

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

STAWLEY

BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



Parish news

October 2020

For the Parishes of ASHBRIITLE with GREENHAM, BATHEALTON, STAWLEY and KITTISFORD

Services

Sunday October 4th <i>Trinity 17</i>			
Parish Communion and Harvest Festival	9.30 a.m.		Stawley
Sunday October 11th <i>Trinity 18</i>			
Parish Communion and Harvest Festival	9.30 a.m.		Ashbittle
Sunday October 18th <i>Trinity 19</i>			
Parish Communion	9.30 a.m.		Kittisford
Sunday October 25th <i>Trinity 20</i>			
Parish Communion and Harvest Festival	9.30 a.m.		Bathealton

We are planning to hold three of our Harvest Festivals as part of the usual Communion Service on a Sunday morning when we will have an opportunity to thank God for all the good things that we receive from His hand.

I am afraid that the regulation face-coverings, hygiene precautions and social distancing will need to be in place. However, the good news is that we are now allowed a measure of singing in church, albeit by a small group.

If you would like to donate produce to be used in the churches at Harvest, please contact one of the Churchwardens or if you would like it collected, telephone myself on 01823 400127

Everyone is most welcome to any or all these services.

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbittle with Greenham

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

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

Thought for the Month

On "Farming Today" this week, reports were focusing on the growing of fruit used in drinks.

When we lived in Kent and our rectory was within five hundred yards of the famous 'Larkins' brewery, every year we helped with the hop picking.

But the first two days of this week on Radio 4 have been devoted to apples. It would seem that some small scale independent growers and cider makers have seen their business expand during our movement restrictions. They have taken advantage of customers buying locally and assisted them with door to door deliveries.

However, some larger commercial cider makers, supplying pubs and restaurants with draught cider have seen their production shrink by between twenty-five and fifty percent due to closures.

Fruit growers in this country and suppliers of apple pulp from abroad will have their contracts honoured, but the inevitable destruction of some of this year's crop looks commercially inevitable.

At the same time, we have listened to a debate about the honouring of other agreements, this time an international agreement between the UK and the EU.

Do individuals, companies or governments have both a moral and legal obligation to honour an agreement once it has been made?

Do we have the right to withdraw from some aspects of a contract if we consider others to be acting in "bad faith"?

I have two thoughts:

The first is that the Old Testament placed considerable emphasis on the keeping of promises. The obligation placed upon human beings to be honest and fair in their dealings with others was based on the willingness of God to do the same.

"I will bring upon them all the good things that I have promised" (Jeremiah 32. v42).

The legal obligation on Jews to keep their promises and honour their commitments is enshrined in The Law (The Torah). Human behaviour should reflect the covenant that God made with humanity.

To be honest, to keep promises and to honour commitments freely made, means that we are imitating the God who placed these obligations upon us.

The second, comes from my time when I attempted to help sixth formers study for 'A' level Religious Studies and Christian Ethics.

The German philosopher, Emmanuel Kant is

the founding father of what he called "The Categorical Imperative" in which he argued that we should never act unless we are prepared for others to do the same. "How would it be", said Kant, "if what you are proposing to do were to become a universal law?"

I suspect that we are often inclined to dishonour agreements and promises, whilst being insistent that others should definitely not follow our example!

We should be free to choose which promises are kept and how agreements should be implemented, but OTHERS have an obligation to abide by the rules.

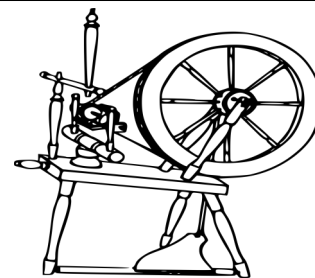
Well, we shall see. Perhaps we could help fruit growers by implementing a new "Help Out" scheme; instead of "Eat out to help out", we could try "Drink in to help out", with half price cider and perry!

I'm not sure if dear old Emmanuel would have been too keen on that idea.

With my best wishes and take care.

Martin Beaumont

Spinning and Woolcraft Group



As lockdown eases (*wishful thinking perhaps*), 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. New members are always welcome, whatever your woolly interest (or other natural fibres for that matter).

We will try and keep up the outside meetings, if weather (Indian summer?) and the law permits, but if the weather is too awful or cold to be outside, which will be the case as the year goes on, then we will continue with the Zoom sessions.

And we still have plenty of lovely Shetland fleeces available for free!

Next Sessions

Tuesdays 6th and 20th October at 2.30pm

Contact Pauline: on 01823 672222, email pjw200355@gmail.com

What a Star!



On a glorious afternoon (Wednesday 16th September) I was lucky enough to be invited to witness the presentation of prizes for the 'excellent' former year 6 pupils who had now joined secondary education. They had missed out on the usual ceremony due to the virus lockdown but were to be honoured by this ceremony.

