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## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Our churches continue to be closed until further notice, except for funerals.



# **Churchwardens and Clergy**

Ashbrittle with Greenham	
Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LQ David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE	01823 672365 01823 672436
<b>Bathealton</b> Pauline and Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW	01984 629013
Kittisford Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0J	W 01823 672627
Stawley Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0H	01823 672183 01823 672496
Associate Priest Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4	1JR 01823 400127
Lay Minister Elaine McNicholas, School House, Bathealton, TA4	2AN 01984 624428
<b>Team Rector</b> Revd Tim Treanor, The Rectory, 72 High Street, Wellington	01823 662248
Missioner and Team Vicar Revd Selina Garner, The Vicarage, 2 Rockwell Green, Wellington. Email: selina@thegarners.me	e.uk 01823 662227

# **Thought for the Month**

#### The 'new normal'

During the course of the last eight weeks, certain words seem to have been occurring rather more frequently than before. 'Unprecedented' is one, and 'normal' another. I hear questions being asked of the government and its advisers, 'When will we be returning to normal?' and now, with greater frequency, 'What will be the new normal?'.

We certainly find ourselves in a time when 'normal' is having to be re-defined. It is, of course, not normal to spend a greater amount of time indoors. Nor is it normal to find all shops, restaurants and pubs closed. But there is also a deeper sense of the absence of the normality of old. How long will it be before we find ourselves in the era of negative interest rates, where savers will have to pay the banks to keep their money? How long will it be before electricity suppliers start (as some are doing so already) to pay customers to use energy? Apparently, this is due to a dramatic slow-down in industrial demand and an excess of power on the grid.

I suspect that in the months ahead there will be a growing expectation that many aspects of our life will have changed. However, I have every confidence that we have the human capacity to adapt and even thrive in the face of change. We will simply have to expect that many changes are inevitable and only time will reveal how many of them are permanent.

As wider society begins to relax the measures designed to encourage us to remain at home, places of worship are beginning to consider how and when they might re-open. We have been informed that this will be carried out in three stages.

Phase 1 will be the opening of churches for a limited period by the priest or another, more local, "designated person". This is aimed at ensuring that a church building remains in good order whilst also allowing for that church to be used to broadcast an act of worship. Phase 2 will be permitting a church to be used for one of the 'occasional offices'; Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Phase 3 will be the re-opening of churches for public worship.

It is phase 3 that has led me to consider what might constitute the 'new normal'. If we are to re-open our churches for public worship and the government has floated July as a possibility, there will have to be measures in place to allow us to do so. However irksome it might seem (and no-one finds it more irksome than me not to be allowed to shake hands at a funeral!), we will have to ensure that certain modest changes are in place. These

might include where we sit, how we receive communion, which books we use and other small modifications to those practices we have come to regard as normal. How long these changes will stay in place will only become clear with the passage of time.

In the meantime, I will leave you with some advice of the nineteenth century, Canon Sydney Smith, which I have quoted elsewhere, "Take a short view of human life, no further than dinner or tea".

With my best wishes,

Martin Beaumont



## Quaker Meeting for Worship Spiceland Quaker Meeting Uffculme EX15 3AZ

Sadly, due to the current corona virus crisis, there will be **NO Meeting for Worship** at Spiceland until further notice

In the meantime we are agreeing to sit in our own homes at 10.30am every Sunday and "Meet without Meeting" For 30 minutes we can join together wherever we are to hold the world, our community and our families in the light with hope and love. Please do join us.

### This month we would share the poem

Sometimes religion appears to be presented as offering easy cures for pain; have faith and God will mend your hurts; reach out to God and your woundedness will be healed. The Beatitude 'Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted' can be interpreted this way too, but the Latin root of the word 'comfort' means 'with strength' rather than 'at ease'. The Beatitude is not promising to take away our pain, indeed the inference is that the pain will remain with us. It does promise that God will cherish us and our wound, and help us draw a blessing from our distressed state.

S Jocelyn Burnell, 1989 Quaker Faith and Practice 21.66

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

# **Stalag Somerset Paradise**

I am a gentleman caller on a delightful Somerset lady and have been attending to her every need for 15 years despite living 150 miles away. Due to a set of hapless events I was with her the very day that lock down started and I have been stranded in Somerset without an escape route. I scoured the lock down guide lines and found that I was restrained from making a legal journey to my home in Warwickshire as I would not be taking lawful exercise, visiting one friend in his or her garden or going to essential work.

Thus I have been billeted in Ashbrittle with food parcels arriving regularly. I have been allowed restricted exercise and socializing and regular sanitizing.

And so I have to endure brilliant sunshine, galaxies of spring flowers waving at me, proud trees bowing in the wind, cascading rolling countryside tumbling in all directions, clean air, unbelievable quiet, the smiling welcome of Martin and Sally at the local tuck shop and all within a warm and supportive community.

The parole board meets again in June and subject to the Scientific Evidence and the R Factor I may be a free man again. But what an amazing delight to be locked down in Somerset.

Paul Jacques

# **VE Day anniversary in Ashbrittle**

## Friday 8th May 2020

In Ashbrittle, possibly more residents than usual, got up from their sofas to participate in a day which was not viewed on television, but live in our own village. Thanks to some forward planning by Claire and Jeremy Robbins, many of us welcomed a memorable occasion.

It started with a small gathering (socially distanced of course) on the green when we observed two minutes silence for all those who had lost their lives in the Second World War. Jeremy conducted proceedings and Paul Jacques played the 'Last Post'. After Reveille, church bells rang out across the village, digitally created by Jeremy in the village hall.

In the afternoon, thanks to inspiration from Claire, those of us living around the green had 40's style tea parties in our front gardens. Frilly table-cloths, fancy china and teapots came out with the usual range of homemade cakes, for which Ashbrittle is famous. In the Boutwood's case, even a wind-up gramophone added to the atmosphere. Some of us were forced to raid our

dressing up boxes for 40's gear.

