

April 2021

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

Church Services

Thursday April 1st Maundy Thursday

6.00 p.m. Eucharist of the Last Supper KITTISFORD

Friday April 2nd Good Friday

12.00 noon, One hour Devotion GREENHAM

Saturday April 3rd Holy Saturday

4.00 p.m. Childrens' Easter Celebration and Egg hunt

GREENHAM

Sunday April 4th EASTER DAY

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion STAWLEY

Sunday April 11th 2nd Sunday of Easter

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion ASHBRITTLE

Sunday April 18th 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion KITTISFORD

Sunday April 25th 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30 a.m. Parish Communion BATHEALTON

Everyone is very welcome to these services.

However, it would be very helpful if you could let me know if you are planning to attend our EASTER DAY Communion at 9.30 a.m at STAWLEY. I am sure that everyone will understand, if I say that due to social distancing, there will have to be a limit on the numbers of those present.

Martin Beaumont

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, Wellington	01823 662248
Missioner and Team Vicar Revd Selina Garner, Email: selina@thegarners.me.uk	01823 662227

Thought for the Month

For a number of different reasons, I seem to have been doing more funerals than usual over the course of the last few weeks.

Each and every funeral is unique and it is always a privilege to be asked to conduct one. To be able to join with others in bidding farewell to another human being is not only a life-enhancing occasion, but also one that reminds us of the central tenets of our faith as Christians. Shortly before the deceased is committed for cremation or burial, the minister reads these words:

God our creator and redeemer, by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.

Confident of his victory and claiming his promises, we entrust N to your mercy"

The Christian faith believes that the death and resurrection of Jesus not only demonstrated the power of God to raise one person from the dead, but us all. In addition, this belief in everlasting life, a life that begins before our birth and continues beyond death, is a promise.

I wonder what we mean by that word?

When we talk about making promises, we have some understanding that they should not be unrealistic because we hope and intend to keep them. We give our word to a friend or a family member and recognise our obligation to do as we have promised.

But there are other ways of understanding the word.

We can think of promise as hope for the future. Particularly when young, our lives are full of promise; there is much to which we can look forward, our horizons seem limitless.

We can also ponder the concept of a "promised land"; as the Oxford Dictionary describes it, "any place of expected felicity".

In both these understandings of what is promised by God through the Resurrection of Jesus, we can gain hope that death is not the end of our relationship with Him and others, rather a new beginning.

Heaven is a place of limitless horizons and, I dare say, quite a lot of felicity that is entirely unexpected!

This year, I hope and pray that although we may not be approaching the promised land (that would be too much to hope), our future is full of promise. We have begun to see a substantial number of our population receive the first dose of the Covid 19 vaccine, offering a good degree of protection.

Those caring for Covid patients are learning new and better ways of treating the seriously ill.

"Test and Trace" is, eventually, beginning to show signs of being an effective instrument in reducing infections. And even you and I are learning, slowly, how to live happy and fulfilled lives whilst adopting sensible measures to keep ourselves and others safe.

Easter is above all else a season of hope; a season full of promise and it is for this reason that the church decided to use the spring as the time for its celebration.

As we give thanks to God for His promise of the conquering of death, we rejoice together for the gift of a world full of promise.

May this sense of thanksgiving and blessed expectation lead us to a joyful celebration of Easter.

With my best wishes,

Martin Beaumont



Quaker Meeting for Worship Spiceland Quaker Meeting

In November 2021, governments of all nations will converge on Glasgow for the UN climate talks known as COP26.

This is a crucial time for building the movement for climate justice. People in Britain and beyond want radical action to prevent climate breakdown – and we must make sure that the UK government knows that.

If you want advice, support or ideas for what to do for your 'Journey to COP26', please get in touch! Email Oonagh Ryder, Activism Support Coordinator: oonaghr@quaker.org.uk.

We Meet for Worship at Spiceland every Sunday at 10.30am till 11am – this is a blended Meeting also available on Zoom All are very welcome.

Meeting ID: 865 5570 2735 Passcode: 498173

For more information phone Ali Dominy 07810768557 or use the "contact us" on our website: http://www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/or email spicelandnotices@btinternet.com
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Country matters

The Primrose

Dos't ask me, why I send thee here, The firstling of the infant year – This lovely native of the vale, That hangs so pensive and so pale.

Look on its bending stalk, so weak
That, each way yielding, doth not break,
And see how aptly it reveals
The doubts and fears a lover feels.

