

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

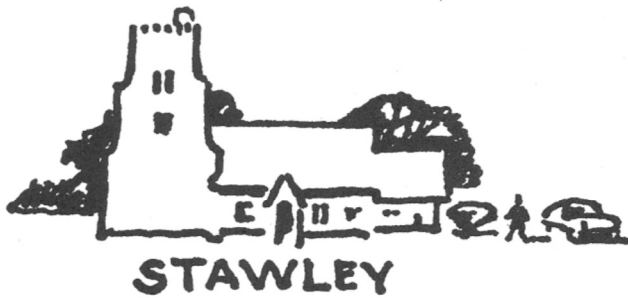
STAWLEY

BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



# Parish news



*Diana Willis '90*  
 DIANA WILLIS '90

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### *Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Candlemas day*

09:30	<b>Stawley</b>	Holy Communion
11:15	<b>Bathealton</b>	Family Service

### *Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent*

09:30	<b>Ashbittle</b>	Holy Communion
11:15	<b>Stawley</b>	Morning Worship

### *Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent*

11:15	<b>Greenham</b>	Morning Prayer
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### *Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Sunday before Lent*

09:30	<b>Bathealton</b>	Holy Communion
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### *Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Ash Wednesday*

18:00	<b>Kittisford</b>	Communion with imposition of ashes
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## Churchwardens and Clergy

### **Ashbittle with Greenham**

Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbittle, TA21 0LQ	01823 672365
David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbittle, TA21 0LE	01823 672436

<b>Bathealton</b> Pauline and Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW	01984 629013
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<b>Kittisford</b> Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham , TA21 0JW	01823 672627
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<b>Stawley</b> Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT	01823 672183
Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP	01823 672496

<b>Associate Priest</b> Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Buttsway, Milverton TA4 1JR	01823 400127
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<b>Team Rector</b> Revd Tim Treanor, The Rectory, 72 High Street, Wellington	01823 662248
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<b>Lay Minister</b> Elaine McNicholas, School House, Bathealton, TA4 2AN	01984 624428
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<b>Missioner and Team Vicar</b> Revd Selina Garner, The Vicarage, 2 Rockwell Green, Wellington. Email: selina@thegarner.me.uk	01823 662227
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## Thought for the month

### Introduction

I would like to begin by thanking the editors of the Parish News for this opportunity to introduce myself to their readers. My name is Martin Beaumont and I have recently been appointed as an Associate Priest in the Wellington and District Team Ministry. Although I will have some duties within the wider team, the focus of my attention and the majority of my time will be spent in the parishes of the Ashbrittle group and the worship of its five churches.

After ordination and a curacy in Newcastle upon Tyne, I have spent most of my ministry in schools; serving as Chaplain of Taunton School between 1985 and 1992. In addition, I have had two appointments in rural ministry; one in South Devon and the other in West Kent. In 2017 my wife Ruth and I retired to live in Milverton.

We have enjoyed our time worshipping with you over the course of the last twelve months on a part-time basis. Indeed, it was the encouragement and support that I received from your communities that led me to apply for the post. Elaine and the churchwardens have proved particularly helpful and I have come to rely upon their wisdom and experience.

The Parish News leads me to believe that there is an impressive range of social and educational occasions available here and an abundance of opportunities for us to get to know each other.

If you see me around, do please introduce yourself. You will find my address on the opposite page.

I look forward to being with you in body as well as spirit in the days ahead and all the very best for 2020.

*Martin Beaumont*

### Ash Wednesday at Kittisford Church

Ash Wednesday on 26th February marks the start of Lent. It is the day after Shrove Tuesday when traditionally all the rich foods from the larder were eaten up and we now enjoy eating pancakes. The name "Ash Wednesday" comes from the Christian tradition of placing ashes on the foreheads of the congregation as a sign of their repentance. The ashes are prepared by burning the leaves from palm crosses from the previous Palm Sunday.

At Kittisford Church we are celebrating Ash Wednesday on February 26th at 6 pm with a special service with the imposition of ashes.

The Village Festival Choir are singing, please join us.

*Annie Musgrove, Churchwarden*

## Festive Thanks

Christmas is a time when we come together and celebrate in a very special way and the various church services celebrating Christ's birth were really well attended.

As with all things however there are a number of people to whom we owe a special mention for their part in making everything go off without a hitch. I am reminded of the Oscar nominations when I begin to mention these people but they all deserve a mention for 'going the extra mile'.

The Christingle Service at Stawley started the celebrations with twenty-five children and over twenty adults joining in. Our grateful thanks go to Vee and the staff at Waitrose for donating, once again the oranges, sweets and even the cocktail sticks to make the Christingles and my personal thanks to Penny Hare for helping to put the Christingles together.

Our thanks go to John Young and the choir 'In Ecclesia' for a wonderful programme of Nine Lessons and Carols at Bathealton and to Andrew and Pauline Lyle for sponsoring this event and the refreshments following the service.

Thank you again to the Greenway family for providing the venue for the 'Nativity in a Barn' on Christmas Eve and the transport for Mary on her journey to Bethlehem. They work so hard to prepare the barn and it amazes me how quickly they transform a working barn into a Bethlehem stable.

Once again, thank you to Ian Pearce for providing the loudspeaker system that enabled the children narrating the Christmas message to be heard. The children read beautifully and I am sure their parents were very proud.

Thank you to all the Churchwardens, PCC's and all who work so hard throughout the year to maintain a Christian presence within our communities. In addition, thank you to Penny Hare, Hilary Cottrell and Gail Britton for keeping the music flowing. Finally, thank you to Martin Beaumont for leading us in worship and answering the call to minister to us.

### Christmas Charity Donation

The charity selected to receive the collection totalling £506.00 from the Nine Lessons and Carols and the Nativity in a Barn is **Wivey Cares**. This group provides local care and support for Wiveliscombe and the Ten Parishes and is a registered charity. There will be an opportunity in the near future to come along to Bathealton Village Hall when you will be able to hear more about the services offered by this group. Watch this space.

*Elaine McNicholas*

## Lunch Club

Once again the Christmas Lunch Club was very popular. Once again Jackie White excelled herself by producing a magnificent traditional lunch in her own home and transporting it to us in Ashbrittle, piping hot and ready to serve. Liz Taylor, with assistance from Freda Parkinson and others, had transformed the village hall into a thoroughly festive venue.

