Honeybourne Village News

Info : Local : News

November 2026



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November 2026

Remember, Remember, the 5th of November!



It's November and skies across England will light up with fireworks as families gather around bonfires to celebrate a tradition rooted in one of the most famous plots in British history – **The Gunpowder Plot of 1605.**

Bonfire Night, the 5th of November, commemorates the failed plot of Guy Fawkes who, with his fellow conspirators, attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament and assassinate King James I. Their plan was foiled, and the discovery was marked with public celebrations that eventually became an annual tradition.

More than four centuries later, the tradition remains a familiar feature of autumn across the country, so prepare for evenings of fireworks, bonfires, seasonal refreshments and family entertainment!

If you're looking for a **Bonfire Night** nearby, here are a few suggestions for events happening near us:

1st Nov – **Stratford** Rugby Club Bonfire and Fireworks at Pearcecroft Ground from 5-9pm.

5th Nov – **Evesham** Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular at Corporation Meadow from 5pm, fireworks at 8pm.

6th Nov – **Shipston-on-Stour** Sports Club Bonfire and Fireworks from 5pm, fireworks at 7pm.

7th Nov – **Chipping Campden** Bonfire Night and Fireworks at the recreation ground on George Lane from 5pm.



Wherever you choose to celebrate, enjoy a toffee apple, have a fantastic time and stay safe around the fire!

Honeybourne Village News Team

Contact details for the HBVN:

Comments & contributions e.g. photo's around the village or area, jokes or puzzles , ideas for the Spotlight On… feature, articles, letters to the editor. **editor.hbvn@gmail.com**

ALL ARTICLES OR ARTWORK MUST BE PROVIDED READY FOR INCLUSION AND PRINT USE A5 WORD, JPEG, PNG OR PREFERABLY POST INFO DIRECTLY INTO EMAIL

Deadline date for inclusions in 2026 is the 17:00hrs on17th of the month

Parish Council News

Station car park

There is encouraging news on the station car park. Funding for a feasibility study is now in place, and Network Rail has sent Wychavon District Council the specification for the study. Wychavon is reviewing it to make sure the study will consider the options it has requested. The Parish Council will keep pressing for progress and will update residents as soon as there is more to report.

Poppy Train

On Wednesday 11 November, Armistice Day, I will again be presenting a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at Honeybourne Station as the Great Western Railway Poppy Train calls at 7.57am. This year marks the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The wreath will travel to London Paddington to be laid at the War Memorial, so that Honeybourne is represented at the annual remembrance service there. Residents who would like to be at Honeybourne Station are welcome, but please arrive in good time as the train must leave at 7.58am.

Ribbons of Remembrance

This November, the Church Fabric Team at St Ecgwin's will be creating Ribbons of Remembrance, with ribbons looped onto the churchyard gates to honour loved ones and mark our Remembrance event. In past years the crafters of Honeybourne have made beautiful knitted and crocheted poppies for the poppy swoosh and the bands around the trees in the churchyard, and this is a lovely new way of remembering.

Christmas event, Friday 4 December

Please join us at the Village Hall grounds from 6pm to 8pm for the Honeybourne Christmas event. Entry is free. There will be carols from Honeybourne Primary Academy, music from the Silver Band, the town crier, craft fayre, a merry-go-round and a children's entertainer. The Village Hall will be running a pop-up bar, and there will be a van selling burgers and chips. The Christmas tree will be blessed at **6.45pm, and at** 7pm Santa will switch on the lights. Raffle tickets will be on sale at £1 each, with the draw at the end of the evening.

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored, donated or offered raffle prizes. A special thank you to those who have sponsored a light in memory of a loved one, whose names will be read out on the night.

Heath Jobes
Chair of Honeybourne Parish Council



Members of Honeybourne Parish Council			
Heath Jobes (Chair) 07375085116 **Balbir Dubb (Vice-Chair) 07795670707**			
Andrew Attridge	01386 830744	Amy Mathias	07956076271
Graham Clelland	01386 832500	Stephen Sidwell	07815311432
Colin Clear	07702105737	Sandra Walsh	07714237336
Judith Mellor	07770983522	-	
Clerk contact details: Mobile: 07951 429652 clerk@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk			

HONEYBOURNE ALLOTMENTS

Fancy growing your own?

There has been lots of interest in the Honeybourne allotments recently, and it's lovely to see new people getting involved.