Look on its leaves of yellow hue Be pearled thus with morning dew, And these will whisper in thine ears The sweets of love are washed with tears! Robert Burns 1759-96

Late February: Rooks and herons are our earliest breeding birds, with some – depending on the weather – laying eggs in late February. However this year the rooks are a bit later and have not completed building their nests. They take sticks up as much as fifteen inches long, and often squabble over a particular stick. As my lawn seems to become mossier and mossier the rooks take up large beakfuls to line their nests. The next six weeks are the noisiest in the rookery. Once the young have fledged they fly off in the morning, returning at dusk.

Have you ever wondered how moles breathe underground? Apparently they can live in the high carbon dioxide / low oxygen state in their runs. This is because their blood has "super haemoglobin" which enables them to breathe their expired air. Mole hills are ventilation shafts which are needed for the complicated network of tunnels which can stretch for hundreds of metres.

Early March: The fieldfares and redwings are slipping away to the east across the North Sea. They nest in colonies in Scandinavia and beyond. Ravens and other predators are deterred by a screaming mob, which dive bomb, firing excrement at the prowlers. (Nice!)

It is a busy time for migrant birds 'toing and froing'. But before the swallows, house martins, warblers and others make their return, the year long residents have the stage to themselves. The robins and sparrows are claiming their territories. Female dunnocks (hedge sparrows) are polyandrous and so their songs and those of the males are sung together in defence.

Late March: I don't know if the lesser celandines or the primroses are making the best display at the moment. Lesser celandines belong to the buttercup family and have an unglamorous

name "pilewort" as they were once used to treat haemorrhoids!

The peregrines are back and nesting around Tracebridge, but with the cameras filming a pair on Salisbury cathedral there's not much I can add.

Look out for the white violets which are in a lot of hedgerows and the white blackthorn flowers.

Sally Merrett

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 April

New members always welcome



Spring is in full swing and so is the COVID-19 vaccine roll out! If you're an unpaid Carer you may eligible to be vaccinated now: https://somersetcarers.org/news/unpaidcarers-vaccine-group-6/.

Please do ensure you register with your surgery to let them know you're an unpaid Carer.

For those still shielding and extremely isolated until restrictions are further eased, have you thought about joining a Befriending Service? CCS has a NEW project called CHAT TO CONNECT for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) people. Complete the short online registration form and we'll match you with someone with similar interests and hobbies.

Other options include: Age UK Somerset's Friendly Phone Calls: 01823 345613

Cat Sweatman, Village Agent Tel: 01823 331222 Mobile: 07746 340546 Email: cat@somersetrcc.org.uk

STAWLEY MILL HAPPENINGS

WE PLAN TO BRING YOU

CRAFTS OPEN GARDEN TEAS

PAINTINGS
PRINTS
GREETINGS CARDS
CERAMICS
GLASS
PLANTS

MAY 1st & 2nd, 2021 11 AM - 5 PM

STAWLEY MILL TA21 OHT

IN AID OF STAWLEY CHURCH TOWER









Geese

This time last year I procured an incubator to increase the size of our flock of hens and get me out of any hard thought on what to buy Annie for a birthday present. It worked well in producing half a dozen new hens and two cockerels, was less successful in producing any Guinea Fowl, but then worked brilliantly in hatching out seven goslings from ten eggs. The great thing about the goslings were that they produced hours of enjoyment for visiting children in that glorious late spring we had in 2020 and they did latch on to me as their mother as I fed them every day and took them for walks. The good things about geese is that they are cheap to run, produce many eggs (large and white) and can be cheaply turned into a great bird to eat by taking them to a poultry farm close to Staple Cross. They are also naturally very curious and provide me with hours of enjoyment just watching their antics.



Geese eat grass. I don't know how much grass they eat but they waddle about in the paddock behind our place from dawn to dusk nibbling away with their orange bills with little serrated edges. They do need a place to sleep but that was achieved by putting back together an old shed that had fallen apart and put to one side for burning. Geese can protect themselves from foxes during daylight (there are some YouTube films of them doing just that), but I think their eyesight is not so good at night and I have had one taken when I didn't lock them up at dusk, as I should have. I presume their natural defence against predation is to sit on a pond at night rather like ducks.

The first not so good thing about geese is that all that grass goes through them like a dose of salts. They don't make very good use of the nutrients within the grass so they eat a lot and poo a lot. As we only have 4 left (two are now in the freezer) their mess is not conspicuous but it could be if kept in a smaller area. Secondly they make a lot of noise when alarmed or even curious; didn't they save

Rome? Thirdly their best form of defence is attack. They strike the fear of God into my two Labs and happily round up Lawrence's dozen sheep when they are in the paddock. They will also have a go at any human that exhibits fear, but if you turn and chase them they will back off especially if you hiss and flap your arms / wings about!

