

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

STAWLEY

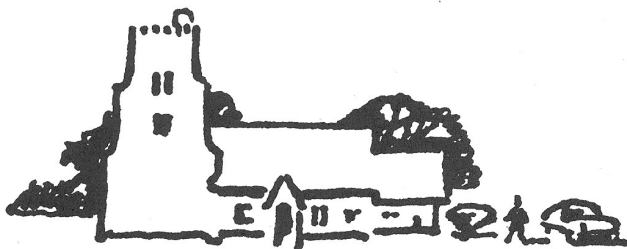
BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



ASHBRITTLE

# Parish news



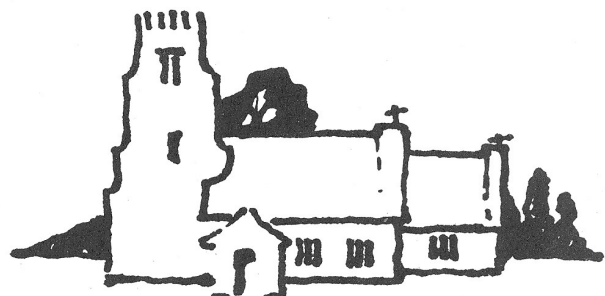
STAWLEY



BATHEALTON



GREENHAM



KITTISFORD

*Diana Willis '90*  
 DIANA WILLIS '90

August 2020

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### Services

<b>Sunday August 2nd:</b> 8th Sunday after Trinity: 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	STAWLEY
<b>Sunday August 9th:</b> 9th Sunday after Trinity: 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	ASHBRITTLE
<b>Sunday August 16th:</b> 10th Sunday after Trinity: 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	KITTISFORD
<b>Sunday August 23rd:</b> 11th Sunday after Trinity: 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer	BATHEALTON
<b>Sunday August 30th:</b> 12th Sunday after Trinity 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion	GREENHAM

Do please join us at any or all of these services.  
*In accordance with Government guidelines, the services will be relatively short in duration!*

**Some of our churches are also open for a limited period of time on certain specific days.**

Ashbrittle is open on Sundays between 10.00 and 12.00 noon.  
 Stawley similarly on a Sunday.  
 Kittisford is open a little more often but please check with Annie about access.

### Churchwardens and Clergy

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

## Opening of Churches

Now that the Government and the National Church have allowed us to re-open our churches, we have begun the process with a gradual and gentle re-introduction of worship.

During July, I was present in one of our four churches at 9.30 a.m. on Sundays and was joined by a small but enthusiastic group for Morning Prayer.

However, we all quite understand that there will be a substantial number of people who, for whatever reason, do not yet feel comfortable with returning to church. No one must feel any pressure or obligation about returning for worship; we can, quite happily, maintain our prayer life within the security of our own homes.

Some of our churches are open for a limited period of time on certain specific days (*see opposite page*)

If you visit a church, please;

- Remain socially distanced.
- Use the hand sanitizer available.
- Avoid handling books and leaflets unless you are taking them away with you.
- Please let me know (01823 400127) if you fall ill after visiting a church.

## Thought for the Month

One of the new and unexpected topics for discussion during the present pandemic is interior decoration. It is not that more people have been taking the opportunities of home confinement to re-decorate their houses, but rather the increased use of Skype and Zoom.

I spend Prime Minister's Questions admiring the decor of the homes of Members of Parliament. Their colour schemes, pictures, curtains, books and ornaments are all on display and I am now much more entertained by the background surroundings than the questioner.

Elsewhere on TV, experts and opinion formers have all spoken to the viewer from their homes and often, the results have been revealing and unintentionally entertaining.

We have all grown accustomed to spending more time than normal indoors. I sense that an increased appreciation of any outdoor space we might have, has gone hand in hand with a greater sense of confinement. We will also have become more acquainted with the interior of our homes, some features will have become more pleasurable others more irritating.

## Recognising a need

I wonder if the same thing is true about our own interior life? Being at home and on my own for more time than normal has made me more aware of my own strengths and weaknesses. I have got to know myself in a deeper way than four months ago. Having thought of myself previously as reasonably self contained, I have been surprised by how much I now feel the need to visit other places and see new sights. I have discovered I am not as self-disciplined as I had imagined, nor as positive in spirit as I had hoped.