The afternoon began with a group photograph comprising all staff and pupils. This turned into a massive logistical operation to ensure that all faces were visible and smiling, all eyes open and still.

The children then re-assembled in a very orderly and controlled fashion and were seated in their respective year groups in areas marked out on the grass by different coloured cones.

The ceremony began with a speech from Jacqui and then the presentations to the prizewinners (all looking extremely smart) began. There was lots of clapping and lots of very proud parents.

As the ceremony drew to a close Jacqui introduced a lady who had been 'hidden' in the audience and who, unbeknown to David Stirzaker, was a representative of Pearson the organisers of the ' Teacher of the Year' competition. This lady introduced herself as being Catherine Mortimer-

Ford (the National Manager of Pearson National Teaching Awards) who then spoke very highly of David and was very pleased to confirm that he had won the Silver Award and presented him with a beautiful engraved 'silver' plaque!

She continued that David had been selected for the award and was one of eleven candidates who were chosen from 216,000 teachers who would now go forward for the gold award being Teacher of the Year!! (not to put too fine a point on it.....Best Teacher in England !).

David was totally surprised and overwhelmed by the award and the very kind words spoken. There followed rapturous applause from the staff, audience and especially the pupils.

Well Done David ! Captain Fantastic !

John Hannon. Governor, Stawley School and Wellington Area Rural Federation.

Many congratulations from us too - Eds

Stawley Mill Happenings

Local Arts, Crafts and Gifts

3rd and 17th October
11am until 4pm

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

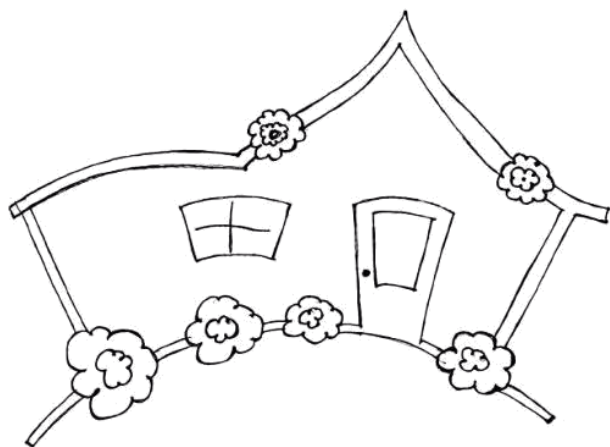
Parish News Donations

Many thanks for the anonymous donations left in the Village Shop.

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

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

Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room



We welcome everyone to the shop: the quirky, the elderly - and even Noddy the tractor!

(Thank you Alan Rose)

And we are still OPEN ALL HOURS (almost) with a hardy team of workers and volunteers for ALL YOUR NEEDS (almost).

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but DO PHONE FIRST TO CHECK - things may change**

Opening Hours Monday to Friday 8.00 to 5.30
 Saturday 8.00 to 2.00
 Sunday 9.00 to 11.00

Post Office services available Thursdays 11.30 - 1.30

Come and see us on the Ashbrittle road between Greenham and Trace-
bridge adjacent to Stawley School, ring us
on 01823 674361 or email us at shop@stawleyshop.com

Country matters

The Autumn Robin

*Sweet little bird in russet coat
The livery of the closing year,
I love thy lonely plaintive note
And tiny whispering song to hear
While on the stile or garden seat;
I sit to watch the falling leaves.
Thy songs thy little joys repeat
My loneliness relieved.*

John Clare (1793-1864)

Late August: In the meadows the grasshoppers have given way to daddy longlegs, or craneflies. They come into the house on warm, late summer nights and bumble about. They are night fliers and navigate by the moon although they fly up if disturbed. There are over 300 species of craneflies which are harmless. They emerge from larvae (leather jackets) which are in the soil.

Over Appley I heard the swallow's strident two toned alarm call. It was chasing a sparrowhawk and fearlessly diving at it. After a bit several other swallows joined in the chase. The sparrowhawk is a stealthy hunter and doesn't have much of an adverse effect on songbird numbers and is a sign of a healthy ecosystem.

Early September: The great migration of our summer visitors has begun. The swallows and house-martins are lining up on the telephone wires and discussing the route to Africa. The drought and the political situation and wars all need airing before they set off!

How does a not-so-aerodynamic spotted flycatcher cross the Equator twice a year? Somehow they manage, making sallies to catch insects on their journey. They weigh no more than three sheets of A4 paper.

There are a few Robin's pin cushions (bedeguar galls) on the hedgerows. These are mossy, many-chambered inflorescences found on wild roses. They are quite large in September (2.5 to 3 inches across) and flushed with a reddy pink. As many as 60 tiny wasps will emerge from each gall.

The wasps and hornets have done well this year and are busy, with the late butterflies, getting drunk on the fermenting plums and pears.

Sally Merrett

PS It has certainly been a 'wasp' year - with large numbers of wasps feeding on fallen fruit and also attacking honey bee colonies when given the opportunity. Woe betide anyone who got in the way!