So if you have spare grass, would like large eggs and an occasional bird for the oven why not have a few geese? We are incubating again now so there will be goslings coming in April or you can have some fertile eggs to incubate yourself. My number is 01823 672627.

Paul Musgrove

Cryptic Towns and Cities The following clues provide the names of towns and cities within the UK

- 1. Tub full of water
- 2. Spread before morning
- 3. Has a letter to spare
- 4. Crank Miss Rantzen
- 5. Half a score is alongside
- 6. Cranium stuck in rabbit hole
- 7. Professor of rollers
- 8. A chocolate bar without for instance
- 9. Nearly the colonel's twelve inches
- 10. A person who is leaving
- 11. People's rock
- 12. A complete bacon
- 13. Calligraphy with an "H"
- 14. Home of Sale of the Century
- 15. Shipsmen
- 16. Tying meat
- 17. Latest fortified wine
- 18. Religious skull
- 19. Tend fire
- 20. Is this Piggott's town?
- 21. There are no ends to a hairdryer
- 22. Pushed down heavyweight
- 23. Where the steer (of the bovine family) crossed the river
- 24. One of the three 'R's
- 25. Almost speechless in front of the French chips
- 26. Mother's garden entrance
- 27. Witches attempt to meet
- 28. Sounds like a vehicle is followed by a Scottish golfer
- 29. A male, part of the torso with some hesitation
- 30. Arran or Holy in the middle of one's wages.

With thanks to Alan Rose Answers on back page

Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room



Your local Community Shop for bread, milk, newspapers, groceries, wine, beer, local produce, pasties, pies and lots more!

Unfortunately, current restrictions mean we cannot offer the Tearoom service, but hot baps, panini and toasties are available to take away.

Please be aware that if any of our shop workers test positive for COVID-19 the shop would close immediately, without notice, for a 14 day period.

Come and support your local shop during these difficult times - we have increased our range and amount of stock to help you! Deliveries available by arrangement.

We are Open: Monday to Friday 8 am to 5.30 pm

Saturdays 8 am to 2 pm

Sundays 9 am to 11 am

Post Office Thursdays 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Phone us on 01823 674361 or 672473 email shop@stawleyshop.com

Racism

Last month, I wrote that this page would carry the second half of some ideas about 'Caring'; well, events have overtaken my intention, and cried out for a little biological realism before they fade into obscurity.

Tomorrow is the Ides of March. It has been a good week for racism: Oprah Winfrey conducting the trio, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex accusing 'them' of everything short of GBH and Piers Morgan grumping off set. But nowhere in this verbal maelstrom could I find any attempt at describing what they were all talking about, which was racism. Here is my take on it. First, I assume that you, dear reader, are into evidence, rational argument and reasonable probability.

Next, some essential history, most of which you have heard before, so I'll be brief. About two hundred thousand years ago, climate change made things difficult for our ancestors, and their population was reduced to maybe less than ten thousand people, mostly living in southern Africa. Our ancestors' population then increased suddenly and expanded throughout Africa. The expansion was too rapid for new genes to appear by mutation, so the same number of different genes that were in the ten thousand were now spread out in the much larger population. This is why human beings today are relatively less genetically diverse than chimpanzees. We went through what is called an evolutionary/genetic/population bottleneck. We compensated for this lack of genetic diversity by consciously adapting our behaviour - we discovered how to think.

This was a change of enormous importance. While our development, anatomy and physiology are still controlled by our DNA, our behaviour has become increasingly influenced by what we learned – ideas. I think the transition began when we learned how to knap and haft a stone, and understand that this separated our surrogate teeth (the sharp stone) from our vulnerable throats. Combining javelins and arrows with our excellent social systems and our control of fire, we quickly became a top predator, and soon decimated the teeming herds of grazing mammals that created the vast grasslands of the Earth. As our population increased and game stocks declined, we competed with each other for territory, and we fought, tribe against tribe. So warfare was born, and to recognise instantly who was on your side and who was the enemy was vital in the heat of battle. Language seems to have changed first, then physical appearance.

As we expanded through Africa, populations became isolated and began to evolve into different species. Speciation is a continuous process and

soon there were groups of people that looked different, even though we could still interbreed with them. We call these populations 'races'. Examples included the Khoisan of the Kalahari, Bantu of West Africa, Pygmies of the Congo, and a complex of Saharan and Nilotic tribes of North and East Africa. They all had black skins because the pigment melanin absorbs ultraviolet rays in sunlight which would otherwise damage skin cells and cause cancers.