This element of self-discovery is to be both expected and welcomed. Knowing ourselves, however disappointing that may be, is a sign of emotional and spiritual growth.

In the sayings of The Desert Fathers, Christian hermits who left the world in the 4th century AD to live alone in the wilderness, there is an affirmation that living alone is thoroughly educational.

A certain brother went to Abbot Moses in Scete and asked him for a good word.

And the elder said to him, "*Go, sit in your cell and your cell will teach you everything.*"

With my best wishes for August,  
*Martin Beaumont*



**Announcing**



**The Home Service**

*bringing local church worship  
into your own home*

**Sundays at 10.00 a.m.**

Listen to 10radio on 105.3 fm  
or via the internet at [www.10radio.org](http://www.10radio.org)

*If you need help to tune in or would like to  
participate, leave a message on  
01984 624137 or email [info@10radio.org](mailto:info@10radio.org)*

## Stawley Under Fives Preschool

Despite reduced staff numbers and the logistical difficulties of running two bubbles on two different sites, Stawley Under Fives managed to welcome back eight of its oldest children at the beginning of June. Although the pavilion was a little emptier than usual, the children adapted incredibly well and enjoyed a quiet, but fun filled last few weeks at preschool.

We are very sad not to have seen out the end of the year with all of our children and families, particularly those who have now left us to go to school. In place of our usual leavers celebrations, we had to say goodbye in a video and the children attending preschool had a little sports day on the field. Although preschool has looked very different this year to previous years, I have no doubt that all of the children who have left us have gained the skills and had the experiences needed to stand them in good stead to move on to their next adventure.

We wish them and their wonderful families all the best and we are very much looking forward to returning to something a little more like normality in September! If you are interested in booking a place for your child, please contact me on [manager@stawleyunder5s.co.uk](mailto:manager@stawleyunder5s.co.uk)

*Becky Allder, Pre-school Manager*

## Composting beats bonfire nuisance

As district councillor, I regularly receive complaints about garden bonfires. Although it may not be realised, these can cause a nuisance to neighbours and have adverse health effects.

Smoke from burning waste, especially if green or damp, gives off pollutants and damaging particulates. This can affect people with health issues, such as asthma or bronchitis and the smell can cause annoyance to those enjoying their garden or having open windows.

Bonfires add to carbon emissions that are changing our climate, and can harm wildlife or pose safety risks.

The best solution for garden waste is composting. Compost is good for the soil and there are many options: home composting, recycling centres or a green bin for collections. See Somerset Waste Partnership's website for information on all these.

The RSPB gives online advice on using dead wood and logs to create valuable wildlife habitats. If you regularly have a lot of small branches or woody prunings, a garden shredder can be a great help or dispose of them using SWP services.

*Cllr Dave Mansell*

## Exmoor Pony Centre Team Challenge

We raised a total of £2135 (including GiftAid) via the Just Giving page – many, many thanks to all local donors who supported Team Almond.

We came second by a mile, highly unjust, since we covered the most miles of all teams – 373.84 miles which is 3.5 times the perimeter of Exmoor National Park. Unfortunately, the evil Challenge Master found lots of ways to slow down the teams by imposing penalties, and because Team Almond walked/cycled so far we suffered a loss of miles whenever a penalty or diversion was imposed. Grumble, grumble. You can tell it was a rather competitive affair and every mile was fought over. Great fun was had by all and there's talk of doing it for real next year. We will have to make some changes though, for one we will need a much longer route to stretch the teams. Fortunately, there's a grazing site in Northumberland and Exmoor ponies are also grazing in the Czech Republic, so we are not short of destinations to walk to!

The overall total amount raised from the Team Challenge is still to be worked out; a few cheques have arrived and volunteers have delivered bags of money this week when we returned to the centre for the first time in months. I am hopeful we may get up to £2500 and therefore the Just Giving link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/epc-volunteer-team-challenge> remains open for a little while longer.

So far the centre has raised about a third of the income lost due to the enforced Covid-19 closure. More fundraising activities are in the pipeline, one of them involves a silent auction. Since last year's foal intake is named after artists we hope for a few artworks being donated. To mention just a few, we have wee Banksy and Grayson (Perry) and there is also DaVinci – for obvious reasons we don't expect a contribution from the latter.

