and clean their shoes. they used some of these skills on our communicators sleepover and also tried to use phonetic alphabet and semaphore flags as well as usual night hikes, wide games, campfire and toasting marshmallows.

Well done to Henry for gaining his bronze chief scout award

Thanks to our "international parents" and explorer scouts attending the world scout Jamboree for running 2 evening to gain international badge. We heard about scouting in Ukraine Indonesia and Korea and played games from these countries.

We wish Alex all the best at cubs.

Many thanks to Matt for all his help at beavers and have fun at scouts

We are currently full at beavers but If you are interested in becoming a leader at beavers or want your child added to the waiting list (they need to be 4 and at school) please contact Anne Green [thefamilygreens@btinternet.com](mailto:thefamilygreens@btinternet.com)

### **Cubs - Age 8 to 10 (Thursday) - Julie Catchpole - [jdcatchpole@yahoo.com](mailto:jdcatchpole@yahoo.com)**

We saw the year out with our yearly events such as the Remembrance Parade in November and our Christmas party in December. The Cubs also completed their World Challenge badge and Local Knowledge activity badges. We thank Ben Wilson for his time in covering Michelle while she is on maternity leave. We wished the best to Tabitha, Stephanie and Jasper as they moved up to Scouts and welcome Alex as he joins us from Beavers.

The New Year has started with the Cubs choosing what badges they want to work towards in 2023, these being the Sports Enthusiast, Collectors and Naturalist activity badges, which take three months to complete. We'll also be covering First Aid and the Digital Citizen stages badges.

These badges will take the pack to Easter, which is when myself as Akela (Section Leader) and Charlotte (Section Assistant) will be stepping down from our roles. I deeply thank Charlotte for all she has done and to Steve for agreeing to stay on in his role as Assistant Leader.

After five wonderful years managing the Cubs, I have seen my daughter progress from a Beaver into Scouts and helped numerous children follow the same path. We've had great fun on camps away and I'm very proud of what has been achieved in the pack. I thank the current team for all their support and time given each week and also the Scouting family in giving our children the Scouting experience within the village, which we are very lucky to have.

If you feel you are up to the job, in either managing as a leader or in a supporting role, please contact myself or Ian Palmer (Group Scout Leader). Training and support will be provided, but without a team, Cubs will not be able to continue.

**Scouts - Age 10 ½ to 14 (Thursday) - Dan Orchard - Dan@twyning.net**

Scouts have had a fairly busy Autumn term. We competed against several hundred other young people at the National Scout Shooting Championships in Bisley, Surrey in October. Skylar did particularly well, coming in the top 20 for her age group. Everyone had a great time and we will be returning this year. We also competed in Operation Bald Eagle, based at the Scout campsite next to West Midlands Safari Park. The event was made up of 3 competitions - an evening challenge, with a musical theme on the Friday. 30 bases on the Saturday with a whole host of different physical and mental team challenges.

The main event on the Saturday evening consisted of a 7 mile hike and interspersed with more team challenges which ended after midnight. As we only had 1 leader available for the event, we shared camping with a friend of mine's Scout Troop from Cheltenham.



It is really important that the young people have a significant input into how Scouting is run, and to this end, they have been working towards the You Shape award. This provides a framework for the young people to plan their programme and activities, lead younger Scouts and also run activities for the Cubs section. They also get the opportunity to represent the young people at District Scout level.

The Scouts are soon going to join the Explorers for a weekend of adventurous activities in Pembrokeshire.

After 2 years of maintaining and growing the Troop through Covid, I am very pleased to say that Matt Wills has agreed to become Scout Leader at 2nd Twyning. I will continue to support Matt, but we do need help with running some of the evenings where we don't have all the leaders available, especially as Charlie has now moved to Birmingham. Parents, relatives, friends - if you have a skill or activity to share with us, please get in touch.

Dan Orchard  
Scout Leader (now Assistant Scout Leader !)

## Explorer Scouts

During the Autumn, the Explorers have been taking part in activities such as climbing, cooking, escape room challenges, parliament Week, team building, problem solving, National Scout Shooting Championships (air pistols, rifles and crossbows) and taking part in the village remembrance service. You may have noticed that the Explorers did not have the District standard (flag) this year as it has been shared to another Explorer Unit in the District. It would be great if we could have our own flag (but they cost £300).



