

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

STAWLEY

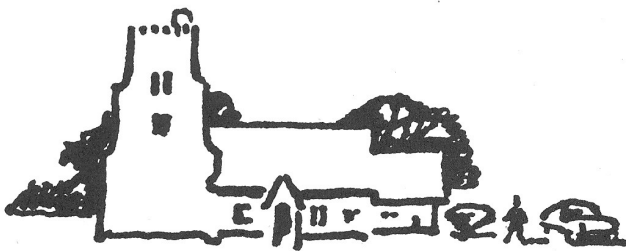
BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



ASHBRITTLE

# Parish news



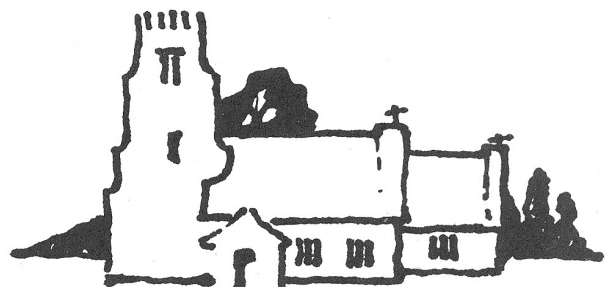
STAWLEY



BATHEALTON



GREENHAM



KITTISFORD

*Diana Willis '90*  
 DIANA WILLIS '90

May 2021

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

## Church Services

<b>Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 9.30 a.m.	5th Sunday of Easter Parish Communion	<b>Stawley</b>
<b>Sunday May 9th</b> 9.30 a.m.	6th Sunday of Easter Parish Communion	<b>Ashbrittle</b>
<b>Sunday May 16th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Sunday after the Ascension Parish Communion	<b>Kittisford</b>
<b>Sunday May 23rd</b> 9.30 a.m.	PENTECOST (Whitsunday) Parish Communion	<b>Bathealton</b>
<b>Sunday May 30th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity Sunday Parish Communion	<b>Greenham</b>

I am afraid that the current restrictions to worship remain in place; no singing of hymns, communion in one kind only and social distancing.

However, we very much hope that next month, we might be able to report some relaxation in these measures.

Do please feel welcome to join us for all these services.

*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@thegarner.me.uk](mailto:selina@thegarner.me.uk) 01823 662227

## Thought for the Month

I am writing this on the morning of April the 23rd. from my home in Milverton. The sun is shining, blossom fills the trees and the cross of St. George is flying from the tower of the church. To-day is his saint's day and loyal Englishmen and women around the world will be celebrating their patron. However, how he ever became the patron saint of England is something of a mystery.

We know very little about him; a Palestinian soldier, he was martyred at Lydda in the fourth century under the orders of the Emperor Diocletian. There is evidence that some English churches were dedicated to St. George before the arrival of the Normans in 1066 but it was the Crusades that cemented his popularity amongst the returning armies. George soon deposed Edward the Confessor as England's patron and Edward the Third made him patron of the Order of the Garter.

However, George's patronage is not limited to our own country; his image and iconography can be found throughout Greece, Turkey and Russia, where one of its southern regions is named after him. So, poor old George wasn't English at all and seemingly, his popularity came about through an adversarial relationship between West and East, Christianity and Islam; all very "non-PC" in our age of inclusion and tolerance!

Perhaps the time has come to find an alternative? St. Alban was the first Christian martyr in England, beheaded in about 250 AD. Or as a good and proud northerner, what about one of those memorable Celtic saints, Aidan, Cuthbert or the patron of my home town, St. Wilfred?

Or might we look a little closer to home?

Alphege was a monk, living quietly in Gloucester and then even more quietly as a hermit, here in Somerset towards the end of the first 900 years of Christianity. The saintly Archbishop Dunstan first made Alphege Abbot of Bath Abbey before translating him to be Bishop of Winchester. Eventually, in 1005, Alphege became Archbishop of Canterbury.

Two things made him a very popular Archbishop; the first was his exemplary austere and holy life, the second was the fact that he gave away huge quantities of cash to those in need. This was, of course, in an age when most church positions were considered attractive because of the opportunities they afforded for accruing material wealth. Sadly in 1011, after only a few years as Archbishop, he was taken captive by invading Danes who offered to release him for the vast amount of £3000.

Not only was Alphege unable to pay the

ransom himself (he had given away most of his money), but he forbade anyone else from doing so. In 1012, he was executed on April the 19th by his captors at Greenwich.

I have always found Alphege an attractive saint. Living in an uncertain and dangerous age, he turned his back on the temptation to line his own pockets and find security in land and property. He was also a generous benefactor and one who sought genuinely, to follow the example of Christ his master.

An Englishman born and bred and a onetime resident of Somerset, Alphege must have a decent claim to be our patron, certainly in the West Country at least?

With my best wishes for May,

*Martin Beaumont*

## For whom the bell tolls

Throughout the UK church bells were tolled on 27<sup>th</sup> February to commemorate Captain Sir Tom Moore and again on the 17<sup>th</sup> April to commemorate the Duke of Edinburgh. The tolling of the tenor bell is a long standing tradition to honour the passing of well-known figures.

Here, in four of our churches, we honoured this tradition by tolling the tenor bell at Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Kittisford and Stawley at the time of their respective funeral services. One hundred times for Capt. Tom and ninety-nine times for the Duke of Edinburgh.

Many thanks to our four bell ringers who enabled this to happen, Jeremy Robbins at Ashbrittle; Maurice Stanbury at Bathealton; Penny Stanbury at Kittisford and Graham Henson at Stawley.