But the best news of all is that we re-opened the centre on 8th July! Covid-19 procedures are in place to keep everyone safe and all volunteers have been trained on how to apply them. Visitors need to book a slot (1.5 hours) to help us manage numbers and clean between groups.

Please phone **Kirsty on 01398 323093** to book, even at short notice. We will do our utmost to fit you in and make your visit enjoyable and interesting. It's free to visit the centre and our ponies have been rather lonely without the lovely visitors they were used to.

Hope to see you soon!

*Val Coots*

# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room



## Open for business!

Please continue to use your local shop  
as things return to normal!  
We responded to the needs of our local  
communities during lockdown and now stock a  
wider range of goods than ever before!

Our fresh, seasonal **fruit and vegetables** are  
full of flavour.

They come from: Wagtail Farm at Stawley,  
Riverford in Devon, and  
Nynehead Fruit Farm

Now selling **Chinn's sausages** in a variety of flavours  
Special offers on cases of **Taunton Cider**

**Opening Hours :** Monday to Friday 8.00 - 5.30  
Saturday 8.00 - 2.00  
Sunday 9.00 - 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 [shop@stawleyshop.com](mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com)

## Country matters

### *To a Skylark*

*Ethereal Minstrel! Pilgrim of the sky!  
Doest thou dispise the earth where care abounds?  
Or, while the wings aspire, are heart and eye  
Both with thy nest upon the dewy ground?  
Thy nest which thou can drop into at will,  
Those quivering wings composed, that music  
still.....!*

*William Wordsworth*

**Late June:** The Great White Egret was seen on the river Tone. This is a very large white bird of the heron family, standing about a metre high. It is generally found in Africa and the countries around the Mediterranean. Global warming has meant that it is moving Northwards, the first breeding pair was seen on the Somerset levels in 2014.

Another bird on the Tone, that can be seen at Greenham bridge is the Dipper. The Dipper is a dark brown-black with a bold white chest. It is unique among birds, in that, it dives into the water and walks or swims searching for food. It eats caddis fly and other larvae, small fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

There is also a kestrel flying around Greenham which is lovely as their numbers are in decline. They have a barred back and rufous inner wings and feed on small mammals, beetles, lizards, earthworms and small birds. It is one of our smaller falcons. The Peregrine falcons have nested and hopefully have reared some young. They are becoming less rare and are seen more in towns, nesting in church towers and eating pigeons. I think they swoop at over 40mph.

**Mid July:** The butterflies have been very numerous this summer, and the meadow browns are everywhere. August is the month of the bigger butterflies like the peacock and the red admiral.

In the dusk the hedgehogs are beginning their second mating for another brood. They snuffle, huff and kerfuffle for about an hour and with between five and seven thousand quills on each little animal they have to mate very carefully!

The verges and hedgerows have produced a good display of wild flowers. The smell of the meadow sweet and the sight of the yarrow and wild knapweed has been super. Unfortunately around Appley the verges and sides of the hedges have been cut. This should not happen until 1<sup>st</sup> August or later, with the exception of dangerous corners, for reasons of safety. (*Ref. Wildlife and Countryside Act*).

*Sally Merrett*

## Forest Bathing

Forest Bathing is a term that has been rising in awareness over the last few years. There is no doubt that people have been using the calm of a woodland and the sounds, sights and smells to connect with nature and to gain a feeling of peace for eternity, however now it is becoming an activity that people are actively seeking to do.

True forest bathing (or 'shinrin-yoku' as it is known in Japan, where the practice originates), involves removing the technology, cameras and phones that we typically carry with us everywhere, and taking time to immerse our senses in-amongst the trees.

Dr Qing Li, author of '*Forest Bathing: How trees can help you find health and happiness*' suggests that the key is to use all five senses. To **touch** the bark of a tree, to **see** the leaves blowing in the wind, to **hear** the birds tweeting or the rustling of autumn leaves, to **smell** the aromas of soil, flowers, moss and to **taste** the freshness of the air as you take slow deep breaths. There is scientific evidence that the phytoncides (natural aromas) released by plants can improve immune function and that time spent forest bathing has been shown to reduce stress hormones and lower blood pressure when compared to city environments.



