

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

STAWLEY

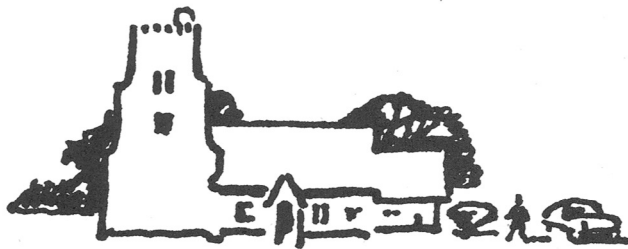
BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD

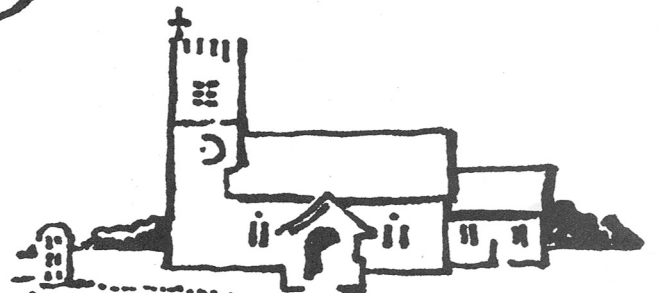


ASHBRITTLE

# Parish news



STAWLEY



BATHEALTON



GREENHAM



KITTISFORD



DIANA WILLIS '90

September 2020

**Services**

<b>Sunday September 6th</b>	13th Sunday after Trinity	
9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Stawley
<b>Sunday September 13th:</b>	14th Sunday after Trinity	
9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion Followed by the APCM	Ashbrittle
<b>Sunday September 20th:</b>	15th Sunday after Trinity:	No Services
<b>Sunday September 27th :</b>	16th Sunday after Trinity	
9.30 a.m. 4.00 pm	Holy Communion Harvest Festival Followed by refreshments	Bathealton Kittisford

**Churchwardens and Clergy****Ashbrittle with Greenham**

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

**Bathealton** Pauline and Andrew Lyle,  
Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW 01984 629013

**Kittisford** Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham , TA21 0JW 01823 672627

**Stawley** Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT 01823 672183  
Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP 01823 672496

**Associate Priest** Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR 01823 400127

**Lay Minister** Elaine McNicholas, School House, Bathealton, TA4 2AN 01984 624428

**Team Rector** 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@thegarner.me.uk 01823 662227

## Notes on Services

As the government continue to ease the restrictions on social gathering in public places, we are gradually increasing the occasions when we can gather for worship.

Currently, we are limited to only one service on a Sunday morning, but on the 27th September, we are planning to hold Kittisford's Harvest Festival in the afternoon at 4.00 pm. We are hoping for this to take place out of doors, weather permitting. Bearing in mind the ever changing and unpredictable nature of the current situation, we are awaiting decisions on the other Harvest Festivals in the group.

You will have noticed that the Ashbrittle Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is scheduled to take place on Sunday September 13th. All the APCMs in the group, due to be held before the end of May, were postponed due to Covid19. Other APCMs will be taking place before October 31st.

I am afraid that there are some regulations that continue to be in force; this includes the wearing of face coverings in church (except for those conducting the service). I am confident that we may soon be able to sing hymns, albeit properly socially distanced!

If you have any matter you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the Churchwardens or myself.

*Martin Beaumont*

## Thought for the Month

Listening to "Farming To-day" this morning on Radio 4, I learnt that August 21st is a day of some significance. Were we only to consume food produced in the UK, to-day is the day when it would run out.

It would seem that we import about a third of our food, most of which is fresh fruit and vegetables. It reminds us of the distance we still have to travel if we want to be self-sufficient and also the delicate and complicated network of growth, harvest, distribution and supply upon which we all depend. There has been much that we have discovered during this pandemic, not least lessons taught to us by our reliance upon food.

As we approach our departure from the EU, we will also have to familiarise ourselves with new patterns and regulations regarding trade. In the meantime, we will have become grateful for many things that we previously took for granted, not least the food that we grow, purchase and consume.

This sense of gratitude for our food, its growth, supply and consumption is also expressed in an August festival that has tended to fall out of

fashion. Lammas Day used to be observed in the Book of Common Prayer (1662) on August 1st. Its etymology is from two words, "Loaf" and "Mass" and Lammas Day was the day on which a Eucharist was celebrated, using bread made from the wheat of the new harvest. Traditionally therefore, it is a Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the harvest and dates back to before the Middle Ages.

To-day, weather permitting, the harvest tends to occur before August and this is just an example of how the efficiencies of modern farming have overtaken religious festivals. "Plough Sunday", a wonderful occasion when a plough was brought into church for its blessing before its use, was observed on the second Sunday of January. Now that most planting takes place in the Autumn, the only time we see a field of stubble at Christmas is on a greetings card!

Both these August reflections will help us to renew afresh our gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all that we enjoy. Harvest Festivals would be helpful occasions for these sentiments to find expression. However, under the current restrictions, with singing and close proximity to each other two of the things that we are unable to enjoy, we will have to find new ways to "raise the glorious harvest home".

There will be Harvest festivals in and around our churches but they may take unfamiliar forms. Please be assured that we can give thanks to God in our homes and in our hearts when,

*all be safely gathered in,*

*Ere the winter storms begin.*

With my best wishes,

*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)*

## **Gardening Club**

A very special event was organised for August.  
*Judy Webb writes:*

### **A Sunny Afternoon Treat!**

It's a lovely sunny afternoon and we should feel perfectly content sitting and enjoying our own gardens; after all, things could be so much worse if we were stuck in a city high rise with no outdoor space to enjoy and no one different to chat to during this strange, uncertain and extended period of our lives.