If you've ever thought about growing your own fruit and vegetables, autumn is a good time to take on a plot. It gives you time to clear the ground and get it ready, so you can start planting next season.

To find out more, email the Parish Clerk:
clerk@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk

Mobile Library Timetable

The **Mobile Library** on the 4th Friday in the month as follows:
12.05-12.20 Grove Avenue **12.25-12.40** Perrie Drive **13.15-13.30** Village Hall

Honeybourne Parish Council and Village Hall

invite you to

Honeybourne's Christmas Lights Switch On

Date: Friday 4th December 2026
Time: 6pm – 8pm
At: Village Hall, Harvest Close

Festivities include:

Honeybourne Primary Academy Carol Singing
Alcester Victoria Silver Band
Free Merry- Go- Round rides for children
Balloon Modelling
Santa handing out children's selection boxes
Raffle
Craft fair

Food & Drinks:

Burgers, sausage baps,
chips, curry sauce, veggie options available.
Mulled wine, Mince Pies,
Hot & Cold Drinks, Wine and Beer.

Honeybourne Parish Council
Email: **clerk@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk** | Tel: **07951 429652**

There will be NO PARKING at the Village Hall for this event.

Christmas Tree Lights

Sponsor a light for a loved one

The Christmas Tree lights will be switched on at the Honeybourne Christmas Event on 4th December 2026. If you would like to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one, please contact Sylvia Matthews on 01386 832215 for details.

Complete the form below:

Name of sponsor	Amount	In memory of

A list of tree light sponsors and the loved ones they are remembering will be published in the January edition of the Honeybourne Village News, displayed in the Village Hall and on the Christmas tree.

Please hand your completed form, together with cash or a cheque made payable to Honeybourne Parish Council, to Sylvia Matthews

All proceeds will help fund the Honeybourne Christmas Event

Wednesday over 60s Club

Our October meeting was on the 7th of October, where we welcomed Robin one of our local First Responders. Robin gave us a fun but important demonstration on how to use and where lifesaving Defibrillators can be found. It is nice to know we have a good number dotted around the village. We then went on to see how to give CPR and had the opportunity to have a try ourselves. Courses on this are held regularly in Broadway and are free. If you are interested or want more information, contact info@signpost.info or call 01386 859029. On concluding business matters we had our usual tea and cake and caught up with friends.

New members are always welcome, so why not pop along, meet and make new friends, as always, we would love to see you.

Our next trip is in December will be to Notcutts in Solihull. If you are interested in coming along, then please call Pam on 07966 871862. The Club meet on the first Wednesday of the month, our next meeting our will be on 4th November, at the Village Hall @ 2.30pm.



Honeybees W.I September Meeting.

What a wonderful time we had at our September meeting, our speaker was Marea Brown, who came to talk to us about Jaipur Indian Block Printing.
She began her talk by telling us how she became interested in block printing, and gave up her job to do it full time. Marea then gave a demonstration on how to achieve a good result.
We could choose from a tote bag or teatowel, and we then let our imagination run riot as we chose our blocks from Marea's vast collection. There were animals , birds, plants, vehicles, numbers and alphabet, the variety was endless.
We all managed to produce a unique and colourful item to take home.

It was such good fun, and many of us would love to continue with this exciting pastime.
As usual our evening concluded with refreshments and raffle.

Anyone interested in joining us would be made most welcome.
We meet at the Village Hall at 7.30. on the third Monday of the month, for more information ,check out our Facebook page or call 01386 830517



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Gardening Tips for November. Preparing for Winter

November is the month when the garden begins to settle down for winter, but there is still plenty to do!

Plant spring-flowering bulbs

It is not too late to plant tulips, daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs. Plant them for a welcome splash of colour next spring. Tulips are best planted in November, when the cooler soil helps reduce the risk of disease.

Make use of fallen leaves

Fallen leaves can be turned into valuable leaf mould, which makes an excellent soil conditioner. Collect leaves in a wire cage or black bin bags with a few holes for ventilation, dampen them if dry and leave them to rot down. Shredded leaves break down more quickly.

Look after roses and shrubs

Remove dead or diseased growth from roses and clear away fallen leaves, particularly if they show signs of black spot. Avoid hard pruning most roses now, as strong winds can rock newly pruned plants. Support tall roses and newly planted shrubs to protect them from winter wind.

Harvest the last of the vegetables

Lift the remaining carrots, beetroot and other root vegetables before the ground becomes too hard. Parsnips can be left in the ground and often taste sweeter after a frost. Protect winter vegetables from severe weather with horticultural fleece.