*Helena Massie*

### **Quaker Meeting for Worship Spiceland Quaker Meeting, Uffculme**

*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" form on our  
website: <http://>

[www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/](http://www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/) or email  
[spicelandnotices@btinternet.com](mailto:spicelandnotices@btinternet.com)

## Country matters

*The succession of the four sweet months  
First, April, she with mellow shows  
Opens the way for early flowers;  
Then after her comes smiling May,  
In a more rich and sweet array:  
Next enters June and brings us more  
Jems, then those two, that went before:  
Then, lastly, July comes, and she  
More wealth brings in, than all those three*

*Robert Herrick, 1591 – 1674.*

**Late March / early April;** The comma butterfly is now coming out of hibernation. It spends the winter looking like a dead leaf. The topside of its wings are a fiery tortoiseshell and have scalloped edges. They lay their eggs on stinging nettles. The yellow brimstones are flying and quite a lot of orange tip butterflies. I have also seen some speckle woods.

The cold clear weather was often referred to as a “Blackthorn winter” and it has certainly come when the hedges are full of white blackthorn blossom.

**Mid April:** The hedgerow flowers are vying for their place in the sun, and after primroses it’s the turn of the dandelion, especially on the A38 verges. The dandelion is very nutritious and was cultivated in Tudor times. It contains lots of vitamins and can be eaten raw in salads. It is also a diuretic and in France it is called “piss-en-lit”.

The little white flowers of stitchwort are also climbing up the banks, and it will be the turn of the bluebells and cowparsley next. Honeysuckle used to flower in late April but is later now that the hedgerows are flailed. The butterbur is flowering in damp places and along the canal. It has hefty spikes with strange looking flesh-coloured flowers. Its leaves are the largest of any UK native plant and were once used to keep butter cool, hence the name.

**Late April:** The warm days have brought out the bees and the large bumble bees have been around for some weeks, the nectar is in abundance with all the flowering trees and catkins.

The buff-tailed bumblebee is the first bumblebee to emerge in Spring and after hibernation she is starving, often feeding on the food-packed catkins of the pussy willow. Already pregnant she needs a home and tries to find a vole hole or disused mouse nest. Sometimes mistakes are made and she may even nest in a watering can or garden gnome.

A nightjar has been seen in Appley,

hopefully two. This is an incredibly well camouflaged bird about 10 inches long, which migrates to Africa for the Winter. They sing at dusk with a long purring trill and nest on the ground, having two broods. They catch moths and insects with an open beak.

The bad news is, at the time of writing, where are the swallows and house martins this year? Do let me know if you see some.

*Sally Merrett*

## The Globe Inn

Stuart and Amanda Durston would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome to the village. We are undertaking some renovations at the moment which will involve scaffolding being erected to sort the roof out. We apologise for any inconvenience it may cause but would like to take this restricted period as an opportunity to get this lovely old building up to scratch.

We hope to open in July and look forward to welcoming you back to The Globe. We will be looking for a Chef/Cook to join the team and welcome any applicants. We would like to offer a hearty traditional selection of home cooked dishes with locally sourced products.

Any suggestions always welcome.

### Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from:

Joan Barrett  
Ted and Brenda Rayment  
Peter and Angela Green  
Jennifer Maunder  
Ron and Joan Greenway  
David and Lorraine Seig  
Mike and Freda Parkinson

Thanks again, for your ongoing and kind support.

*Andrew Millard, treasurer*

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

### Village Oil Group

To place your order please email  
[judy.milne@btopenworld.com](mailto:judy.milne@btopenworld.com) or contact  
Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205.

Orders by the Sunday evening, before the next delivery day please, which will be

Wednesday 9th June

New members always welcome

# STAWLEY MILL HAPPENINGS

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**WE PLAN TO  
BRING YOU**

**CRAFTS  
OPEN GARDEN  
TEAS**

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**BUY LOCALLY MADE**

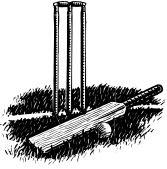
GREETINGS CARDS  
CERAMICS  
GLASS  
PLANTS

1st, 2nd, 29th, & 30th  
MAY 2021  
11 AM—5PM

**STAWLEY MILL  
TA21 0HT**

**IN AID OF STAWLEY CHURCH TOWER**





**Ashbrittle, Stawley &  
Clayhanger  
Cricket Club**

With the sun shining as I write this and the temperature reaching a lovely 20 degrees, it must be the time of year for a bit of cricket!

Following on from our AGM held on zoom, which surprisingly went very well, as we were all very new to the technology, well me anyway!

We managed to elect the following officers:-

**Chair** -Rob Williams

**Secretary** - Gavin Dawes

**Treasurer** - Jon Dawes

**Fund Raising** - Suzette Williams and Kristy Popplestone

**1<sup>st</sup> Team Captain** Rob Williams; Vice-Captain, Gavin Dawes

**2nd Team Captain** John Barker; Vice-Captain Carl Westcott

**Youth and Covid Officer** Mark White

With only a few games being played during 2020, we are keen to get back and bring a bit of normality onto the field. Thank you to all who have spent time keeping the playing field in order, it looks immaculate,

With restrictions in place and ECB rules to follow, we will do our best to run two sides in the West Somerset Cricket League. These matches are played on Saturday afternoons.

We are always looking for new players, and we welcome anyone to come along to the adult practices on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm at the Appley Pavilion Cricket Field.

**Youth practice and matches**

We will also be running youth practices on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm, for any child keen to learn and play cricket. This practice is for the under 13 years age group. We will be entering into a league for this group, so they will play proper cricket matches, usually Friday evenings, home and away. We hope to have the U11's league matches back and running next year.

**Any questions?**

Give me a ring! Rob. 01823 672266

williamspfa@outlook.com

or

Youth questions -Mark (Chalkie) 07928 449583

**KIDS COLUMN**

**The Weather**

Welcome back everybody I am Adanna Ranson. Weather can be unusual at times, sometimes you get 40-degree heat waves and sometimes you get hurricanes and tornadoes.

