# Ludlow Quaker Journal

## January/ February 2025

*This Journal will publish anything that Friends think is of interest; so its range may be very wide. If you find it too long, select only what interests you from the Table of Contents. Please contact Barbara Mark if you would like to have something included or wonder if you have a subject that might be of interest.*
*It will be published on-line only and will come out when enough articles have been gathered in. Comments and letters to the editor are also welcome.*
*Do remember if this copy is pdf you can listen to it via Windows 10 'read aloud' option at the top of the sheet.*

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DO LOOK ON LUDLOW MEETING WEB SITE FOR ALL THE JOURNALS

Many thanks to everyone who has helped me on this issue.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

This started on Saturday 18th January
On Sunday 19th Service there was a service of unity at St Peter's Church at 3pm.
Then each church, in turn, hosted a service, in the order below.
Monday 20th at the Baptist Church, Tuesday 21st at Ludlow Methodist Church, Wednesday 22nd Service at Ludlow Quaker meeting house, Thursday 23rd at St Laurence's , Friday 24th Service at Ludlow Elim and Saturday 25th at John's Church

Colin very kindly wrote something about this event for us here.

"In January we had the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WCPU) between the 18th and 25th of January. This has a United Service which takes place at St Peter's RC Church on the first Sunday of the event and a series of services meetings daily through the week. I really enjoy the Sunday Service (this year the singing from the congregation was wonderful!). The daily services do not attract great numbers, and I go to as many as I can because I am a rep on the CTAL exec and accept the challenge! It might seem a tick list challenge to do five meetings, but I never regret doing it.

All churches have treasures unique to themselves and there is something good in seeing the treasurers of others. But even more in sharing insight into your own. I love recommending books or pieces of music I have enjoyed and that small joy when people come back and say they have enjoyed it too. I think that started with me as a teenager and it gave a gentle pleasure as it still does. the WPCU really reproduces that in me too

And in the process people came to us who had not been to our Meeting House before and that pleasure factor was well stoked by the appreciation of our garden and library and then our way of worship. And when I went to their places of worship i hope that I showed reciprocal enjoyment too. Our Treasures fill the community casket and gift the world in that collection of shared spiritual experience ." .

## Visiting Leominster's Quaker History

Ludlow Quaker Meeting is planning an excursion to Leominster on Saturday May 10. Leominster has a long and interesting Quaker history which will explored by visiting relevant sites in the town. Then there will be lunch at the Grange and a picnic tea at Newlands Quaker burial ground.
A list of interest friends will be gathered nearer the time.
Thank you Annie and Bridget for letting us know.

THE MEETING HOUSE IN SOUTH STREET
IS NOW OWNED BY THE MASONIC CENTRE

A history of Quakers in Leominster

Quakers were well established in the northwest of England by the mid-1660s. Preachers were sent out to other parts of the country, and several came to Leominster from 1655 onwards, George Fox himself preaching there in 1657. Many people were interested, as they had a more positive message than the church of the time and spoke of the light within each person so that priests were not necessary. However, the authorities were hostile as they were afraid that law and order was being challenged. Early Friends were often fined and imprisoned for their refusal to pay tithes, removed their hats before authorities, and to take the oath of allegiance to the state. Their goods and farm animals were taken in lieu of tithes. Persecution was particularly severe after the Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

At first meetings for worship were held in private homes, sometimes in one of the villages round Leominster. In 1660 land in South Street was bought, probably for a burial ground. The meeting house was not built until 1687. It consisted of two buildings, the main one for meetings for worship, and a smaller separate one, built later, for the women, who were particularly concerned with pastoral care and help to those suffering. They were separated from South St. by a high brick wall, and from the burial ground behind by palings.

The Toleration Act of 1689 gave Quakers and others more freedom of worship and the Affirmation Act of 1722 allowed them to affirm rather than swear. However, it seems the early fervour had somewhat reduced, many of the leaders had died, and some had emigrated to America, particularly Pennsylvania, founded by William Penn

and West Jersey. Quakers concentrated on living a simple life and strictly moral behaviour.