I have certainly been experiencing 'cabin fever' and anxiety about how much longer this will continue. What is the way out?

And so it was when Ann-Marie and I set out from Chackeridge on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August to walk up to Ashbrittle to visit three lovely gardens followed by tea and cakes.

We started at Pat and Ray Gainey's. It's easy to tell from the approach to their house that things are going to be well ordered and organized, but stepping round the back is a real delight. Everything about this wonderful garden has been carefully planned and it is easy to tell how hard the two of them work to keep it so well maintained. From a 'white flower bed' at the top, the stunning view is framed by herbaceous borders, perennials, shrubs, well-tended vegetables, tidy compost bins hidden by trimmed hedges and a perfectly manicured lawn. Enjoying this with a welcome glass of wine and chatting to friends and neighbours we hadn't seen for months was a real treat.

We then walked up through the village to 'Hollyhocks' and Beryl Hooper's delightful little garden. She has managed to create a haven for bees, bugs and butterflies and every space is filled with a terrific range of flourishing, colourful plants with a meandering pathway through the clematis and other climbers. Beryl, you have good reason to be very proud of your achievements in creating such a stunning garden.

Then, just a couple of steps took us into Lena and Sandy's lovely, hidden little 'home extension'. The gazebo in one corner can just about be picked out from its camouflage of climbers, overhanging plants and hidden treasures, making this 'secret garden' a relaxing home from home.

Down to Greywells, where Jeremy and Claire Robbins had generously invited us all to tea, cold drinks and tasty cakes on their lawn. The shade provided by their magnificent copper beech gave us the opportunity to catch up with news whilst suitably socially distanced. And of course, we all inspected and admired Jeremy's recently made

arbour in the back garden whilst Claire was the perfect host keeping us all well fed and watered.

I think there were probably twenty or more of us who thoroughly appreciated the relaxed afternoon of sunshine and admired the magnificent efforts of our neighbours – thank you all very much.

### **Trip to Knightshayes**

Sue Jacoby is organising this visit, which will be on Wednesday 2nd September. Sue will keep Club members informed, but if you wish to receive information about this trip and are not on our mailing list, please contact her at the number below.

### **September Visit**

This outing will be to one of the Club's favourites, RHS Rosemoor, near Torrington, on Thursday 10th September. The garden is open from 10-5.

Judy Webb is organising this trip: pre-booking is required, and Judy has reserved (and paid for) 10 places to get us onto their books.

The usual condition that RHS members can take one guest free remains in place. Otherwise entry is £13.50 including Gift Aid, £12.15 without. The RHS are offering 25% off membership at the moment. Transport arrangements will still be the responsibility of individuals.

Since Judy needs to know numbers in advance, would you please let her know of your intention to go by Friday 4th September at the latest.

Please contact Judy on 673324, mobile 07860 115951, or email [judy@chackeridge.co.uk](mailto:judy@chackeridge.co.uk).

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

Following the cancellation of the Flower Show, we have decided to have a small, fun, virtual version. This will be in the form of photographs submitted electronically, with winners and other entries (if space permits) being published in the Parish News in October.

A full description of classes and how to enter the competition can be found on page 15.

In the meantime, keep those gardens going, and keep up with the posting of photographs from your lovely gardens. If, during lockdown, you would like to be included in the Gardening Club group to receive the photographs of members' gardens etc. 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.

New members are always welcome.

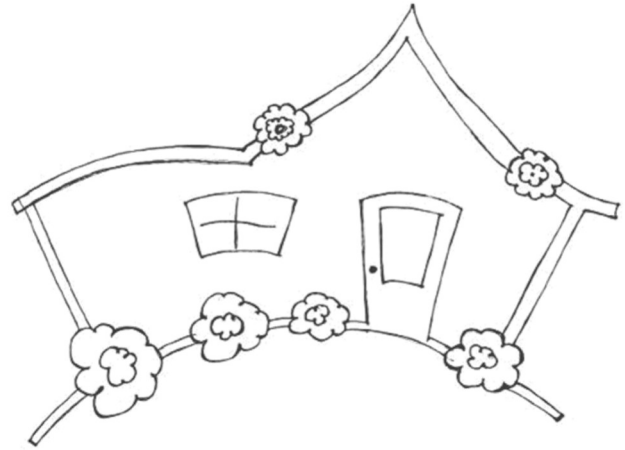
*Pauline Wood and Sue Jacoby*



# 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** 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

### *A Charm*

*Take of English earth as much*

*As either hand can clutch.*

*In the taking of it breathe*

*Prayer for all who lie beneath.*

*Not the great or well-bespoke,*

*But the mere uncounted folk*

*Of whose life and death is none*

*Report or lamentation.*

*Lay that earth upon thy heart,*

*And thy sickness shall depart.*

*Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)*

**Late July:** The tawny owls are out searching for moles and woodmice to feed their young, who will watch the adults from nearby trees. Wet nights mean less prey as the percussive rainfall drowns out the subtle signals and makes hunting more difficult. In this case they eat worms, frogs and even roadkill. Prolonged rain can lead to starvation.