Later on we visited each other's tea parties, chatting over the garden walls and catching up on local news. We even had visitors from Chackeridge, Appley and Tracebridge join us. As the tea parties wound up, so 40's music floated from the hall and before long the more reckless participated in a little dancing, in one case with a tape measure between the dancers, making sure that 'Safety came First'.



A big thank you is due to the Robbins, who inspired us to turn an everyday into a very special day.

Delia Harling



# Annual General meeting of the RCI

Following the postponement of the previous meeting on 15th April, this will now take place online as a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 17th June at 7.30 pm

If you would like to join the meeting please email me at:

*m\_f.parkinson@btinternet.com* so that I can send you a key
Mike Parkinson

# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

June 2020 update

# Open for business!

Thank you to everyone who is helping in all sorts of ways within our local communities

It is still one at a time inside, but we have seats in the sun and the opportunity to chat while you wait

We are well-stocked with milk, bread, cheese, groceries, fruit & veg, cider, wine etc (it helps if you pre-order your bread, especially if you want it sliced)

We are still delivering newspapers and milk Mondays to Saturdays, plus groceries if required, to the local area - let us know, or ask a friend to give us your order

PLEASE DO RING FIRST TO CHECK THE CURRENT SITUATION

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00 to 5.30

Saturday 8.00 to 2.00 Sunday 9.00 to 11.00

Post Office services available Thursdays 11.30 - 1.30

Come and see us on the Ashbrittle road between Greenham and Tracebridge adjacent to Stawley School, or ring us on 01823 674361 or email us at <a href="mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com">shop@stawleyshop.com</a>

# **Local Coronavirus Community Support**

The Village Shop, as the hub of our community in Stawley and Ashbrittle, continues to co-ordinate any assistance that is needed in those Parishes

For those in the north of our area there is also assistance from Wivey

Call 01984 624777 (Mon to Sat: 9am - 5pm; answer-phone other times)

or email *coronahelp@wiveliscombe.com* (please give phone number)

### What Covid-19 means to me

I am Adanna, I like reading, gymnastics and drawing. We have a dog called Storm (a fast dog) and our neighbours have dogs as well. I live with my Mum, Dad, brother and sister.

I am nine years old and at the moment there is a Covid-19 outbreak and we (Earth's people) have to stay two metres away from everybody in case they have Coronavirus. Coronavirus is a disease which can cause bad symptoms like not being able to breathe or a bad cough.

The whole world is in lockdown because of the virus spreading and my Nanna can't come here from Australia like we planned. We have to protect the NHS and wash our hands for twenty seconds or sing Happy Birthday twice.

I live in Kittisford, in Somerset and that is in the countryside, so it is OK for us but think about the people in the cities and towns with tiny flats. They might not have a garden.

I also like motorbiking, swimming and climbing. In my room I have fifty eight books, yes really fifty eight books! I have the best neighbours anyone could ever wish for. We have a motorbike and a field and woods to play in and awesome bikes.

The worst part is that we can't go anywhere because we have to 'lockdown', but it is also good because we have home-schooling and my work is on the laptop. Once we have done our work we have a video conference meeting with our teacher and my year group. That is really nice because I get to see my friends everyday, except for the weekend and half term.

When we go shopping we usually have to get some for other people too, like our Nanny and Grandad because they can't go out at all and can only go out in their garden. My Dad drives the shopping over to them because they live in Weston super Mare. When we do go out the grown ups have to wear rubber gloves.

Sometimes we do swaps with books or DVDs with our friends, but we have to drop things at their gate and even if we see them we have to stay two metres away and the other side of the gate.

Adanna Sue Ranson

# Village Oil Group

To place your order please email *judy.milne@btopenworld.com* or contact Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205.

Orders by the Sunday evening, before the next delivery day please, which will be **Wednesday 10th June.** 

New members always welcome

# **Open All Hours**

In May, unexpectedly, we awoke to three mornings of frost.

#### The Man who sued God

The court room hushed, the angels silent, and saints redeemed in mood compliant when Arthur Bean arose to speak, on Heaven's peace his vengeance reek.

"In happy mind to garden sod, and study growth, I went, O God, but much I found had barely thrived, while plenty more had not survived.

"The back of Winter gave us rain, deep muddy soil, then rained again, but Spring brought sunshine, ground grew warm, meant flowers and veg showed healthy form."

Though knew his temper down inside, his voice and spirit throbbed with pride. "My yearly plants all won a prize, my berries, marrows, taste and size:

"I dug, I sowed, enthused each day – until you sent that cold in May: three nights we had of killing frost, black leaves, dark feelings were the cost.

"You can't deny your frost was late: my gardener's right says 'Compensate!' I don't want money, just more land that I can till, and plants expand!"

The speech was done, demand thought just, God was at fault so yield he must: the weather's his, not Arthur Bean's – he owes him land for spuds and greens.

Almighty smiled, almighty smile, gave him more land, from home a mile, an Eden new for leaf and petal, so Bean rejoiced in hope-filled fettle:

He reached the ground, a huge steep field where he grew visions that appealed, until came fears which did unsettle, he saw just thistle, stone and nettle

What is the relationship, do you think, between God as Creator, Nature and its development, and the work of farmers and gardeners on our behalf?

Martin at the Shop

# The Parish News Faces Quiz



## **Country matters**

## The Village Inn

"The village inn, the dear old inn,
So ancient, clean and free from sin,
True centre of our rural life
Where Hodge sits down beside his wife
And talks of Marx and nuclear fission
With all a rustics intuition.
Ah, more than church or school or hall,
The village inn's the heart of all."

Ah, where's the inn that once I knew With brick and chalky wall Up which the knobbly pear-tree grew For fear the place would fall

John Betjeman

Early May: After a hot dry April the road sides in the lanes are a mass of colour. After the bluebells the predominant colour is white. Cow parsley or Queen Anne's lace is widespread. It is the quintessential flower of early May, lasting three weeks or so. The other umbellifer coming up is hogweed, it also has white flowers but is a much larger, coarser plant. The bright blue spikes of bugle, a ground creeping plant, are coming up in the woods.

