

# The LYCHGATE

The Newsletter of Caring for God's Acre

No.18 Autumn/Winter 2010



Charity registration number 1084504



*The lychgate at St. Mary's church, Kington was rebuilt in 2005 in the same style as the C18th one it replaced. Built of brick with an ornate lead roof, the lychgate has tall oak gates.*

## Forthcoming Events

### *Launch of the Sacred Spaces Project*

**Saturday 30th October 2010**

**12 noon at St Laurence's Parish Church, Church Stretton**

Writer and Broadcaster Dr Paul Evans will speak about Sacred Spaces

### *CfGA Annual General Meeting*

**Thursday 10th February 2011**

**7.30pm at Ludlow Conference Centre, Lower Galdeford**

Followed by a talk from Wendy Toomey, Sacred Spaces Co-ordinator on

### **The Sacred Spaces Through The Ages Project.**

Wendy Toomey has worked as a freelance archaeologist and has extensive experience of working with community groups. She has worked for the British Museum and has run projects in Wales and the Borders.

All Welcome – Booking essential through CfGA office.

## Sacred Spaces Through The Ages

This is an exciting three year project funded by the LEADER Rural Development Programme, designed to inspire and engage communities in the Shropshire Hills to develop a 'sense of place'. Wendy Toomey is co-ordinating the project through Caring For God's Acre and she looks forward to working with the twelve nominated communities to help facilitate events and projects involving their community's history and heritage.

The project is designed to bring communities and their sacred spaces together. A sacred space can be anywhere that has a special meaning to a community, and can include wells, streams, an ancient meadow, churchyards, stone circles, caves, standing stones, ancient trackways, geological formations, abbeys, veteran trees, ancient woodland, field systems, deserted villages,

ruins and pilgrimage routes.

The Twelve Communities to be involved with the Sacred Spaces Project are: **Bishop's Castle, Clee Hill, Clun, Bettws y Crwyn, Chapel Lawn, Lydbury North, Little Wenlock, Rushbury, Ludlow, Hope Bowdler, Cardington and Craven Arms.**

These communities can celebrate their sacred space through events which involve storytelling, folklore, archaeological investigation, historical written sources, oral history, poetry, guided walks and pilgrimages, music and song, dance and theatre, film, photography, workshops and courses, and practical conservation/restoration projects.



## New Churchyard and Burial Ground Action Pack

**A brand new information pack is now available from Caring for God's Acre at a price of £16.50 to include P&P.**

The pack consists of an A4 plastic file with the advice guides in individual plastic wallets. There are a total of 23 different guides ranging from information on how to get started on a scheme, how to manage grassland, trees and stonework to inspiring local people, schools and visitors to find out more about their local churchyards.



*'The lychgate' is produced with the aim of keeping you in touch with things that are happening both locally and nationally, to help with the conservation and interpretation of churchyards and burial grounds.*



## Art & Memory Catalogue

The booklet *Art & Memory* is a celebration of human ingenuity and imagination in the design and construction of memorials. Memorials are usually thought of as a simple slab of stone on which is inscribed the brief details of the subject's life and death. This is the purpose of a memorial, but it does not have to be in this form alone. *Art & Memory* shows how varied these tributes to the dead can be. Many are on stones of all shapes and sizes, tall and thin, round and decorated, pillars or slabs, functional or merely ornamental. Some have many words inscribed while others are brief. Most are in stone, but many are carved from wood. One of these is in the shape of a trombone. Many inscriptions are philosophical; others simply name their subject. The lettering is often plain and bold whilst in many cases the inscription is ornate to the point of obscurity.

This booklet will be of great interest to those who design and make memorials or to those who are fascinated by the many ways in which a person can be remembered.

**The booklet is available from Memorials by Artists at a cost of £5.00 + £1.50 p&p.**

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

Memorials by Artists Ltd, Snape Priory,  
Priory Lane, Snape, Saxmundham IP17 1SA.

Tel: 01728 688934

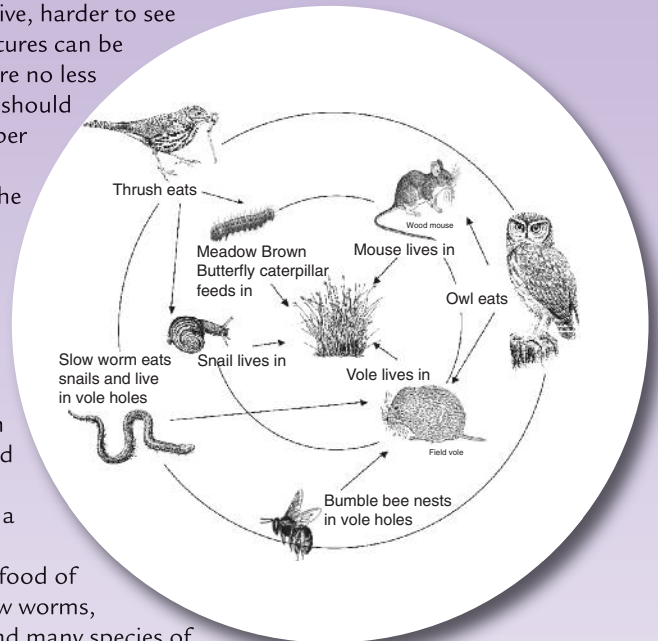
## The wonderful web of life in tall grassland!!

Which are your favourite flowers or birds and butterflies? Probably those that are most attractive and do not bite or sting or compete for our food. The less attractive, harder to see or "nasty" creatures can be forgotten but are no less important. We should try and remember that an unseen web connects the entire natural world. Break one thread and the rest collapses.

Consider the tall grass within churchyards and burial grounds which provides a home for small mammals (the food of barn owls), slow worms, bumblebees, and many species of butterflies! By leaving selected areas of grass to grow tall, even if it is only around the boundaries, we are helping our wonderful web of wildlife and in doing so celebrating this International Year of Biodiversity.

This is a very simplified version of a very complex subject; hopefully, it will encourage us to think before getting the strimmer out!

**For guidelines on grassland management in churchyards look at our website [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) and see *Conservation Advice, Advice sheets for download.***



## Get your churchyard on the map!

The Big Wildlife Garden is a fabulous online resource enabling people to register their garden/open space/churchyard and discover the small things that we can all do to make these places great for wildlife.

Natural England are encouraging as many people as possible to sign up for FREE, to do some small thing to make our green spaces attractive to wildlife.

The site is regularly updated with details about special projects and inspirational activities for people to enjoy.

Natural England recognise the value of open areas surrounding places of worship and would like to encourage them to register on the Big Wildlife Garden and to do something great for wildlife and biodiversity. Simply take a look at [www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk) and sign up.

## Churchyard Management Memories

Over the years we have visited hundreds of churchyards and been fascinated to hear about how they used to be cut with scythes or grazed, what the flowers were like, or where wedding photographs were taken. We would like to start collecting memories and photographs of churchyard management and activities from the past to prevent them from being lost, and to inspire us for the future.

An exhibition is planned for Cherishing Churchyards Week in 2011, so search out old photographs, record old memories and let us know what you have found.