Again we were very fortunate to have the services of Chris Britton, Steve Swan and their team to entertain us. They had created an entirely new show, which was fast, funny, lively and local and kept us on the edge of our seats from start to finish. Topped up by wonderful after lunch jokes from Ron Greenway.

A truly memorable occasion. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make it all such a success.

Our next Lunch Club is on Thursday 27th February at 12.00 noon. The speakers will be Gerry and Judy Webb talking about their recent travels in China. As regulars will know, they are both excellent, entertaining speakers, so we look forward to a stimulating, thought-provoking session. If you would like to join us please let me know, by Tuesday morning, 25th February. I can then let Jackie know the numbers for catering. All locals are welcome.

Telephone 01823 672203 or email [deliaharling123@fiscal.co.uk](mailto:deliaharling123@fiscal.co.uk)

*Delia Harling*



**Safe Families is a national Christian charity, that enables and empowers people to reach out into their community, making a difference in the lives of others in as little as an hour a week.**

For more info Email  
[maryayers@safefamiliesforchildren.com](mailto:maryayers@safefamiliesforchildren.com)  
or Ring our Office: 02382 250131  
or Take a look at the website  
[www.safefamiliesforchildren.com/  
regions/southandsouthwest](http://www.safefamiliesforchildren.com/regions/southandsouthwest)

Katherine Lyddon, Children and Families  
Rural Pioneer, Tone Deanery

## Ashbrittle rainfall in inches

### November

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
4.06	5.61	2.71	6.45	7.10

### December

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
5.29	2.03	6.36	7.25	7.56

### Annual Total

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
38.33	37.53	39.95	47.35	50.70

I decided to stop recording the rainfall at the end of last year, so sadly this will be my last report to the Parish Magazine.

The rainfall figures date back to 2001. I understand that Cedric was given the rain gauge when he was visiting his cousin in Canada (before I met him), and when we moved to Ashbrittle he put it up on our new fence. He recorded the rainfall and then I took over after Cedric's death. The most difficult part was trying to remember to check the rain gauge at roughly the same time every day.

I have looked through our records for the period 2001 to 2019 inclusive and have found the following details:

- Driest month – April 2011 at 0.38 inches
- Wettest month – November 2009 at 8.96 inches
- Driest year – 2010 with a total of 29.95 inches
- Wettest year – 2012 with a total of 58.81 inches
- Month with lowest average rainfall over the period – September
- Month with highest average rainfall over the period – December

*Beryl Hooper*

*Thank you for sending in these figures Beryl, it has been fascinating to see how the rainfall varies so widely from month to month. Eds*

## Parish News Donations

Many thanks for donations from:  
Kath and Alan Rose  
Anonymous donors in the village shop

Donations may be left at the Village Shop or sent directly to the treasurer:  
**Wendy Spackman, Malthouse, Hill Farm,  
Stawley, Wellington TA21 0HN**

## Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

Your local Community Shop for bread, milk, papers, groceries, wine, beer, local produce, pasties, pies and lots more! Refill your glass milk bottles here!

**Meet for coffee and cake!**

Newspaper deliveries Monday to Saturday to Ashbrittle, Stawley, Kittisford, Bathealton, Appley and Greenham

The Christmas Hamper (sponsored by the Stawley Community Association in support of the shop) was won by Andy the local postie!

Monday to Friday 8.00 - 5.30

Saturday 8.00 - 2.00

Sunday 9.00 - 11.00

Post Office services: Thursday 11.30 - 1.30



Phone us on 01823 674361

Email us at [shop@stawleyshop.com](mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com)

## Kittisford Pudding Club



at Greater Brimley Farm in Kittisford

**on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm**

**tickets £12.50**

from Stawley village shop

or Sarah Burns-Cox on 01823 672245/07599071867 or Penny Stanbury on 01823 672216

Come for supper, a glass of wine and then sample and rate a selection of truly delicious homemade desserts anonymously - Best Pud wins!

Proceeds go towards Kittisford Church and the Wellington Food Bank

## **Marie Curie launches appeal for volunteers in Somerset**

Marie Curie is appealing for local volunteers to help raise vital funds to support people in Somerset living with a terminal illness and their families.

Riona Houghton, Marie Curie Community Fundraiser for Somerset and North Devon said:

“Without our amazing volunteers we could not support as many people with a terminal illness and their families as we do. Currently we have over 7,200 volunteers across the UK in community fundraising and retail, but we are always looking for extra help. The more volunteers we have, the more we can achieve”.

“Whether you’re a seasoned fundraiser or a newcomer looking to get involved for the first time, we would love to hear from you. No amount of time is too little, even an hour at a collection would be a huge help to our team.”

If you would like to volunteer some of your time to support Marie Curie in Somerset, please contact Riona Houghton 0117 9420429 or [Riona.houghton@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:Riona.houghton@mariecurie.org.uk)

### **ART GROUP**

**TIME TO GET CREATIVE**

**WEDNESDAYS 2-4PM**

**ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL**

**ALL MATERIALS CAN BE PROVIDED  
BUT BRING YOUR OWN IF YOU  
PREFER**

**FOR DETAILS CONTACT  
LIZ TAYLOR 01823 673000**

**SPECIAL EVENT  
19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**USING EGG TEMPERA**

**WITH JANE EMBLETON  
OPEN TO EVERYONE  
BUT PLEASE BOOK AHEAD WITH  
LIZ TAYLOR 01823 673000**

## **Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)**

VETS is a community-run system and upon dialling the number, all volunteers are contacted in an attempt to raise help locally. If no volunteers are available, the caller will be notified.

Alongside the recently installed defibrillators (defibs), we now have a group of community volunteers who can be contacted in emergencies on the following numbers:

Ashbrittle, and Stawley **01823 244104**

Bathealton **01984 322919**

Kittisford, Tracebridge and Appley  
**01823 245101**

A map defining the different areas is shown on parish notice boards, but precise boundaries do not matter. Take note of the numbers and, if needed, ring whichever one seems most appropriate for you. Your actual location is less important than the speed of action to get a defib to where it is needed. These numbers are not ‘tied’ to a particular defib; the volunteer will fetch their nearest one and bring it to you.