Protect pots and tender plants

Move vulnerable pots to a sheltered position and raise containers onto pot feet or bricks to improve drainage. Wrap vulnerable pots in bubble wrap or hessian to help protect roots from freezing. Bring tender plants, such as fuchsias and pelargoniums, into a frost-free greenhouse or suitable sheltered space.

Plant trees and hedges

November is an excellent time to plant bare-root trees, hedging and shrubs while they are dormant, provided the ground is not frozen or waterlogged. Water them in well and firm the soil around their roots. Planting a native hedge can provide shelter and valuable food and nesting opportunities for wildlife.

Give the lawn some attention

Rake up fallen leaves and remove any remaining debris from the lawn. If the grass is still growing and the ground is firm, give it a final light cut with the mower blades raised. Avoid walking on a lawn when it is frosty, as this can damage the grass.

Help garden wildlife

Leave some seed heads and hollow stems standing to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Clean bird feeders and bird baths regularly, keep fresh water available and top up bird food as the weather gets colder. A small log pile or undisturbed corner can provide a useful winter refuge for insects and other garden visitors.

Finally, prepare your gardening equipment

Clean and sharpen tools before storing them away, drain hoses and outdoor taps where appropriate, and check that greenhouse heaters and insulation are ready for cold weather. A little preparation now can save time and trouble when winter arrives.

A garden may look quiet in winter, but the work we do now helps create the colour, growth and life we will enjoy when spring returns. Enjoy the changing seasons and remember to leave a little time to appreciate the beauty of the autumn garden.

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Honeybourne Village Hall

Nov
WEEKLY TIMETABLE

www.honeybournevillagehall.org
email: admin@honeybournevillagehall.org

EVENTS
Christmas Wreathe class – 23rd Nov – 7:30pm start
WI Quiz Night – 21st Nov - 7pm for 7:30pm start
**Friends of Honeybourne School – Bingo 28th Nov **
Christmas Tree Switch On / Craft Fayre 4th Dec 6pm start

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Pilates with Nicky 9am – 10 am ~	Yoga with Jae 10am – 11am	Pilates with Nicky 8:45am – 9:45am ~ Art Group 10am – 12:30pm	Coffee morning 9:30am-12:00pm Toddlers Group 9:30am – 11:30am ~ Embroidery Club 1st Oct 9:30am – 1:30pm	Gentle Yoga 9:45am – 10:45	Zumba with Lesley 9.30am-10.30am	
		Wed Club 4th Nov 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Senior Stretch Class 1pm- 3pm			
Kids Theatre Group 3:45pm – 5:45pm				Healthy Worcestershire 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Movie Night 14th Nov 7:30pm onwards	
WI 16th Nov 7:00pm- 10:00pm	Pilates with Nicky 6:00pm- 7:00pm	Tai Chi 5:45pm – 6:45pm Men's Pilates with Nicky 7.00pm - 8.00pm	Pilates with Nicky 6:30pm – 7:30pm ~ Life Drawing 19th Nov 7:45pm – 10:00pm	Short Mat Bowls Group 7.30pm-9.30pm		

All classes require booking to attend.

Honeybourne Village Hall

Nov Film Night



Saturday 14th Nov
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £5.00 pp
Refreshments and Raffle on the night
Tickets available on the night or online at
www.honeybournevillagehall.org

In this witty, new breed of mystery, George (Hugh Jackman) is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.