Ed

A farming diary

To introduce ourselves, we farm at Woodlands Farm, just outside Bathealton village where we keep 150 dairy cows, which we milk with two Lely robotic milkers. We rear our own dairy replacements and rear beef cattle to be sold and finished on other farms.

Life on the farm has carried on pretty much as normal during the lockdown and summer, except that there have been no agricultural shows and all other social events have been cancelled, just like during the Foot and mouth outbreak of 2001. At the time of writing the dairy event in early October at Shepton Mallet showground is still going ahead, which will be a welcome day out (*but subsequently cancelled*).

The weather this spring and summer has been really good after a long wet winter. The weather changed at the end of March, just as Boris announced the lockdown. The spring is always a busy time for us, and with the lockdown I did not leave the farm for two months, not even visiting the bright lights of Wiveliscombe. The change in weather allowed us to turn out our stock in beautiful sunshine and into dry fields. The grass fields were fertilized for silage making and the arable fields were ploughed and drilled with maize. Grass silage was made in perfect conditions to provide the feed for the cattle for the coming winter.

By the end of May the lack of rain had turned the fields very dry and the grass stopped growing. Thankfully, by early June we had some gentle rain encouraging the grass to start growing again. We also had some nice dry spells which allowed us to make some lovely hay. The maize crop has done really well this summer, as it enjoys the warmth and sunshine and the occasional spells of rain. We hope to have a dry Autumn to harvest the crop and boost our silage stocks, unlike last year when several tractors and trailers got stuck in the mud!

The cattle have been wormed every month and treated for flies which have been a problem this summer. They have all grown well this year and look healthy and strong. Some of the bigger ones will go to market before winter, the smaller ones will be housed inside the sheds when the weather turns.

Now where is the satnav.

Derek and Joanne Greenway

We welcome our new contributors and look forward to future articles keeping us in touch with what's going on in the farming businesses in our parishes.

Eds

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 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 figures for August (ins)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2.20	3.56	3.72	3.60	4.60

August 2020 was the wettest August since 2012 – when 5.78 inches were recorded. Even the years 2014 (4.51 in) and 2015 (4.54in) were not quite as wet.

Val Coots

A Family History

Memories of the Booths at Kittisford

The Booth family arrived at the Rectory, as it was then called, around 1946 shortly after the end of World War II. The name was changed to Kittisford House by the next owners in the mid 70's. Leonard Booth, who was a retired stockbroker in the City was accompanied by his wife Helen (Nell) and their four sons who had all served in the forces during the hostilities – James and John in the army, Frank who was killed in Korea in 1953 in the RAF and Edward who was trained in midget submarines.

They must have moved West with the intention of farming because they also bought the neighbouring Kittisford Barton and Kittisford Farm. Their farming project ceased in about 1959 when Edward went to live in New Zealand for some seven years, leaving John at Hele near Bradford-on-Tone and James and his parents occupying the Rectory and selling the remaining 40 acres annually as grass keep. Some time after 1962 when we moved to Newhouse Farm, (*opposite Kittisford Church*) I often bought the grazing in Church Meadow as it was very convenient. I soon got to know Mrs Booth the churchwarden, because my first visitor on arrival was Rev. Angus Hunt the rector of Bathealton, Kittisford and Stawley, who invited me to take over the position of second churchwarden from my predecessor, Len Frye. In those days there was obviously a dearth of volunteers too!

I came to know James through my farming activities. My main memories of him were of his sense of humour; he had a feast of anecdotes to suit any occasion. One I particularly recall, concerned their first corn harvest when the brothers, being proud of their success at building a rick, a construction of corn sheaves for subsequent threshing, (*combine harvesters were comparatively rare then*). Anyway, they took father up to the site to show him their prowess. He, in the process of admiring their work, lit his pipe and absent-mindedly discarded the match over his shoulder with catastrophic results for the corn rick.

A love of dogs

Another recollection I have is of their love of dogs. Nell used to hold treasure hunting parties for the canine inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Our Labrador Toby had rather an unfair advantage in that he was blind and, as a consequence had developed extra sensitive nasal perception, thereby able to find and Hoover up more of the hidden chocolates.

Gunner, the Booth's elderly Labrador, could be seen following behind their equally elderly car with Leonard, who was by then

confined to a wheel chair, driving around the lanes at the dog's walking pace. I not sure of Gunner's age, but Leonard died in 1971 at the age of 90.

In the mid seventies when James, who remained a bachelor, and his mother were living alone, they decided to downsize and converted the Coach House into the property that it is today.

They sold the Rectory and most of the remaining land and both died in 1978. That just left Edward and Annie living at Kittisford Glebe.