In the event that a defib seems necessary in your household, the VETS scheme offers you help and moral support by enabling you to contact local help and can increase the speed of a local response.

**ALWAYS DIAL 999 FIRST IN AN  
EMERGENCY  
IF A CHANCE ARISES THEN DIAL THE  
VETS NUMBER**

Please note that defibs are permanently located as follows:

**Ashbrittle** Village Hall, on outside wall  
**Bathealton** Village Hall, on outside wall  
**Kittisford** New House Farm, on barn wall,  
opposite Church  
**Stawley Shop**, on outside wall

**These are accessible 24 hours a day and no  
access codes are required**

# Quiz Night

Appley Pavilion

FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

7:30 pm

Maximum of 6 per team  
£6.50 pp to include supper.  
Bar and raffle on the night.  
To book a table please ring

01823 672266

Or email

[williamspfa@outlook.com](mailto:williamspfa@outlook.com)

In aid of Ashbrittle, Stawley  
and Clayhanger Cricket Club



On Saturday 28th March 2020, Wellington Choral Society will be singing 'The Armed Man – A Mass for Peace'. We are delighted to be performing this mass for the first time.

It was composed by Karl Jenkins and was commissioned by the Royal Armouries Museum for the Millennium celebrations, to mark the museum's move from London to Leeds. It was dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis. It is an anti-war piece based on the Catholic Mass, and Jenkins uses all sorts of inspirations for the text, including the Muslim call to prayer, 15th-century folk song 'L'Homme armé' in the first and last movements, and ancient religious texts. It is the haunting Benedictus that is most well known.

It is an inspirational work and we hope our followers will come and hear us sing this wonderful music. We will also be performing Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and Elgar's *Great is the Lord*.

**St John the Baptist Church, Wellington  
on Saturday 28th March 2020 at 7.30.pm.**

Tickets: Adults £14.00 Children Free

If you are interested in coming to sing with us, we rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30.pm at the Methodist Church, Waterloo Rd, Wellington. We are a friendly choir and our musical director Laurence Blyth provides great musical direction and advice to singers.

For more information please see our website:  
[www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.wellingtonchoralsociety.org.uk)



**Rambling/  
Nordic Walking**

Your chance to get to know the local area and make use of the RCI walk leaflets covering local circular walks

*Meet at Ashbrittle Village Hall*  
Most Thursdays at 1.30 pm  
but check each week with  
Liz Taylor on 01823 673000

### **Appley Cross WI: The Final Report**

You may have already heard but Appley Cross WI closed at the end of December. This WI had been in action for ninety years. Although we were sorry to close, due to numbers and finance, it was a sensible decision.

To celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, in August we went on the train to Minehead and had a lovely lunch at the Beach Hotel. The weather was grand and the afternoon was spent browsing the shops or meandering along the sea front. It was a very happy occasion.

In September, instead of our usual evening meeting we went to the Canal Café at Tiverton for a cream tea. Our member, Maureen, had moved to Tiverton earlier in the year and this was our “official” farewell to her. Once again the weather was grand and the outing was enjoyed by all.

In October we had a quiz arranged by one of our members which was fun and everyone contributed to the refreshments served afterwards.

In November our member, Doreen, demonstrated and helped us to make a sugar craft “Pingu”, the penguin with ear phones and a radio. This was a great evening full of laughter at our efforts and, of course, much pride in taking our “trophies” home with us.

In December we had our usual Christmas Party at the Martlet Inn, with lovely presents from a Secret Santa and special raffle prizes. So Appley Cross finished with a lovely meal and a jolly evening.

At the party a member read a short history of the Appley Cross WI which I hope you will find interesting.

*Brenda Hollick*

**Vintage Tea**  
**Bathealton Village Hall**  
**Friday 14th February**  
**at 3pm. Price £5**



## A Short History of Appley Cross Women's Institute (WI)

In 1929 the first WI of all, at Stoney Creek in Canada, was 22 years old and it was in 1929 that Lady Kelly of Greenham Hall called a meeting at Appley Cross (presumably at the school) to discuss with interested parties, the formation of Appley Cross WI. On 11<sup>th</sup> December the first meeting was held and thirty-five members enrolled.

They were obviously full of enthusiasm as they had already held a dance which yielded a profit of ten guineas to provide funds. In January of 1930 they raised more money at a Whist Drive and a Dance for Somerset Flood Victims. During their first year they started singing and upholstery classes, attended a music conference, earned numerous awards at an exhibition of crafts in Taunton and enjoyed a very ambitious outing to Devonport to visit several naval vessels (thanks to Sir John Kelly).

The annual report for the following year is even more impressive. The membership rose to sixty-seven and the committee was increased to sixteen. Their outing was to Bristol Zoo, Fry's Chocolate factory and Weston-Super-Mare, a long day out! They held a social evening, with around 120 people and celebrated their birthday with a Christmas party for the children of members. They also hosted a Group meeting – other members of the Group being Holywell Lake, Langford Budville and Sampford Arundel.

The story of the following few years shows continuing zest for all that the WI had to offer. Members attended all Group and County meetings: there was no difficulty in finding delegates. They took large quantities of produce to a market stall in Taunton, and later in Wellington. They won numerous gold and silver stars at various craft and produce events. They had fun at social evenings, whist drives and dances and held children's parties. They also raised money for charity, and once a year they had an egg collection for the local hospitals; on one occasion they sent 34 dozen eggs. It would be interesting to know whether this was unique to Appley Cross or if other institutes did a similar thing. The strong impression is that the WI filled a large gap in the social life of the villages it served, as well as providing a large range of new practical interests for its members.

War was declared just before the tenth birthday of the group, upon which the committee met and discussed plans for the future. They made clothes for evacuees and invited their mothers to meetings. The blackout meant that they had to meet during the afternoon when the school was occupied and so meetings were held at various homes. Rationing of

petrol was a problem with so many members scattered around. Many members had evacuees in their homes; farms were coping with increased demands for food while being short of labour. Members knitted for servicemen in any spare time.

Appley Cross never had sixty-seven members again. Throughout the 50s and 60s membership fell – perhaps due to mechanisation on the farms which meant that fewer families were living in the countryside and with life slowly returning to normality women had more outlets for their interests.