The autumn migration of swifts began towards the end of the month and continued into early August. They are one of the first summer migrants to depart. The adults wait until their chicks have fledged and then leave. Adult swifts undertake one of the longest migrations of any UK bird, travelling about 22,000 km's each year to and from equatorial Africa, where they haunt the skies over Congo's forests, feeding on insects. They have no need to land until they are ready to breed. Young swifts may remain airborne for years at a time, eating, drinking and sleeping on the wing. The heraldic martlet is probably based on the swift as it has no legs and the swift has very short legs and small feet. Because they are black and wheel and twist in the air with piercing, shrieking cries they have a lot of "devil" names; or are thought to be lost souls bemoaning their missed opportunities for redemption.

**Mid August:** The mature male bumble bees leave the nest and do not return. Instead of gathering nectar and pollen for the colony they lay down pheromone markers to attract the recently emerged queens. Persistent rain makes them seek shelter as their oil-coated bodies are not water resistant. I expect you have seen them drowned on walls or flowers after the heavy showers we have felt.

The warm weather has suited the grasshoppers, its cousin the dark bush cricket has also moved North into southern England. I don't know about "A cricket on the hearth" but I had a grasshopper in the kitchen!

Two Nightjars arrived in Appley, unfortunately one crashed. They are a summer visitor to Britain,

rearing one or two broods of two eggs, but their numbers are in decline. The beautiful cryptic plumage makes it very hard to find. They have a low purring song in the evenings.

So, in the parish we are lucky to have a wide range of wild life. A great egret has been spotted on the Tone, a nightjar in Appley, a dipper at Greenham, otters on the Tone and this end of the canal, which also has a little grebe with three chicks. I think we still have a barn owl in the parish along with peregrine falcons and I see ravens flying over us. Do let me know of any other sightings.

*Sally Merrett*

### Lemon Curd

I have heard from numerous friends and acquaintances that lockdown has been a time for learning new skills, developing creativity and clearing out cupboards. Having discovered a disused mouse nest at the bottom of a stationery drawer and finished off a painting started in November, my thoughts turned to new skills. There was not much activity on Getting Fitter or writing a novel, so I moved on to cooking. Here I did get a bit excited. I rediscovered a 1930's cookery book which I have had about me for a very long time, (although not quite since it was new!)

The following recipe took my fancy and I have now made it many times always with good results. Several people have asked how long it will last in the jar. I have no idea because, in my experience it has always disappeared all too soon. In line with current tastes (or at least in line with mine), I have doubled the amount of lemon and halved the sugar from the original. These ingredients should make a good jar full plus a bit extra.

#### Ingredients

2oz melted butter,

2 oz white sugar,

juice and grated peel of 2 lemons,

2 eggs beaten together

#### Method

Bring a medium size pan of water to the boil. Put all the ingredients in a Pyrex type bowl and carefully lower into the water. Stir over a 'slow fire', (my translation is over a medium heated ring).

Carry on stirring for about 10 mins until the mixture starts to thicken slightly (to the 'consistency of cream').

Remove from heat and spoon into a ready prepared jam jar.

Eat on scones, toast etc when cool.

*Delia Harling*

## Defibrillators and Helplines

Would you know what to do if someone in your household collapsed, had a heart attack, needed help? Within this community, we have four DEFIBRILLATORS which are available to anyone and they are easy to use by anyone. Quick access to a defibrillator really can save a life.

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

(If you are not yet familiar with //what3words, look it up on your phone. The whole world is divided into 3m squares each with a unique 3 word identity so you can always be found. Most emergency services are now using it and even some delivery companies)

We also have a network of volunteers who can help you. This is the:

**VILLAGE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (VETS)**

## 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 14th October**

New members always welcome

## Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

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 AND, IF A CHANCE ARISES THEN DIAL THE VETS NUMBER SPECIFYING THAT YOU NEED A DEFIB RATHER THAN GENERAL HELP**

## Rainfall for July in Bathealton (inches)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1.21	4.30	1.83	2.41	1.72

*Valeria Coots*

## Open All Hours

### Going Up - or - Going, Going, Going - Gone?

A common discussion in our shop is how have things been during the pandemic? Have you done well? Or not? What about when life gets back to normal – whatever that is?

Now that last question is the crunch bit.

**Pre-lockdown** We were doing OK. Not that we could have made a living out of it – but that was never the purpose of looking after the shop. We weren't out of pocket, let's put it like that. We had the tea room and that was liked and supported well, but that went with the lockdown. On the other hand, we have increased our stock, with rather more fruit and vegetables and a rather good offer on Taunton Ciders among other new things.

**During lockdown** There has been a marked increase in the number of customers – and therefore in income. The shop became much more convenient than going into Wellington when the rules meant people couldn't go too far and the vulnerable weren't allowed out. Besides which, the supermarkets didn't have flour or toilet rolls – but we did! We were able to do some deliveries where wanted. Our village shop grew, we hope, as a local asset for the community.

**After lockdown** Now this is a difficult question. It might return to how it was before, perhaps with some marginal changes: the tea room will return and we'd be back to our more basic stock. There will be social meals and chat taking place again. Alternatively, the shop could stay as it is now, same amount of stuff with refreshments served as takeaways, or outside on a fine day. Or, depending on the amount of custom, the shop could be less than it used to be – for a while at least. And according to some Covid-19 predictions, that could be for a long, long while!

It all depends on how we react. Do you remember sunny summer days at primary school? How we were bored with learning our nine times table, or how to spell words like 'necessary'? We couldn't wait to get out into the playground, with the footballs and the skipping ropes, plus all the other games waiting to be played. How we rushed out!

So, as cracks appeared in the lockdown code, thousands appeared at the beach, crammed together. It felt free and it felt exciting, but we can't do that every day or every weekend. It would cease to mean as much, even become boring. Life will normalise and have a routine.