My memories (Penny)

Annie and Edward were living at Kittisford Glebe when we arrived with young children in 1979. They were most welcoming to three noisy youngsters, and Edward delighted in maintaining the Booth family's Easter Egg traditional treasure hunt. As a finale each year, an upturned bowl of flour with a Smartie in the centre, was presented. Every child took a turn to carve away a section, and not be the one to let the Smartie fall. Edward manoeuvred himself into position for this, and as he ducked to take the sweet with his mouth, his face was pushed into the flour, with hilarious and predictable effect.

He lost his legs in 1980 as a consequence of diabetes and lifestyle, but maintained his mobility in a wheelchair, an adapted car and his ride-on lawn mower. His antics increasingly frustrated Annie and eventually they decided to move to a more disabled friendly house, with a new garden to challenge Annie, and one with a view of the sea. It was at Membury, near Axminster, in a disused quarry, but you could only just see the sea from upstairs. A lift proved to be the answer to Edwards ambition.

They lived there for several years and we often visited. One Sunday lunch time, a Booth plate had spectacularly disintegrated when the glue holding it together failed, leaving me holding a small triangular shard with my dinner on my lap. The long serving Booth family dinner service was not to last much longer. That same afternoon Edward insisted on giving us all a working demonstration of his new rise and fall bath seat, completely starkers, the children loved it.

Edward smoked, and we were aware that he put the ash and stub ends into a paper bag hung on the arm of his wheelchair. One evening, with Annie away, he prepared for bed, having placed the paper bag in the waste bin, and headed for the lift. The inevitable happened, and a very flustered Edward jammed his wheelchair in a doorway. Fortunately, a passing motorist spotted the fire and Edward was rescued, but only just in time. The house was razed to the ground.

It was rebuilt, but it had been a great shock to Edward, and he died not long afterwards.

Hugh Tregelles and Penny Stanbury

The Parish News Faces Quiz

Familiar faces when they were younger—can you identify them?



With thanks to Alan Rose. Answers on page 32

Minutes of RCI meeting Wednesday 9th September 2020

Held online by Zoom (*the continuity of the meeting was frequently disrupted by fluctuations in broadband speed but the formalities of the meeting were carried out effectively*).

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed members who had been able to join in the Zoom online meeting.

Present: Michael Parkinson (Mike, Chairman), Pauline Wood (PW), Judy Webb (JW), John Hannon (JH), Cilla Newsom (CN)

Apologies: Martin Perry, Jane Embleton, Laura Burrow, Ann-Marie Paterson(AMP)

Correspondence: None

Minutes of the last meeting: AMP's name was added to list of attendees. They were then agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Mike apologised for not submitting the financial return to the Charity Commission; PW explained that it was not actually required yet as it was first year. She will get it done when necessary and checked by Derek Sowden. She will also get bank account details changed to show her as Treasurer and to delete Barbara Roll.

Accounts: The Treasurer's Report showed a total credit balance of £2751.97 as at 9th September 2020, comprising balances as follows:

RCI	£1271.30
Active Living	£957.72
Youth Club	£522.95

The second year's VETS payment, amounting to £360 including VAT, had been paid; the Lottery funding received had included 3 years VETS support.

Mike reported that money was coming in for walks leaflets, particularly from the new Airbnb unit in Appley.

VETS: JW gave an update on the current situation. VETS had been converted into a HelpLine for six months during the pandemic. She would keep promoting it in the Parish News and request an extension of the HelpLine from CHT (Community Heartbeat Trust). She also undertook to explore the possibility of further funding from Somerset Waste Partnership and the local council.

Reports:

Lunch Club was not currently functioning because of the pandemic.

- Walking Group was also not currently functioning
- Oil Group continued to work well
- Walks Project was ticking over
- Arts Group was meeting occasionally at outdoor venues

AOB: JH commented on the usefulness of the Village Cook Book.

Apple Pressing Day was booked for 4th October at The Pavilion but would need to be more closely organised to comply with new legislation.

(Note: it was subsequently cancelled because of the social distancing problems)

///What3words was becoming more widely used and promoted but JW would contact SWAST for confirmation of its more widespread use, particularly in the light of our rural location.

Mention was made of making the Parish News into an Audio Book.

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday 13th January at 7.30 pm, probably by Zoom but would be subject to review depending on circumstances.

The meeting closed and the Chairman thanked those who had participated in the unusual circumstances.

Mike Parkinson

**Note: The Apple Pressing Day
previously advertised for 4th October
has been cancelled because of Covid-19
restrictions.**



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The Peacock's Tail

I wonder how many readers of *Parish News* have grandchildren born around the millennium. They would be between fifteen and twenty-five years old and spreading their wings. Though parents don't have the option, some grandparents choose the easy way and say, "Yes dear, very clever; bring him back when he's house-trained." Others like to be more involved and find that they quickly become a bridge over the communications chasm that exists between some parents and their children.

'Communications' – what a word! Used most frequently when it isn't working. (Like 'relationships.')

