**CLYST ST GEORGE & EBFORD SECTION OF THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE CLYST VALLEY NEWS**

**CLYST ST GEORGE AND EBFORD**

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**Wednesday Morning Prayers at Clyst St George Church**

Morning Prayer is a short said service, every other week on a Wednesday. Why not take 20 minutes and join us – we also have tea or coffee afterwards if you have the time? We start at 9.30 am and will meet on 7th and 21st August and 4th and 18th September; it is an opportunity for a short period of calm and fellowship from the mad rush of day to day living.

**CSG Parish Council Chairman’s Report: August/September 2019**

The PC will not be meeting in August unless we need to discuss a planning application. Parish Councillors will be meeting with Bishops Clyst Councillors to hear the first results from a study of air pollution near the A376 that EDDC have been running in our parish and Clyst St Mary. Should be interesting.

Three times in the last 12 months the main sewer from CSG village across Courtbrook’s Farmland has been blocked. Please follow South West Water’s advice on not putting wet wipes, etc down the loo, and no oil or fat down the drain. Thanks.

John Manser john@jmanser.co.uk 01392 874861

**Coffee Morning at Clyst St George and Ebford Village Hall**

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On Wednesday 4th September the Hall committee will be holding a coffee morning, 10.30 am – 12 noon. Everyone is welcome ̶ pop in for a tea or coffee and a biscuit for £1. Come and enjoy this sociable event.

**Greetings Cards**

![C:\Users\Peter\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\1FDI5CWD\birthday-card[1].jpg]()We are always grateful to receive cards (except Christmas ones) for remaking and they can be left in the church which is normally open between 9 am and 5 pm each day. Visitors will also find boxes of made up cards for sale covering birthdays, get well, sympathy, new home, thank you, anniversary, etc as well as

cards with no message or wording suitable for any occasion. Do call in and enjoy a few quiet moments browsing and perhaps buy a card. Linda Wilkerson (01392 875705)

**Are There Hedgehogs at the Bottom of Your Garden?**

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Well, there certainly are in Lower Lane, Ebford, and there is a good chance they are in your garden too. If so, you are privileged as their numbers are declining from over 30 million in the 1930s to an estimated 1.5 million in 1995, due mainly to loss of habitat as a result of changing farming practices, housing development, road casualties and use of slug pellets. Hedgehogs do no damage and feed on beetles, slugs and worms so are very useful in keeping down garden pests.

How do you know if you have hedgehogs in your garden? The main evidence is seeing droppings which are small and often look like dark slugs on the lawn. The colour can vary depending on the hedgehog’s diet. To encourage them to stay, and to help them in periods of dry weather and to fatten up prior to hibernation, it’s nice to feed them. They will relish meat-based wet dog or cat foods and meat-based complete dry cat food. They will be getting most of their food from insects and worms in the wild, and this food is only supplementary. If you are worried about the food being taken by birds and other animals then it’s easy to make a feeding station. Mine is a clear plastic box (about £6 from any hardware store, B&Q, Range, etc), measuring 46cm x 33cm x 23cm. Cut a piece about 10cm wide and 10cm high out of the centre of a short end for access, put a saucer of food inside and a brick on top, site in a warm spot where you know hedgehogs visit and job done. Don’t forget a shallow dish of water, a plant saucer is fine, essential in dry periods such as we have had this summer. It may take a few days for the food to be found but do persevere. Last week at dusk one evening we saw two adults and three hoglets in the garden together. They like to furtle round under the bird feeders for stray sunflower seeds.

As autumn comes on reliable food supply is essential so that hedgehogs can gain enough weight to survive winter hibernation. Hibernation time can depend on temperature and food availability. Those visiting my garden didn’t hibernate until early January and were back out in early March.

If you have a pond, please make sure hedgehogs can’t fall in or, if they are unfortunate enough to do so, can easily get out. Hogs can’t swim and I’ve just heard of one falling into a local garden pond and, sadly, not being able to climb out. Garden netting can trap them too.

As space is limited in the newsletter, I would suggest you visit *Hedgehog Street* which is an excellent website with useful information on hedgehogs, sitings and plans for making feeding stations and hibernaculas. Please do anything you can do to help halt the decline in numbers of this charming little creature and make Clyst St George and Ebford a hedgehog-friendly parish. Ann Deem

**Nature Garden**

Clyst St George has a delightful nature garden by the side of the parish church. The aim of the garden is to grow local Devon indigenous plants and trees and to encourage a Devon meadow with local wild flowers. Should you wish to help develop this ‘green’ facility, you can come along on the first Saturday of every month from 9.30 to 11 am.

**Little Dragons Pre-School**

We are pleased with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection in April 2018, where we were judged to be ‘good’. We still have a few spaces for children so do come and visit and meet our highly experienced staff team. We are based in Lady Seaward’s School and open four days a week, from Monday to Thursday 8.45 am ̶ 3.15 pm during school term times. For more information please telephone Elly on 07939 995486 (in school hours), email littledragons@live.com or visit our website www.littledragonsclyststgeorge.com.