When it comes to children's health there is also evidence of great benefits to being outdoors, and our woods are perfect for that too. Den building, fairy hunting, tree climbing, learning about animal tracks and shapes of leaves on the different trees

are just some things you could do in the woods with your children - but I bet they could think of lots more! In spring time there is wild garlic to forage, and through late summer and autumn there are berries to forage and crumbles to make!

So have a go at Forest Bathing, and if you want to read up on it first then take a look at some of these recommended books:

**Shinrin-Yoku:** The Art and Science of Forest-Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health and Happiness - Dr Qing Li

**Forest Therapy Seasonal Ways to Embrace Nature for a Happier You** - Sarah Ivens

**National Trust: Go Wild in the Woods:** An Adventure Handbook - Goldie Hawk and Rachael Saunders

**Forest School Adventure: Outdoor Skills and Play for Children** - Dan Westall and Naomi Walmsley

*Adapted from an original article published on The Cottage Beyond's Blog on 24 July 2020. [www.thecottagebeyond.co.uk/blog/826](http://www.thecottagebeyond.co.uk/blog/826)*

*Emellia White*

### Rainfall for June in Bathealton (inches)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2.89	2.53	0.66	4.90	4.66

*Valeria Coots*



## Cothay Manor



The Gardens are now open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday 11am to 5pm (last entry 4:30pm). There are no pre-booked arrival slots, and so please maintain social distancing.

**Cothay Manor, Greenham, Near Wellington TA21 0JR**  
E mail: [cothaymanor@btinternet.com](mailto:cothaymanor@btinternet.com)  
Telephone: 01823 672283  
[www.cothaymanor.co.uk](http://www.cothaymanor.co.uk)

### Village Oil Group

To place your order please email [judy.milne@btopenworld.com](mailto: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 12th August.** New members always welcome

## 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 & APLEY: 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**

### Mobile Library

**All visits cancelled until further notice**

## Open All Hours Masks

What do you think about wearing a mask? We know why the government is saying they should be worn; it's about maintaining progress against Covid-19 and saving lives. Some won't mind. Others will object. Whether a person does or doesn't is basically their choice and responsibility.

Masks, of course, can be fun. I've never been to a masked ball. Have you? They used to be popular and exciting in ancient Venice, or so I have read somewhere. Happy social occasions for guessing games and entertainment – and also for intrigue and secret trysts!

Some can seem very sinister. The burqa is a kind of overall mask. There are Moslem women who wear them as a mark of their devotion to the Prophet and of their commitment to their husbands. Alternatively they are viewed as a sign of oppression and of male control over women. To throw off the burqa, in that case, is an alleluia of freedom!

They can also be used for deceitful self-protection. As a boy, friends and I would act out cowboy stories, as seen on TV. If we were baddies out to rob a bank, we'd cover our noses and mouths with handkerchiefs, knotting them behind our heads. Just like in the pictures. Masks worn as a disguise for doing wrong!

### Covering inner needs

Of course, one doesn't have to wear a physical mask to hide away. We all know about putting on a 'facial mask' to cover up inner needs or feelings; a social smile on the outside while seething or weeping on the inside. It's a form of pretence, perhaps of deceit or lying, which, depending on the situation, can lead to pain and tears.

Any kind of mask makes it difficult to relate to someone. We have to guess what lies behind it – smile or scowl? We can't care properly for someone if we don't know they really are. Life, love and wholeness are all about relationships and human interaction. Masks can get in the way of such benefits.

Anything that comes between need and caring is unhealthy. And anything, I would add, that comes between us and our heavenly Father even more so. It demeans the human spirit. The mask is said to be an aid in our current situation, but it could also be felt as a symbol of lockdown and isolation. A pandemic, with all its dying and grieving, is a terrible thing, and, of course, we must protect those whose job it is to deal directly with those who have the disease. But to cut people off from each other, especially from the

healing and strength which only loved ones can bring, can turn it into a horror story!

So, does wearing a mask bring people together, or keep them apart? So, as you reach for your mask when you approach a shop, how do you feel about it?

*Martin at the Shop*



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

### **Faith leaders' call to action on climate crisis**

As the lockdown to combat COVID-19 eases, faith leaders are urging every sector of civil society to use this opportunity to work together to create a better world.

Quakers in Britain signed the statement, which says, "This unique moment calls us to develop a shared new vision for our future which we cannot afford to miss. As faith leaders we are committed to working alongside the people and governments of this nation and the world to formulate and live by such a vision."