In the 1950s there were quite a large number of members from the Bathealton area and Langford Budville – the WI there had closed in the 40s.

Speakers at the early meetings show a distinct bias towards farming advice and, during the war years, the production and preservation of food.

Frequent speakers were from Cannington College and the Home Craft Services with quite a few on cooking. In the early years members enjoyed folk dancing and then in the 50s square dancing, but in 2007 it was belly dancing! Overseas travel was a very popular subject for talks and in the 1930s these were accompanied by "lantern slides".

Money was raised mainly from Bring and Buy or Trading stalls, but in 1975 the main earner was making Christmas puddings to sell. This was fun and kept the WI at Appley Cross solvent too.

To help the Refugee Problem in Europe Appley Cross WI sponsored two Polish families at separate times and kept in touch with one of the families for several years.

The overall impression of the early years is the zest with which they tackled all aspects of WI life. This did not last, of course, and a rather quieter pattern became established. The days when Appley Cross was represented at every County, Group or National meeting did not last either. Maybe the earliest members needed the "outside" contact as much as they obviously needed the fillip to village life which the WI provided. This was, after all before the days of mass communication.

Refreshments have always been an important event at Appley Cross WI and we are well known for them. There are many, many references to "delicious refreshments" in the past reports – so we have obviously kept this tradition GOING TO THE END!

*This short history has been adapted from an account written by a long standing member of Appley Cross WI - Barbara Lawrence.*

Appley Cross WI closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. It celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in August of this year.

*Brenda Hollick*

## Africa

Sue and I have recently returned from South Africa, and I was forcefully reminded that Africa is a disease from which few recover.

My fascination with that great landmass began in 1961 when a student gang of us drove up the Nile to where a dam was to be built at Aswan. The next year I went, in true colonial style, to Nigeria to collect reptiles and amphibians for the Natural History Museum in London. Two visits to Tunisia followed and then a 20-year gap before 40 tours of Morocco. But it was not until this century that I got to know a little of a few eastern, central and southern countries. All my visits to Africa have been brief but I am fascinated by the layers of human culture to be seen there and how the ecological and evolutionary bedrock ultimately decides our fate.

Before tackling these difficult ideas, I must clear the ground of prejudice. Racism is a serious charge, and no one will accuse me of it. Racists assume that the way a particular human being behaves can be predicted from their genetically-controlled physical appearance, e.g. their skin colour, hair texture or facial features. Such is the enormous power and plasticity of our brains that, whatever our genetic inheritance, each of us is capable of altering our behaviour. Tattoos, body-piercing and wearing clothes of religious significance are another matter. No one was born with them: they are under the individual's voluntary control, even though parental or peer pressure, or general public opinion may have an influence.

This ushers in another complication: some behaviours are instinctive but they are simple and grade into physiological reflexes such as blinking and blushing. Is it racist to say that ginger-haired people are prone to sunburn? The court of common sense must surely hear each case. Such a court should include male six-spot burnet moths on its jury, if only because of their genetically-controlled habit of pursuing ginger-haired men crossing hayfields in July. Mercifully, the man is usually unaware of the male burnet moths' determination to copulate with him. One of the genes for ginger hair in men also synthesises the six-spot burnet moths' female pheromone. It would be racist to laugh.

But it would not be racist to investigate the matter further. Indeed, the risk of offending feelings must not suppress enquiry. It is not racist to point out that the World Bank lists the countries of the world in order of the average number of children per woman. Forty-one countries have four or more. Thirty-seven of those 41 are African. Africa is the world's baby-factory. Nor is it racist to enquire why this should be so. It is a vastly complicated matter that is poorly understood, as well as being clouded with racist inuendo.

Rather than try to summarise those arguments now, I shall turn to a simpler, though related, matter. I first visited Kenya in 2006, and human settlements were protected against the wild game. Now the national parks and nature reserves are fenced to keep the animals in. In 2012, I went back with a friend, taking our grandchildren. One view across the Rift Valley had changed in a way that startled me. Six years before it had been open savannah. In 2012 the same land was divided up into shambas, each with enough land – about a hectare – for a family to grow a few mealies, and where the man of the house could be buried. One night while we were there a family of elephant had tried to get through to the cooler slopes of Mount Kenya on their traditional migration route. They had trampled some shambas. Of course they were shot.

According to the World Bank, Kenya's population was 36.49 million in 2006, 44.34 million in 2012 and 51.39 million in 2018. Its area is still 58.04 million hectares. The tragedy that is Africa unrolls slowly and inexorably, driven on by the mass of people in thrall to the imperious command of their DNA to breed MORE!, with the shining example of Isabel dos Santos, the richest woman in Africa and her associates luring them to dream of vast riches.

Good bye Africa; it is the last time I shall see your great sundown skies, hear your lions' rib-shaking roars and hyenas' whoops, or smell your dry, red dust.

*Martin Jacoby*

## Ashbrittle Arts Book Group

Our next meeting is on Friday, February 28th at Swallows Linhay at eight o'clock.

We will be discussing *The Light Between Oceans*, by ML Stedman

This debut novel draws inspiration from the landscape of the author's native Western Australia, though she wrote and researched much of it at the British Library. Her UK publisher saw off bids from nine other companies in the run up to the book world's biggest trade event, the Frankfurt Book Fair, to secure Commonwealth publication rights. In 2016, the book was made into a film starring Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander.

A survivor of the First World War trenches, Tom enjoys the solitude of life as a lighthouse keeper, but one trip to the mainland brings him a wife, Isabel, with whom to share Janus Rock. One fateful day, the sea washes a dinghy up on the shore containing the body of a man and a baby - very much alive - which the couple, desperate to start a family, decide to take as their own.