**Anagrams**

Oren toads

Eva wheat

Lucy od

Dam snorts

Nu nsy

*Answers on Page 32*

**Fab Fun Facts**

1. You can tell the temperature by counting a cricket's chirps!

The frequency of chirping varies according to temperature. To get a rough estimate of the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, count the number of chirps in 15 seconds and then add 37. The number you get will be an approximation of the outside temperature.

2. Sandstorms can swallow up entire cities: On 25 July 2015, a giant and ferocious sandstorm hit the city of Golmud, in China and turned the whole city Mars like and red.

3. The coldest temperature ever officially recorded was -89.2°C in Antarctica.

4. A heatwave can bend railway lines. Heat can make train travel hazardous by causing railway lines to bend. When temperatures rise, steel tracks will expand, meaning they get longer.

5. In July 2001 the rainfall in Kerala, India, was blood red

***Next month join me to learn about JK Rowling's Harry Potter.***

# Name the Actor and Character



## **Minutes of RCI meeting Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 8.00 pm, held online by Zoom.**

**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), Ann-Marie Paterson (AMP)

**Apologies :** Martin Perry, Jane Embleton (JE), Laura Burrows (LB)

**Correspondence:** A letter had been received from the Charity Commission as a reminder about the annual reports required in June. There had also been correspondence with Jacqui Collier, Stawley School Head, about the proposed placing of a RCI Notice Board on the school railings. She had agreed; it would be like the Greenham one and lockable. It would be coloured blue to match the school railings and the cost would be about £800. Mike would get a detailed quotation.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** They were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Any matters arising were discussed later in the meeting.

**Accounts:** The Treasurer submitted a breakdown of the RCI Accounts as at 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 showing a credit balance as follows:

RCI	£1255.96
Active Living	£957.72
Youth Club	£522.95
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£2736.63</b>

A further £40 had been received in miscellaneous donations, including plant sales, seeds and seedlings, giving a balance as at 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 of £2776.63.

The charity rate relief had been granted in full to date but, as of April 2022, 80% of the relief would be mandatory but 20% would be discretionary in line with the Council's objectives and would need to be applied for on a very complex form.

The RCI bank account with Santander and associated officers' details needed to be updated and, in line with this, the committee agreed:

to change the charity number on the account to 1185840, following the change of status to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

to appoint Mrs Pauline J Wood as account operator and correspondent with Mr John Hannon as Assistant Treasurer

to request a Cash Deposit Card for use at Post Offices

to change the signatories on the account from Michael Parkinson, Barbara Roll (former Treasurer) and Jane Embleton to Pauline Wood (New Treasurer), Michael Parkinson and John Hannon.

A full list of current Committee members is also required; those not previously included on the list will need to sign a declaration form which will be given to them by PW. The following name needs to be removed: JE

As Chairman, Mike also thanked PW for her hard work in sorting out and maintaining the accounts

**VETS:** JW reported that the VETS line was continuing as a general Helpline whilst lockdowns were in place and tests continued regularly. The money remaining from the Lottery Fund grant stands at £587.80; money required for DeFib and VETS support to CHT (Community Heartbeat Trust) this year would be £453.60, payable in May and £360, in August. A balance of £225.80 was therefore needed. JW agreed to advertise in the Parish News for donations for this.

### **Reports:**

Lunch Club - not currently functioning because of the pandemic.

Walking Group - also not currently functioning.

Oil Group - continued to work well – thanks to Judy Milne.

Walks Project - limited by the pandemic but some funds received in the shop.

Arts Group – three members of the Art Group had agreed that, once the weather was warmer, the Art Group would again meet together as before but in the Churchyard

**The next meeting** is to take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at Chackeridge Cottage if possible but will be subject to review depending on circumstances.

*Michael Parkinson*

## **Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)**

Many of you will remember that we received a Lottery Grant of £7300 in early 2019 to buy our three defibrillators and to set up the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS). Our grant also included three years annual support for these from Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT). Since then, we have added the fourth Defibrillator, situated on the shop, to our support



system through CHT and we have run several courses to familiarise people with the Defibs and to introduce and explain the VETS systems.

The good news is that the Defibs have not been used but, as with paying for insurance, it's good to know they are there and available for anyone in the event of an emergency. However, as we approach the end of our three years funding from the Lottery Grant, we need to keep the CHT support going. Fundraising has obviously been extremely difficult during lockdown so we would therefore be very grateful for donations...any small amount will be helpful because it is important that the CHT support is maintained.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so at Stawley Shop where a RCI donation box is situated.

*Judy Webb*

## **The Mad Cat Lady**

I'm perfectly happy to be Ashbrittle's very own Mad Cat Lady. I arrived here forty years ago with Merlin and Cody, and the years have brought many beloved mogs to my door. The almost feral farm cats, Prudence, Tabby and Penguin, who would spit in your eye as soon as look at you, worked out that this was a safe house and they used to hide their kittens here, away from the ominous bucket of water that passed for feline birth control back then. The mothers would drop the kittens, squealing and protesting, through the cat-flap at dead of night, and follow them in, accepting my hospitality with a very bad grace indeed, at least initially. The only time they were loving and affectionate, wanting my company, was when they were about to give birth. Under my bed. In the small hours of the morning. Loudly. Still, over the years they, and their offspring, became fixtures, gradually coming to tolerate us. Just.