I have been trying to find the date when cygnet's beaks turn the bright orange of adult swans. This year on the canal it was between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May.

When I was in Waitrose recently, I saw a very large moth with a wing span of 5cms on the big window overlooking the car park. It was a Willow Hawkmoth which is usually found in Southern Europe. Maybe it was brought in with the vegetables or flowers.

**Mid May**: The spotted flycatchers are back in Appley with their aerobatics catching insects. When not flying they are rather boring mouseybrown birds.

The 20<sup>th</sup> of May was National Bee Day and hopefully they will have more flowers to feed on, with less cutting of verges. Although a manicured house frontage may look tidy, it is a desert for bees and other insects.

One good thing about lockdown and the lack of traffic is that there has been much less roadkill, particularly of young badgers.

Sally Merritt

# **Greenham Cottage**

Open Garden

Returning for a second year by popular request (again!)

During June and August.

Any day of the week on the hour by prior appointment only, via phone or email.

Managed by the Bell-Wests for the last five years.

No Teas, no Dogs, no Smoking, no Plant sales;

Donations towards a bench or for Greenham Church.

Park and enter via our field next to the garden. If we don't have garden visitors, we get lazy / fat / drunk

E mail:stjohnwest@btinternet.com Telephone 01823 672393

# How can we help?

Two strong local lads with lots of time on their hands, available for heavy digging, moving, garden clearing, painting, or whatever else you may want!

We have most of our own tools and of course will be social distancing.

Please contact

Arthur and Tom Burns-Cox on

07540 494 377 or

arthurburnscox@gmail.com

# Rainfall for April in Bathealton (inches)

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 1.36 1.01 4.59 3.08 1.43

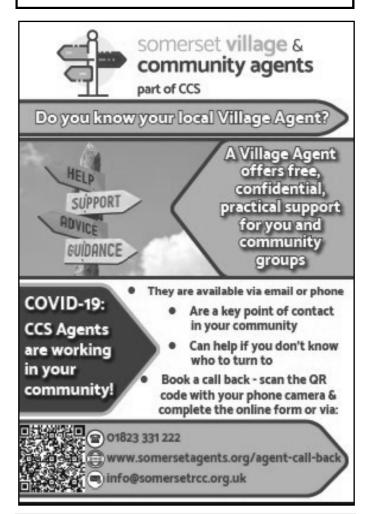


# Cothay Manor



Due to the Covid -19 situation, the house, gardens and tearooms will be closed until further notice

Cothay Manor, Greenham, Near Wellington TA21 0JR E mail: cothaymanor@btinternet.com Telephone: 01823 672283 www.cothaymanor.co.uk



## **Parish News Donations**

Many thanks for donations from: Colin and Annette Haddrell David and Nicky Welch and in the shop

Donations may be left at the Village Shop or sent directly to the treasurer:

Wendy Spackman, Malthouse, Hill Farm, Stawley, Wellington TA21 0HN

# Please note our change of email address:

ashparishnews@gmail.com

# **Covid-19 Coronavirus Helpline**

As a temporary measure in the light of the current situation, the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) has been converted to a helpline. If, for any reason, you require local assistance, you can ring the appropriate number for your area shown below and, if someone is available, a local volunteer will respond.

There are ten local volunteers on each number and the first one who is available will respond to your call. If you are self-isolating and alone in your home, or whatever the circumstances, volunteers are out there to help you so please make use of this helpline. You may need some supplies, your medication or perhaps you have a concern or anxiety which you just need to talk through with someone... the community is here to help you.

The numbers are:

ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY: 01823 244104 BATHEALTON: 01984 322919 KITTISFORD, TRACEBRIDGE & APPLEY:

01823 245101

The VETS numbers remain available as emergency lines should you need help to access a Defibrillator. Remember, in the event of a possible cardiac arrest in your household

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

Defibs are permanently located at these places and can be found using the What3words codes below:

Ashbrittle Village Hall, on outside wall blurts.flats.crouching
Bathealton Village Hall, on outside wall relatives.widgets.rolled
Kittisford New House Farm, on barn wall, opposite Church bonkers.regime.lyricist
Stawley Shop, on outside wall messaging.servers.quaking

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

# **Helping Hedgehogs**

The British Hedgehog (Erinaceus Europaeus) has been voted Britain's Favourite Wildlife Animal many times by the general public and has a special place in most people's hearts. Mrs Tiggy-Winkle by Beatrix Potter was one of the very first books that I read and younger generations would no doubt relate to another more recent hog on the block, Sonic the Hedgehog of computer game fame!

When I was a small child we saw them on a regular, almost daily basis, either shuffling across the lawn at dusk making their way to Dad's vegetable patch. Sadly, all too frequently we also saw them on the side of the road on our walks. My father, a patient and kindly man who shared my love of all of God's creatures would humour me as I insisted on taking the deceased hedgehog home to be placed in a cardboard box, prayers said over and tenderly placed in the freshly dug hole in his vegetable garden.

This was in the early 60's where it was calculated that there were roughly about thirty million hedgehogs (no wonder there were so many squashed on the roads!) Now, it is estimated that there are between one to one and a half million left, with numbers continuing to fall. Why has this happened? What are the factors causing the cataclysmic decline of the humble hedgehog?

### Causes of decline

There are three major factors. The first is the loss of habitat. The clue is in the name, Hedge Hog. Farming practices have changed the landscape of the countryside. Smaller fields bordered by thick hedgerows that provided shelter and secure nesting sites have given way to much bigger fields more suitable for the large machinery now used. Arable crops are now sprayed with chemicals which kill off the hedgehog's food sources of worms, beetles and slugs.

The second factor is humans. Sadly, we see the evidence of this on our roads. The car is a lethal weapon and the hedgehog always the loser against it.