*Avril Silk*

***AN EVENING OF JAZZ***

**Professional jazz singer**

**Michelle Mae**

***www.michellemaejazz.com***

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, at 7pm  
Appley Pavilion**

**Tickets £15**

***to include a 2 course supper &  
complimentary glass of mulled wine  
or mulled apple juice on arrival***

**Tickets available from Stawley Village  
Shop**

**Enquiries, or to reserve tickets phone  
01823 672179**

***Funds raised will be shared between the  
development of a “Maggie’s Centre” at Musgrove  
Park Hospital, maggiescentres.org,  
providing support to cancer patients and their  
families and  
Appley Pavilion maintenance.***

## Gardening Club

### *December Visit to Forde Abbey*

Val Brown writes: In mid December, seventeen members of the group made a late afternoon/early evening visit to Forde Abbey, near Chard, to enjoy 'Christmas at Forde Abbey'. The Abbey's extensive garden's many magnificent specimen trees were subtly illuminated, with the lake being the centre of attention. By contrast, there was some rather bling lighting, which we felt detracted from the atmosphere. The star attraction was undoubtedly the house itself, which had been exquisitely and extensively decorated by the family with foliage gathered from the garden. The visit began with festive tea and mince pies and ended with mulled wine (and more mince pies). The shop was well stocked with festive goods and most members were duly tempted.

### *Christmas Decoration Workshop*

Julia Swan ran her wonderful workshops as usual, on 6th and 7th December, with a whole range of festive decorations being made. A big thank you to Julia for opening up her home to allow us the chance to get creative!

### *Programme Planning Meeting*

The meeting to plan the year's programme and classes for the Flower Show will be on Tuesday 18th February 2020, 7pm at the Cruck Barn, Appley. Please bring a plate of food to share, drinks will be provided. And do come along with your ideas for visits and events for the coming year.

If you have any suggestions and new ideas, or any other inquiries, please contact Pauline on 01823 672222, email [pjw200355@gmail.com](mailto:pjw200355@gmail.com), or Sue on 01823 674471.

And remember, new members are always welcome.

*Pauline and Sue*

## Gardening Club Christmas Workshop

Thank you to all of the people who came to make wreaths, garlands and other beautiful Christmas decorations in December. Not only was there another fantastic variety of ideas and creativity, those who came (and some who didn't) also gave generous donations, £300 has been sent to Unicef.

Many of the arrangements that were made this year avoided metals and plastics. Instead we used willows, twigs, string, raffia and cotton ribbons which can be composted. Using raffia instead of wire to make a wreath took a little more patience but the effect was just as pretty and the extra time needed for the making will be saved in the quicker throwing away.

*Julia Swan*

## Western Canal working party 8th February

You may be aware of the main surviving Grand Western Canal section from Loudwells to Tiverton, but were you aware that there is a small section still in evidence on your doorstep in the parish of Stawley?

The section in question, which is near to Cothay Manor and is locally referred to as Jayes Cutting, is a part of the West Deane Way footpath and is an example of the original tub boat canal. The Friends of the Grand Western Canal, supported by volunteers from the Inland Waterways Association, have over time delivered a number of working parties to ensure that this remains a most pleasant walk keeping the towpath clear and removing overhanging trees.

Our next working party to deliver a pre-spring tidy up is planned for Saturday 8th February. If you are looking for an opportunity to work off the festive season's excesses then you are most welcome to join us, just give me call on the number below.

The Friends of the Grand Western Canal is an organisation that provides support in various ways for the main stretch of the canal and another short section at Nynehead. Here you will find the remains of a canal lift which was an important feature of the original canal. You may have heard of an ambitious plan to incorporate a representation of this type of lift in a scheme for Taunton. This scheme, referred to as 'Park 'n Glide' aims to deliver an imaginative waterborne facility to carry passengers from a site adjacent to the Silk Mills Park and Ride directly into Taunton town centre, details can be found here <https://www.parknglide.org>.

There is lots more information about the Grand Western Canal in Wikipedia and from a local perspective in Facebook if you search either Grand Western Canal Friends or Canal lift Nynehead,

I hope that this brief insight may encourage you to visit what's on your doorstep, spark an interest to explore further afield and even to join the Friends.