Prudence, however, at the tail-end of a long and hard life, slowly discovered creature comforts. She took to indoor living in a big way, and produced a litter of kittens at an advanced age by way of gratitude. Sadly, a later litter didn't survive. So she grieved, her head between Cody's paws all night, then set out in the morning, and came back with a long-haired black kitten which she had stolen from God knows where. She plonked him on my lap, sat on top of him, and so Gnasher arrived. She managed that peculiar maternal balancing act of indulging him totally and ruling him with a rod of iron.

### **The feline pirate gang**

One friend described my cats as a gang of pirates. They often tend to the rakish. Cody lost one fang, and the other was extra long in compensation. He was, on occasion, a tad incontinent. Fluff kept on

having adventures like getting caught in barbed wire, or being run over and having his jaw wired. As a result he was prone to sinus infections and a protruding tongue. Tigger had skin cancer where his fur was white, and had to have half an ear amputated. Morten was a walking miracle having had his diaphragm ruptured in a road accident. Eric, the vet who mended it, says he can still remember every minute of the operation. In the same accident Morten also injured a leg, which didn't get diagnosed, so he was left with a slight limp. Morten lived until he was twenty-two, though from the age of fifteen I thought every day would be his last as he grew more and more gaunt. Big Bad Basil was a poppet, apart from that psychopathic streak. Faun was the most idiosyncratic of all my cats, with a deep and considered loathing for the computer. She deserves a chapter all to herself. Next time.

The list goes on and on – as did the vet bills. When they opened a new wing at The Mount in Wellington, director Eric Chant said he reckoned it should be named after me as I had practically paid for it. I am indebted to Eric for teaching me to give Tigger injections at home rather than drive him, kicking and screaming, to Wellington every day. My first attempt went through the scruff of his neck and out the other side. Eric trumped that by telling me how, with his first try, he managed to inject his own hand...

As well as the *bona fide* residents, there have always been lurkers and intruders. One stray grey cat used to sleep on the step in the snow, until I told him not be so daft. He came in on the strict understanding we were not to make eye contact. Current resident Poppy is fairly tolerant as long as any visitors keep a respectable distance. Kiki from the Stud, who used to live next door and thinks she has right of entry, does not care what Poppy thinks. Nor did Frodo, who once knocked the lid off a jar of Bovril and a tub of margarine and gorged himself. On weekdays we welcome a handsome male tabby, timid but loving, who would like to join us for breakfast. I have no idea where he comes from!

Last week no less than five cats appeared at the cat flap, hoping to come in and have a mooch round. Since the aforementioned Fluff was often to be found snuggled up under different neighbours' duvets, I can hardly complain.

Cats have brought me endless joy, heartbreak, drama and expense. I wouldn't change a thing.

*Avril Silk*

### **Notice of Temporary Road Closure**

Wessex Water will be closing the Appley Cross - Appley road from 17 - 21st May.

## Ashbrittle Arts

As we are sure you have noticed, it's all been very quiet on the arts front, not only in Ashbrittle but around the world due to the pandemic.

During this time we at Ashbrittle Arts have been in touch with Take Art trying to find ways of bringing some art into rural areas. That hasn't been possible, until the country opens up and venues can support enough people for the performer and performers to come back on the scene. And then hopefully, we will bring events back to the village hall, Greenways studios and Appley Pavilion.

Please be patient with us, there is the chance that small events may appear and we will publicise those. (*See Avril's lampshade post*). We look forward to filling the village hall again with song and theatre and look forward to the socialising and discussions that come with that.

*Michael Fairfax, Co-Chair Ashbrittle Arts*

### Ashbrittle Art Group

#### REVIVAL!

We are now meeting on Wednesday  
afternoons

socially distanced in

Ashbrittle Churchyard

at 2pm

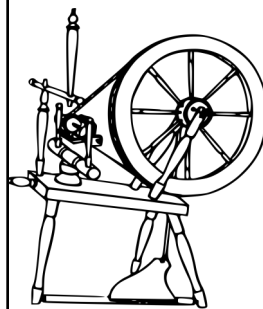
Everyone welcome

Contact Liz on 01823 673000 for more  
information

### Tree Guards

I have a number of second hand polypropylene tree guards and stakes available as they come off maturing trees. They are 1 metre high and are still useable. Although they are made of the same materials as plastic milk bottles Somerset Waste will not re-cycle them!

Contact me on 01823 672627 or email [musy@cantab.net](mailto:musy@cantab.net) Paul Musgrove



### 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 11th and 25th May

at 2.30pm

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

### Kittisford Church

#### Annual Meeting

To be held at Stawley Shop and Tea Room  
(outdoors come rain or shine!)

**4.00pm on Friday 7th May**

### Stawley Parish Council

There will be an online meeting of the Stawley Parish Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm. The Agenda has been posted on line (<https://stash.org.uk>) and will also be in the Shop and the Information Telephone Box near the Globe. If you wish to attend please contact the Clerk before midday on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

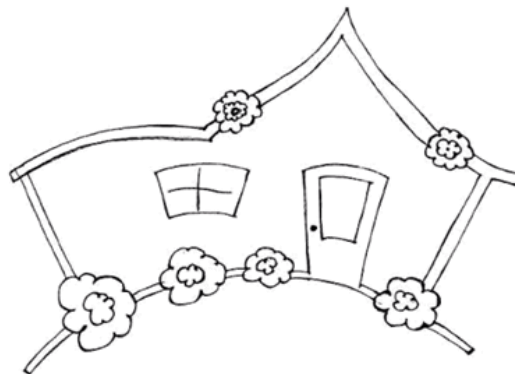
**Don't forget, our email address is:**

**[ashparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:ashparishnews@gmail.com)**

# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

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

Find us at Appley Cross, next door to Stawley  
Primary School



## May 2021 Update

**The tearoom is now open, outside!**

**New! Homemade soup with garlic or cheesy bread**

**The usual hot baps, sandwiches, toasties**

**Freshly-brewed coffee and tea, homemade cakes and scones**

If you are new to the area, come and make yourself known - and maybe find out more about becoming a volunteer and getting to know people...