It comes back to language again. I find late-teenagers have a vocabulary of some two hundred words, half of which are used in a way that is entirely new to me. No, I'm not going to chase that hare. So, what can grandparents usefully do other than be there and pick up the pieces when required?

They can understand the origins and evolutionary rationale behind young people's outlandish behaviour and *The Peacock's Tail* is a good example. It is the title of a theory that explains many patterns of behaviour; it is well documented in the scientific literature and accepted by most researchers in the field.

My neighbours have peafowl, and the peacock's raucous calls in spring echo across the valley. One flew down and paraded across the lawn to our dogs' tumultuous outrage. If I had let them out, they would surely have had him, trailing that great cumbersome tail. Actually, the huge fan dotted with eyes that he shimmers at peahens isn't a tail at all but extra-long back-feathers. His real tail is short but strong and its main function is to erect the fan.

Why the attraction?

A peacock's tail certainly slows up take-off and so is surely a disadvantage to the peacock when a fox attacks. The fact that he has such a handicap is all the fault of the peahens. A researcher counted the decorative tail-eyes on the peacocks in a zoo and recorded which ones attracted most peahens. He noted that there was a linear relationship, which is to say, 'more eyes, more matings'. To check his hypothesis, the researcher cut off a number of eyes from the most successful peacocks and attached them to the tails of the least successful ones who, the first time they displayed their tails, couldn't believe their luck. The peahens had actually counted the number of eyes on the tails of the displaying peacocks, and favoured those with most. What is going on here? It is what ethologists (students of animal behaviour) call 'an honest handicap'. The peacock is signalling to the peahens,

"I can afford this ridiculous adornment which really does slow me down when escaping predators, and costs a prodigious amount to grow each year, but it does show you that my genes are so good at the business of life that I can not only afford it but also survive the handicap it is. Come and mate with me so that your offspring will also have my good genes". Remember that when you next see a Cartier wrist watch or a Lamborghini.

OK, let's apply the peacock's tail theory to people. Have you noticed the three stages of display? Young people generally have not accumulated expensive toys or skills so all they can boast about is the effects of their genes -- their youthful beauty and/or athleticism. They too are exponents of the peacock's tail but it has a dangerous twist. The message they send out is:

"I have such good genes that I can afford to:

"mutilate my body with tattoos and piercings kept open with rings and studs, and remain attractive;"

and/or

"poison my system with alcohol and drugs until I am incapable yet still recover and avoid addiction;"

and/or

"have sex as much as I feel like and avoid pregnancy and disease;"

and/or

"walk in dangerous nocturnal streets to show that I am streetwise; anyway, I have been brought up in the belief that people are basically good and wouldn't harm a young person."

Dream on.

Middle-aged men display the expensiveness of their material possessions but they must not be seen to boast about them. Watch them put their car keys and mobile phones where they can be seen by others, and at the same time avoid spoiling the line of their well-cut trousers with pocket lumps.

Grandmothers have been through menopause and are sterile, yet they live longer than grandfathers. According to the traditional and material understanding of evolution, this is a nonsense because Granny is eating food that could feed her grandchildren and so multiply her genes. But it makes more sense if we think of *the information* carried by the genes, not the actual strings of DNA that are the genes themselves.

Giving birth is a risky business for women and even more so for older women. Our upright stance obliged us to evolve a narrowed pelvis to support the gut and foetus, and this added to the difficulty of expelling a greatly enlarged head. A woman shares most of her genes with all other people, but only half of those that make her different from her mother. Evolution will manipulate

the grandmother's behaviour to enhance the survival of the genetic information she shares with her daughter and grandchildren, and the most efficient way of doing that was for Granny to stick around the cave with an extra pair of hands when the breeding woman was almost incapacitated.

In addition, Granny brings to the young family her experience of gathering food. Granddads also bring experience but, being largely hypothetical, it is less useful; even so, they parade it all the same.

What else do you think I'm doing now?

Martin Jacoby

Open All Hours

Dear Readers,

I would like to draw your attention to an email – NOT a proper paper communication written in fountain pen ink! – no, an email from our editors, Springer and Swan: the latter being she who tries to keep the Village Festival Choir singing *on beat!* They ask that our contributions this month should be “a little off beat and whacky”! Some will say “Nothing new there then!”

What, dear readers, are they implying? That people like me and people like you, common-sensical to the core, are somewhat missing the beat? Whacky? Daft? Quirky? Are we all descendants of Monty Python's Flying Circus? Or The Goons etc? Snakes in the grass we may be – but passengers on a jumbo jet of cobras, boas and slowworms? No!

Who says what's whacky and what isn't? Take “Whacky Races” – now there was a cartoon series and a half! Same story, same characters, same gags, just in a different setting each week – with a cartoon quality which couldn't match Tom and Jerry! Whacky? No – just bad!