Then, about seventy thousand years ago a few thousand people left Africa through Asia Minor and spread out into the rest of the world. There were so few of them that they went through another evolutionary bottleneck – the emigrants took with them a poor selection of genes from an already impoverished stock. The evidence for this is that modern Africans are significantly more genetically diverse than are people descended from the original emigrants. None of these ideas has anything to do with how people think, and I know of no evidence to suggest that any race has a distinctly different brain or ability to put ideas together.

Two more sets of ideas are relevant here: genetic evolution requires populations to be isolated for many generations while local forces of natural selection alter the gene pool shared by individuals in the isolated population. Modern travel has made this impossible.

The second set is that the only way the frequency of a human gene can increase in the next generation is by the birth and upbringing of a whole person, with all the environmental costs and damage that entails. In contrast, ideas behave like living things in that they *are* the unit on which natural selection acts. Their reproduction costs the environment no more than a few nerve impulses or radio transmissions.

The scene is set for a fundamental change in the currency of evolution: ideas are replacing genes. We are presently in the early stages of this transition so cannot expect perfection. To save space, here is a comparison of other attributes of genes and ideas:

COMPARISON BETWEEN DNA AND IDEAS

feature ↓	DNA/gene	ideas
Entity eliminated by natural selection	the whole individual that carries the selected gene	the idea itself, not the mind it inhabits
Demands upon environmental resources sufficient to reproduce	sufficient to develop, maintain and reproduce the whole organism it inhabits	sufficient nerve impulses for ideas to vary and be selected
Ability to anticipate the future i.e. manage risk	zero, not counting seasonal adaptations	very able, and with calculable probability of accuracy
Time needed for their information to spread around the world by breeding	millennia	seconds
Are the effects of the information they carry under conscious control?	no	yes

The last comparison is the crucial difference and failure to understand it is a hallmark of racism. Although DNA can determine the propensity for a pattern of behaviour and perhaps its intensity, it does not decide on the detail. Thus, no child is born a Jew or a Muslim any more than it is born circumcised, though it may grow up to be very religious.

Racism is prejudice, and it takes many forms. It assumes that the native appearance of human beings will indicate how they behave. A prejudiced person is one who fails to distinguish between judgement, verdict and sentence.

What makes a racist taunt so despicable and hurtful is that, although there is practically nothing we can do to change our native appearance, we can alter our behaviour at will. So long as they were not acquired under duress, tattoos, hairstyles, facial rings, makeup and dress are quite a different matter – they are expressions of free will, not of genes.

In fact, most people making a racist remark are signalling two things: one is that they themselves are stuck at the animal level of judgement, and the second is that they are clearly seeking to destroy in another the one thing they cannot stomach in themselves.

Martin Jacoby

STAWLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PART TIME CLEANER



REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

We are looking for an enthusiastic and energetic part time cleaner to join our small, dedicated team of staff at Stawley Primary School and Stawley Under Fives Pre School. Hours are part time cleaning at the school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 3 hours each day and at the Pre School at Appley Pavilion on Fridays for 2 hours. Cleaning must take place after school has ended but timings can be flexible.

The position is Term Time only but with a small number of additional hours during the Summer break for deep cleaning.

Applicants must adhere to confidentiality. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All posts require a criminal background check via enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and references.

For full details of the position including the Job Description, Person Specification and application, please contact Jacqui Collier or Jackie Adams on 01823 672486 or at stawley@educ.somerset.gov.uk

The Caption competition



Congratulations to Debby Scarff, who wins *The Jurassic Coast* by Tim Britton, for

"Now, where did I leave my glasses?!"

Thank you for all the other entries which include:

"Let's hope it doesn't go online as they will spoil all my fun!" *Rachel Vellacott*

"Sorry Miss. The dog ate my Home School work!" *Rebecca Pugsley*

"No offence but I prefer Pedigree Chum." David Welch

"Newshound?"

"I don't know how cats eat this - it said Kittiesfood on the front."

"Don't take the photo from there - it makes me look like a dachshund."

"I thought it said Parish Chews."

Thank you to Annie and Paul Musgrove for providing the picture and judging the entries.

Eds

Stawley Shop Plant Stall April 3rd - 17th

Last spring the plant stall outside the shop was very well used and raised some money too. This year the school is thankfully back at work but we can still have a stall in the school holidays. So we will erect our gazebo once again on April 3rd and hope that you will have some plants to contribute and give a happy home to some of the treasures you find there.