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 services available every Thursday 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

NB The shop and tearoom will open from 8 - 12 only on Mondays 3 and 31 May (Bank holidays).  
Newspaper and milk deliveries as normal.

## Beat Surgery

at Stawley Village Shop and Tearoom

Come and talk to your local **PCSO Louise Fyne** between 9.00 am and 10.00 am

on

Tuesday 18th May or 15th June

## Caring and its subversion (Part 2)

Last month, racism was in the news so my take on it pushed out the second part of 'Caring'. In the first part, I argued that our desire to care for others was driven by the information coded in our genes, but how and in what form we express that desire is surely learned. As so often, garden natural history illuminates human behaviour with disinterested clarity.

Wasps and cinnabar moth caterpillars both have black and yellow bands on their bodies. Apart from this and both being insects, the only feature they share is that both are noxious – wasps sting and cinnabars secrete cyanide. This form of protection relies on the predator actually attacking, and learning from their experience that black and yellow banded prey are nasty. Thus, both species would also benefit from being able to signal that they are dangerous to potential predators, *before* being attacked. Also, the danger signal would double its effectiveness if it were the same.

Two groups of other insects: clearwing moths of the family Sesiidae and hoverflies (Syrphidae), have species that are also banded black and yellow. They signal that they too are noxious but are, in fact, palatable. They are cheats – they do not go to the physiological cost of arming themselves, but gain some protection from predators' painful experience with wasps and cinnabar caterpillars. Worse than that, these freeloaders actually harm the wasps and caterpillars, which have borne the cost of weaponry, because the cheats disrupt the predators learning that black and yellow precedes a bad experience.



*A harmless lunar hornet clearwing moth*

The existence of similar parasites of human caring behaviour is no different in principle – merely more complicated, and it is worth

unpacking that complication. DNA's first principle is that it drives behaviour which protects the information coded in its molecules, which is what carers are doing when they care for other people. DNA's second principle is that 'more' is 'better', and this drives caring to spread from self to family, parish, county, region, nation and globe.

Carers do hard and valuable work which others appreciate and admire. People like to be admired, and some are untroubled by conscience if they can get admiration without the hard work. A simple test of sincerity is to judge whether a person spends more or less effort displaying that they are carers than on actually working at caring.

Being seen to care has a wide social currency. Financial speculators profit by seeing their holding of a monetary currency rise in value but it is illegal for them to engineer it. Manipulating one's holding in social currency to put more value on it is not illegal – indeed it is often expected. The trick is how to signal one's commitment to caring without appearing to do so.

Insects signal to other species with simple colour combinations whereas we humans have language by which to communicate, and this gives almost limitless scope for muddling display with real work. Natural selection is far more subtle than human imagination and has led to the evolution of the complex spoken and postural social codes by which we gather most information about our individual standing compared with others.

Carers care for victims of circumstances. Circumstances such as illness, accident, old age, crime, war, racism, sexism, classism, poor education, family abuse or rejection, financial or social ineptitude and other chances that may trip us as we stumble through life. Such diversity needs specially trained carers (including medics and pharmacists), government funding and administrators, all of which allow careers to grow out of caring.

Aside from protecting copies of genetic information in other people, which is what carers do, actually multiplying the copies, which is the other part of DNA's mandate, needs reproduction, and human reproduction depends on sex. Oh dear, we are back to sex again. But that is not unreasonable because DNA is the basis of life and its eternal mantra is *MORE!* That is why I choose sex to illustrate the opportunities available to, and I suspect largely created by, subversive carers. I have led a sheltered life – until researching this essay. I'm not sure that I want my eyes opened as widely as this but diversification of the sexual act illustrates the principle we are discussing. Without describing or defining any of the words used, I will simply list them and leave you to look them up:

Heterosexual, straight, male-homosexual, gay, female-homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, LGB, transgender, LGBT, 2/two-spirit, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, ally, LGBTTTQQIAA, pansexual, agender, gender queer, bigender, gender variant, pangender, queer community, rainbow community and LGBTQ2+ people.

I am not trying to be scornful but seeking to understand what motivates some people to create these ways of looking at the world. All the above categories of behaviour except heterosexuality are, or have been, victims of disapprobation, and seized upon by carers offering representation. It seems that the bizarreness of a particular preference is a reason for some carers recognising the category. Yet such behaviour is really no more extraordinary than the courtship displays of birds of paradise. [In March, I suggested you watched the three minute clip with its commentary by David Attenborough at [youtube.com/watch/nWfyw51DQfU](https://www.youtube.com/watch/nWfyw51DQfU)

The only funny thing about this obvious desire in people to be part of a new movement, is the thought of Father Gregor Mendel pottering down the monastic kitchen garden path to check his rows of experimental peas, and muttering to himself, "There *cannot* be more than two sexes, I *know* there can't – nothing would make sense if there were."

However strange human behaviour may appear to be, one can still make sense of a particular pattern by deconstructing it in logical steps, and I shall try to do this to subverted caring in June.

*Martin Jacoby*

## May quiz

- 1 How many grand slams have the Murray brothers won between them?
- 2 In 1766, John Spilsbury glued a map to a piece of wood, and cut it into 'dissections'. What had he just invented ?
- 3 Name Tom Cruise's character in the Mission:Impossible series of films.
- 4 TASER is a loose acronym of a book title, Tom Swift and his Electric what?
- 5 In what year did Alexandra Burke win The X Factor with Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'?
- 6 Ursula von der Leyen holds which post within the EU?
- 7 In what sport would an epee be used?
- 8 What is the name of NASA's current fifth rover mission to Mars?