Then there was “Whack-O!” on TV with Prof Jimmy Edwards: school yarns with crooked head, silly kids, daft teachers and plenty of ha-ha-ha-canings! Wacky Whack-O! Surewas – then! Now? Arrestable very likely!

Then there was Norman Collier, comedian! He who impersonated chickens in his stage act. Surely off-beat, quirky! People laughed and copied him. All whacky. Now embarrassing? But what if, at the end of the BBC News/ news of gloom, Huw Edwards got up from his desk and chickened off the set. Now, THAT would be quirky!!

Then what about the guy who tries to remove a smut – the kind you used to get in steam days when you put your head out of the carriage window – from another chap's eye....and trying to do it with a Gert Plank sticking out of his own

eye? Ain't that whacky? A bit offbeat? (*Matthew chapter 7 verses 3 to 6*) Does that mean that Jesus could be quirky?

So, dear readers, if you and I are definitely offbeat and somewhat whacky (if only at times)we are in GOOD company?

Yours quirkily,

Martin at the Shop

Sniff of hope – a new role for Detection Dogs?

Somerset NHS staff are providing odour samples for a COVID-19 detection dog trial.

Staff at the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust are playing a vital role in a major trial to see if bio-detection dogs can sniff out coronavirus in humans. The trial will determine whether dogs could be used as a new rapid, non-invasive diagnostic tool for the virus.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust staff are coming forward to provide samples of breath and body odour by wearing a mask for three hours, and nylon socks and a t-shirt for 12 hours, as well as taking a swab test to identify if they are infected with COVID-19.

Deb Glennie, a simulation and human factors education fellow and anaesthetic sister at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, is taking part in the research trial.

“I have a family member who is in the category of high risk, so I am very much aware how important it is to remain as safe as possible until we hopefully get a vaccine,” she said.

“I am amazed at the ability of dogs and how they complement mankind, using them for law enforcement, assistance and detection.”

“If they can help us through the pandemic with early detection then the least I can do is provide the material.”

Having previously shown that dogs can sniff out malaria in people, LSHTM, MDD and Durham University are eager to start testing them out with COVID-19 samples.

They are dedicated to making sure the trial is thorough and safe for all involved, with the dogs undergoing intensive pre-training.

Should the trial be successful, these dogs could be deployed to key points of entry in the UK within six months to assist with the rapid screening on people travelling from abroad – with the potential of screening up to 250 people per hour.

From a Somerset NHS Press Release

Gardening Club

Visit to Knightshayes Kitchen Garden

Sue Jacoby writes:

A group of seven of us went to see the Kitchen Garden at Knightshayes on the 2nd September. After a restorative cup of coffee outside the café we headed down to the Kitchen Garden. As we went up the path with a rather overgrown herbaceous border on the left and some rows of cutting flowers on our right it dawned on us that there were no beautiful rows of veggies at all! Clearly with the lockdown in March and the National Trust being dependent on volunteers, mostly of a certain age, nothing had been sown in the spring.

The two acre walled garden was covered with black plastic weed suppressant and green manure mix. All there was to admire was some indestructible rhubarb and artichokes and overgrown rows of raspberries. All very disappointing especially as I had spoken to the NT a couple of times and checked that the Kitchen Garden was open. I failed to ask whether they had planted anything...

We then had a quick look around the gardens of the house which were overgrown and saw that they had one team of gardeners working on the beds below the house. Some of us then went for a walk in the woods and others headed for home, all of us glad we had not driven miles. A disappointing day.

RHS Rosemoor Trip

Sue Jacoby also reports:

Judy Webb organised the trip to Rosemoor on the 10th September and eight of us went along hoping for better things than we had found at Knightshayes.

A visit to Rosemoor is always good, whatever time of the year. Although some of the workshops were closed the rest of the garden was open and they had added a couple of mobile cafes which saved anyone who had forgotten their picnic from going hungry. The rose gardens were mostly over and rather full of black spot but that's hardly surprising so late in the year.

The Hot Garden was looking especially good with colourful displays of Monarda, Hedychiums, Echinacea, a compact form of Solidago (golden rod) with brilliant yellow flowerheads amongst many others. The planting reminded me of the Garden House at Buckland Monachorum where there were huge swathes of plants running into each other making very impressive displays.

Stawley Virtual Flower and Produce Show

We had a very good response to our fun Flower Show, with some very interesting photographic interpretations, although no-one fancied making rainbow cakes!

The winners and runners-up for the four remaining Classes are:

Class 1: What I made during Lockdown

Winner	Julia Swan
Runner-up	Angie Hannon

Class 2: A Vegetable Selection from your Garden

Winner	Judy Webb
Runner-up	Julia Swan

Class 3: A Fruit Selection from your Garden

Winner	Steve Swan
Runner-up	Cilla Newsom

Class 4: Garden in a Vase

Winner	Cilla Newsom
Runner-up	Ann-Marie Paterson

Well done to all our winners and thank you to all who participated.