Predation is the final factor. The only other animal that is able to break through the hedgehog's defences is sadly, the badger. In the past when badger numbers were smaller, not as many hedgehogs were lost to them. Since being afforded protection, badgers numbers have doubled at least and hedgehog numbers have fallen as fast. The uncomfortable truth is that both Badger and Hedgehog compete for the same food. When there is plenty to go round it is not a problem, people have seen them eating side by side. However, when

food is scarce the badger views the hedgehog in a very different light.

# Can we do anything to help stop the decline of the hedgehog?

Yes we can. By setting up a feeding station and providing food we can supplement their diet, when food is scarce, by a dish of cat meat and cat or kitten biscuits. This will be a welcome help to the hedgehog mum who is having to produce milk for her litter as well as for herself. Don't forget to put out a shallow dish of water too, they drink a surprising amount. Please don't feed them bread and milk, bread has little nutritional value and hedgehogs are lactose intolerant, milk will eventually kill them.

Provide shelter by either making or buying a hedgehog house. This can used as a safe hibernation home in the winter or even as a safe nesting box for a mum and her babies. Look at the British Hedgehog Preservation Society web site (www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk) which will tell you the hedgehog's requirements for a Des Res. There are plenty for sale in Garden Centres and on Ebay. A hedgehog feeding station also stops other animals, such as cats, foxes and ever hungry Labradors from stealing Mrs Twiggy-Winkle's food!

When gardening please check the area before mowing or trimming for hedgehogs. Some of the worst injuries are due to gardening accidents and are too often fatal. Also check any netting in the garden each day as hedgehogs can get tangled very easily in it. Use organic methods of pest control. Sadly, young inexperienced, or very hungry hedgehogs will eat slug pellets if there is no other food around.

Ponds are a major hazard for hedgehogs. Although they are very good swimmers they often are unable to climb out of the pond as the sides are too slippery or the water level too low, they sometimes fall in because they are looking for water to drink, another reason to leave them a bowl of water to avoid this happening. If you do have a pond a small wooden ramp, a piece of wire netting or some rocks at the shallow end will help assist the hedgehog getting out. Cattle grids also pose a danger to hedgehogs and other small animals. If they fall in it is impossible for them to climb out. A piece of wood placed in a corner can be used as a ramp to escape certain death.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal and do not come out during daylight hours. The only exception to this is pregnant females looking for nest material or a new mum who is taking a break from her babies to get food and water. These females will be moving quickly and with purpose.

Any hedgehog that is wobbly, lethargic (hedgehogs don't sunbathe!) lying on the lawn or has flies on it needs help quickly. Please contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 immediately and they will advise you. Please don't email them, it may be too late by the time they pick it up.

Finally, please think about joining and supporting the BHPS. Since its inception in 1982 it has funded many studies on the hedgehog, supported rescues and helped private individuals who care for these marvellous little creatures.

Information from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the books of Dr Pat Morris have been used for this article, with thanks.

Nervs Gibb

Nerys was scheduled to give a talk at Bathealton Village Hall which had to be cancelled - instead we share that knowledge in the magazine - many thanks.

Eds

# Another Quiz to help keep your brain sharp

- 1. Which record breaking Canadian musician first entered the UK charts in 1985 with 'Run to you'?
- 2. Who is the only woman to have served as Speaker of the House of Commons (1992-2000)?
- 3. What is the heaviest flying bird in the world, recently reintroduced into England?
- 4. Which American 45 year old multi millionaire sportsman, still playing 'a round' the world, has the first two names of Eldrick Tont?
- 5. Which palindromic band had a palindromic hit in 1975?
- 6. What does the acronym NASA stand for?
- 7. Which century included The Great Plague, Shakespeare's death and the Gunpowder Plot?
- 8. Which English county contains Royal Learnington Spa, Bedworth, Rugby and Nuneaton?
- 9. What is James Bond's favourite tipple?
- 10. From which type of flower does a vanilla pod come?
- 11. Who was the 1st female US Secretary of State serving from 1997-2001 under Bill Clinton?

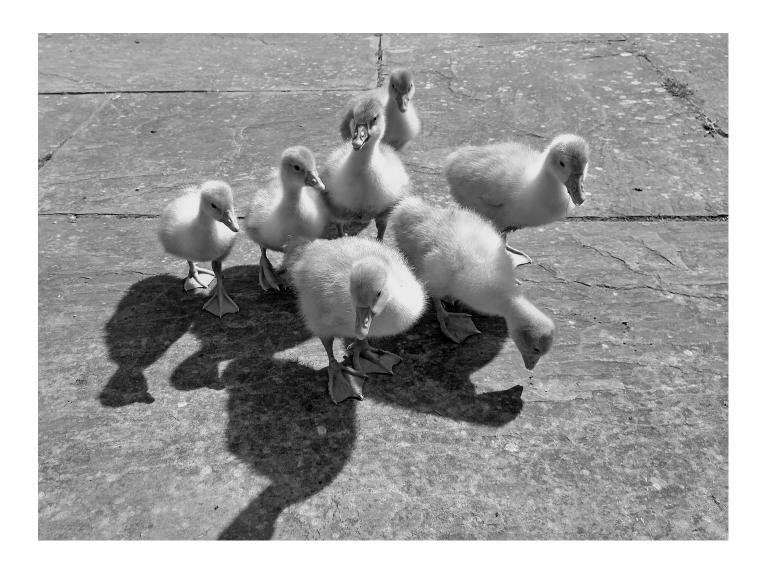
- 12. In what year did Nadia Hussain win The Great British Bake Off?
- 13. Venezuela has the world's highest waterfall at 984 metres high; what's it called?
- 14. Who discovered the world's first broadly effective antibiotic, penicillin, in 1928?
- 15. In 1950 cartoonist Charles Schulz created 'Peanuts' featuring Charlie Brown and his pet beagle, which endured for 50 years. Name the beagle.
- 16. Which actor gave an Oscar winning portrayal of Churchill in 'Darkest Hour' in 2017?
- 17. Name the three countries in the world that begin with the letter F.
- 18. What connects Angela Rayner, Anneliese Dodds, Lisa Nandy and Emily Thornberry?
- 19. In relation to computers, what does USB stand for?
- 20. It's not its largest city, but what is the capital of Australia?
- 21. Moor Street, Snow Hill, New Street and International are railway stations in which English city?
- 22. In which sport do female professionals compete biennially for the Solheim Cup?
- 23. Cirrus, cirrostratus and cirrocumulus are types of high level what?
- 24. Name the mass gathering of starlings creating swirling patterns in the winter skies.
- 25. Martin Compston, Vicky McClure and Adrian Dunbar starred in which BBC police drama?