The end of the 18th C saw a revival of Quakers and other non-conformists in Leominster. Leominster was a flourishing town with many small businesses. A number of Quakers came from outside to set up in trade or manufacturing. Persecution had ceased and Quakers soon became useful and respected members of the town.

The main families of Quakers at that time were the Newmans, the Prichards, the Southalls and the Bakers. They were prominent in many fields, including establishing a savings bank, a temperance hotel with other Christian bodies, an adequate water supply, a gas works, better roads and the railway from Leominster to Kington in the west and Bromyard in the east.

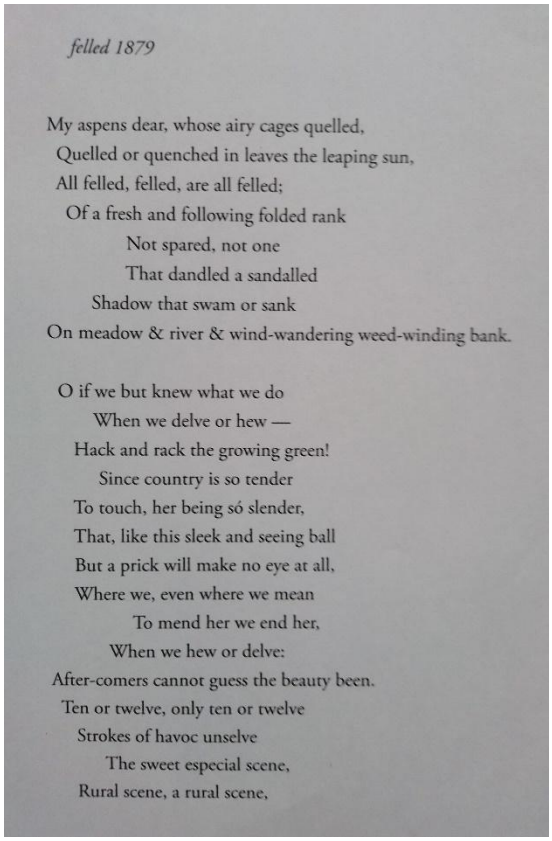
The old meeting house was demolished and a new one built in 1834. It still had a separate building for the women, but with a covered way between the two. In 1869 there were more changes, and the two rooms were joined. The building occupied the whole width of the site, with the burial ground behind.

The most notable contribution of Quakers was in education and in the printing press. In 1840 a small school for girls was started by three young Quaker women, Bessie and Hannah Southall and their cousin Priscilla. This was supported by other Quakers and later larger premises were obtained and a regular teacher. Quakers and other non-conformists established the British School in 1853, the Anglicans having set up a National School.

Probably the most enterprising project was the orphanage with the associated orphan's press, for children who had lost both parents. The orphanage started in a house in Westfield Road, but in 1871 purpose built accommodation was provided in Ryelands Rd. The Orphan's Press started in Broad Street and moved to various sites in the town. It provided employment for the boys when they left school. The girls probably went into “service”.

The Orphan's Press is still flourishing on the Enterprise Park today
By 1900 the burial ground at the meeting house was full, and a plot was bought in Newlands Drive in 1904. The burial stones were moved up and put round the sides. The plot is managed for wildlife.
The Meeting House still stands but was sold in the 1970s and is now owned by the Masons.
Anne Adams 2018
edited by Annie Wood 9/2/2025

Binsey Poplars by Gerald Manley Hopkins.



*felled 1879*

My aspens dear, whose airy cages quelled,
Quelled or quenched in leaves the leaping sun,
All felled, felled, are all felled;
Of a fresh and following folded rank
Not spared, not one
That dandled a sandalled
Shadow that swam or sank
On meadow & river & wind-wandering weed-winding bank.