Will we be glad to get back into Wellington, tour the supermarkets with a sigh of relief and do our shopping like we used to? Will we drive past the shop we used in lockdown or will some of us decide to maintain our stronger link with the shop?

Whatever people decide will determine the character and contents of Stawley Village Shop and Tea Room, hence the discussion. As it is now? As it was then? Or as if it had never been?

*Martin at the Shop*



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



***Spiceland is open for Heritage Day  
on Sunday 13th September***

***2 – 5pm***

**Burial Grounds and Meeting House  
open to the public**

**You are welcome to bring your own  
refreshments to enjoy in the peaceful  
surroundings of the grounds**

**COME AND SEE US – ONLY 1.5 MILES FROM  
UFFCULME AND SIGNPOSTED FROM THE A38**

For more information phone Ali Dominy  
07810768557 or use the “contact us” form on our  
website:

<http://www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/>

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

***The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)***

# The Parish News Faces Quiz

What names do we know them as and what were their birth names?



*With thanks to Alan Rose. Answers on page 32*

## Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council held on line at 7:30 pm on the 11th August

**Parish Councillors present:** Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM), Pat Sweet (PS), Matt Vellacott (MV), Clive Wall (CW)

**Others present:-** Dave Mansell (District Councillor) and 2 members of the Parish.

Please note: These are edited parts of the draft minutes. Full copies are available on the website at [www.stash.org.uk](http://www.stash.org.uk), in the Shop and in the Telephone Box by The Globe.

### Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

The application for planning permission to build a house at Appley Croft Farm has raised some issues. The Parish Council raised doubts as to the validity of the application, however the Planning Officer did not challenge the applicant's agent's statements. Although several people made comments to the Parish Council, none were made to the Planning Officer. This meant that the decision was made by the Planning Officer with no further investigation or questioning and without the involvement of the Planning Committee. No further action can be taken in this case; however the Clerk undertook to write a piece for the Parish News about the way to comment on planning applications. *See page 12.*

### Finance Audit

The Council had published the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and had no comments or questions.

Bills have been paid as agreed at the last meeting:

SWaT for election expenses - £100

Microsoft Invoice - £54.72

BHIB Insurance (3rd year of 3 year contract) - £168.78

A bill has been paid as agreed by email since the last meeting: SALC affiliation fee - £79.64

VAT has been reclaimed for the 2019-20 financial year - £151.49

The current bank balance is £11,555.44

It was agreed that the bank balance should be maintained as a reserve.

### Planning

• 35/20/0006 – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use Class C3) at Tremlett Farm to 5 residential units.

The Parish Council noted that conversion of this barn to 5 residential units is allowable within the guidelines set by Class Q, provided it is not too large. There was concern about the access onto the road on Bishop's Hill despite Highways' view to the contrary. The Parish Council will comment

accordingly.

• 35/20/0001 – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use Class C3) at the Packing Shed, (barn opposite Tracebridge Quarry)

The Parish Council could not be sure that the building was in agricultural use as defined in Class Q. Concern was also expressed about the access on to the busy lane being potentially dangerous. The Parish Council will comment accordingly.

### Reports from Members

**Roads** – SB is making a return to Highways to ensure they know the locations of our salt bins. PS made a suggestion that in future years we would have the areas around the salt bins strimmed and cleared before the hedges are cut back to reduce the damage to the bins.

**Footpaths** – MV has been trying to contact the Footpaths Officer to discuss the possible re-alignment of footpaths but has not had success to date.

**Website** – PS reminded the Clerk that the Minutes of meetings need to be placed on the website, [www.stash.org.uk](http://www.stash.org.uk).

*Paul Musgrove, Clerk*



### Road Closures

#### Remedial drainage works between the Pavilion and Appley Crossroads

The date for this road closure has been programmed to start on Monday 28th September and is expected to last for three days.

#### Ham Hill, Stawley

The works are expected to commence on 7th September 2020 and last for 3 days to enable BT Openreach to replace an overhead cable and renew poles.

## September quiz

1. Which everyday nine letter word starts TR and ends RT?
2. In what year did four elderly men burgle the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit Company?
3. Which market town in Teesdale was visited by Dominic Cummings in May during lockdown?
4. Which world figure was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in 1936?
5. What links Asparagus, Artichoke and Rhubarb?
6. What was the longest running UK programme with the same presenter in television history?
7. Who is the billionaire CEO of SpaceX and Tesla?
8. Nitrous Oxide, a mild anaesthetic, is also known as what?
9. Which England fast bowler recently joined the 500 (test wickets) club?
10. What was the name of Mickey Mouse's pet dog, created in 1930?
11. Ruth Davidson, Ian Botham and Kenneth Clarke have been awarded what honour recently?
12. How is the poisonous herbaceous plant belladonna better known?
13. Which Western European country contains the cities Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges?
14. Who won the first of his seven Formula 1 championships in 1994?
15. Which is the world's second longest river outflowing into the Atlantic Ocean via Brazil?
16. Which psychological illusionist recently celebrated *20 years of mind control*?
17. Where would you find the three smallest bones in the human body, (malleus, incus and stapes)?
18. Which Scottish inventor first demonstrated his television system in 1926?
19. What fruit is a cross between a grapefruit, tangerine and orange?
20. Which month is used in the phonetic alphabet?
21. What is the art of cutting shrubs into ornamental shapes called?
22. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel prize, in 1903, collaborating with her husband to

discover radium ?