9 'Beloved lady's milk' translates to which German wine?

10 How many times did Pierce Brosnan play James Bond? The first was in 1995 and the last in 2002.

11 Which is England's largest National Park?

12 Cob and Pen are the male and female of which bird species?

13 Belladonna, a poisonous perennial plant, is commonly known as what?

14 Nicola Walker and Sanjeev Bhaskar have recently starred in the fourth series of which ITV police drama?

15 Rachel Blackmore became the first woman to ride the winner in The Grand National this year. What was her horse called?

16 In 1912, RMS Titanic sank mid ocean on her maiden voyage from Southampton to what destination?

17 Which is Britain's fastest land mammal?

18 The Dartmoor Line is reopening for full time train service after 50 years, connecting Exeter with which Devon town?

19 The new £50 polymer banknote will come into circulation on the 23rd June this year and features which wartime mathematician and computer scientist, who helped shorten the war?

20 Who won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her portrayal of Judy Garland in the 2019 film 'Judy'?

21 Which 'queen of mean' is replacing Nick Hewer as host of Channel 4's Countdown'?

22 Santiago is the capital of which South American country?

23 The Channel Tunnel was opened in what year ?

24 Earlier this year, a huge container ship blocked the Suez Canal for five days. At about 120 miles long, which two bodies of water does the canal connect?

25 A Cooper is a person who makes what?

*Compiled by Alan Rose - answers on p 32*

### Improving broadband

The Government are consulting on **Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises**. It may help us here if we have a large number of people respond to the invitation.

The link to join the consultation can be found on the Home Page of <https://stash.org.uk>.

## Gardening Club

The charity Plant Sale in the school car park over the Easter holidays was very successful, despite the cold winds and the short duration of the sale this year. Please see below for Julia Swan's report.

We are assuming unless otherwise advised, that the Flower and Produce Show will go ahead in some form, and will be on **Sunday 5th September 2021**. The provisional classes are listed elsewhere in this issue. We will give you updates as we move through the year.

We are also assuming that at some later date, there will be gardens opening to the public: we will keep a close watch on what happens over the next weeks and months, and let you know when there are places for us to visit.

In the meantime, it would be lovely to see some photographs of what is coming into bloom in our gardens, or on our daily walks. If anyone else outside of the Gardening Club 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 or Sue on 01823 674471.

Or email [stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com](mailto:stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com)

And remember, new members are always welcome.

*Pauline Wood and Sue Jacoby*

### The Plant Stall at Stawley Shop

Thank you for all the very generous donations of plants and seeds. Although the Easter holiday is a bit early for seedlings or tender plants, there were lots of lovely hardy plants donated and these were happily snapped up by the shop customers. At times it was a bit like a car boot sale, plants were bought in the carpark, even before they had been put on the table.

The stall raised over £160 in two weeks, which has been shared between The Taunton and Wellington Food Bank, Stawley Church Tower Fund and Unicef.

The remaining plants have either been left at the shop to raise money for the Stawley Community Association or will be taken to the Bathealton Plant Stall when it opens on May 8th.

With thanks to Penny Stanbury who helped me erect the gazebo in a gale and then rescued it when it blew away. I would also like to thank Sally, Martin and the volunteers at the shop for taking care of the stall.

*Julia Swan*

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**If you could contact us before  
Sunday May 16th  
it would be very helpful**

**Attention all gardeners**



**Bathealton Plant Sale  
8th - 9th May Onwards**

Sadly, it is too early to hold the Plant Sale in the garden at Hellings this year. So we plan to repeat last year's system with plants on display outside the Bathealton Village Hall with an honesty box and possibly someone on duty the first weekend. Should we have enough plants they could be displayed in the yard.

SO, could you note these dates in your diary.

Donations of surplus seedlings and other plants would be very welcome.

Morag Berthon

### Rainfall Figures (inches)

**March 2021**

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
4.06	7.56	4.64	3.12	2.76

# Stawley Flower and Produce Show 2021

## Classes

### Vegetables

- 3 Potatoes
- 6 Runner beans
- 6 French / other beans
- 5 Tomatoes, small / medium
- 3 Tomatoes, beef
- 5 Tomatoes, on the vine, not all need to be ripe
- A pair of root vegetables
- 5 onions or shallots
- Display of vegetables, (max size 45x45cm)
- Display of herbs

### Fruit

- 5 dessert apples
- 5 cooking apples
- Dish of soft fruit - one type
- Display of mixed fruit - size 30x30cm

### Floral

- Collection of annual flowers, 6 stems, 3 varieties
- Collection of perennial flowers, 6 stems, 3 varieties
- Floral display, "Autumn Colours", arranged without oasis
- A rose
- 5 Dahlias
- A specimen bloom

### Produce

- A jar of honey
- A cake
- 4 Scones, sweet or savoury
- Jar of jam
- Jar of jelly
- Jar of chutney
- Bottle of home-made drink
- A cake made with vegetables, eg: carrot, parsnip, beetroot
- 6 eggs

### Craft

- Needle or wool craft item
- Painting in any medium, 'Still Life'
- Metal, wood or ceramic item
- Photograph, unframed, max size A4, 'Wild Flowers'

### Children's Classes Ages 3 - 7 and 8 - 12

- A design for next year's programme

A hand made greetings card

An animal, made from fruit and vegetables  
Display of vegetables, grown and displayed  
without adult help

*A wonderful opportunity to look ahead and begin to plan entries for the Flower and Produce Show. We all need something to look forward to once lockdown is eased. Eds*

## On The Trot Again!

Some of you may remember last year's Exmoor Pony Centre Volunteer Team Challenge, which saw volunteers clocking up miles through exercising and virtually walking round Exmoor National Park. We raised over £2000 for the Moorland Mousie Trust which runs the centre. Well, my dreams of spending May going shopping, sitting outside pubs and cafes have been shattered – it seems we are on the trot again from 3 to 16 May 2021. At such short notice I won't be able to buy new boots and wear them in either. Parcel tape and baling twine to the fore, else barefoot walking it will have to be.