O if we but knew what we do
When we delve or hew —
Hack and rack the growing green!
Since country is so tender
To touch, her being só slender,
That, like this sleek and seeing ball
But a prick will make no eye at all,
Where we, even where we mean
To mend her we end her,
When we hew or delve:
After-comers cannot guess the beauty been.
Ten or twelve, only ten or twelve
Strokes of havoc unselve
The sweet especial scene,
Rural scene, a rural scene,

Thoughts from Julia

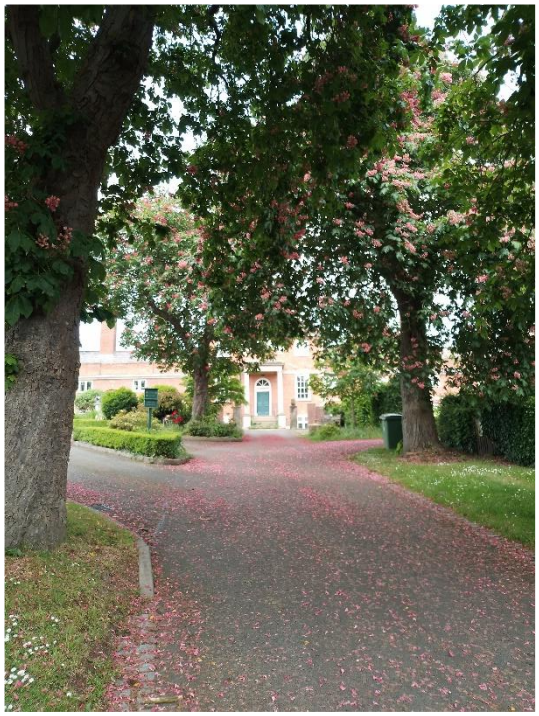
Many years ago, when I was living at Oak Cottage, next door, I went to an evening class on English Literature. This was a poem we studied. It has come back to me for a very sad reason.

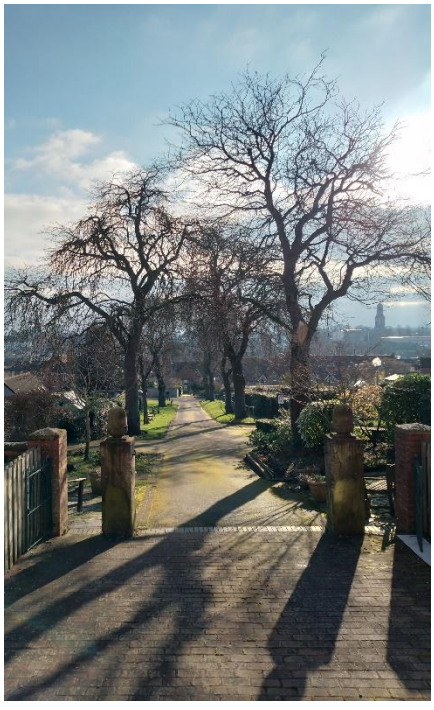
The remaining eight horse Chestnut trees, that line the drive at Millingtons, where I now live, are all to be felled in March. Old age and disease being the reasons given by the Trustees.
We enjoyed the Seasons through these trees. The sticky buds, the bright pink and white flowers, sometimes called candles, being large and triangular in shape, and did indeed appear to shine in the sunshine. Then the pink carpet as the florets faded and fell. The change of colour indicating to the bees not to use their energy trying to collect nectar. The large hand like leaves in summer and the beginning of the spikey conker shells followed by autumn colours. When mature and split open there was a dark amber jewel nestling in the soft inside of the bright green outer protection.
Some of us collected the conkers to take home for deterring spiders. Some residents have many collected over the years. Old and shrivelled and dark they may be, they still have interesting shapes.
A sad part of the prolific conker production was that many were left on the road, to

be squashed by vehicles. I felt for these trees who had used their energy to make these treasures.  I don't think any got to make shoots and new offspring.
Now in winter, I enjoy the intricate shapes made by the branches of the leafless trees. The way the weather and landscape beyond are framed.

Reading the poem now because of G M Hopkins sadness ar the felling of his dear Poplars, I am also more aware of the significance today of the second verse.

"Oh if we but knew what we do
When we delve and hew
Hack and rack the growing green





The last photo is from the top of the drive looking down from the main original building.