The new vision prompts the faith leaders to call on the government to:

- Ensure that every element of the economic recovery strategy has at its centre the urgent need to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change;
- Implement policies for sustainability in every sector of the economy;
- Take its due share of responsibility for a global and just transition, including through its approach to trade, investment and overseas aid;
- Use its COP26 presidency to work for a global commitment to net zero, building on the Paris Agreement;
- To protect biodiversity and restore the environment.

The full statement is here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/faith-leaders-call-to-action-on-climate-crisis>

**The Religious Society of Friends**



# The Parish News Faces Quiz



*With thanks to Alan Rose. Answers on page 28*

## An Apprenticeship with a River

In January 2013 I started an apprenticeship with the River Tone by making a visit to the source on Exmoor at Beverton pond. The ground was waterlogged and as we walked our steps created bubbling little springs in front of us, it was quite a magical experience. Three large horses tested our courage as they hurtled down the hill and stopped in a line just in front of us. We introduced ourselves to them and to the River Spirits, made offerings and left feeling enriched and enlivened.

Soon after this it rained and rained and rained and rained and our little river became famous all over the world as it is one of the rivers that feeds into the Somerset Levels which flooded that same month. In so many ways it was a disaster but for me it was a chance to glimpse the landscape of the Avalon Marshes in its natural state; a series of fens with low lying islands popping up out of the waters.

It also forced the authorities to review their flooding policy by concentrating their resources further upstream. Ashbrittle has a wonderful example of these measures, a series of leaky ponds, which have in the few years since they were dug, changed the character of a valley and created a diverse new habitat. This is part of the *Hills to Levels Project*.

Since the floods, the river has taken the lead in our relationship, introducing me to other rivers and rivulets in its vast system and to many people along the way. One week, one winter, the river introduced me to three people who have all become firm friends. I have now journeyed on foot from source to sea, and from the confluence at Burrowbridge back to source and back again. On each of these three walks I have discovered more stories and found more secrets.

### The legend of King Alfred

The Tone joins another river, the Parrott at Burrowbridge, close to Athelney. This is the place where King Alfred the Great burned the cakes. The river has suggested another path for this story that we can all take with a pinch of salt. Alfred as a young man was mentored by Swithun, who was later made a saint. He was well versed in Celtic Christianity and was probably a sort of Druid type character who knew how to work with the spirit of place and he passed this knowledge on to Alfred. Alfred as we know, was hiding from the Danes and was in an impossible situation when he arrived on the Levels. However, his knowledge of the ways of the land were to his advantage. His 'cakes' are a fungus found on ash trees which will hold a spark for hours if stored properly and can be carried long distances. He was able to use these to light a fire in the inhospitable fens of Avalon, while the Danes

had difficulty lighting fires in the wet. The spirits of the land also helped Arthur to navigate, and they threw down mists and fog to confuse the Danes, who grew weak and disorientated. The tide turned and Alfred had used his knowledge of the lore of the land to gain the upper hand against all the odds.

By complete chance, we were minded to do our long pilgrimages around St Swithun's day in July, so last week we had a lockdown St Swithun's day picnic by the side of the river at the most southerly point of The Tone in Greenham. I love it when things match up like this as we didn't even know that St Swithun was even alive at the same time as Alfred when we chose this date.

Walking and discovering the whole length of a river in such a way is a wonderful undertaking. We get a sense of where it is flowing in balance and where it is a bit stuck and sluggish. Unfortunately this is usually due to human activity, dams, reserves, overhead wires, pollution, diversions, motorways, railways and canals. Sometimes the most uninviting places are full of vigour while beautiful ones are out of balance. When we walk as a group we are bridge keepers as at every crossing; whether we are going under or over or through we make prayers and offerings wherever possible. Each time the offering has been different, most recently we made a herbal tincture.

My work with the river since January 2013 has become a massive part of my life and it has enriched it powerfully in so many ways. I now have a sense of how waterways were once the life blood of the land and its people, and how important the rivers were in terms of navigation and transport as well as food and water, for fishing and for irrigation. During lockdown a pair of porpoises was seen at the confluence of the Tone and Parrot. There have been record numbers of elvers and even a rare eagle has been spotted flying over. Would they be there if we had not been pilgrimaging along the river for the last few years?