23. Make six different 4 letter words, using each of these letters once only, O T S P.

24. Which Academy award winning English actress, aged 44, starred in *The Reader*, *Enigma*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Finding Neverland*?

25. Complete the sentence: 'A girl today said she recognised me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met .....

*With thanks to Alan Rose*

### Mobile Library

The service has resumed.

Greenham Bridge from 10.00 to 10.30 on:

**Tuesday 15th Sept**

Tuesday 13th Oct

Tuesday 10th Nov

Tuesday 8th Dec

However browsing in the Library van is not allowed yet.

To pre-order books email:

[Librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk)

Or phone: 03001232224



## 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. Contactless payments are now being taken in the garden or on the website. Please check the website for any changes to the House and Tearoom re-opening.

**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)**



somerset village &  
community agents



**CCS**  
people · place · enterprise



**Somerset West  
and Taunton**

**COMMUNITY  
FUND**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



The Community Council for Somerset is a Company limited by Guarantee, Registered in England & Wales No. 3541219, and is a Registered Charity No. 1069260

**Talking Cafés** We're streaming LIVE daily on Facebook at 11am covering a different topic each day and you can also catch up here:

**[www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live](http://www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live),**

Agents from CCS are there answering questions via comments or you can privately message to the page.

**Focus on Domestic Abuse awareness.** Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, of any age. We are seeing a particular rise in cases of abuse being reported by people over 71 years. Tensions can escalate due to restrictions on 'normal life', but they are never an excuse for violence, manipulation, coercion and controlling behaviour. Even if you are self-isolating, government guidance allows you to leave your home to flee an abuser or seek help.

**Getting help:**

**<http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk>**

- ☒ Local helpline: 0800 69 49 999
- ☒ In an emergency always dial 999, if you cannot speak press 55 when operator answers
- ☒ Talk to any health professional or your Village Agent – we can help!
- ☒ Somerset pharmacies consulting rooms are a safe place for getting help

Best wishes  
Cat Sweatman

Tel: 01823 331222 Mobile: 07746 340546  
Email: [cat@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:cat@somersetccc.org.uk)

**Notes on Planning Applications**

Stawley Parish Council has become aware that the procedures for commenting upon Planning Applications are not universally known in our area. We hope that these notes will help parishioners who wish to apply for, or comment, on planning applications.

The Local Planning Authority is Somerset West and Taunton District Council (SWaT). Full details of how it operates can be found on its website at: <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/planning/>. Along with immediate neighbours, Stawley Parish Council is informed when a planning application is registered in the parish and is invited to comment upon it. These comments, if any, are sent to SWaT after the application has been considered at a Parish Council Meeting. SWaT will take these into account along with other comments from local people and statutory authorities such as Somerset Highways, to assist the decision process.

It is important to remember that the Parish Council does not make any decisions on planning. Most applications will be decided by the Development Control Manager at SWaT without reference to the District Council's Planning Committee. However, where four or more objections are received, and these views are supported by the Parish Council and/or our Ward District Councillor, applications are determined by the Planning Committee at an open meeting after considering a written report.

This last sentence is important. If you have a view on an application then it is necessary to register your comments with SWaT, either by posting them on the planning website or by email or letter. This can be most easily done through the Planning Application Search page which can be reached through a link on the front page of our website at [www.stash.org.uk](http://www.stash.org.uk). Comments should be sent in during the 21 day consultation period so they can be fully considered.

Comments cannot be treated as confidential and all are published on the SWaT website with your name and address. If you are not agreeable to your comments being published with your name and full postal address, please contact one of the Parish Councillors or Councillor Dave Mansell (who is one of our Ward Councillors) to discuss your concerns.

**Please remember, if you are unhappy about a planning application then let SWaT know. It is no good relying on the Parish Council alone.**

*Paul Musgrove,  
Chair, Stawley Parish Council*



## Wild swimming in Somerset

Lots of people are beginning to discover the thrill of wild swimming, and there are a few options not too far from here which are worth exploring.

Outdoor swimming: wet, wild and invigorating! It is an activity that has soared in popularity during lockdown, thousands of people are loving finding new places to swim. Some are regular pool swimmers who have missed their weekly lengths, and others are thrill seekers, unable to travel further afield, looking for an accessible low cost activity with a multitude of benefits!

The River Tone flows through our parishes, on its way to Wellington and on through Taunton. We don't have large 'swim spots' here, but there are lots of places which are great for short dips. There are a quite a few where there is footpath access to the river bank - take a look at an OS Map and head off to explore!

Up on Exmoor there is the beautiful River Barle, a crystal clear river which flows down off the moor and through the picturesque town of Dulverton and also further upstream at Tarr Steps and Pinkery Pond.

Elsewhere in Somerset there are many other wild swimming spots.

Wild swimming also has a host of benefits, both for your body and mind.

Never swim alone, and always swim within your personal abilities!



For top tips on water safety, check out this website:  
<https://outdoorswimmer.com/open-water-safety>.

*The Cottage Beyond*  
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## Stawley Mill Happenings



## Local Arts, Crafts and Gifts

5th and 19th September  
11am until 4pm

And thereafter on the  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
of each month

## A First Birthday 'Open Minds' in the time of Covid-19

*Your mind is like a parachute –  
it doesn't work if it isn't open!\**

Prompted and inspired by Martin Jacoby's thought provoking articles in the Parish News, Open Minds held its first meeting on 29th July a year ago. Since then a monthly gathering of up to ten local residents has been held, seeking to explore, discuss and learn about a wide range of topical issues, lubricated by refreshments! The only two ground rules have been to:

maintain open minds, and to agree that it is acceptable to disagree;

and to observe the Chatham House rule, that discussion is open and unrestricted, but is non-attributable.