G M Hopkins also wrote 'Glory be to God for dappled things.'
One of my favourite poems.
Julia

## Recipe CHOCOLATE RICE CAKE

Thank you, Sally, for this recipe

8 oz Self-Raising Flour

2 oz Ground Almonds

8 oz Soft Margerine

8 oz Soft Brown Sugar

2 oz Cocoa

2 oz Ground Rice

3 Eggs

3 tbsp Milk

1 tsp Baking Powder

Chocolate Drops (1-2 ozs into mixture as wished)

Usual Method

Cream the margarine and sugar together, beat in the eggs gradually and then stir in the other ingredients.

Use an 8" cake tin. Cook for about one and a half hours at 160 degrees Fan.

This makes a cake with an interesting texture and keeps well, if allowed.

## Book Review: The Daily Stoic

By Barbara

From the wisdom of understanding what one can control and what one can not and observing how this feels, to facing death this book gives guidance from across the millennia. I must admit being quite surprised how relevant this ancient wisdom was.

This is helped because Ryan Holiday and Stephen Hanselman bring it all up to date using examples from life today. However, it is a sign that the state of humanity has not really changed much, and our worries, desires and instincts are still very similar, even if our culture is different.
A lot of the advice is about control. Observing in oneself the instincts and reactions that can escalate situations and get out of control. The Stoics recommend calm and consideration as a way of getting through life. It does no one any good to spend energy, and thus length of life, on unnecessary anger and upset. It gives advice on ways to acknowledge ones feelings and then ways to control them.
The book's title says
'366 meditations, perseverance and the art of living' and that is just what it offers.

I am enjoying reading it daily, but not sure I will remember all the advice.

## Wisdom from The Friend publication

Thank you, Tony D'Souza, for allowing me to share these two articles.

Christmas Message

I will tell you what I know. I never speak about it, but because you have asked, I will tell you.

I was a shepherd on the hills that night. A small group of us were minding our sheep on the hills above Bethlehem. Suddenly a great light appeared before us, and we understood immediately that we should follow it down the hill to the small stable on the edge of town. I carried a young lamb on my shoulder as I felt that I should bring something.

We got to the stable and I saw the child. And when I saw the child something was changed forever.

What changed? How can I explain it to you? Our whole world in those days, just like yours today, was convulsed in war, hatred, and death. The only belief we had, and the one that everyone believed, was in revenge. Try to imagine that. It was all we had. Our religion taught us that as individuals we should avenge ourselves on other individuals, paying back an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." It was equally permissible for an entire nation to avenge itself on another. An offended nation could take up arms against another and obliterate it from the face of the earth if it was offended. It was morally acceptable to kill everyone who resisted, steal anything of value, and enslave the women and children who survived the initial onslaught. All this was done in the name of God and blessed by our religious authorities.

We were taught to follow God's law, but this was largely a matter of convenience and murder was permitted in provided it was done in His name. However, the people

who carried out these murders did not mean to do evil. Unbelievably, most of them thought they were doing good. They were just filled with misunderstanding.

It was into this world that Jesus came, just as he comes into your world at this time of year. Can you imagine how everything changed? He told us to forgive our enemies. More than that he said we should love our enemies and pray for those people who persecuted us. Put yourself in our shoes for a moment. Can you see how revolutionary, how utterly new this message was for us? In the darkest time of the year God sent us His son to teach us compassion and forgiveness. We had never heard anything like it before.

The child was born to teach God's true messages of love and peace to a weary, chaotic, pain-filled world. This is the true gift of his birth and his life. Then, as now, many scoffed at the message and remained deaf to it. They carried on in their old ways of grievance and revenge, but even for them the eternal gift of forgiveness is forever offered to them if only they will repent and accept it. Even those who do evil serve a purpose because where the dark is made darkest the light must shine the brighter still. And the light will always triumph. That too is the message of Christmas.

Mankind was lost before He came, but by His birth He came to teach us perfect love. Only perfect love could have done this, and only perfect love would have been able to teach such love to others. If he had not come, the world would have remained in darkness. In all your revels and in your annual rituals this year, remember this, for this is the true meaning of Christmas.