This term, the Explorers are taking part in a winter camp and adventurous activities to be based in Pembrokeshire. Next month, they will be competing in the Cotswold Marathon - a 20 mile night event, navigating through the Gloucestershire countryside.



Liz is looking forward to warmer weather and river levels returning to normal so that we can get back out in the canoes. We are also looking forward to some walking in the mountains.

Dan Orchard, Explorer Scout Leader,  
01684 298788



## Local Elections

Local elections for town and parish councils are due to be held in May 2023.

Surveys reveal that while many people want a say in how their area is run many do not even know who their councillors are. Come along to a Twyning Parish Council meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall and find out about the issues in your village. From the right to make representations on planning applications, to the state of footpaths and street lighting, parish and town councils have a wide range of responsibilities. They make decisions which affect your everyday life.

Many people may think their opinions don't count and public statements over the years have further reduced the hope that local action can or will make any difference. The answer is – you vote, you decide. It's an important way of having your say on the issues you care about and choosing who will make decisions on your behalf. In the coming weeks, you will be asked to vote for someone to represent your views, so the message is – come along, get involved and find out. It doesn't matter if you don't want to become a local councillor, you might know someone who does. By voting and getting involved, you might be able to ensure a better service.

### **How do I Become a Councillor?**

Even those who have stood as councillors before may forget what the process was four years ago. While relatively easy, it is strict and if not followed exactly will result in disappointment and rejection for the wrong reasons. The rules are there to ensure that only those who are eligible to stand for election in your community are considered and that those put forward have agreed to stand for election. Councillors are elected by the public and serve four-year terms.

### **Can I stand as a councillor?**

Check your local district council website [www.twyningvillage.co.uk](http://www.twyningvillage.co.uk) for the eligibility and disqualification criteria.

### **The Election Procedure**

All Tewkesbury, Forest of Dean and Cotswold Parish & Town Councils will hold elections in May 2023.

A few terms that it helps to explain:

- Returning Officer: person empowered to run an election
- Standing: Putting your name forward for election
- Electoral Register: Names and addresses, together with election identification numbers of all people within a community who are registered to vote
- Election Timetable: dates when specific forms must be publicised or sent in by
- Warded: Areas are split up into what is called 'wards' so that councillors are elected by a specific, smaller number of people who will be aware of their local concerns rather than having to represent all people within a whole parish.
- Expenses: If you do produce your own leaflets/pamphlets you need to declare how much you have spent on this

contd...

**Step 1: Check for local elections**

Speak to your local Councils' Clerk and ask if there are vacancies on the Council.

Email your elections officer <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-Council>

Go to: [www.yourvotematters.co.uk](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk)

**Step 2: Submit your nomination**

If you can stand as a candidate, you will need to complete a set of nomination papers for the electoral area you are wanting to represent.

When you complete your nomination papers, you will need to show that you have been formally nominated by a particular number of registered electors in the electoral area you are wishing to stand. These are a proposer and seconder who support your nomination in the Parish/Town or Parish Ward (if the Parish/Town is warded) you are wanting to represent.

Nomination papers must be hand delivered to the district Council and will be checked upon delivery to ensure they are correctly completed. Please check on your local authority website whether an appointment is necessary.

Nomination forms available from all parish and town Council offices and the district authority's website.

**Step 3: Nomination accepted, or not**

The local authority will notify candidates in writing, via the post; this is the formal Notice of Validity.

**Step 4: Nomination made public**

The Statement of Persons Nominated is published on the principal authority website following the Close of Nominations.

If there are more candidates than seats, an election will be held. If not, all candidates take office 4 days after 4 May 2023 (excluding the bank holiday). Existing Councillors go out of office on 9 May 2023 and newly elected Councillors take office on this day. New Councillors must sign the acceptance of office before they can officiate.

**Step 5: Start campaigning**

Planning your Local Campaign

[www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor/resources/council-toolkit-planning-your-local-campaign](http://www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor/resources/council-toolkit-planning-your-local-campaign)

Planning your Communications

[www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor/resources/council-toolkit-planning-your-communications](http://www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor/resources/council-toolkit-planning-your-communications)

**Step 6: Polling Day**

The Electoral Commission's website has a host of useful information for Candidates, including rules on spending, attending events and dos and don'ts for campaigning and polling day.

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/returning-officer](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/returning-officer)

This will be updated as and when the new Election's Laws are laid down.

## Twyning Chapel Friendship Group

Held in the Chapel alternate Fridays.