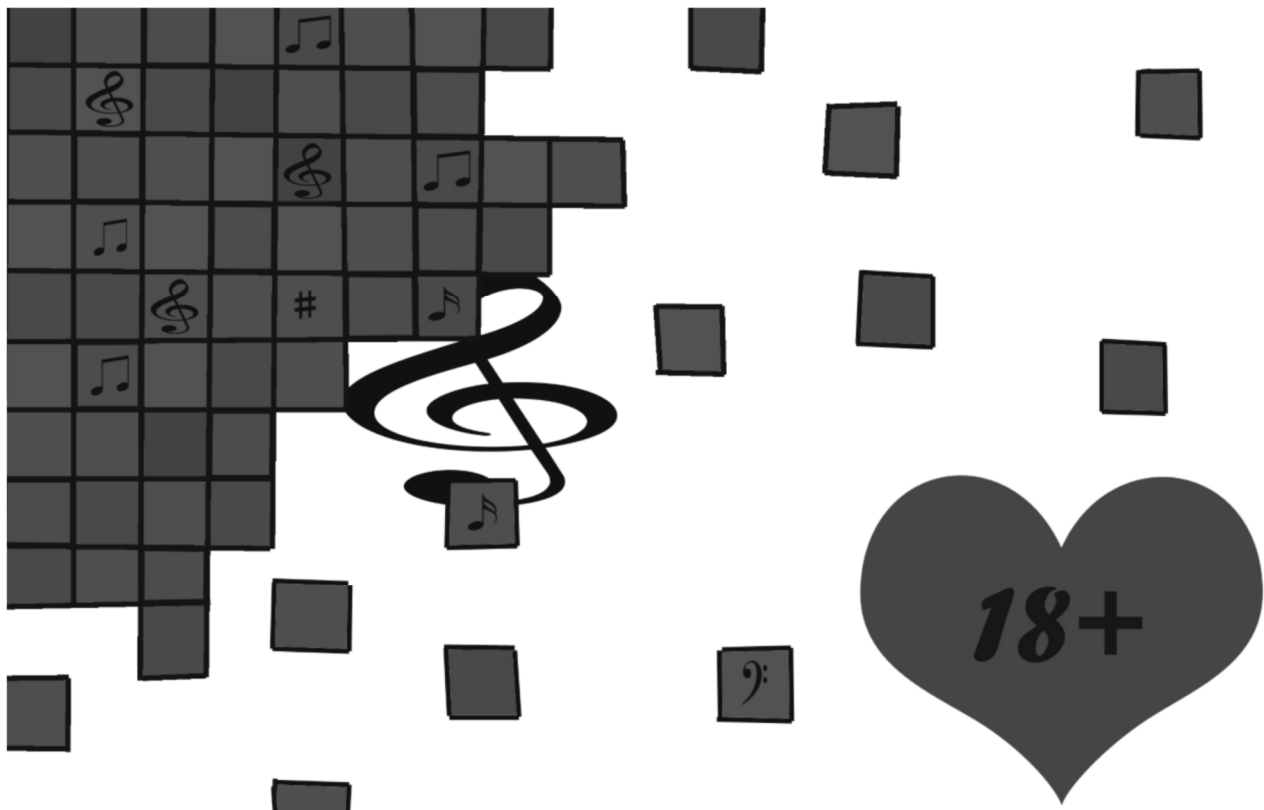
*Bruce Payne 07552237951*

### **Mobile Library**

The Mobile Library will stop from  
10.00 to 10.20am  
at Greenham Bridge

on

**Tuesday 4th February and 3rd  
March**



**VALENTINES  
DAY  
DJSEO**

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A Fundraiser for  
Wivey Make Music Day in June 2020

## Open All Hours

### St Valentine

So it's St Valentine's Day this month, as if you didn't know. You can't avoid it. Shops will be festooned with heart-shaped balloons, heart-shaped cushions, cards with hearts on, and all of it brightly coloured red. But did you know that Valentine was a martyr? Of course you did!

Partner to partner: Just off to the Bowls Club final match of the season: win this one and we win the league! And, being captain, can't be late – gosh, is that the time. Must go!

Other Partner: But the dog needs a walk, the washing up has to be done and the bedroom needs a new light bulb – and weren't you going to ring about the central heating? East Enders is about to start and I can't miss that!

The Other Partner: Sorry! OK! I'll do that first and then go to the Club! (Snarls behind the smile.)

No – Valentine wasn't that kind of martyr!

In 3<sup>rd</sup> century Rome, Emperor Claudius II wanted a strong army but men wouldn't enlist. One suggested reason – they were putting wives and families before the army. So the emperor banned all marriages and engagements until his requirements were met.

The Rev. Valentine thought that was wrong and so conducted marriages in secret. Claudius found out and was not amused. Valentine was arrested and, refusing to change his attitude, was beheaded.

So, when you are giving or receiving a bunch of lovely blood-red roses on Valentine's Day, think about St. Valentine – if your mind has room for anything or anyone else other than your beloved, that is. Which it shouldn't have.....should it?

*Martin at the Shop*

### What3words

Have you downloaded the **///what3words** app on your phone yet? It costs you nothing and you may never use it but have you ever tried to describe precisely where you are to a friend, a stranger, emergency services? **///what3words** has given every three metre square in the world a unique three word address. If you have the app on your phone, you just click onto it wherever you are and it will immediately give you a three word location. Like the emergency services, it picks up any phone signal available; it doesn't have to be from your network provider. Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Services are all now using it.

Just try it, find your own (choosing the square with the best access) and put a sticker on your phone alongside your VETS number sticker... you never know when you might need it...

*Judy Webb*

## Shop Volunteer Update

A very successful volunteer evening was held at the Shop on 15th January, hosted by Sally and Martin. Thank you to them both for the lovely food and wine.

Most of the existing volunteers came along, plus a number of potential new recruits. After a brief introduction, Martin talked about how he and Sally came to the Shop, and how they see it as a service to the community more than just a place to buy groceries. Judy Webb then explained how the introduction of volunteers last January, to run the Shop four afternoons a week plus Sundays, had proved to be a great success. A number of existing volunteers said how much they enjoy it, being part of a community service, meeting people and hearing the positive comments from customers.

The best news is that we have five new recruits who are willing to help in the shop and who are already undertaking their training, plus several others who have offered to 'run errands' as and when required. This is especially important with Sally and Martin needing to reduce their hours, and with the shop being busier than ever there is much to do to keep it well stocked.

So, there is plenty of scope for volunteer help, not just 'behind the counter' but in all of the many aspects of keeping going a busy and vibrant facility such as our Shop and Tearoom.

Thank you once again to the existing volunteers, you do a great job, and also to those 'newbies' who have stepped forward to become part of the team. You are all very much appreciated.

BUT (there is always a but, isn't there?) we always have room for more, and the more volunteers we have, the better. For everyone.

So, if you are thinking about joining us, please talk to Sally or Martin in the Shop, or ring them on 01823 674361 for a chat, or talk to any of the volunteers.

Thank you.

*Pauline, Judy and Cilla  
Volunteer Co-ordinating Team*

### The Village Festival Choir

2019 was the choir's best year yet. Highlights for me were learning some Mozart, our first ever wedding, singing the Karl Jenkins at Stawley Mill in September, Goodall's *The Lord is my Shepherd* at Bathealton in December and the Carol Service with the St Michael's Singers in Milverton.

Our thoughts now turn to 2020 and lots more music.

If you would like to join the choir please contact me on 01823 672102.

*Julia Swan*



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Phone 01823 673147 or email  
contact@theappleglobe.co.uk or via our facebook page

## Monday

We will be closed

## Tuesday

Open 5pm - 11pm

## Wednesday

Open 5pm - 11pm,  
food 6pm - 9pm

## Thursday

Open 5pm - 11pm,  
food 6pm - 9pm

## Friday

Open 11am - 11pm,  
food 12 - 3pm &  
6pm- 9pm


## Saturday

Open 11am - 11pm  
food 12 - 3pm &  
6pm- 9pm

## Sunday

Open 11am - 7pm  
Lunch served 12 - 5pm

It is advisable to book your  
table in advance to avoid  
disappointment, thank you




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Delta Del  
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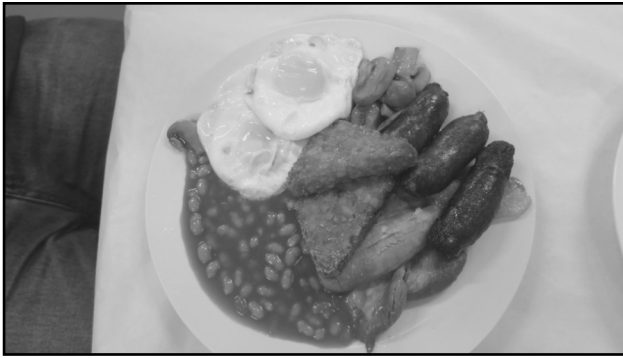
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## *Wednesday Night Specials*

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## Appley Pavilion and Playing Field Big Cob Hut Fundraiser Breakfast



The cob hut was built in 2008 as part of an eco-group project to show and teach local young people traditional skills; making cob blocks, thatching, stained glass and flooring. There is a great framed photograph, in the Pavilion's entrance hall, showing the children involved in the project (they are all very grown up now!).