## Doomscrolling

Doomscrolling, according to the dictionary it is “the activity of spending a lot of time looking at your phone or computer and reading bad or negative news stories.” Unfortunately, I do it more often than I should. The minutes turn to hours and time slips by imperceptibly as if in a dream. That’s the worst thing about it. Doomscrolling robs me of time I could have spent doing something meaningful. It is time wasted in a fear filled reverie.

And none of it is my fault. The algorithms in social media recognise what interests me and serve up more and more of it in order to keep me hooked. They want me to keep scrolling because this increases their revenue. Habitual doomscrolling fills me with foreboding and sucks me down the vortex of the plug hole. It’s not surprising psychologists are now saying it causes mental illness. The algorithms keep me trapped, and this is an integral part of their business model. Asking them to change it is like asking a great white shark to stop chewing your leg off.

None of this is new. The tabloid press have been doing the same thing for decades. They have always known bad news sells newspapers. There is even a saying for it in the newsroom “If it bleeds – it leads.” Human misery sells media, and the new technology, serves up human misery far more efficiently than the old style press.

I am glad that someone, somewhere, is at last beginning to see sense. The Australian government has just passed a ban on social media for anyone under the age of 16. This is intended to protect children from harmful content. A petition to the government said children are "not yet ready to navigate online social networks safely," and that currently "excessive social media use is rewiring young brains within a critical window of psychological development, causing an epidemic of mental illness."

The power of that last statement deserves more attention. As a follower of the Buddha and George Fox, I can speak from my own experience. The Dhammapada, a collection of the sayings of the Buddha opens with these two statements:

1. All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts; it is made up of our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with an evil thought, pain follows him, as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the carriage.

2. All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts; it is made up of our thoughts. If a man speaks or acts with a pure thought, happiness follows him, like a shadow that never leaves him.

All that we do, every action, every word we speak, is preceded by and created by thought. Thought is the foundation of who we are. It's really quite simple. Just as dieticians say "You are what you eat," the Buddha and two and a half thousand years of meditation practice says, "You are what you think."

For example, if your diet is exclusively cheap fast food, you will inevitably put on weight and your general health will suffer. In much the same way, if you fill your mind with corrupting images you will eventually be affected by them. In time, they will change how you behave and how you speak to others. They will corrupt you. Perhaps the road to hell is not just paved with good intentions but with click bait images of grumpy cats and teenagers falling off diving boards.

Notes from Barbara

## Do you ever look at YOUTUBE?

If you do I wonder if you have ever listened to the physicist Sabine Hossenfelder. She is very wise in my view and covers many subjects. The ones about Climate are the ones that might interest many of you.

Do give her a try.

There are, of course, now two UK Quaker YouTube channels; Quakerology and, the one I mentioned a couple of years ago, Quake it up.

## Some Radio 4 programmes which have inspired me.

I expect lots of you listen to Radio 4 when you have time. Much the same as me. But recently I have been inspired by some of them, maybe because there are so many worrying things going on around us these days these words give guidance and comfort.

Can I mention 'Thought for the Day'

Firstly on 31st December 2024 by Revd. Winkett.  A really good way to finish the year. Next January 28th by Revd. Dr Giles Fraser thinking about St Thomas Aquinas.

Then, just a few days ago, on 9th February this 'A Point of View' by Rebecca Scott ' with help from Aristotle' considering  Migration.

All these can be found on BBC sounds
Hope you enjoy them.

## Palestine and Israel.

February has been a month of great upheavals in our World. The election of Donald Trump as President of the USA is changing the World order and there seems to be dismantling much of the progress of World unity and support which has gradually been built up over the years. However, one could question that the unity has been all about making lots of money and the gap between rich and poor has got bigger. So , looking on a bright side, maybe a re-set is needed.

The two wars most effecting the Western World, Ukraine and Isreal/Palestine, are on the brink of situations beyond our imaginations.

So, may I share with you the Quakers in Britain's long history of working for peace in Palestine and Isreal.

This is from Quake! On-line publication of January 31st

As part of this commitment, Quakers manage the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and other partner agencies. This work has built a body of experience across Britain Yearly Meeting, and has led to national decisions and actions based on our Quaker commitments to peace, justice and integrity.