We will never know for sure but the story that the river and I are telling is that these little actions all help, and that rivers all around the world would love (and need) a little support. Where once the rivers were revered they are now often dumping grounds for rubbish and sewage, or a leisure resource for people who give little back in return. In many other places around the world people regularly bless the rivers and springs, and I am happy to say that there is a resurgence of such activities on our own land. Here in Ashbrittle we blessed our little well on Midsummer's Eve.

Jane Embleton

For further information about the Hills to Levels Project, visit the website at <https://www.fwagsw.org.uk/hills-to-levels-multiple-benefits>



*Jo and Liz at the Blessing of the Ashbrittle Well  
on Midsummer's Eve*

## August quiz

- 1 What was the name of the container ship stranded off the coast near Sidmouth in 2007?
- 2 Coping, bow, jig and fret are all types of what?
- 3 What connects Darren Bett, Louise Lear, Matt Taylor and Carol Kirkwood?
- 4 Which English county contains Sittingbourne, Ashford, Tunbridge Wells and Deal?
- 5 Which famous 'Carry On' star was born Solomon Joel Cohen?
- 6 How many British Prime Ministers have there been this century?
- 7 From which large fish, found in northern seas and rivers, is caviar obtained?
- 8 What is the study of earthquakes and other earth movements called?
- 9 Brass is an alloy of copper and which other metallic element?
- 10 In what year did Andy Murray win his first Wimbledon singles title?
- 11 Name the four US presidents depicted in sixty foot rock carvings at Mount Rushmore.
- 12 Sean Connery was the first actor to portray James Bond in which 1962 film, co-starring Ursula Andress?
- 13 Which medieval cathedral in Paris suffered massive fire damage in April 2019?
- 14 Which English woman was the first human to have been born (in 1978) after conception by in vitro fertilisation?
- 15 Which animated duo were first seen in the short film 'A Grand Day Out' in 1989?
- 16 Tom Hiddleston played Jonathan Pine in which 2016 BBC drama?
- 17 Which 82km artificial waterway, opened in 1914, connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean?
- 18 Which vegetable forms the base of a traditional moussaka?
- 19 What does the acronym BAFTA stand for?
- 20 Who is the only musician, born Robert Zimmerman, to win the Nobel prize for literature in 2016?
- 21 Which UK female swimmer won two golds in the 400m and 800m freestyle races at the 2008 summer olympics?
- 22 Oslo is the capital city of which Scandinavian country?
- 23 Which fictional vigilante has been played by Christian Bale, Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton amongst others?
- 24 For which 2018 film did Olivia Colman receive her Academy Award for Best Actress?
- 25 Which actor, in which 1995 'true story' film, said the famous line, 'Houston, we have a problem'?

*Many thanks to Alan Rose*

*Answers on p 28*

### Road Closure

#### Note the change of date

The date for the road closure to carry out remedial drainage works between the Pavilion and Appley Crossroads has now been programmed to start on Monday 28th September and is expected to last for three days.

### Parish News Donations

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

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

## Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has enjoyed their first outing since lockdown began.

*Sue Jacoby reports:*

### **Gardening Club Visit to The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum and Wildside**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July just five of us plus one guest met at the Garden House for our first outing of the year and what a treat we had! The Garden House, previously a vicarage, was bought by Lionel Fortescue in 1945 after retiring from being head of languages at Eton. He arrived with his family, his gardener and two container-loads of plants from his garden at Eton. He was a perfectionist and had grand ideas.

Under his supervision his team set to with a road drill to remove bedrock where necessary to create enough soil depth. To achieve the fertility he required he added straw compost, bracken, leaf mould, peat from Dartmoor together with washed granite sand from a China Clay works. To this day bracken is used as a mulch to keep the weeds down. The Fortescues employed four full time and two part time gardeners and this was complemented by Austrian prisoners of war from a local camp. Foreign students also came to work in exchange for English lessons taught by Lionel in the evenings. So one way or another he had a considerable workforce to realise his ambitious ideas.

The gardens cover eight acres and, rather surprisingly, are north facing. Immediately below the house are the more traditional herbaceous borders and walled garden planted in the traditional way and they were looking magnificent. The land to the west of the house is where the major earthworks took place to landscape the additional garden area.