The Pavilion Committee are required to insure the cob hut as a separate building and to make sure it is well maintained. A recent condition report has identified the need to repair the thatch and this will cost £750.

To make a start on raising funds to cover the cost of repairs, Suzette Williams and Kath Rose, once again, took to the kitchen and produced an amazing breakfast feast.

The Pavilion's pop up breakfast café on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January had a steady stream of customers from 8:30, peaking at around 10 am when most of the fifteen tables were occupied by happy eaters. Sixty-two breakfasts were served and £290 was raised.

Many thanks to everyone who came along and breakfasted for the thatch and special thanks to everyone who helped out, our amazing kitchen team and all of the children who stayed to stack chairs and tidy up.

If you would like to make a donation to the repairs please contact Suzette Williams, 01823 672266 or [williamspfa@outlook.com](mailto:williamspfa@outlook.com) or donate directly to the Pavilion's bank account (ref Cob Hut) Sort Code 60-23-05 Account Number 71612300 (Nat West).

Many thanks,

*Sally Scott, The Pavilion Committee*

### **Suzette Williams adds:**

A BIG thank you to all who came along to the fund raising breakfast.

We wouldn't be able to do these fund raising breakfast mornings without the help of the young volunteers, so we very much appreciate their help.

*Rachel, Sally, Kath, Charlotte & Suzette  
Appley Pavilion Committee*

## **Beware of computer support scams**

Do you own a computer or any other type of digital device? If so, watch out for fraudsters who will try to steal your money or personal or financial information through computer support scams.

Common scams include:

A cold caller claiming to be from a big company like Microsoft, saying there is a problem with your device and they need to access it to fix it.

Unsolicited emails with attached security updates that are in fact viruses.

Being asked for credit card details to validate your software.

Genuine computer companies won't call or email you out of the blue asking for personal or financial information or to fix your computer.

Follow this advice to stay safe:

Delete suspicious emails without opening any attachments or replying to them.

Hang up immediately on cold callers who claim there is a problem with your computer or ask you for personal or financial information.

If you are worried there may be a problem with your computer, you could:

Contact the genuine company using the phone number on their paperwork or website.

Ask for help at the shop where you bought it.

Take it to a computer repair business that is a member of the *Buy With Confidence* scheme.

All *Buy With Confidence* businesses are vetted, approved and monitored by Trading Standards. Search at

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or call 01392 383430.

If you are worried you have been scammed:

Get advice from Citizens Advice on 03454 040506

Report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

This article has been written by Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service.

<https://www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/>

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**Wednesday 12th February**

New members always welcome



## Country Matters

### *The Question*

*I dreamed that, as I wandered by the way,  
Bare Winter suddenly was changed to Spring  
And gentle odours led my steps astray,  
Mixed with a sound of waters murmuring  
Along the shelving bank of turf, which lay  
Under a copse, and hardly dared to fling  
Its green arms around the bosom of the  
stream,  
But kissed it and then fled, as thou mightest in  
dream.*

**Early December:** Badgers have by now organised their setts for winter hibernation. Dead leaves, bracken and grass are pulled underground and the rotting leaves produce a moist warmth to curl up in during cold weather. When it is cold they sleep for long periods, but come out to forage for food when it is milder. Their food consists of voles, young rabbits, beetles, worms, acorns and roots. (And my hens.)

**Late December:** All the leaves are now fallen, although some young oak trees still retain theirs. The stock doves which are very like wood pigeons, are starting to call their low moaning song.

**Early January:** The water table, as you have probably noticed, is very high and a day without rain is a bonus. In spite of this there is a small winter moth flying about. These are grey-brown with a dark band across the forewing. Only the males fly, females lurk about in tree stumps where they lay their eggs. The caterpillars come in the spring when their distinctive hoop action can be seen, and they can float across to other trees hanging by a silken thread.

**Mid January:** The sounds of bird song can again be heard, with the great tits in the lead and thrushes, nuthatches and robins all joining in. The enormous full moon this month is called a 'wolf moon', the brightness makes one realize that winter parties, before electricity, were held on full moon nights.

**Late January:** Snowdrops are up and flowering. They have an 'antifreeze' substance in their sap. This means that the recent cold snap has had no effect. Pussy willow, catkins and other wild flowers are early this year.

*Sally Merrett*

## Stawley Parish Council

The next meeting of Stawley Parish Council will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7:30pm in Appley Pavilion.

## Open Minds

### The World believes in Democracy (or does it?)

Perhaps the subject of our next meeting could be "Democracy". So it was suggested, towards the end of the last meeting of Open Minds. Ah, democracy, that much loved and much used word on the lips of politicians – especially when they want to be elected.

The people present thought it would be a jolly good wheeze to ask me to introduce the subject. And so I am, at the next meeting. Now then, was that a democratic decision?

A couple of quotes:

"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote." *George Nathan*

"In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them, and the will of the majority is supreme." *Aristotle*

How do you see it? Would you prefer to live under a benign dictator, or an elected government that does just what it pleases? Or does that depend on whether you are getting what you want?

Some questions we may consider:

- What makes a democratically elected parliament democratic?
- Are referenda beneficial to a democratic society, or detrimental?
- Is our monarchy democratic? If so, in what way?

OK – pens down. You have no choice. The invigilator is collecting your paper in now. Nothing democratic here!

Marks may be given out at Open Minds on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February in Ashbrittle. We meet as usual at 7.30 pm with a view to starting our discussion about 7.50 pm and finishing by 10pm. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to come and have not yet asked for a place please e-mail Delia on [deliaharling123@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:deliaharling123@tiscali.co.uk).