In 2011, Quakers in Britain agreed a national position to boycott products from the Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The settlements are illegal under international law. Quakers consider that this boycott is a non-violent move for peace for Israelis and Palestinians. Divestment and sanctions were not taken forward. Read a press release on the boycott of Israeli settlement goods (PDF) here.

In 2014, Britain's largest Quaker decision-making body, Yearly Meeting Gathering, issued a statement, calling on the UK government to take more concerted action for peace in Palestine and Israel. This included calling on the British government to recognise the state of Palestine on the same basis as it recognises the state of Israel. Read the statement on the recognition of Palestine in full (PDF) here.

In November 2018, Britain Yearly Meeting trustees, in consultation with Meeting for Sufferings (the national representative body of Quakers), announced that the church

will not invest any of its centrally-held funds in companies profiting from the occupation of Palestine. Read the press release on "morally responsible investment" here.

Also:-

## American Friends Service Committee work in Gaza Early February news

Just days after a fragile cease-fire deal was reached, many forcibly displaced Palestinians began returning to their homes. Last week, our team in Gaza entered the city of Rafah, determined to help people make the difficult trek.

After months of bombing, about 90% of residential buildings have been destroyed. Travel is difficult because the roads are so full of debris. To assist, AFSC provided support to a private company in removing the rubble. Now, some streets that were blocked have been reopened. Some paths were also cleared to allow residents to access their neighborhoods and see what remained of their homes.

Over the past 15 months, our team has distributed food and water to hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians in Gaza. We have provided baby formula, diapers, and other essentials for infants and children. We have delivered hygiene and dignity kits with soap, detergent, and sanitary napkins. We have distributed mattresses and blankets and provided children with school supplies, educational support, and recreational activities. More recently, we outfitted children with warm winter clothes.

AFSC's work is guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light in every person and a deep commitment to human rights and dignity. We are grounded in those values as we now plan for the next phase of our relief work. With support from people like you, we will keep up our efforts to alleviate famine, deliver life-saving aid, and provide essential goods and services.

While there are many steps involved in achieving a permanent cease-fire, we remain cautiously optimistic. But we also know that the humanitarian aid mechanism built into the ceasefire agreement does not mean that the occupation is over. Israel has not yet lifted the blockade that has severely restricted access to essential goods in Gaza for almost two decades. And today, the humanitarian need in Gaza is greater than ever before.

With hope and perseverance, we believe that Gaza will rise again. AFSC remains committed as ever to providing relief as Palestinians begin the difficult road ahead. We remain grateful to everyone who has supported our efforts.

## Message from Radnor Palestine Links

Last Saturday members and friends of Radnor Palestine Links gathered outside Llandrindod Wells hospital to highlight the ongoing healthcare crisis in Gaza caused by Israel's genocidal war and ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing. The action was a real success with great participation from our members, lots of support from passing motorists and good engagement with the public, especially outside Aldi supermarket.

As I'm sure you know, the IOF (Israel Occupation Force) has bombed hospitals, clinics and blood donation centres. It has deliberately targeted ambulances and paramedics on rescue missions to the injured and dying. It has, with deliberate and vicious malice, destroyed individual pieces of vital medical equipment. It has killed injured and sick patients in hospitals, including new-born babies. It has murdered hundreds of healthcare workers and continues to hold hundreds more prisoner including Dr Abu Safiya, kidnapped in December by Zionist soldiers. Captives in Israeli prisons are routinely starved, tortured and raped. At least three physicians have died in Israeli custody since September 2024.