We would also like to thank Annie Musgrove for being our judge; some difficult decisions to make!

The photographs from our winners and runners-up can be found in this issue along with selected others from the 'What I made during Lockdown' class.

Further photographs from the competition will also be on display in Stawley Shop throughout October, so please do look out for them when you visit.

With the gardening season drawing to a close, and the uncertainty of our future in terms of socialising, the Gardening Club trips may also be drawing to a close. If anything interesting 'crops up' we will be sure to let Club members know.

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

And remember, new members are always welcome.

Pauline and Sue

October quiz

- 1 Which two 60 years plus comedians recently started their third tv series, subtitled "Gone Fishing"?
- 2 Starting in Pudding Lane, what year was the Great Fire of London?
- 3 If you were a somnambulist, what would you be doing?
- 4 Doctor Matthew Hall, a TV presenter and comedian, aged 55, is better known by what name?
- 5 Which fruit is a cross between a blackberry and a raspberry?
- 6 Which TV sitcom series, running from 1981 to 91, plus sporadic Christmas episodes, featured Buster Merryfield, Tessa Peake-Jones and Roger Lloyd-Pack?
- 7 What is the largest country in South America?
- 8 Which famous British physicist wrote 'A Brief History of Time'?
- 9 In 2016, who announced their retirement days after becoming F1 world champion?
- 10 On what date this year did Britain officially exit the EU?
- 11 Which English county contains Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Felixstowe?
- 12 Formerly entitled Byzantium and Constantinople, which is Turkey's most populous city?
- 13 What is the main ingredient of the traditional Welsh delicacy, laverbread?
- 14 Welsummer, Frizzle, Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Red are all breeds of what?
- 15 Which screenwriters credits include 'Love Actually, Notting Hill' and 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'?
- 16 What connects Tiger Roll, One for Arthur, Rule the World and Many Clouds?
- 17 In what year did Captain Chesley Sullenberger land an Airbus A320 on New York's Hudson River after sustaining a bird strike?
- 18 As Home Secretary, who founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829?
- 19 What is the most abundant gas in the Earth's atmosphere?
- 20 The spice saffron comes from which flower?
- 21 Cob and Pen are the male and female names of what bird species?
- 22 A screwdriver cocktail is orange juice, ice and which spirit?
- 23 What are the five boroughs of New York City?
- 24 Which Hollywood legend, now aged 90, directed 'Invictus, American Sniper, Sully: Miracle on the Hudson' and 'Changeling'?
- 25 Who was waiting for Tony Christie (or latterly Peter Kay) in Amarillo?

*With thanks to Alan Rose
Answers on page 32*

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Quakers in Britain are supporting

The Build Back Better campaign

<https://www.buildbackbetteruk.org/>

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain, is among 350 influential figures calling for the UK to '**Build Back Better**' from the COVID-19 crisis, to be a stronger, fairer, greener country.

Their statement has been signed by leaders and representatives from faiths, business, charities and trade unions, including the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the Bishops of Manchester, Dover and Reading. It notes that the UK was underprepared for the pandemic and that "longstanding inequalities in our society have left too many vulnerable".

In recovery, there are questions for the UK government and society:

"How to ensure health, social care, housing and other vital public services are properly resourced and able to meet our future needs.

"How to mend the inequalities in our society so that everyone, no matter their background or race, can live a decent, fulfilling life.

"How to create secure, well-paid and rewarding jobs for all who want them, particularly for young people.

"And how not just to build our resilience to future pandemics, but to tackle the climate and environmental emergency already upon us."

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

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
<https://www.quaker.org.uk/>