When Keith Wiley took over as Head Gardener in 1978 he introduced the 'New Naturalism' style. He took his ideas from the natural world to give the impression that both cultivated plants, bulbs and what we might call weeds, combine to appear as if they have seeded naturally. The end result is quite breath-taking. There were huge swathes of perennial geranium, astrantia, astilbe, day lilies, the tall persicaria, crocosmia, alstroemeria, dierama mixed in with poppies, cornflowers, a white form of willow herb and ox-eye daisies to name but a few. The result was simply stunning.

A winding path leads through to the Quarry Garden and on to a Magic Circle with tall vertical stones. A little rill runs down the hill and was lined with mixed coloured candelabra primulas and on to the Wildflower Meadow. There were so many

interesting plantings around every corner. A particular feature that impressed us all was an old Edwardian style bench which was heavily covered in lichen in front of a mix of pink meadow sweet and white willow herb swaying in the breeze.

In order to ensure the long term survival of this beautiful place the Fortescues created the Fortescue Garden Trust which continues to administer the property to the present day. It has recently raised £33,000 by Crowdfunding to compensate for loss of income due to the pandemic.

### **Wildside**

When Keith Wiley retired after 25 years as Head Gardener at the Garden House in 2003, he and his wife Ros, bought four acres of gently sloping south facing land just half a mile up the road from the Garden House. Here he has created his own New Naturalism garden without any constraints and again the effect is simply stunning. What was most interesting was to get to the end boundary and see the fields below which is how his garden started off. Clever landscaping has created another spectacular garden which is well worth a visit. Being south facing the planting is quite different but equally impressive. Very sadly his wife died in 2019 and the last part of the garden will be finished as a lasting tribute to her. At the moment he is struggling to come to terms with his loss, quite apart from the limits posed by the current pandemic.

A visit to both places is highly recommended, it takes approx. 1hr 30min from here. The Gardening Club will certainly be offering this trip again next year. Meanwhile details and opening times can be found at [www.thegardenhouse.org.uk](http://www.thegardenhouse.org.uk) and [www.wileyatwildside.com](http://www.wileyatwildside.com). Currently there are no refreshment facilities but plenty of room for picnics.

*And from Penny Stanbury*

### **A lovely evening in late July**

It must be the perfect garden. Beautifully manicured, but with cosy corners, a play area and a knot garden, a moisture laden rill with drooping plants, a kitchen garden boasting fennel and spinach with soft fruit, an original netty, and precious small feature plants nestling amongst the old favourites, all with comprehensive labelling.

An evening invitation to the Gardening Club to visit this jewel came as a welcome opportunity to come out and socialise in these unusual times. We all enjoyed this lovely garden on a sunny evening. Thank you Mike and Freda.



### **August Trip**

Sue Jacoby will be organising a visit to the kitchen garden at Knightshayes in August. This will be a half-day visit, and weather dependent, therefore Sue will contact members at short notice. If you wish to receive information about this trip, and are not on our mailing list, please contact Sue at the number below.

### **Stawley Flower and Produce Show**

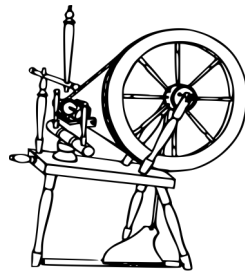
A joint decision between the Flower Show organisers and the Pavilion Committee has been made to cancel the Stawley Flower and Produce Show on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Since we cannot predict the COVID-19 situation in September, and a great deal of preparation for the show has to be done beforehand, the safest decision was to cancel. This is very unfortunate, but we hope that we will be back in September 2021.

In the meantime, keep those gardens going, and keep up with the posting of photographs from your lovely gardens. If you would like to be included in the Gardening Club group to receive the photographs of members' gardens, please let Pauline know by email, and she will add you to the circulation list.

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*



## **SPINNING AND WOOLCRAFT GROUP**

'Zoom Spinning' sessions with the Group are continuing where possible, and as 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 mailing list.