We have continued to meet and have 25 members now, these are informal meetings of people who have lost their partners, and enjoy meeting, having a coffee with cake or biscuit and chatting. We have been very fortunate to have Ida visit us from Age UK and give us advice with regard to finance and help that is available should you need help.

One of our members John Westcott is showing us his skills with little magic tricks which keeps us entertained, and we occasionally have small quizzes that gives us all a laugh!

Sadly, Freda Jefferson one of our members passed away on December 19th but she is at peace now and was able to stay in her own home, which was her wish.

We had a Christmas lunch at Brown's Restaurant at The Mythe Garden Centre, which was very enjoyable, the food was lovely and their staff looked after us very well indeed.

Our meetings start again on Friday January 13th at 10.30 and if you wish to join us, please contact Hilary Caudle 07770 571755.

## Twyning WI

Twyning WI are all geared up for a full programme of events in 2023. We ended a successful 2022 with our AGM and willow weaving session in November. We all produced something that resembled a Christmas tree! Thank you to Vicky for her patience. Our December meeting was very Christmassy. We all put on our Christmas jumpers (much needed) and enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and a Christmas quiz.

It was also lovely to welcome some new members along.

The new committee are excited to launch this year's varied programme starting with 'Tales of a Travel Rep' on Tuesday 10th January. In February we are welcoming Jackie Loring talking about the 'Reincarnation of the Kimono'. We are hoping that there will be opportunities to try on a few kimonos. In March, we are planning a craft and social event. More details to follow!

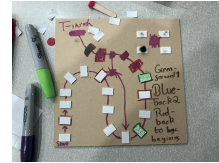
If you are interested in joining please come along to one of our meetings, the second Tuesday of the month, no obligation! We would love to see you.

You can also find details on our Facebook page.



## 1st Bredon Guides

We had a great Christmas term. The girls took part in Parliament Week; learned how to cook a range of food from chicken to pasta to vegetables; went on a penny walk; created a board game; upcycled household items; and had a Halloween party where they all came in incredible fancy dress and got very wet apple bobbing!



This term we have already got off to a flying start with their "Know Myself" Skillsbuilder which included the creation of a play about themselves which they are going to perform at the parents' evening at the end of the month. We are also planning to get involved in Brumopoly, organised by the West Midlands Guiding, where teams of girls race around Birmingham on a trail! It should be fun. And looking ahead we are hoping to meet up with other units on a Worcestershire wide camp near Malvern.



Bredon Guides is looking to grow at the moment so if you have a daughter aged 10-14 who is looking for a fun evening a week then please email [bredonguides@gmail.com](mailto:bredonguides@gmail.com) or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk). We meet on Thursdays at 7pm at Bredon Village Hall.  
Sarah & Jane

## Twyning Players

The cast and crew of Hansel & Gretel, our December pantomime, had a good time putting the show together and it was great to have some new young people taking part. Many thanks to those of you who came along to support us. We've had lots of positive feedback and hope that you enjoyed it too.

We want to publicly recognise John Salmon who has stood down as our Treasurer after many years of sterling work keeping our finances on track. Whilst our aim is not to make a large profit, we do have to ensure that we have enough funds to mount the next production and also have some contingency for capital investment in scenery, equipment and materials. Thank you John for everything you have done for Twyning Players. Steve Reeves has taken over as our Treasurer and will now be holding the purse strings.

Just a short break for members during the rest of December and January as rehearsals are now underway for our next production which will be on 11th, 12th and 13th May. Look out for posters and more information nearer the time.

New members are always welcome. If you would like to be involved, onstage or backstage, do talk to any Twyning Player or give me a call.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

Carol Chapman, Secretary  
293527

## Bulletin admin

Submissions of articles and photographs relating to Twyning are always welcome for the Bulletin. If you run a club or stage an event in the area let us know! You don't have to be part of a club or organisation to contribute, though - the Bulletin is truly a community effort for everyone to share in.

Please make sure that you have permission for anyone featured in a photograph.

If you'd like to advertise in the Bulletin or be added to the email contact list for reminders, please contact the editor (see below for contact details).

***The deadline for the next editions of the Bulletin are***  
**15th May 2023**  
**15th September 2023**  
**15th January 2024**

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To advertise, contact

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[editor@twyningcouncil.co.uk](mailto:editor@twyningcouncil.co.uk); tel. 298790

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