Check your answers on page 13

With thanks to Alan Rose - Eds

# **Mobile Library**

All visits cancelled until further notice



### Seven Dwarfs and Snow White

Snow White was delighted to receive an incubator for her birthday which arrived just in time for the eBay goose eggs. After thirty two days of turning the eggs three times a day and anxiously trying to get the humidity right, the hatching day finally arrived. As a complete rookie to the automatic egg turning trays, I had failed to read in the handbook that the egg tray should be removed prior to the hatching day. It was a heart rending two days to watch the tiny goslings peck their way out of their shells only to have to fight it out by scrambling over the egg trays. They mostly made it and struggled on the uneven surface, only one had to be rescued at it had trapped its foot in the tray. It was amazing to see them strive for life as they pecked and pecked at their shells, then had a rest (so I thought they had died) only to resume the struggle and emerge wet and bedraggled to stagger into life.

The little goslings were eventually transferred into a box under a heat lamp to dry off and fluff out to become the most adorable yellow

fluffy chicks. The next panic came when the heat lamp bulb needed replacing and Paul had to do a mercy dash to the pet shop. Calm was restored and the chicks were happy under their new lamp. No amount of reading guides on the internet or in handbooks prepared me for this new responsibility. Every guide was slightly different, and I felt like a new parent confused by all the conflicting information out there. It was no good following my instinct since I am not a goose!

## **Emergency surgery**

Relieved they had made it through the first 24 hours, they were put into the brooder for the night. They were snug under the heat lamp in their rat proof wooden box. I caught up on sleep. The next morning I was dismayed to see that two of my goslings were doing the splits. Unhelpful husband suggested that we leave them to their own devices and if they are unable to stand up then they will have to go. Helpful internet advice suggested splinting them with a band aid for a few days. We carried out the necessary surgery and successfully splinted their legs and I am delighted that after two days the band aids are off

and they are walking fine. Next time (if there ever is one) we know to put them on a non-slip surface. It feels like: new parent – bad parent! It will be so much better next time.

My little brood of seven straight walking goslings are doing well now. They greet me eagerly as I chirp "Goosie Goosie" and follow me around the garden on their daily exercise. After four days they are growing fast and developing their own personalities. Some are bold, some are shy, some peck my fingers and others like a tickle under their tummies. It has been lovely to share them with suitably distanced children and every day they remind me of the power of creation. I wonder if they will really live up to their names: Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy, Dopey, Doc?

Annie Musgrove

# **Bring and Buy Plants at Stawley Shop**

At the end of May we erected a gazebo in the car park at Stawley Shop and started up a little plant sharing table.

I was delighted that so many people brought plants for the stall and that these have been so happily whisked off to new homes. The Food Bank and our village churches shared the generous donations of £175.

## **Stawley Church**

The stall was then adopted by Sue Jacoby to raise money for Stawley Church Tower Fund. Sue writes: 'The Village Shop Bring and Buy plant stall has become popular as a source of all sorts of plants, particularly while the garden centres were closed. Certainly my conservatory is now fairly empty as more and more plants disappeared during the two weeks that I was in charge. A big thank you to those who gave so generously to raise a rather remarkable £302 for the restoration of Stawley Church Tower'.

### **Kittisford Church**

Annie Musgrove writes: For the next couple of weeks, the stall has been taken over by Kittisford to raise money for its church. Please do continue to drop plants off, browse and enjoy looking at the plants and flowers. If you have plants you would like collected but don't want to come to the shop yourself to drop them off, please let me know and I can pick them up at your gate.

The stall at the shop will continue until either the school re-opens or we have all run out of plants to give. You are welcome to return any unwanted empty pots.

### **Bathealton Church**

In addition, there is another stall in Bathealton. Morag Berthon writes: We have a selection of basket plants, a few vegetable seedlings and sundry shrubs. Later if we have other produce we will keep going. Tilly is happy to keep on checking and agrees we should continue as long as we have anything to sell.

Julia Swan

# Answers to the 'Faces' Quiz on page 7

- 1. Helen Mirren
- 2. Michael Vaughan
- 3. Naomie Harris
- 4. Ben Whishaw
- 5. Dina Asher-Smith
- 6. Roger Allam
- 7. Victoria Wood
- 8. Bill Nighy
- 9. Rick Astley
- 10. Angelique Kerber
- 11. Evan Davis
- 12. Lily James
- 13. Javier Bardem
- 14. Sian Gibson
- 15. Nigel Kennedy
- 16. Lorraine Pascale
- 17. Dick Strawbridge
- 18. Linda Bellingham
- 19. Kris Marshall
- 20. Gwyneth Strong

# And to the General Quiz on page 11

- 1. Bryan Adams
- 2. Betty Boothroyd (Baroness Boothroyd)
- 3. Great Bustard
- 4. 'Tiger' Woods
- 5. ABBA-SOS
- 6. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 7. 17th
- 8. Warwickshire
- 9. Vodka Martini shaken not stirred
- 10. Orchid, primarily pods from Mexican flat leaved species
- 11. Madeleine Albright
- 12. 2015
- 13. Angel Falls
- 14. Alexander Fleming.
- 15. Snoopy
- 16. Gary Oldman
- 17. France, Finland, Fiji
- 18. Members of Labours' current Shadow Cabinet
- 19. Universal Serial Bus
- 20. Canberra
- 21. Birmingham
- 22. Golf
- 23. Clouds
- 24. Murmuration
- 25. Line of Duty

### **Accents Matter**

I feel another 'I'm English' grump coming on. Before I get going, let me be clear what I don't mean by 'accent'. I don't mean 'dialect' as used by John Fowles in that wonderful line,

... the still, green pool of the Devon dialect ....