*Martin Perry*

St George's Day  
Big English Breakfast  
April 25th, Appley Pavilion



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**Quaker Faith and Practice Chapter 10**     <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/>

***Our community***

*10.01 Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.*

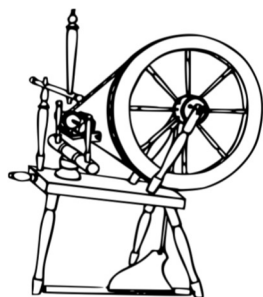
*Isaac Penington, 1667*

**For more information phone John Bell on 07580 958275 or use the “contact us” form on our website: <http://www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/>**

There are also instructions on the website of how to find us.

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Contact Pauline on 01823 672222, email  
[pjw200355@gmail.com](mailto:pjw200355@gmail.com)

We have great fun and interesting conversations on our spinning days, but if anyone has any ideas for specific topics, or have items for a show-and-tell, please let us know about them at the next meeting



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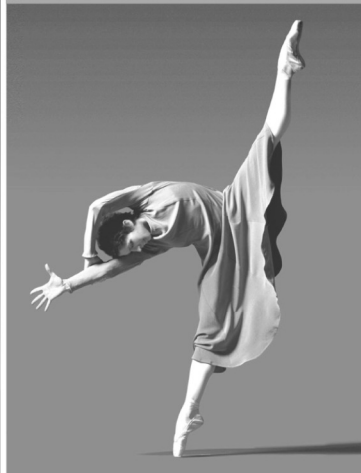
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this page

## Editorial Policy

Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the responsibility of the individual author(s) and are not necessarily the views held by the editors of the Parish News.

## Local Information

### Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

Greenham & Tracebridge	Caro Ayre	01823 672603
Appley	Rachel Chesterton	01823 673063
Ashbrittle	Charles Doble	01823 672365
Kittisford	Roger Bradford	01823 672350
Stawley	Pat Sweet	01823 672380
Wellisford	William Thomas	01823 673143
Bathealton & Poleshill	Terry McNicholas	01984 624428
Outer Bathealton	Carol Weir	01984 623565
Springrove	Doreen Orton	01823 400731

**Police-non-emergency number 101**

### Police Beat Team

**PC Joanne Jeffery** 2378 Tel:07889 657943  
[Joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

**PCSO Louise Fyne** 6945 Tel:07889 659476  
[Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

### Parish Councils

**Ashbrittle Chairman** Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618  
email [charles.doble@ukgateway.net](mailto:charles.doble@ukgateway.net)

**Bathealton Chairman** Charles Eustice 01823 401248

**Stawley Chairman** Paul Musgrove 01823 672627  
email: [stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk) [www.stash.org.uk](http://www.stash.org.uk)

### Community Halls

#### Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or  
email: [williamsdfa@outlook.com](mailto:williamsdfa@outlook.com)

#### Ashbrittle Village Hall

– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760

#### Bathealton Village Hall

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

### Local Groups

#### Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager  
Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues  
Stawley Under Fives 07753 552736 Weds/Thurs/Fri

**Wiveliscombe Young Farmers Club** meets weekly. Phone  
Becky Hurd on 01984 623006 to find out more.

**Women's Institute** meets at 7.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the  
month at Bathealton Village Hall. Phone Ann Hendy 01823  
400476 for further information.

## PARISH NEWS DETAILS

**The Editors and the next issue deadline date are on the back cover.** Please send items for publication to the Editors in good time to ensure publication. There is only a short time between the deadline and the printing of the Parish News and late items may not be included. We are pleased to receive items in any form (typed, in long hand, on disk or by e-mail). Naturally, we prefer items by e-mail [ashparishnews@btinternet.com](mailto:ashparishnews@btinternet.com) when they should be in Microsoft 'Word' format, as this saves a great deal of typing!

Our advertising rates are £1.40 per month for a small box, £3.00 for a quarter page, £6.00 for a half page and £12.00 for a whole page. Advertising for community events, charity and church fundraising events in our area are normally carried free of charge. Occasional one-off adverts from residents in our area seeking to sell or buy an article or seeking to acquire or offer a service are also carried free of charge. In all cases the style, layout and size allocated to an advert is at the discretion of the Editors.

**Editors:** Maurice Stanbury 01823 672216 and Julia Swan 01823 672102 e-mail address: [ashparishnews@btinternet.com](mailto:ashparishnews@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer:** Wendy Spackman 07545 967386

**Distribution:** Graham Henson 01823 672496

**Cover Design** - Church illustrations derived from originals by the late Diana Willis

**Printed** by Sharper Print Tel 07906 752190

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### *February*

4th	2.30 pm	Spinning and Woolcraft Group, Cruck Barn
5 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Art Group Ashbrittle Village Hall
6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 start	Walking Group. Meet at Ashbrittle Village Hall
8th		Western Canal Working Party (see page 12 for further information)
8th	6.00 pm	Ashbrittle Arts AGM at the Engine House
14th	3.00 pm	Vintage Tea in Bathealton Village Hall
15th	7.00 pm	'An Evening of Jazz' at the Appley Pavilion
18th	7.00 pm	Gardening Club planning meeting, Cruck Barn
19 <sup>th</sup>		Painting with Egg Tempura with Jane Embleton (see page 6 for details)
27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Lunch Club, Ashbrittle Village Hall

### *March*

3rd	2.30 pm	Spinning and Woolcraft Group, Cruck Barn
13th	7.30 for 8 pm	Supper Club at Stawley Mill
13th	7.30 pm	Quiz night, Appley Pavilion
14th	7.30 pm	Kittisford Pudding Club, Greater Brimley Farm
21st	2.30 pm	Attic Sale. Bathealton Village Hall

### *April*

17th	7.30 for 8 pm	Supper Club at Stawley Mill
25th	8.30 - 11 am	St George's Day, Big English Breakfast, Appley Pavilion

### *May*

2nd	2.30 pm	Plant Sale, Hellings Farm, Bathealton
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### *June*

6th		Stawley Fete and Garden Party at Stawley Mill
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**Next Deadline Date: Friday 21st February 2020**  
**Editors Maurice and Julia**