On the same day as our action, 175,000 people demonstrated on the streets of London for a free Palestine. As some of you may know, one of our co-ordinators and member of RPL, Angie Zelter, was arrested on the 18th January at the previous big London demo. She appeared in court yesterday to plead not guilty. We send her our support and solidarity. She has requested that a way of supporting her is to write to the local press about the events of the 18th January and the clampdown by the government on our democratic right to protest freely on the streets of the UK. If you need any more information about this, let me know.
Do follow, like and share our Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/radnorpal
Best wishes,
Lee Coveney (on behalf of RPL)

Lastly  a bit of information from Quaker Peacebuilding Perspectives, a mostly USA group.
UK admits in court that Israel is not committed to complying with international humanitarian law:

https://www.glanlaw.org/single-post/uk-admits-in-court-that-israel-is-not-committed-to-complying-with-international-humanitarian-law
Barbara, ( editor)

## Environmental

A Winter Diet of Ants

There are three woodpeckers native to the UK, Great Spotted, the rare Lesser Spotted and the largest of the three, the Green Woodpecker. Although they look similar, Green Woodpeckers are not closely related to the other two woodpeckers and most importantly they don't peck wood! Where other woodpeckers drum on hollow wood to advertise their presence, Green Woodpeckers have a loud, laughing call or 'yaffle'. Yaffle, Laughing Betsey and Yaffingale are all traditional names for this magnificent bird.

Green Woodpeckers can be seen in churchyards all year round and give a splash of colour in the winter months when there may not be much to be seen. They are bright green in colour with a yellow rump and red cap: look out for their swooping flight as they come to feed in churchyards.

The main food of Green Woodpeckers are ants, and they have an extraordinary tongue for pulling ants and ant larvae out of anthills. Their tongues are extremely long and sticky, for probing deep into the anthill and sucking up ants. Green Woodpeckers' tongues measure about 10cm, a third the length of the whole bird! When not feeding this long thin tongue is coiled within the birds' skull, resting behind their eyes and around their brains.

The yellow meadow ant which builds anthills in grassland is common in churchyards, so Green Woodpeckers have a year-round source of food. These anthills are a sign of ancient, traditionally managed meadow so, although hard to mow around, they are really special, please look after them. As well as feeding the woodpeckers they often have different plants growing on them, so look out for the flash of green and red

followed by the laughing ‘yaffle’ and then, in the spring and summer see what plants you can find on your anthills too.

First Signs of Spring on the Wing

You can listen as well as look for the first signs of spring and the call of the Chiffchaff never fails to delight. This small buff and brown bird, sometimes described by bird watchers as one of the Small Brown Jobs or SBJs, is for many the sound of early spring. Chiffchaffs are not true migrants, but they do move south in response to cold weather, often wintering in southern Europe. They have always been one of the first birds to return in spring and now, in response to climate change, more Chiffchaffs are remaining in the UK over winter, moving to warmer places and waiting for spring before starting to sing.

The Chiffchaff is a leaf warbler, restlessly searching for small insects on the undersides of leaves, sometimes hovering and reaching to pick them off or darting out to catch them on the wing when, if you listen carefully, you may hear its bill snap shut on the insect. Its fine, needle-like bill is perfect for picking up its prey.

The Chiffchaff calls its name, an example of onomatopoeia like the Cuckoo. It has a loud, two-tone song and can sing for hours on end. March is a great time to spot as well as hear Chiffchaffs as many of the taller trees that they favour are still without leaves. British warblers tend to have subtle, camouflaged plumage and many look very similar, particularly if you are peering into a tree or shrub catching a glimpse of part of a moving bird! The Chiffchaff is nearly identical to the Willow Warbler for example but has a completely different song and this is the easiest way to identify these birds.

So listen out for your first Chiffchaff and if you hear one in your local churchyard or cemetery then you can record it using iNaturalist by visiting

https://uk.inaturalist.org/projects/beautiful-burial-grounds You can use this to upload a recording of the song, much easier than trying to get a photograph!

## Shropshire Wildlife Trust Ludlow Branch

The next Ludlow Wildlife group meeting is on 6th March and is a talk about dragonflies and damselflies by Sue Rees Evans. It is at Ludlow Mascal Centre at 7.30pm and £5 for non-members