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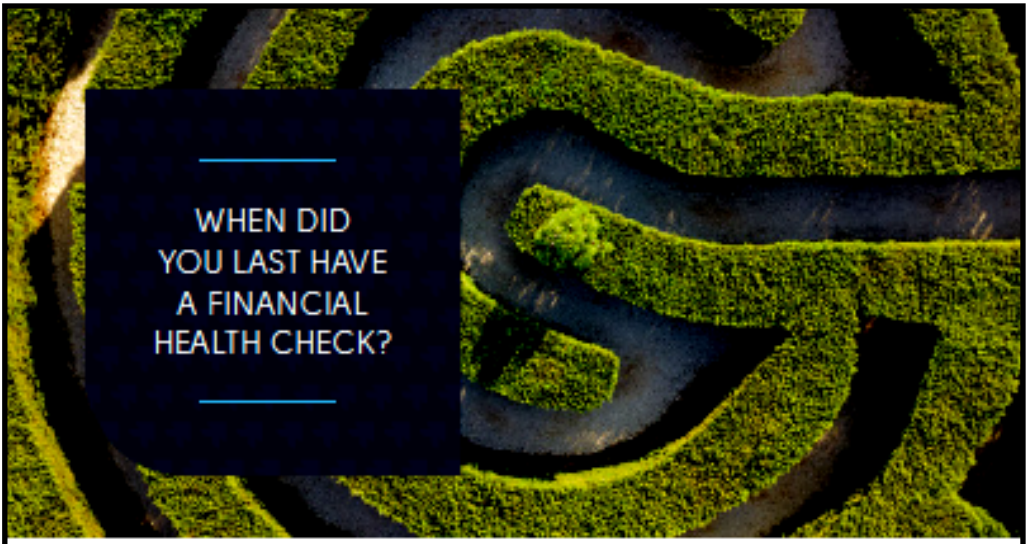
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AFH wealth management

A Joyful Harvest at St Ecgwin's Church

It was lovely to welcome the children of Honeybourne School to the church for two special Harvest Festival services.
The children certainly brought plenty of energy and joy to the occasion, singing some wonderful songs — complete with actions! — which were enjoyed by everyone.
Amy shared a lovely story about acorns and the seeds we plant in our everyday lives. She reminded us that, just like an acorn can grow into a great oak tree, the small things we do — kindness, friendliness and caring for others — can also grow and make a real difference. At the other service, Revd Jon spoke about gratitude and encouraged us to think about just how many people are involved in getting the food we eat onto our plates, from those who grow and harvest it, to the people who transport, prepare and sell it.

The children also brought a wonderful and very generous collection of food, which was donated to Caring Hands. It was gratefully received and will help support their important work with people in need in and around Evesham. A big thank you to all the children and staff at Honeybourne School for making our Harvest celebrations such happy and meaningful occasions. It was a lovely reminder that there is always plenty to be thankful for. (St Ecgwin's Church)

Rev'd Jon Barwood
Team Vicar, Vale and Cotswold Edge

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Honey Tots Baby & Toddler Group

Honey Tots Baby & Toddler Group

THURSDAYS, 9.30-11.30AM
HONEYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

What's on at Honey Tots -

12th Nov - Weigh, stay & Play.
19th Nov - Jane's Preloved Childrens clothes sale.
3rd Dec - Xmas Mini shoots

All welcome, no need to book.





CHRISTMAS BINGO NIGHT

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Saturday
28th November

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VALE & COTSWOLD EDGE	Church Services - November 2026			
	Pebworth	**Dorsington**	**Honeybourne**	**Willersey**
1st November All Saints' Day			9.00 am Holy Communion (Traditional language)	10.00 am Morning Prayer (Modern language)
8th November Remembrance Sunday	10.52 am Remembrance Service	Dorsington to join Pebworth	3.00 pm Remembrance Service	11.00 am Remembrance Service
15th November 2nd Sunday before Advent			11.00 am Holy Communion (Modern language)	11.00 am All Age Service
22nd November Christ the King/ Sunday next before Advent	11.00 am Family Service			10.00 am Morning Prayer (Modern language)
29th November Advent Sunday	11.00 am Benefice Service of Holy Communion (Modern language) at Dorsington			
6th December Advent 2			9.00 am Holy Communion (Traditional language)	10.00 am Morning Prayer (Modern language)

Sidesmen, readers and intercessors at Honeybourne:

	1st November	8th November	15th November	6th December
Sidesman	**Sylvia Matthews**	**Anne Magee**	**Teresa Banks**	**Sylvia Matthews**
Reader	**Teresa Banks**	**Lesley O'Connell Edwards**	**Lawrence Schroeder**	**Elizabeth Rose**
Intercessor	**Minister**	**Minister**	**Mike Edwards**	**Minister**

Vicar's Letter November 2026 – 'God's dream for our lives'



Having deposited our one and only offspring at university recently, my wife and I are currently experiencing 'empty nest syndrome'. The dictionary defines this as 'a non-clinical period of grief, sadness, and loss of purpose that parents experience when their grown children leave the family home'. The sadness and loss are certainly evident, along with a feeling that we are being left behind, but I find these feelings are tempered by the knowledge that he's moving on and doing what he wants to do with his life. It reminds me of a fabulous piece of parental advice I heard many years ago: that a parent's job is to give their children 'roots and wings'.