Contact Pauline on 01823 672222, email  
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Next Sessions

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm**

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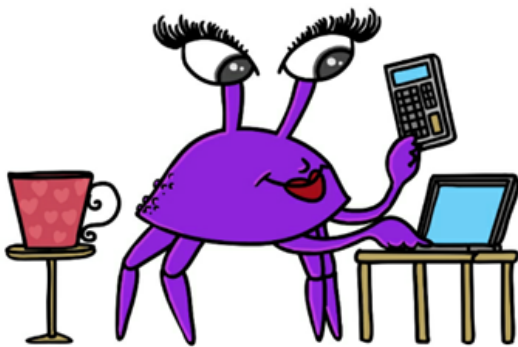
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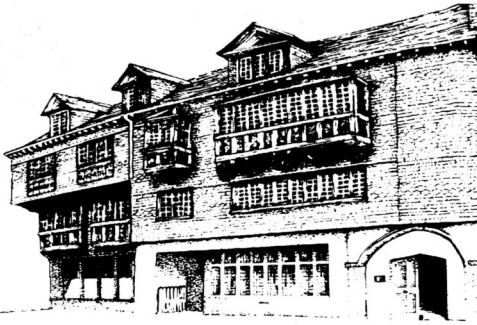
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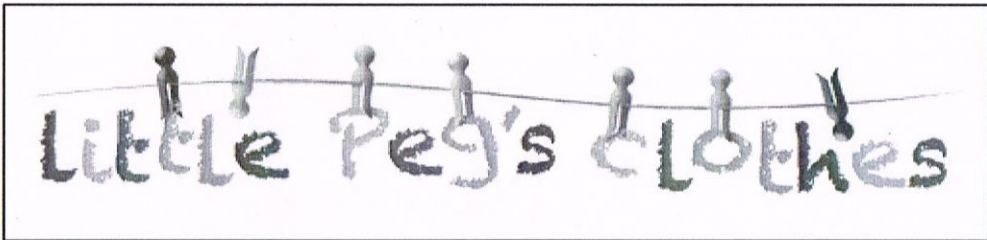
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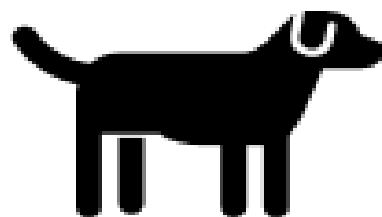


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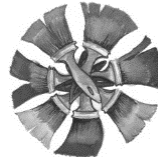
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## Local Information

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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

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[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)

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committee; Mike Parkinson [m\\_f.parkinson@btinternet.com](mailto: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@gmail.com](mailto:ashparishnews@gmail.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](mailto:ashparishnews@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Wendy Spackman 07545 967386

**Distribution:** Pat Sweet 01823 672380

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

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**September**

5th and 6th

Stawley Mill Happenings - Local Arts and Crafts

## August Quiz - Answers

- 1 Napoli
- 2 Saws
- 3 Weather presenters
- 4 Kent
- 5 Sid James
- 6 5-Blair, Brown, Cameron, May, Johnson
- 7 Sturgeon
- 8 Seismology
- 9 Zinc
- 10 2013
- 11 George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln
- 12 Dr No
- 13 Notre-Dame
- 14 Louise Brown
- 15 Wallace and Gromit
- 16 The Night Manager
- 17 Panama Canal
- 18 Aubergine
- 19 British Academy of Film and Television Arts
- 20 Bob Dylan
- 21 Rebecca Adlington
- 22 Norway
- 23 Batman
- 24 The Favourite
- 25 Tom Hanks in Apollo 13

## August Faces - Answers

- 1 Shaun Evans
- 2 Diane Abbot
- 3 Max Verstappen
- 4 Miranda Hart
- 5 John Lewis
- 6 Kate Blanchett
- 7 Ben Fogle
- 8 Denise Lewis
- 9 Vinnie Jones
- 10 Sara Davies
- 11 Ben Thompson
- 12 Kirstie Allsopp
- 13 Alex Brooker
- 14 Ruth Davidson
- 15 Martin Shaw
- 16 Sue Pollard
- 17 Brian Blessed
- 18 Melanie Sykes
- 19 Rishi Sunak
- 20 Rosamund Pike

### Appley Pavilion

**For Sale**

**Trestle Tables (7) and a few Folding Chairs (8)**

**£70/Table & £5/Chair**

**Ideal for Garden Socialising  
Txt 07890261387**

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 21st August 2020**

**Editors: Maurice and Julia**