Topics have varied widely since the original discussion on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Happiness (GNH), and have included amongst others Democracy, Assisted Dying, Altruism, Evil, The Big Idea, Art and Science, Art and Politics and most recently Taboos – which of course by definition is a subject I cannot discuss! By the time you read this we will have discussed 'Is Marriage still a viable and constructive institution?', a topic which could have interesting ramifications!

Lockdown back in March presented both a challenge and an opportunity. It was no longer possible to hold meetings in our homes, so, along with most of the country, we grappled with the technology of what one member still calls the Interweb, and now hold bi-weekly meetings on Zoom. This has presented its own challenges and benefits, amongst which are:

no need to tidy the house beforehand if you are hosting;

rural broadband – surely a misnomer, shouldn't it be called narrowband, or even no-band?;

use of the mute and mute-all function – both a blessing and a curse, depending on when it is used, and whether deliberately or by accident;

no need to get up from bed (we all know who this refers to).

Whilst some say that Zoom makes conversations more stilted and less free flowing, it is well suited to debate and listening to others, where only one person can speak at a time. It has also allowed us to stay in touch with those who have isolated outside the BAGSTAK\*\* boundaries.

Discussion on each subject is still preceded by a written introduction to the topic, usually prepared by the proposer. One other outcome of lockdown and not meeting face to face has been an increased

written on-line debate, both before and after Zoom meetings. I think we would all agree that we have achieved our objective to explore, discuss and learn about wide ranging, topical and often controversial subjects, with no visible signs of falling out and a fair amount of humour. We have stretched our minds and our preconceptions, as well as our vocabularies (I still have difficulty saying, yet alone understanding 'obnubilate'!)\*

To keep discussion and participation manageable, numbers involved in each Open Minds meeting have been restricted to a maximum of ten. If you are not already one of the regular participants and are interested, please drop me a line at [jeremy.robbs@live.co.uk](mailto:jeremy.robbs@live.co.uk) or give me a call on 01823 672893.

*Jeremy Robbins*

**Notes:** \* This quote is attributed to a variety of sources, including the 1936 film Charlie Chan at the Circus, the astronaut Buzz Aldrin and the Dalai Lama, although my favourite has to be the late, great, wild and wacky Frank Zappa. There are a number of nuanced variations of the quotation, in particular after the hyphen: 'Your mind is like a parachute – it works better or best if it is open', because it is clear that a closed mind still works! There is also a subset of follow on quotations – from the rather chilling: 'Minds, like parachutes, function better when open, but, like fists, they strike harder when closed'; to a more amusing 'Minds are like parachutes - just because you have lost yours doesn't mean you can borrow mine'.

\*\* BAGSTAK, collective noun - an acronym derived from the Parishes of Bathealton, Ashbrittle, Greenham, Stawley, Appley, Kittisford. Variations include BAGSTASH, by swapping Ashbrittle and Appley, but at the risk of annoying those feeling left out in Kittisford!

\*\*\* To obscure, or darken as with a cloud.

*JR*

## Bathealton Plant and Produce Sale

The Bathealton plant and produce table has raised nearly £600 towards church funds, a welcome boost to our coffers as our annual plant sale was cancelled.

Thank you to all who contributed.

*Tilly Willis*

A big thank you to Tilly for managing the stall at Bathealton Village Hall, her contribution has been invaluable.

*Morag Berthon*



## Stawley Virtual Flower and Produce Show 2020



*In the absence of the real thing,  
a fun, photograph-based Flower and  
Produce Show will be held this year*

Free to all entrants

All classes open to adults and children (please include age)

Submit your photographs under the classes listed below:

- 1 What I 'made' during lockdown  
*This can be anything: craft item, your garden, artwork etc.*
- 2 A vegetable selection from your garden, displayed in any way
- 3 A fruit selection from your garden, displayed in any way
- 4 Garden in a vase  
*Any flowers, plants etc. in a vase or similar container*
- 5 Rainbow cupcakes

Entries will be anonymised and reviewed by an independent judge  
Winners and as many photographic entries as possible will be published in the October issue  
of the Parish News and on the website at [www.stash.org.uk](http://www.stash.org.uk).  
The winning entries will be printed in colour and displayed at Stawley Shop in October

### Conditions of Entry

Photographs to be submitted electronically only, in any common format  
(please keep files to less than 5 Megabytes if possible)

One photograph per person, per class. Please include your name and your age if you are a child  
*Absolute* closing date for entries is Wednesday 16th September

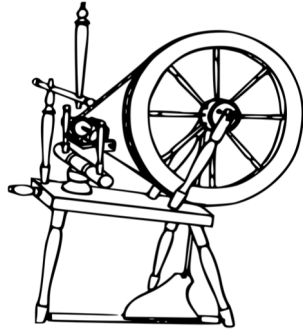
Please send your photographs to: [stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com](mailto:stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com)

**Important:** to ensure that we receive your entries, please put 'Flower Show Entry'  
as the Subject of your email. This will generate an auto-receipt  
(Please check that you have received this. We don't want entries going astray)

**We look forward to seeing your creations**



## Spinning and Woolcraft Group



As lockdown eases, small groups of us are getting together every fortnight in a member's garden, to enjoy all woolly crafts, a cuppa and a chat.

These meetings are dependent on the weather, so decisions are made sometimes with short notice. Group members are kept up-to-date, but if you would like to know what's going on, please send me your email address to add to the circulation list. New members are always welcome, whatever your woolly interest (or other natural fibres for that matter).