Donations will be shared between the local food banks, Unicef and Stawley Church.

Julia Swan

Random Memories

In the early Eighties, not long after my arrival in Ashbrittle, I found myself sad and single so the advert for a Valentine's Dance at the Village Hall seemed timely. Bedecked in my finery I made my way across the Green, full of anticipation. Would I meet Mr Probably-Wrong-But-Hopefully-In-A-Good-Way?

Gathering up all my courage, I crossed the threshold. My memory isn't what it was, but I'm confident there were decorations, refreshments and a bar. There was definitely music, provided, as I recall, by the milkman on keyboards and his sister on guitar.

Am I imagining the momentary silence that fell on my arrival, before I was welcomed and normal chattering was resumed?

What I am not imagining is that I had walked into Couple Country. Decades on, I handle this social minefield reasonably well, but not then. I was mortified. Many a single woman knows that in a group of couples they are caught on a continuum between Scarlet Woman Threat and Pathetic Wallflower. At different times I have been nearer one end than the other...

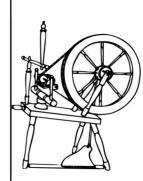
Not only was I mortified, I was spectacularly over-dressed. This may not come as a surprise to some of you, dear readers. My velvet and lace confection of a maxi dress and my shocking pink stiletto heels seemed more than a tad de trop.

It's always possible that Mr Probably-Wrong-But-Hopefully-In-A-Good-Way was out of sight, buying a drink in the kitchen, but I never found out. I fled. Or more likely, minced very quickly. (NB maxi skirts and stiletto heels are not ideal fleeing apparel.)

Back in the safety of Rainbow Cottage, I took comfort from the cats and a swift slug of brandy. And chocolate. You might think that the experience at least persuaded me to invest in a pair of Wellington boots but forty years have gone by and I remain defiantly bootless. The stilettos are long gone (well, they probably still lurk somewhere at the back of the wardrobe, along with all the other clutter – I mean, valuable vintage fashion statements) and my footwear is more Nora Batty than Cinderella, and I can't drink brandy as yet another vice gives me up, but my unique version of country living has yet to reveal the need for wellies. Cats and chocolate, however, are another matter entirely.

Avril Silk

Rainfall Figures (inches)					
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
3.45	2.38	3.00	8.30	4.37 Val Coots	



Spinning and Woolcraft Group

The Spinning and
Woolcraft Group
continues to enjoy the
fortnightly meetings on
Zoom, and we'll keep
them going for the
foreseeable future, until

we are allowed to meet again in person.

If you would like to join us please contact me and I will add you to the list.

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

Next Sessions
Tuesdays 13th and 27th April
at 2.30pm

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

Donations for your Parish NewsA message from the Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who responded to our plea for support. This response had been overwhelming and a number of you have kindly set up regular monthly / annual payments. Donations have been received from:

Andrew and Pauline Lyle, Mr and Mrs Sawyer, Graham and Nancy Henson, Colin Gillett, Oliver and Williams, J Wood, E Lloyd, Adrian and Viv Ford, John Hannon, Mrs J Whittaker, Lindsay Kanes, Hugh and June Tregelles, Ms J L Wicks, Laura Leyland, I R and F McVicar, Mark Westcott, Roger Bradford, David and Nicky Welch and at the shop.

Apologies if some of the names are a bit formal but, when donated direct to the bank, I only have your bank account name to go on.

Thanks again, your kind support will make a big difference to us being able to continue with the magazine for the foreseeable future.

Andrew Millard, treasurer acmillard@btinternet.com

Donations may be left at the Village Shop or sent directly to the treasurer: details on page 31

New (to me) circular walk The canal at Lowdwells to Holcombe Rogus and the ruin at Canonsleigh

This month I thought I would try a longer walk heading into Devon and taking in a few local landmarks on the way. This walk is fairly easy, mostly on well signposted footpaths and quiet lanes. When we were walking there was little livestock about but we did come across one field that had a "Beware of the Bull" sign, so you might not be so lucky. It was less muddy than last month and I managed to walk in hiking boots rather than wellies. As it was a bit longer, we took a picnic and even came across a picnic table which was a welcome surprise. I haven't written down every stile and turn in the footpath, but hopefully you will get your map out and try out this route.