For me, 'dialect' includes the choice of words, the structure of sentences, their grammar and syntax, the preferred analogies and local memories, as well as the speakers' length and pitch of vowels and whether they bother with consonants. Dialects are a wonderful enrichment of our language.

I use the word 'accent' to convey three separate ideas:

- 1) how a speaker pronounces vowels and consonants;
- 2) the stress placed on a syllable, and
- 3) the special mark above or below a letter to signal a different pronunciation (written English has none). For the purposes of this grump, which is about verbal stress, I shall use bold and underline to signal that a word is accentuated on that syllable. And this brings me to the cause of my grumpiness (or is it developing paranoia?): it seems to me that so many public-speakers make fools of themselves by getting accentuation wrong, that I suspect a conspiracy.

Consider the following pairs of words: abstract & abstract, attribute & attribute, commune & commune, conflict & conflict, contract & contract, contrast & contrast, convict & convict, extract and extract, frequent & frequent, incline & incline, object & object, process & process, subject & subject.

Notice that the first of each pair is a noun and the second is a verb. Judging by the contempt with which this distinction is held in North America, I imagine that few of its citizens would understand the last sentence. The nadir of using nouns as verbs came for me on the outward leg of my (only) return flight to USA, when a bright-eyed air-hostess asked me, "How can I beverage you today?" And then, "Are you OK, sir?" I suppose my jaw had dropped at the thought of my essence being eluted by repeated dunking in hot water. I ramble. Where was I?

Oh yes; why has this pernicious habit of turning nouns into verbs so infused our language? I think a clue was left by Samantha Cameron just before a general election when, in obvious response to yet another inane question – presumably about holidays, she wrinkled her nose with distaste and said, "Me and the children are going ....." I can readily imagine the previous

minute's dialogue which began when she said, "The children and I are going ...." Whereupon those shadowy Downing Street thought-police who constitute a Prime Minister's political advisers, had collective conniptions and pointed out that using such a phrase would lose n-million votes. Retake.

What is going on here? We see the wife of the most powerful man in Britain being advised to kowtow to the mass of people who not only think (if that isn't too strong a word) that 'Me is going ...' is acceptable English but also feel that by putting 'Me' first, they consider themselves to be more important than 'the children'. The answer is, of course, that the political advisers pointed out that even the Prime Minister, let alone his wife, must not be seen to challenge the standards of the majority of the electorate but must ape them. The BBC call this practice, 'making a broadcast more accessible'. It is a deeply flawed argument. As my brother has pointed out to me, it is the equivalent of reasoning that, since most people drive badly, everyone ought to.

One can pick out a trail in patterns of behaviour that leads back to the roots of language as a means of gathering social (and therefore political) support, but that story must await another time. 'Verbing' nouns (and many other abuses of our language) was neither paranoia nor a conspiracy but simply people hinting to their listeners how familiar they were with rich Americans.

In fact, the deeper one digs into the compost of evolving language the more malodorous it becomes until, that is, one reaches the real stuff: that rich fruity layer, like Christmas pudding that is so good for the garden of thought. Then, and only then, can one begin to appreciate what it truly is to be a human being – or, perhaps, a native English speaker.

### Another approach leads the same way

My first teaching job was at Hemel Hempstead Grammar School in 1964. The school motto was *Esse Quam Videri* – 'Be Not Seem'. Or as an official translation in those days had it: 'Be What You Are Rather Than What You Would Seem To Be'. Anyway, its precept has haunted me all my life – largely because no one *seemed* capable of following it. There was a 'problem-pupil' in my class, and I had occasion to meet her GP who recommended that I read a newly published book *The Games People Play* by Eric Berne. I did, and that book led to another and then another, guided by Niko Tinbergen's four ways of answering the question why? [See *Parish News* April 2016]. A peak in that sierra of books was *Grooming*,

Gossip and the Evolution of Language by Robin Dunbar. It and all of Dunbar's other books are well worth reading.

Grooming and Gossip puts forward the idea that much of language evolved out of our ape-like ancestors' habit of grooming each other. In fact, most social monkeys and apes (with us, lemurs and bush babies, called 'Primates') do it. In grooming, one individual carefully picks through another's hair and removes dirt, scurf and scabs. It is soothing to be groomed, and disposes the groomed to be friendly towards the groomer. This has two motives: one is to consolidate allegiance to the group, especially when they clash with neighbouring groups. The other is to develop a special relationship with certain others so that they support the groomer when he (usually 'he') makes a move up the social ladder by challenging the leader. There it is: the very heart of evolution: cooperate or compete.

Grooming is not entirely advantageous to the individual because it takes up time that could be spent on feeding, sleeping or watching out for predators. Yet it is so important that primates spend an apparently inordinate amount of time at it. The more grooming they do, the more friends they make.

But grooming can be done only on a one-to-one basis. Clearly some way of grooming more than one partner at a time would give the advantage of accumulating allies more quickly. Though individuals can only pick through one other's fur at a time, they can make grunts to a third while doing so. This form of communication is highly personal, its purpose being to develop a relationship with another known individual. This makes it quite different from alarm calls which can benefit anyone who hears them.

The noises made during grooming must convey more than just 'Look out!' or even 'Look at me', they need to relate to something already within the hearers, something which when stimulated makes them feel as if they were being groomed. This form of language evolved to convey emotions about social situations, perhaps that is why gossip is the commonest subject in conversation.

If self-advertisement was a motive, perhaps the main motive, in the early stages of evolving languages, it would have done no harm to exaggerate a little here and there, to avoid mention of disreputable incidents; after all, conversational hyperbole and inaccuracy sometimes enhance a story.

I have looked at language from several points of view, and been unable to get away from the conclusion that its first purpose was to deceive, and that purpose is truly 'in our DNA'. Perhaps this is why we have such difficulty trying to explain reality.