If the weather is too awful to be outside, then we will continue with the Zoom sessions.

And we also have plenty of lovely Shetland fleeces available for free, kindly donated to the group by James Dexter.

Thank you very much, James.

Next Sessions : Tuesdays 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 2.30pm

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

## Examinations

**A-Level question:** How is it possible to get an A-Level grade without sitting the examination?

**Answer:** By not understanding what an examination is.

You would have thought that the examiners could have got that question right. But no.

The right answer is that an educational examination is completely distinct from a school or college report. Certainly, such reports and assessments of course work play an important part in a pupil's qualifications, but they are not exams.

For much of the 1970s, I was a senior examiner in biology for Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations (OLE), which was one of the dozen examining boards of what was then called the General Certificate of Education (GCE) O-Level. GCE is now combined with a separate system, called the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE) to form the present comprehensive and vastly fairer General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). At the same time, I also examined at CSE and GCE A-Level.

In the 1970s, there was one computer in the whole of OLE from which we were allowed to order a print-out – a process we called 'felling a forest', from the acreage of paper required. Rather than criticise those responsible for the present crisis in education, I shall simply explain what we did nearly fifty years ago at OLE to award grades in GCE biology, and why we did it.

We operated on two basic principles: the first was that examinations are not like driving tests which almost everyone can pass; their purpose was to distinguish between candidates so that end-users of the results – selectors for sixth forms or employers – could see an objective assessment of a candidate's ability and compare it with other applicants. To fulfil this purpose, the examination had to be



external so that all candidates were anonymous and treated equally. The school or college must have nothing to do with the exam other than to prepare the candidates and invigilate them properly. Project work, reports and results of mock-exams that had been internally assessed could not be considered when awarding grades. This treatment of evidence is deeply enshrined in English Common Law: previous convictions (school work) are not permitted as evidence in a trial (examination). They are taken into account only at sentencing (awarding grades).

OLE's second principle was that it was not possible to set examinations that are of constant difficulty from year to year, and marking candidates' answer scripts is even harder to standardise. Much more constant was the average ability of candidates in a large-entry subject. (OLE had about 20,000 biology candidates each year.) To achieve the second principle, we set no pass-mark or grade boundaries, but let the candidates determine them.

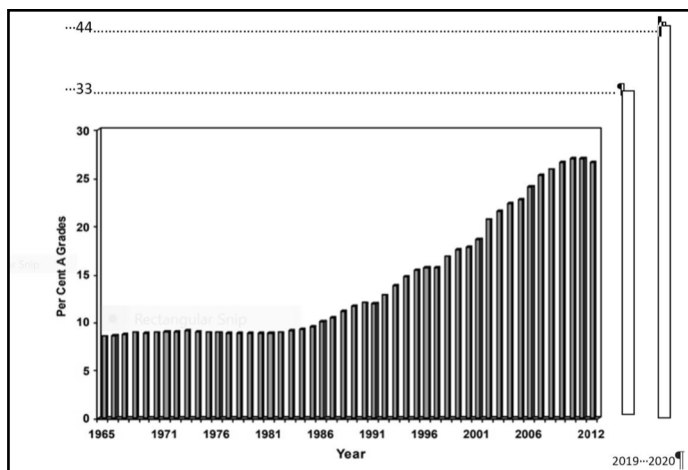
After the exam, schools sent their candidates' answer scripts to examiners to be marked. When the marked scripts arrived at OLE, teams of students, hired for the exam season, checked every script to make sure that all pages had been marked and that marks for each answer added up to the total given. The students then brought me in my office at OLE, a sample of each of the examiners' marking and I assessed their severity or leniency. Depending on what I found, I added or subtracted 0, 1, 2 or, very rarely, 3 marks to or from all candidates marked by each examiner (a stage in the process called 'Moderation').

The students then put a dot on a huge graph for each candidate's mark. The dots formed a symmetrical bell-shaped curve. We then counted the 10%\* of the dots at the righthand (higher) end of the graph and drew a vertical line to mark the boundary between Grades A and B. We then counted the next 20 %\* for the B/C boundary, next 30%\* for C/D, next 15%\* for D/E, and 10%\* for E/u where 'u' meant 'unclassified' – i.e. the exam was not suited to assessing these candidates' abilities. [\*I cannot remember the exact figures and am happy to be corrected.]

The percentages above are of candidates, not marks, and were set by the government. This ensured that there was no 'grade-inflation'. Having decided on the position of the boundaries, the marks could then be read off the graph. We then looked again at all scripts that were within two marks of a grade boundary, or the candidate had a letter from their school explaining any relevant circumstances such as dyslexia or illness, and decided on each candidate's grade. Once I was shown a letter from a school saying that this candidate's pet guinea-pig

was not very well, and that might have affected his performance. Or, on another occasion, 'this candidate has terminal leukaemia and we hope that he will live to hear his results' – he was three marks short of an A Grade, and I confess to breaking the rules on that occasion. This stage of the examination process was called 'the Award'.

After 1985, examinations changed. The change began with course-work being admitted as a contribution towards grades, and yet some interested parties insisted that this would not lead to grade-inflation. This histogram tells a different story.



Sources: main histogram from: <https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/factcheck-qa-are-a-levels-what-they-used-to-be>  
 addition 2019 & 2020 from: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-53805449> (including A+)

After 1981, candidates awarded Grade A rose from 10% to 44%; and the C/D border, which was once considered by end-users to be the pass/fail boundary, rose from 60% to 95%. If these figures are not 'inflation', will somebody tell me what is?