Start: park at the canal car park and turn left up the lane towards Holcombe Rogus. As you go up the hill you will pass Steepholding, where the veg boxes come from, on the right and after a few more bends in the lane turn left towards Holcombe Rogus. After about 500 metres take the right turn towards Holcombe Rogus and

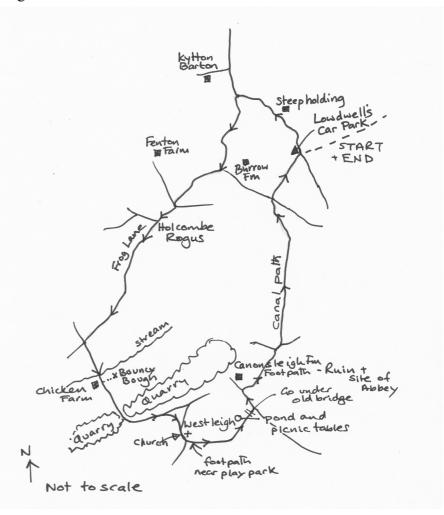
follow the lane right into the village, past the pub, the garage and the primary school and then take Frog Lane on the left out of the village. You continue along this lane for a good kilometre or so (I found it surprising to discover just how large Holcombe Rogus is). Eventually you reach the edge of the village and take a left turn towards Westleigh. Once you have crossed the stream there's a gate to a footpath (not marked on the OS map) on the left-hand side opposite a large chicken farm. This is a great place to take a rest as there's a wonderful tree in the field which has a bough to sit on where you can bounce up and down. If you find the tree, you will know what I am talking about! After a rest, return to the lane and a little further on you will have a fantastic view of the enormous quarry which has been cut into the hillside both to the left and

right of the lane.

At Westleigh the route takes you through an old bit of the village which has the feel of a very ancient Devon settlement, with old cottages either side of the lane. Leave the church to your left and then take a footpath on the left-hand side towards the play park and across the fields. This is where you might meet a bull at the bottom of the field. The footpath takes you near a lovely little pond which is overlooked by picnic benches for another sit down. Follow the footpath, which is well sign posted, under an old disused railway bridge. This was the railway which used to take stone from the quarry to the canal. Keep going until you reach the road and then turn left towards Canonsleigh Farm. Follow the old road towards the farm and then the footpath to the right. You will pass the ruin of a mill and the site of an Augustinian Abbey, some old field markings and leats. Eventually you will reach the road where you turn right to cross the canal and meet up with the canal footpath. From here it is a straightforward walk along the canal for a kilometre or so to get back to the car park.

Distance: about 6 miles if you don't get lost.

Annie Musgrove



Edited Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council held on line at 7:30 pm on the 23rd February 2021

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

Declarations of Interest: MV declared his interest in 35/21/0006 and left the meeting for that item.

Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

PM reported that the wording plate on the seat at Greenham Bridge was no longer readable. CW suggested that the original text should be investigated before proceeding with a memorial to Peggy Wotton.

Broadband Connectivity

CW reported that, according to Connecting Devon and Somerset, Airband are contracted to provide us with fibre connection in due course; work is scheduled to start in 2023 for completion in 2024.

Planning

- 35/21/0003 Formation of 2 wildlife ponds for Great Crested Newts with formation of earth bunds on land at Wagtail Farm, Bullockfield Hill, Stawley. The Parish Council agreed to support the application.
- 35/21/0006 Change of use of agricultural workers dwelling into tourist accommodation at Lower Cothay Farm, Cothay Manor Road, Greenham, Wellington. The Parish Council agreed to make no comment.

Reports from Members: Roads – The salt bins have been delivered and will be put out.

Footpaths – The only known problem with footpaths at the moment is the one from Beardley Farm to Greendale Farm which might be blocked. PM will investigate.

Any Other Business

SB stated that there has been come concern about the increased level of use at the Pool Range by the police. He agreed to draft a comment to be sent to the Devon and Cornwall Police to aid them in moving the range to Exeter.

Afternote: Meetings for the remainder of 2021 will be on the first Thursday of the month other than April when the meeting will be on the 8th April at 7:30pm.

There will be a notice about each meeting posted on the Parish Website, at *stash.org.uk*, five working days before each scheduled meeting, as if there is no business it may be cancelled. Likewise the agenda for each meeting will be on the website at least five working days before each meeting.

Paul Musgrove, Clerk

STAWLEY RURAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (RCI)

An Easy Way to Raise Funds for Your Local Charity

Many of us have made considerable use of home shopping during lockdown, and AMAZON have recently set up a means of raising money for your favourite charity while you shop with them: **AMAZON SMILE**

Signing up is easy:

Visit smile.amazon.com

Sign in with your Amazon account details

Choose your charitable organisation, or search for the charity of your choice

We are there as:

STAWLEY RURAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Select the charity
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instructions

The situation over the past months has meant that we have not been able to hold our usual fundraising events. However, we still have expenses to cover to maintain our supportive function within the Community, and Amazon Smile will give us all a simple way to help.