The layout is much the same except that we have to cover double of last year's distance – a whopping 387 miles, the distance from the Exmoor Pony Centre at Ashwick to the Moorland Mousie Trust ponies at the Hexham site in Northumberland. We are doing it again in teams so I am hoping to be in a group with 4 very fit people.

Any exercise allowed under current Government regulations will be counted, but since I don't have a horse or bike to ride and swim like a leaden duck, I shall be roaming the Bathealton hills on foot. Worse still the evil Challenge Master is returning, dishing out penalties to slow us down and setting awkward tasks for bonus miles! Last year saw me climbing up a neighbour's apple tree to pick an apple, all documented in embarrassing photos. What I am most looking forward to is that on Sunday 16th May, restrictions allowing, everyone involved is going to walk as a group from the Exmoor Pony Centre around Winsford Hill, finishing at the Centre with cake and coffee! That's more like it.

Updates on our progress and details of the Just Giving funding page can be found at [www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk/](http://www.moorlandmousietrust.org.uk/), <https://www.facebook.com/TheExmoorPonyCentre/> and <https://twitter.com/exmoorponycentre?lang=en>.

Do come and see us - the centre is open for pre-booked visits and treks for experienced riders. We hope very much to be able to run our popular Activity Days for children again during the summer.

*Val Coots*



## New (to me) circular walk – From Stawley Church to the old rail viaduct and back

This month's walk starts at Stawley Church and heads north towards the old railway viaduct. It is a bit shorter at around 5 miles and as the weather has cleared up, the footpaths weren't too muddy. There was a bit more livestock around with some young (well behaved) cattle in the fields before Hagley Bridge Farm. I was determined to see the old railway viaduct up close and had the added treat of walking through some beautiful woodland to see it. The hill fort, I had hoped to explore was in private land, so I was only able to glimpse it through the trees. 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 Stawley Church and enjoy a quiet moment exploring this beautiful church and churchyard. You might even hear nearby guinea fowl clacking. From the church take the lane towards Appley then turn right towards Ashbrittle. The hedgerows are full of primroses at this time of year and there is plenty to see across the fields as the trees are not yet in leaf. After crossing the River Tone take the footpath on the right through the woodland and follow this footpath all the way to Hagley Bridge. At times it takes you through fields above the river. As ever, stay on the footpath, as here there are steep banks down to the river. Eventually the footpath descends down to the riverbank just before the bridge. At Hagley Bridge, cross the river and take the footpath on the left before Surridge Farm. This takes you through a delightful meadow and beyond the stile into a lovely wood on the slopes of the hill fort.

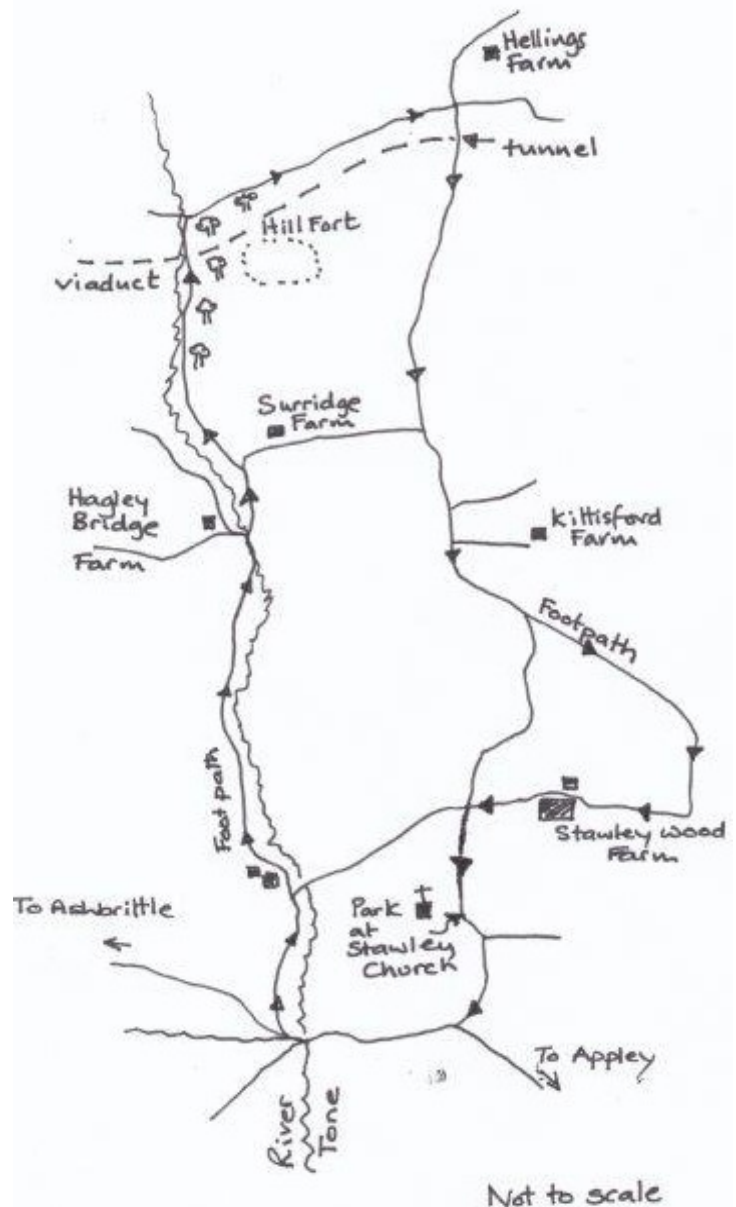
After descending down some woodland steps you can walk close by the viaduct and admire the amazing workmanship of its construction. At the end of the path turn right up the lane and then right again at the crossroads near Helling's Farm. To the

right, you can just make out where the railway tunnel goes under the lane. Such a lot of construction for this now derelict line from Bampton. Follow the lane for a mile or so before taking the footpath on the left, after the lane to Kittisford Farm. There are some fabulous views from this footpath towards the Blackdowns to enjoy. As you turn into an ancient wooded lane keep your eyes peeled for evidence of fairies living along the path. These secretive inhabitants of the woodland don't like to be disturbed, so tread gently and leave their homes undisturbed.