So, what does 'grade-inflation' actually mean? It means three things:

- 1) A Levels are reduced to being equivalent of a driving test,
- 2) end-users of the grade can no longer rely on it as a guide to differences between candidates, and
- 3) the best candidates are denied recognition of their work and achievements.

*In short, whoever you may be,  
 To this conclusion you'll agree,  
 When every one is somebodee,  
 Then no one's anybody!*

Gilbert & Sullivan The Gondoliers

Changing A Levels and GCSE from being measures of academic achievement into political appointments, which is the inevitable consequence of outside interference, may well be the aim of those engineering this trend.

*Martin Jacoby*

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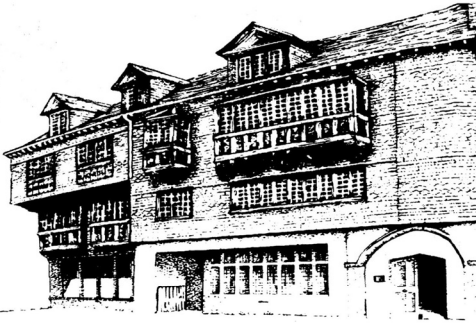
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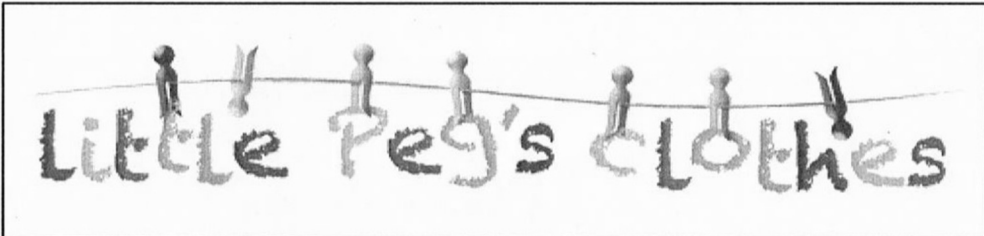
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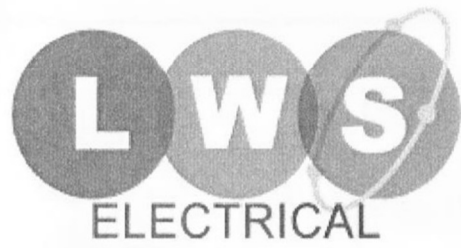
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£12.00 for a whole page.

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](http://www.stash.org.uk)

### Community Halls

**Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field**

– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or  
email: *williamspsfa@outlook.com*

**Ashbrittle Village Hall**

– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760

**Bathealton Village Hall**

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

### Local Groups

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

Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager

Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues

Stawley Under Fives 07753 552736 Weds/Thurs/Fri

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

**Rural Community Initiative (RCI)** is a local charity set up in  
1999 to support the way of life of the people of this rural com-  
munity. 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@gmail.com* when they should be in Microsoft 'Word' format, as this saves a great deal of typing!

**Advertising** 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. 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

**Printed by** Sharper Print Tel 07906 752190

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

**Distribution:** Pat Sweet 01823 672380

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## September

5th and 19th 11.00 am - 4.00 pm Stawley Mill Happenings - Local Arts and Crafts

16th Deadline for Flower Show Photography Competition

### Quiz - Answers

- 1 Transport
- 2 2015
- 3 Barnard Castle
- 4 Pope Francis
- 5 They're all perennial vegetables
- 6 The sky at Night, Patrick Moore, 1957 to 2012/13
- 7 Elon Musk
- 8 Laughing gas
- 9 Stuart Broad
- 10 Pluto
- 11 Peerages
- 12 Deadly nightshade
- 13 Belgium
- 14 Michael Schumacher
- 15 The Amazon
- 16 Derren Brown
- 17 Middle ear
- 18 John Logie Baird
- 19 Ugli fruit
- 20 November
- 21 Topiary
- 22 Marie Curie
- 23 Opts, Tops, Spot, Stop, Post, Pots
- 24 Kate Winslet
- 25 Herbivore

### Faces and birth names -Answers

- 1 Tina Turner/Anna Mae Bullock
- 2 Brad Pitt/William Bradley Pitt
- 3 Lily James/Lily Chloe Ninette Thomson
- 4 David Tennant/David McDonald
- 5 Marilyn Monroe/Norma Jeane Mortenson
- 6 Jamie Fox/Eric Marlon Bishop

- 7 Meg Ryan/Margaret Mary Emily Hyra
- 8 Joaquin Phoenix/Joaquin Bottom
- 9 Whoopi Goldberg/Caryn Elaine Johnson
- 10 George Michael/  
Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou
- 11 Tina Fey/Elizabeth Stamatina Fey
- 12 Rock Hudson/Roy Harold Scherer Jr
- 13 Judy Garland/Frances Ethel Gumm
- 14 Ben Kingsley/Krishna Pandit Bhanji
- 15 Billie Eilish/  
Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell
- 16 Ben Affleck/Benjamin Geza Affleck-Boldt
- 17 Ellie Goulding/Elena Jane Goulding
- 18 Michael Caine/Maurice Joseph Micklewhite Jr
- 19 Katy Perry/Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson
- 20 Michael Keaton/Michael John Douglas

### Parish News Donations

Many thanks for donations from

David Pearce

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Donations may be left at the Village Shop

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**Next Deadline Date: Friday 18th September 2020**

**Editors: Maurice and Julia**