We hope you will join us.

Thank you, Mike Parkinson, RCI Chair Pauline Wood, RCI Treasurer



Open All Hours Everything's coming up Roses

(from 'Good Times' - Cliff Richard)

That's a very positive sentiment. Life is getting good – again – at last! Yippee! The light at the end of the tunnel is getting closer and it will all be back to normal!

There's something very romantic about roses. How many of us gave at least one red rose to the lady of our dreams at Valentines Day? In the garden there are roses once given as presents: there are others given names in order to honour someone.

O my love is like a red, red rose.....

(Robbie Burns)

It's a mark of spring. Certainly a welcome presence in summer. Bobbing in the sunshine, scattering scent around the garden. They are a kind of prince among flowers. We like it when everything is coming up roses.

We love the perfume. We love the appearance. They can mean so much – so over we go, we want to pick one, give it as a gift to someone. We grab hold of it and..... Ouch!

We forgot the thorns. The hand is well scratched – now starting to smart. Blood to match the petals. And look – even a thorn or two stuck in our finger. But hey... "That's life", that's what all the people say

You're ridin' high in April, shot down in May... (sung by Frank Sinatra).

Funny, isn't it (or maybe it isn't) how things seem so good, and then get spoilt,.... or fall short. Like paying out on two expensive theatre seats in London – only to end up sitting partly behind a pillar, or, even worse, behind a formidable lady with a big hat. Or cooking a special cake for someone, except the sides are overdone, and the cherries have sunk to the bottom.

Sunny holiday day turns to rain. Dreams become nightmares. Experience doesn't match the advert. We've all been there. We know what it's like. Everything's coming up roses – with thorns.

In dreams you're mine all of the time, we're together in dreams, in dreams:

But just before the dawn I awake and find you gone... (sung by Roy Orbison).

Can there ever be roses without thorns? Must it always be that way? Can everything come up roses, for good, for ever? If so, how do we know?

The answer lies in an old prayer maybe.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant

> that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

> A JOY FILLED, HOPE FILLED EASTER, EVERYONE!

Martin at the Shop

Gardening Club

We have two events to report this month:

There will be a charity Plant Sale in the school car park over the Easter holidays. Please support this event by donating any spare plants you may have, or just coming along to browse and buy. Please see Julia Swan's separate notice in this issue for details. This was a very successful event last year, let's make it even better this time.

We are hoping that the annual Flower and Produce Show will actually happen this September, so plans are going ahead. We will let you know more as we move through the year.

In the meantime, our gardens are beginning to come to life, and should give us the opportunity to take photographs of interesting plants and animals for circulation to the Gardening Club members. If anyone else would like to see these photographs, (and we had some beautiful ones last year), please let Pauline know so that you can be added to the circulation list.

If you have any suggestions and new ideas, or any other inquiries, please contact;

Pauline on 01823 672222,

email stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com, or Sue on 01823 674471.

And remember, new members are always welcome.

Pauline Wood and Sue Jacoby

Attention all gardeners

Bathealton Plant Sale

We hope to hold this in some form this year. It is certainly too early to hold it in the garden at Hellings Farm: the best option would therefore seem to be to repeat last year's system with plants on display outside Bathealton Village Hall with an honesty box and possibly someone on duty for the first weekend - 9-10 MAY. Should we have enough plants they could be displayed in the yard.

SO. Could you bear this in mind and note this date in your diary.

Donations of surplus seedlings and other plants would be more than welcome.

Morag Berthon

Don't forget, our email address is:

ashparishnews@gmail.com

March Faces

Name the character and the actor Answers on the back page. With thanks to Alan Rose



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.

ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY: 01823 244104 BATHEALTON: 01984 322919 KITTISFORD, TRACEBRIDGE & APPLEY: 01823 245101

The numbers are:

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 DEFIBRILLATOR RATHER THAN GENERAL HELP

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Would you know what to do if someone in your household collapsed, had a heart attack and 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.

Where are they?

With their What3Words codes

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

What 3 Words - the new way emergency services are finding your location

What 3 Words (W3W) is a new and simple way to identify a location, anywhere in the world. Unlike post codes, which at best cover a group of houses, and in a remote location, such as in a field, are non-specific, the W3W system has divided the entire world up into 3m x 3m squares.