Stawley Virtual Flower and Produce Show

Class 1. What I 'made' during lockdown

1st Julia Swan



2nd Angie Hannon



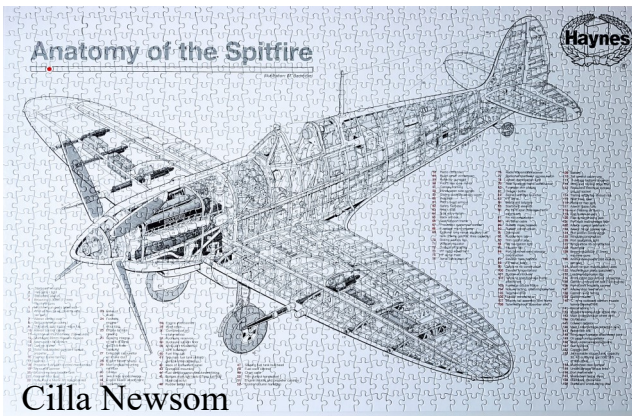
Steve Swan



Pat Martin

Penny Stanbury

2020



Cilla Newsom

Ann-Marie Paterson



John Hannon



Gerry Webb

Class 2. A vegetable selection 1st Judy Webb



2nd Julia Swan



Class 3. A fruit selection 1st Steve Swan



2nd Cilla Newsom



Class 4. Garden in a vase 1st Cilla Newsom



2nd Ann-Marie Paterson



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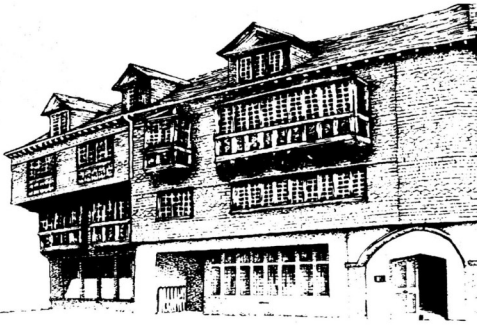
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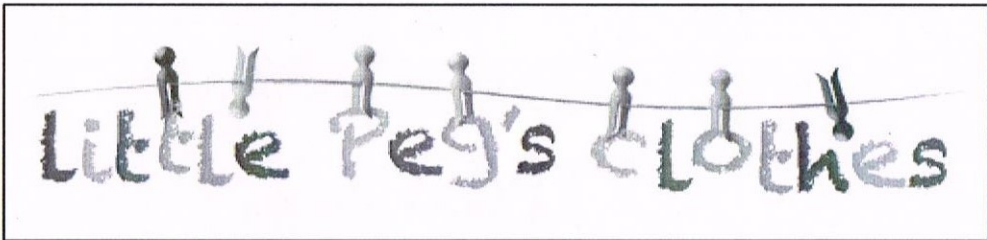
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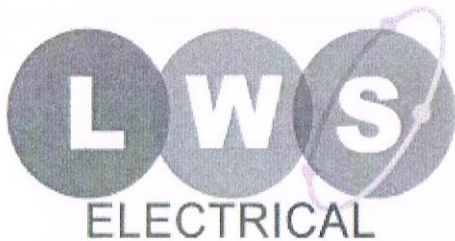
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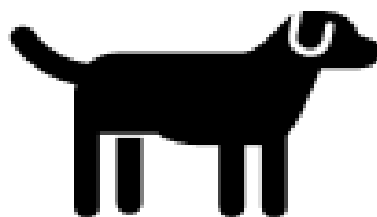
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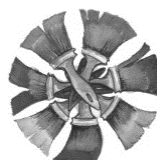
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Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the responsibility of the individual author(s) and are not necessarily the views held by the editors of the Parish News.

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

Police-non-emergency number 101

Police Beat Team

PC Joanne Jeffery 2378 Tel:07889 657943

Joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Louise Fyne 6945 Tel:07889 659476

Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Parish Councils

Ashbrittle Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618

Email *charles.doble@ukgateway.net*

Bathealton Chairman Charles Eustice 01823 401248

Stawley Chairman Paul Musgrove 01823 672627

email: *stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk* www.stash.org.uk

Community Halls

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

PARISH NEWS DETAILS

The Editors and the next issue deadline date are on the back cover. Please send items for publication to the Editors in good time to ensure publication. There is only a short time between the deadline and the printing of the Parish News and late items may not be included. We are pleased to receive items in any form (typed, in long hand, on disk or by e-mail). Naturally, we prefer items by e-mail *ashparishnews@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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

3rd and 17th 11.00 am - 4.00 pm Stawley Mill Happenings - Local Arts and Crafts

4th **Apple Pressing Day - CANCELLED**

Quiz - Answers

- 1 Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse
- 2 1666
- 3 Sleep walking
- 4 Harry Hill
- 5 Tayberry
- 6 Only Fools and Horses
- 7 Brazil
- 8 Stephen Hawking
- 9 Nico Rosberg
- 10 31st January
- 11 Suffolk
- 12 Istanbul
- 13 Seaweed
- 14 Chicken
- 15 Richard Curtis
- 16 Grand National Winners
- 17 January 15th, 2009
- 18 Robert Peel
- 19 Nitrogen
- 20 Crocus
- 21 Swans
- 22 Vodka
- 23 Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island
- 24 Clint Eastwood
- 25 Marie

Faces, when they were a little younger

Answers

- 1 Andy Murray
- 2 Fearn Cotton
- 3 Captain Sir Tom Moore
- 4 Fiona Bruce
- 5 Lewis Hamilton
- 6 Diana Rigg
- 7 Gary Lineker
- 8 Emilia Fox
- 9 Gryff Rhys Jones
- 10 Felicity Kendal
- 11 John Fitzgerald Kennedy
- 12 Moira Stuart
- 13 Sir Lenny Henry
- 14 Sandi Toksvig
- 15 Benedict Cumberbatch
- 16 Dawn French
- 17 Jude Law
- 18 Caroline Quentin
- 19 Robert Webb
- 20 Angelica Bell

Next Deadline Date: Friday 23rd October 2020

Editors: Maurice and Julia