This got me thinking about what the spiritual writer Margaret Silf says about God's plan for our lives. She prefers to view it as God's dream for each of us, instead of God's will or plan, in the same way as we have dreams (and not plans or wills) for our children. We dream that they will live a life touched by love and reach their potential in whatever they do.

She goes on to reflect that God's dream will come to fruition and we can all play a small part in this; and that it's not a wishy-washy dream, but more a vision (rather like that of Martin Luther King), which is pressing and urgent for us to engage with and which doesn't come cheap. If we follow truth, integrity and justice then they become our guiding norm, and it is the same with God's dream where the guiding principle is love.

Margaret Silf offers several useful metaphors to help us try and comprehend God's dream for us, my favourites of which are water based. One is that we are swimming in a spiritual existence that we can't comprehend, like a fish swimming in an ocean - which sustains us, buffets us and can be dangerous in places – and that we can't live outside of the mystery of God's dream (as this would be like a fish trying to live outside of the ocean), but we can be oblivious to it.

Another metaphor is that our spiritual journeys are like rivers, they disappear sometimes and can go underground, and we have blocks in our journey which we have to find a way around, these are periods of growth. There are waterfalls, which are traumas, but from which the water continues to flow; stresses of the rapids, swamps, where we can be bogged down and stagnate; and lagoons, where we are stuck in a comfort zone with no fresh water running through it. Tributaries flow into the river of our spiritual lives, some of which are giving and some polluting. But in the end the river widens and deepens and eventually always makes it to the ocean, as does ours and everyone else's spiritual journey.

As first year students, and everyone embarking on a next stage of their lives, will undoubtedly realise, new experiences are never comfortable. They can be likened to having our turn on a trapeze: the flight between the two bars being 'an uncomfortable and risky space, with all our doubts and fears, but the only place in which we can experience and actualise the growth we require – the only place where we are really empowered to choose our path.'

So, I shall leave you with those thoughts as I go and make a cup of tea in my 'empty nest', remembering that our son is moving on with his life, and that – just as soon as we get used to this new quieter less chaotic environment - he'll be home for Christmas!

Revd Jon Barwood Tel: 07777 148880 Email: jonbarwood@btinternet.com

Album Review: Embrace – Avalanche
Release Date: 12 June 2026



Thirty years into a career that has weathered the highs of Britpop-adjacent stardom and the shifting tides of the indie landscape, West Yorkshire's Embrace return with Avalanche. Strikingly, the band's line-up has remained completely unchanged since 1996—a rare feat of continuity that infuses their ninth studio album with an undeniable sense of trust, cohesion, and shared history.
Rather than delivering a
polished, retrospective victory lap for their 30th anniversary, frontman Danny McNamara and company have instead delivered what feels like their most unguarded, human, and emotionally raw record to date.
The core philosophy behind Avalanche is simple: true joy doesn't exist in chasing massive, cinematic milestones, but in slowing down to notice the quiet, fragile flashes of everyday life. Musically, this translates to an album that prioritises feel over flawless production. The tracks bleed into one another naturally, intentionally leaving in rough edges, uncut sonic moments, and lingering uncertainties. That isn't to say Embrace have abandoned the grand, soaring indie dynamics that made them household names on records like The Good Will Out. The full-bodied sound, lush string arrangements, and epic choruses are still very much intact, but they are tempered here by a deeply moving intimacy.

Track Highlights

"Stop": The album opener kicks off with static feedback and sweeping, guitars. It sets a relentless, spinning tempo that mirrors modern existence, resolving into a powerful, anthemic mantra: "Stop what you're doing, stop what you're saying."
"Road to Nowhere": Despite the title, this track isn't a cover. It's a beautifully melancholic single driven by urgent drums and an infectious melody, exploring the painful tension of a relationship caught in limbo ("You said you're too scared to leave me but it hurts too much to stay").
"Get Out of My Own Way": A quieter, romantic ballad that steps back from the bombast to let McNamara's raw, passionately imperfect vocals take centre stage.
"Coming Home": My personal favourite and all the hallmarks of an Embrace classic to be counted amongst their very best.

The Verdict

Avalanche succeeds because it doesn't try to provide neat answers to life's chaotic nature. It is an album shaped by the perspective of a band that has lived through the whirlwind and come out the other side appreciating the quiet spaces in between. Halfway between euphoric, stadium-ready anthems and contemplative, fragile prose, Embrace have proven that 30 years in, they are not just surviving—they are still entirely relevant.