**Gardening Club** 

As you all might imagine, there's not a great deal to report on the activities of the Gardening Club as a group. However, there has been a wonderful sharing of photographs between members of beautiful flowers, wildlife and garden scenes. Please keep sending out pictures as your gardens progress towards and throughout the summer, it really lifts the spirits to see them.

If, during lockdown, you would like to be included in the Gardening Club group which receives the photographs of members' gardens, please let Pauline know by email (see below), and she will add you to the circulation list.

Although not exclusively a Gardening Club matter, this seems to be an appropriate place to make a request: if you have bought plants from the various charity stalls around the neighbourhood recently, would you please wash pots/containers and return them if they are re-usable, as some of our keen plant contributors are running out of supplies!

We still hope that the Stawley Flower and Produce Show on Sunday 13th September 2020 can go ahead, but we'll keep you posted. In the meantime, keep those gardens going, and enjoy the lovely weather.

If you have any suggestions and new ideas, or any other inquiries, please contact Pauline on 01823 672222, email *pjw200355@gmail.com*, or Sue on 01823 674471.

And remember, new members are always welcome.

Pauline and Sue

# **Stawley Parish Council**

Stawley Parish Council will be holding a virtual meeting at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. The Agenda for the meeting will be available on the website at *www.stash.org.uk* from the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. This meeting will be open to all members of the Parish. If you wish to join the meeting please send an e-mail to the Clerk at *stawleypc@cantab.net* before midday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020. If you have any queries about this please contact the Clerk at any time.

Paul Musgrove, Clerk

Martin Jacoby

## Ashbrittle Parish Council Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 10 a.m.

### **Councillors Present:**

Charles Doble (Chairman), Helena Massie, Jeremy Robbins, Vicky Hughes.

[Due to current events concerning the global pandemic of a coronavirus, our meeting was not held in the Village Hall but outside and councillors maintained the required physical distance from each other.]

## 1. Apologies for absence: Rob Simpson

**2. Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising: None

### 4. Correspondence:

i) PCSO Louise Fyne had sent the local crime report and regular guidance on the current situation from a policing perspective. Louise can be contacted for any policing query on 07889 659476 or by email louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk

ii)SWaT councillor Dave Mansell had sent regular information about local links and support in the area.

Coronavirus: CD commented on the active community spirit with neighbours sharing shopping deliveries and helping in a variety of situations. Parishioners are encouraged to contact any of the councillors if additional help is needed.

## 5. Reports from Councillors:

**Highways:** (Charles Doble)

i) CD had received notice about a future road closure of the road that crosses the bottom of Pool Hill. This closure is for the installation of BT cables but no date has been arranged yet. ii) Large potholes on the road past Burrow Farm had been noted and will be given attention.

Finance: (Helena Massie)

i) HM presented the accounts to date and finalised the accounts report to be sent to the internal auditors. The Certificate of Exemption was discussed and signed. Thanks were expressed to HM for her work.

**Community:** Households had received a note about local support available during this time - thank you to all those involved. HM noted that Wivey Link are organising the collection of prescriptions if people need assistance.

**Footpaths:** Comments had been made about deep ruts and holes in Dark Lane which is also used by farm vehicles and horses. Pedestrians are encouraged to take care on this path and the situation will be monitored.

**Housing:** (Jeremy Robbins) It was noted that the auction of the land adjoining the school and pavilion had not proceeded and matters of affordable housing options are on hold.

### 6. Any other business:

i) JR proposed to replace the vimpel ready for VE Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and a recording of Ashbrittle church bells will be played at 11.00 a.m. to mark the significance of the occasion. Councillors agreed to fund the purchase of a replacement vimpel. ii) Our next meeting is the AGM. The date will be arranged depending on government guidance about public meetings in the current situation.

**Next Meeting:** (to be arranged, end June or July)

The meeting closed at 10.45 a.m.

# **Somerset Sight**

I am one of the Volunteer co-ordinators for Somerset Sight, we are a local independent charity based in Taunton, but covering the whole of Somerset. The charity has been established since 1919 and we celebrated our Centenary last year when we also proudly won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Our Volunteer Visiting service has been established throughout the county since 1997 and now has more than 250 volunteers and is growing all the time but we are always looking for more helpers.

My area is Taunton and South Somerset and my job is to recruit Volunteers whom I then introduce to a local visually impaired person for companionship and to help with tasks such as reading, correspondence, writing letters and cards. These are things that most of us take for granted but when you are visually impaired can seem like a mountain to climb. Our volunteers also take people out, maybe to a garden centre or park, for a walk, a cup of tea or coffee or maybe to do a little shopping and sometimes it's just for a chat and a cuppa at home.

Due to the current situation with Covid-19, our volunteers have been phoning, not only their own beneficiary but also others who have been referred to us from various agencies. Many of those who have had phone calls would just love to have a Volunteer Visitor of their own and we have now have people in **your** area who would benefit from this support therefore we are **seeking more volunteers**.

I would love to hear from you.

Avril Johnson, Volunteer Co-Ordinator

**Contacts:** Telephone: 01823 366143 or email: avril@somersetsight.org.uk

## Look out for Val

I am a volunteer for the Exmoor Pony Centre which like many other charities is suffering a loss of income owing to the Covid-19 lockdown. This time of year we are usually very busy holding activity days, organising pony rides and welcoming visitors to the Centre. To raise much needed funds for the foals and ponies in the care of the Exmoor Pony Centre www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk, fifteen Pony Centre volunteers will start a two week team challenge on 25th May 2020, aiming to raise £1,000 towards the Moorland Mousie Trust's Covid-19 Appeal.

Setting off on a virtual tour of the perimeter of the Exmoor National Park, a total of 104.469 miles, we will be heading clockwise around Exmoor and hope to arrive back in Dulverton on Sunday 7th June. I say 'hope' because a 'Challenge Master' will be issuing ad hoc tasks and diversions to the teams as



we make our way across the moor. I fully expect to get stuck somewhere.

