



Faith Matters

Rt Rev'd Dr Martin Warner, the Bishop of Chichester

The Longest Day and its long shadow

As we mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Bishop Martin of Chichester reflects at this time on the meaning of such great sacrifice for us in the present.

Commemoration of the D Day landings has had a greater impact on us that we might have expected.

The veterans who survived that astonishing bid to

put a stop to Hitler are now few in number.

But BBC's The Unheard Tapes has allowed the voices of the dead to tell us what they endured and why.

Voices that were anonymous have claimed back their personality.

They were people like us. But unlike most of us, they left safety behind and advanced against the odds for

the sake of a better future.

Two things stand out as I reflect on the human dimension of The Unheard Tapes.

The first is the gap between the young voices of actors reading what D-Day troops wrote, and the aged veterans.

This is a challenge to our culture in which being young is everything and old

age is being past it.

Youth has enormous power and is to be treasured.

But let's remember the youthful achievements of the elderly and honour them in old age.

The second thing is the quality of relationships between these men.

We tend to sexualise all relationships. This can

damage and limit our freedom.

The virtues of loyalty, heroism, honour, and love reveal a quality of relationship forged in very particular circumstances which is like gold, and it defies sexual categorisation.

Perhaps there is something here for the rising generations to claim as they shape the future.



The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner

News

Dates for your diary

Find out what services are offered by your local church

The website 'A Church Near You' – www.achurchnearyou.com – enables you to easily see what services are being held

by churches in your vicinity throughout the year.

Diocesan Environment Day

On Saturday, June 15, we are invited to St Mark's Church, Holbrook, near Horsham for a time exploring the Church's response to climate change.

The day lasts from 9.30am until 4pm. Entrance is free.

Do book using this Eventbrite link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diocesan-environment-day-tickets-823109642097

Visiting the Cathedral

Chichester Cathedral is open Monday to Saturday (9am-5pm) and Sunday (12.30pm-2.30pm).

Admission is by donation (recommended £5 per visitor),

payable on the entry.

Groups of over six are encouraged to book in advance.

Chichester Cathedral offers a varied programme of guided tours, delivered by a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides, including drop-in tours at 11.30am and 2.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

For more information email info@chichestercathedral.org.uk or visit www.chichestercathedral.org.uk



Sussex Green Living

by Olivia Buck

Great to see Wildways Roadshow in action

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council (BHPC) welcomed Sussex Green Living (SGL) to deliver a roadshow in October 2023 at the parish office, when their work and initiatives were first brought to the council's attention.

Liaison has continued since then and this spring the parish council was approached by SGL, requesting grant funding to support a new initiative.

The plan involved delivery of a one day 'Wildways Roadshow' to all classes in Shelley Primary School, Broadbridge Heath.

BHPC, in line with their Biodiversity Policy to raise awareness about the significance of biodiversity within our local community and this current year's 'Action Plan', agreed to support this initiative and approved the grant application. The Wildways Roadshow's

main aim was to enthuse children and their families about nature corridors and the changes that they can make to improve connectivity between greenspaces for wildlife.

Representatives of the parish council were invited to attend the event last month. As officers of the council, Lucinda and I attended the roadshow to observe the benefits of the grant support in action!

Having seen the schedule prior to the day it was clear the children had lots to look forward to. The sessions were divided into three workshops each lasting 45 minutes: Wildways, Soil Health Composting and Grow Your Own.

We arrived at Shelley School for 9am, feeling very grateful that it was a dry day!

We observed the first group of pupils from year three, who



arrived on the field, dressed in their wellies, eager to get started!

The Shelley Primary School team

The pupils rotated through all the workshops, and although not exhaustive, included the following:

■ Surveying their local wildlife area to consider how it could become more wildlife friendly.

■ Creating a habitat map for the school field.

■ Matching different pollinators to different habitats.

■ Quadrat exercise looking at varied species on the playing field.

■ Activities about the benefits of agroforestry and soil health.

Part of the 'Grow Your Own' session meant every child left with a pot of planted seeds to continue to nurture and grow at home!

The school also benefitted from some planting on their field which the children were encouraged to monitor and look

after. We'll look forward to hearing about the seeds' progress.

It was a great opportunity to see the roadshow in action and how the parish council grant supports SGL to benefit our local school community.

We observed the first few sessions and were delighted to see the enthusiasm and engagement from pupils from numerous classes.

It was also valuable to see the SGL education team in action, ably supported by Sally Sanderson (Friends of Horsham Park and Horsham Green Spaces which also supports the Wildways project).

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council look forward to learning about future initiatives.

■ Olivia Buck is deputy clerk at Broadbridge Heath Parish Council