For longtime fans, it's a triumphant addition to their catalogue; for casual listeners, it's a fiercely joyful reminder of the power of honest indie rock.

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Photo by Lesley O`Connell Edwards

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The Science Bit…. 'Chirality'

Chirality, derived from the Greek word for "hand," is a property of asymmetry that is everywhere in nature. Just as our hands are mirror images and therefore not identical, many biological molecules exhibit this fascinating characteristic. Chirality profoundly influences the structure and function of DNA, proteins, and enzymes, as well as various physiological traits in plants and animals.

Whereas nature can exclusively produce molecules of one 'hand', chemical manufacturing has always generated a mixture of left- and right-handed forms.

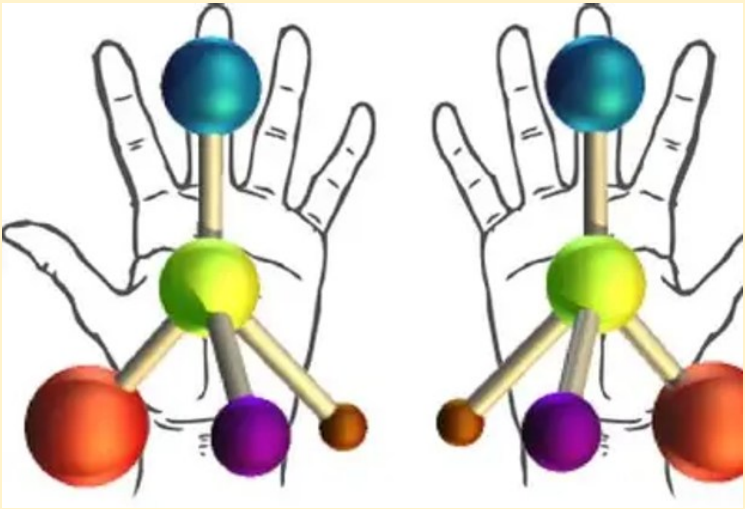
This may not sound important, but many drug molecules occur in these two variants and while one form has the intended therapeutic effect, the other may not, or can even cause unnecessary and sometimes harmful side effects. One very sad, classic case was thalidomide, where one form had a therapeutic effect while the other caused severe birth defects. Ibuprofen is an example where one form is more active than the other.

I read recently about the 2026 Nobel Prize for Chemistry being awarded to Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai for their work on asymmetric organic synthesis.

The research of Professors Kagan and Soai solves a century-old problem about chirality. Their work has essentially answered the question of why life favours one mirror image molecule over the other and how nature produces just one exclusive form ('homochiral'). They have finally succeeded in creating a reaction in which only one of the two possible mirror images are created - the first time mankind had been able to achieve such an outcome.

Since more than half of marketed drugs are chiral, understanding and controlling output from reactions allows for more effective, safer medications and drives innovation in drug design and synthesis.

Their discovery is not only fascinating, but hugely significant for chemical scientists.



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On Saturday 26th September, Honeybourne Village Hall was filled with cake, coffee, laughter and community spirit for our annual **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Our wonderful volunteers, the WI and the wider community provided a fantastic selection of homemade cakes, from lemon drizzle and chocolate fudge to brownies and the ever-popular coffee and walnut cake. There were some competitions, a raffle, a topical word-search and the room was dressed with bunting and the tables with flowers to create a lovely ambience.

It was wonderful to see people chatting and laughing over coffee and cake, with some even buying extra slices to take home to those who couldn't make it. Even a couple passing by on a dog walk couldn't resist popping in for some cake to enjoy later!

Thank you to everyone who came along, donated and supported the morning. We raised an amazing **£500** for Macmillan Cancer Support.

A huge thank you to our fantastic volunteers — Janet, Di, Callum, Duncan, Linda, Lorna, Sylvia, Richard, Michelle and more — who gave up their Saturday to make the event such a success.

Thank you!















If you're already missing the smell of freshly brewed coffee and sponge cake? Don't worry - Honeybourne Village Hall is the place to be every Thursday morning from 9.30 to 12.00. Come along for a cuppa, a sneaky slice of cake, and a good old natter.

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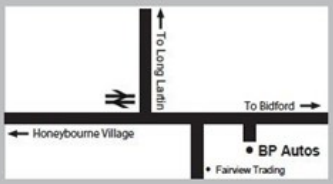
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