The final stretch of footpath takes you close to Stawley Wood Farm where there are more guinea fowl to listen out for before turning left down the lane and heading back to the church carpark.

**Distance:** about 5 miles if you don't get lost.

*Annie Musgrove*







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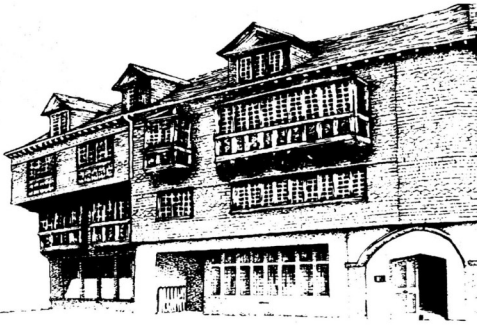
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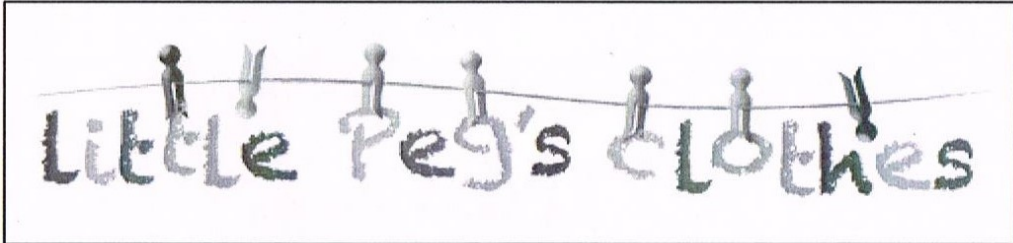
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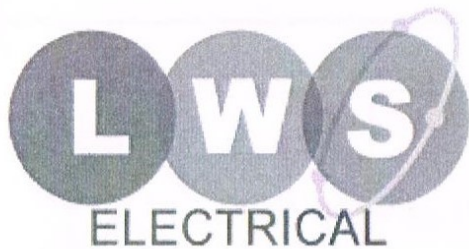
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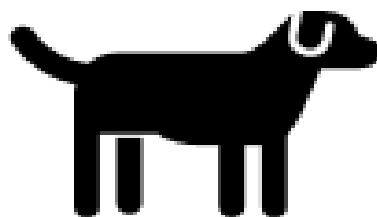
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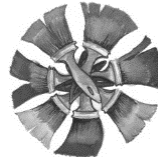
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## Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

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**BATHEALTON: 01984 322919**

**KITTISFORD, TRACEBRIDGE & APLEY: 01823 245101**

The VETS numbers are 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**

## Editorial Policy

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

## Local Information

### Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

Greenham & Tracebridge	Caro Ayre	01823 672603
Appley	Rachel Chesterton	01823 673063
Ashbrittle	Charles Doble	01823 672365
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

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### *May*

1st and 2nd; 11 am - 5 pm Stawley Mill Happenings  
29th and 30th

9th and 10th Bathealton Plant Sale at Bathealton Village Hall. Opening weekend. The sale will continue through the spring

### *September*

5th Stawley Flower Show

### *October*

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

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

## Quiz Answers

### **Adanna's Anagrams**

Tornadoes  
Heat wave  
Cloudy  
Sandstorm  
Sunny

### **Actors and Characters**

- 1 Ben Stiller, Derek Zoolander
- 2 Judy Garland, Dorothy Gale
- 3 Anjelica Huston, Morticia Addams
- 4 Javier Bardem, Anton Chigurh
- 5 Elizabeth Taylor, Kathie Merrick  
(Courage of Lassie)
- 6 Chris Hemsworth, Thor
- 7 Tom Cruise, Lt. Pete Mitchell/  
Maverick
- 8 Julia Roberts, Vivian Ward
- 9 Will Smith, Agent Jay
- 10 Meryl Streep, The Iron Lady
- 11 Malcom McDowell, Alex
- 12 Leonardo DiCaprio, Jordan Belfort
- 13 Jason Isaacs, Captain Hook
- 14 Letitia Wright, Shuri
- 15 Rachel McAdams, Regina George

### **May Quiz Answers**

- 1 10 (3 for Andy in singles, 7 for Jamie  
in doubles)
- 2 The jigsaw
- 3 Ethan Hunt
- 4 Rifle
- 5 2008
- 6 European Commission president
- 7 Fencing
- 8 Perseverance
- 9 Liebfraumilch
- 10 Four
- 11 The Lake District
- 12 Swans
- 13 Deadly nightshade
- 14 Unforgotten
- 15 Minella Times
- 16 New York City
- 17 Brown Hare
- 18 Okehampton
- 19 Alan Turing
- 20 Renee Zellweger
- 21 Anne Robinson
- 22 Chile
- 23 1994
- 24 Mediterranean and Red Seas
- 25 Barrels, vats, wooden buckets

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 21st May**

**Editors: Julia and Maurice**