## Owning an Electric Car

We have recently bought a BMW G08 iX3 M Sport Pro, for those who might understand this.
After much heart searching, we decided we could not buy another fossil fuel car. We found it morally irresponsible with what we know about global warming and having grandchildren to think about.
We have had a BMW before which my husband enjoyed driving. However, the reason we got this particular model was because it was not controlled by a touch screen. There were the usual switches and levers. Neither of us were comfortable with touch screen for control, one reason being our dry skin. Both of us have trouble with touch screens generally.
We are delighted with this car. Even I am enjoying driving it, which has quite surprised me! One of our concerns was the roads in this area and all the pot holes but it rides them much better that we would have thought. The other thing is flooding and I expect we will not go out in it when the roads are flooded.
The running of it has been much easier than we thought it might be. We charge it at home and, unless we plan a long journey to see family, we do not need to charge it anywhere else.
When we plan a long journey we have been pleasantly surprised to see how many ( working) chargers there are now. So this has also not been a problem.
My husband did a lot of research on this car, and electric cars in general, before we chose this one. One of the sites I could recommend is the Auto Trader YouTube one. It is called
Electric cars for the dummies. Absolutely Everything Explained.
And it does!
Barbara

## London Airport Expansion

After I heard about the plans to expand London Airport I contact my MP about it. I told her I thought this was misguided as London may well suffer greatly from the

effects of Climate Change particularly the Houses of Parliament, which might soon flood.
She pointed me toward this press release which I share with you below.
However, I think the work outlined below may well be rather late. It is based on out-of-date figures.
With all the news of oil companies growing oil production, this government reneging on Climate Commitments and, generally, lack of commitment to Climate Gaols made at COP meetings, global warming is likely to increase faster than predicted.
Barbara

## Press Release

The London Climate Resilience Review, an independent report commissioned by the Mayor of London, publishes its full and final report days after the election.

• Emma Howard Boyd CBE, Chair of the Review and former Chair of the Environment Agency, says preparing London for more frequent and extreme climate risks is "non-negotiable" and the new government should embrace the opportunity for a reset moment on UK climate resilience

• Review says in July 2022 when London hit 40°C, there was a 50% increase in water consumption while reservoirs were at their lowest for 30 years and wildfires pushed the London Fire Brigade to its limits

• Report highlights opportunities for investment in London and growth in key sectors but warns time is running out

• Recommendations include an official heat plan for London to enable the city to better deal with severe floods and heatwaves Today [Wednesday 17 July], the London Climate Resilience Review has published its full and final report into London's preparedness for climate impacts including heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires, storms, sea level rise and subsidence. The Mayor of London called for the Review after parts of London received more than twice the average July rainfall in 2021, and Londoners died in 2022's 40°C heatwave.

Alongside immediate dangers to people's lives and livelihoods the Review found that government and businesses have not adequately planned for the disruption caused when severe weather impacts "cascade" through critical systems like healthcare, transport, energy and water.

Key points in the London Climate Resilience Review:

• Climate impacts in London happen together. The 40°C heatwave occurred at the same time as drought and wildfires, and heatwaves are often followed by flash flooding.

• The new government's plans to build more homes and better infrastructure must include updating resilience and technical standards to cope with the weather extremes London can expect in the coming decades.

• The UK's ageing population, and particularly older people over 65 in care homes, are at the highest risk of heat-related mortality.

• London and the whole of the south-east of England needs a new reservoir.
• The UK government should produce a National Wildfire Strategy and Action Plan by the end of 2025. That Strategy must reflect the increased risk of reduced water supply due to drought and therefore consider non-water-based fire suppression methods.
• The deadline for upgrading flood defences upstream of the Thames Barrier is 2050, and downstream it is 2040; a new Barrier is needed by 2070.
• London's trees, and other green and blue spaces, are under threat from heatwaves, wildfires and windstorms. This weakens London's resilience because trees reduce street temperatures in heatwaves and decrease flood risk.

• Around 43% of London properties are likely to be affected by subsidence by 2030.
• Based on the work of the London Surface Water Strategic Group, UK government should create a Strategic Surface Water Authority for London, led by an independent and non-political Chair, to promote, enforce, and allocate funds in-line with a strategic London-wide approach to flooding.
• Initial analysis indicates climate change could impact London's GDP by 2-3% every year by the 2050s, with costs increasing further in late century.

The publication of the Review comes days after the general election, during which the Labour manifesto pledged to improve climate resilience and preparation at a national and local level.

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