To cover the distance we shall be exercising at home, i.e. walking, running, cycling and riding. We will undertake our challenge in five teams, named after ponies from the charity. I am in Team Almond – (see photo).

Perhaps I should add that I am neither young nor fit, so

getting the daily miles in will require some extra effort and I hope my faithful hounds will drag and push me along.

You can follow our journey on Instagram @exmoorponycentre and Facebook @TheExmoorPonyCentre I shall also chart my personal progress and suffering on https://twitter.com/ValeriaCoots.

You may see some of us in our distinctive purple Volunteer shirts roaming the local lanes — if you do, please give us a wave! Team Abbi, Team Almond, Team Jensen, Team Tom and Team Winston are all ready and raring to go. Please support us if you can with a small donation <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/epc-volunteer-team-challenge">https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/epc-volunteer-team-challenge</a>.

Valeria Coots

What a novel approach to generating interest and funds. Good to know Val has time to do other things, as well as read the rain gauge each day.

Good luck on your venture Val. Eds

# **Stawley Community Association (SCA)**

#### Thank You

The SCA would like to say a big thank you for donations made over the past few months, towards the upkeep of the Shop. Through donations for various garden items, seeds, plants and books, over £200 has been raised.

Thank you to Belinda Owen for bringing books to the Shop, and to Norman Wood for seeds and plants for sale by the Shop door. But also, a big thank you for the generous donations from you all, for these items. Plants and books will still be available for a while yet, so please keep looking and supporting the SCA.

Pauline Wood, SCA Treasurer

# **Spinning and Woolcraft Group**

With the lockdown preventing the Spinning and Woolcraft Group from physically getting-together for all things woolly, we have recently got even more creative and had a couple of 'Zoom Spinning' sessions. (See the back page for photograph of our dedicated 'Zoom Spinners')

While this doesn't allow for hands-on help and tuition, we've managed very well anyway, and the group is progressing with their expertise and wool yarn output.

The photo was taken at the last session, where we had four skeins of yarn plied on the day, with Martine ahead of us all, actually knitting up her yarn which had already been skeined, washed and wound into a huge ball!

We have real yarn, wound on the long stick things you see in the pictures - it's called a 'niddynoddy' (well, we know what we're talking about). Perhaps this will dispel the rumours that all we do is sit around chatting, drinking tea and eating chocolate biscuits.

We are enjoying these sessions so much, they are being held every other Tuesday from 2.30pm. If you would like to join us, and you don't have to spin, anything woolly or similar would do, let me know and I will include you in the Zoom invitation.

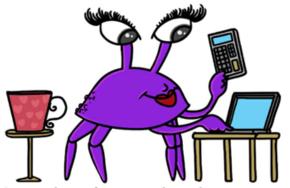
Contact Pauline: pjw200355@gmail.com

Next Zoom Spinning Session Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 2.30pm

## Please note our change of email address:

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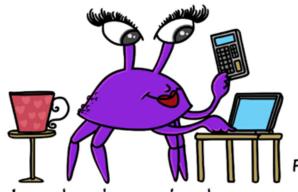
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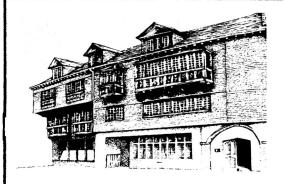
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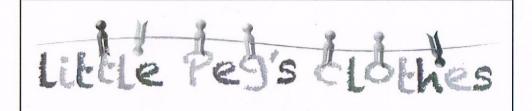
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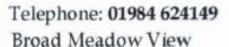
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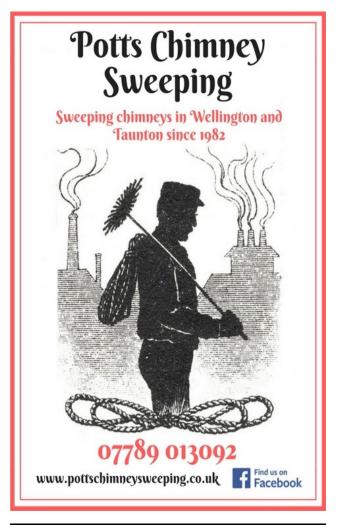
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### Carl Westcott

m: 07973 564759



# **Emma Hurford**

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Tel: (01984) 629576 Mob: 07593 592955



Email:

tom@tcrepairsandtuition.co.uk Web: www.tcrepairsandtuition.co.uk

Please note that we have changed our email address, following ongoing problems with the btinternet.com address.

It is now:

# ashparishnews@gmail.com

The old address will be cancelled in the near future.

## **Advertise Here**

Our 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.
See further details
at the bottom of 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

**PCSO Louise Fyne** 6945 Tel:07889 659476 Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk

#### **Parish Councils**

Ashbrittle Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618 email charles.doble@ukgateway.net

Bathealton Chairman Charles Eustice 01823 401248

Stawley Chairman Paul Musgrove 01823 672627 email: stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk www.stash.org.uk

### **Community Halls**

#### Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

 to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or email: williamspfa@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 Allder 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.

**Rural Community Initiative (RCI)** is a local charity set up in 1999 to support the way of life of the people of this rural community. For further information please contact the chair of the committee; Mike Parkinson *m f.parkinson@btinternet.com* 

### 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 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@gmail.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

# All events previously advertised have been cancelled or postponed

Events below will be kept under review by the organisers and further information will be given in the June Issue of the Parish News

June

6th Stawley Fete and Garden Party at Stawley Mill

CANCELLED

September

13th Stawley Flower and Produce Show, Appley Pavilion

# **ZOOM** time with the Spinners



# **Recycling Centre at Poole**

The Poole recycling centre has been partially re-opened, for the disposal of specific waste and recyclable materials - the rules are being reviewed and changed weekly. Make sure you check on the latest information before making a trip - otherwise, it could be a wasted journey.

For the latest information visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus or follow @somersetwaste on Twitter and Facebook

Next Deadline Date: Friday 19th June 2020 Editors Maurice and Julia