Wherever you are, if you know your W3W address, anyone can find you. Whilst you my ask, "so does GPS (latitude and longitude)" this is correct. But trying to find your latitude and longitude, or should you be relaying this in 'eastings' and 'northings', just causes confusion for most people, and unless you know how to look for it on a smartphone, it is not easy to find in an emergency.

If you do not have a smartphone, even more of an issue! W3W is being adopted by most international agencies, and here in the UK this means Fire, Police and Ambulance, Coast Guard, Mountain Rescue, the AA, Air Ambulance, and others. In a 999 call, for example, the operator may ask you for your W3W address. If you do not have this, or do not know what they are talking about, then they will send you a text message. Click on this and it will tell you the W3W location of where you are calling from, even if you are in the middle of a field, or lake, or up a mountain.

Extract from The Community Heartbeat Trust W3W leaflet



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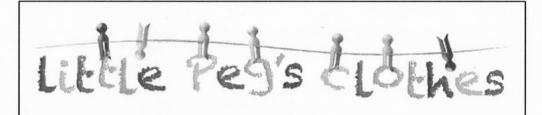
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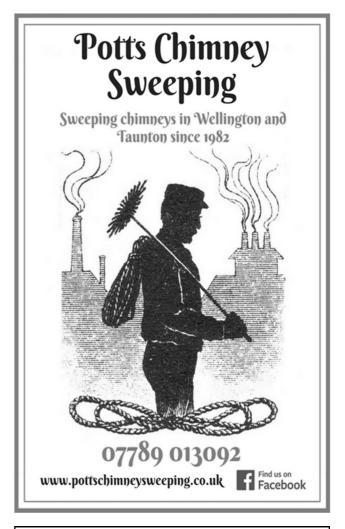
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Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the responsibility of the individual author(s) and are not necessarily the views held by the editors of the Parish News.

Local Information

Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

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

Police-non-emergency number 101

Police Beat Team

PC Joanne Jeffery 2378 Tel:07889 657943

Joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Louise Fyne 6945 Tel:07889 659476

Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Parish Councils

Ashbrittle Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618
Email charles.doble@ukgateway.net
Bathealton Chairman Charles Eustice 01823 401248
Stawley Chairman Paul Musgrove 01823 672627
email: stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk www.stash.org.uk

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

- to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or email: williamspfa@outlook.com

Ashbrittle Village Hall

- to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760

Bathealton Village Hall

- to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

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

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, 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: Andrew Millard. Barton Barn, Kittisford, Wellington TA21 0RZ **Bank details:** Account Name: The Parish News, Sort Code: 30-98-45. Ac no. 01828373 **Cover Design** - Church illustrations derived from originals by the late Diana Willis.

Distribution: David Sweet 01823 672380 Printed by Sharper Print Tel 07906 52190

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

3rd to 17th All day Stawley Shop Plant Stall, Bring and Buy

May

1st and 2nd 11 am - 5 pm Stawley Mill Happenings

9th and Bathealton Plant Sale at Bathealton Village Hall. Opening 10th

weekend. The sale will continue through the spring

September

5th Stawley Flower Show

October

Hungry Town, an American acoustic duo from Vermont. 2nd 7pm

Appley Pavilion.

3rd 11 am - 3 pm Apple Day at Appley Pavilion

Quiz Answers

23. Oxford **Towns and Cities** 24. Reading 1. Bath 25. Dumfries 2. Margam 26. Margate 3. Dover 27. Coventry 4. Winchester 28. Carlisle 5. Tenby 29. Manchester 6. Edinburgh 30. Paisley Doncaster

York 8.

> Faces Saundersfoot

10. Exeter 1 Jack Torrance/Jack Nicholson 11. Folkestone 2 Granny Kumar/Meera Syal 12. Fulham 3 Uncle Albert/Buster Merryfield 13. Penarth 4 Queen Elizabeth/Miranda Richardson 14. Norwich 5 Christopher Foyle/Michael Kitchen 15. Crewe 6 Violet, Dowager Countess of Gran-

tham/Maggie Smith 16. Nottingham

7 Jim Royle/Ricky Tomlinson 17. Newport

8 Rev Geraldine Granger/Dawn French 18. Holyhead

9 Trigger/Roger Lloyd Pack 19. Stoke

10 Eve Polastri/Sandra Oh 20. Leicester

11 Charlie Fairhead/Derek Thompson 21. Airdrie 12 DCI Cassie Stuart/Nicola Walker

22. Preston

Next Deadline Date: Friday 23rd April **Editors: Julia and Maurice**