

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

STAWLEY

BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD

# Parish news



**June 2021**

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

## Church Services

<b>Sunday June 6th</b> 9.30 a.m.	<b>Trinity 1</b> Parish Communion	<b>Stawley</b>
<b>Sunday June 13th</b> 9.30 a.m.	<b>Trinity 2</b> Parish Communion	<b>Ashbrittle</b>
<b>Sunday June 20th</b> 9.30 a.m.	<b>Trinity 3</b> Parish Communion	<b>Kittisford</b>
<b>Sunday June 27th</b> 9.45 a.m.	<b>Trinity 4</b> United service for the Wellington Benefice	<b>St John's, Wellington</b>

Our curate, Richard, is being ordained priest on Saturday June 26th and he will be celebrating the Eucharist for the first time. Do please join us for this important occasion in his life and the future of our team.

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

<b>Bathealton</b> Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW	01984 629013
Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL	01823 401248

<b>Kittisford</b> Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW	01823 672627
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<b>Stawley</b> Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT	01823 672183
Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP	01823 672496

<b>Associate Priest</b> Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR	01823 400127
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<b>Team Rector</b> Revd Tim Treanor, Wellington	01823 662248
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<b>Missioner and Team Vicar</b> Revd Selina Garner, Email: <a href="mailto:selina@thegarner.me.uk">selina@thegarner.me.uk</a>	01823 662227
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## Thought for the Month

Growing up in rural North Yorkshire, some of our holidays were very definitely seasonal, as were the opportunities they afforded for casual employment. The last week of October saw a half term holiday that was informally known as "potato picking week", although I don't recall doing very much picking.

Summers were more likely to be spent in the fields and even as an incumbent in Devon, I would help one of my churchwardens with his harvest.

More recently, early September in Kent would see Ruth and me hand-picking hops for use at Larkins' Brewery and even now, it is a genuine community activity.

In the North of England, "Whit Week" was set aside for festivals and celebrations and in industrial cities, it would often be one of the few recognised opportunities for time away from home and work. In the countryside, farmers were always looking for seasonal labour and "Whit Week" was no exception.

"Whitsunday" occurs this year on June the 23rd and it celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples after the Ascension of Jesus. The word is derived from the white robes that were worn by the newly baptised who were accepted into the Church at this time of year.

Today, the feast is more commonly called "Pentecost", from the Greek word "fifty", as it falls fifty days after Easter. For Jews, from whom the feast is derived, Pentecost falls fifty days after the Passover and according to the Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 16. 9), it was on this day that the first of the harvest was offered to The Lord.

It is always worthwhile reminding ourselves how much our recreation and times of refreshment and renewal has roots in the natural cycle of the year and its seasons.

This is particularly true when we celebrate Pentecost. Those first disciples became aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit within themselves. It was a gift of God and one shared, not just by other believers, but all human beings.

We are made in the image of God and possess His spirit. It is this that enables us to share in the life of God our Father and call other human beings our brothers and sisters.

But Christians also believe that God created all things. All living beings share in this Spirit of God and that is why we should approach creation with reverence. We are renewed and refreshed through our presence in the natural world, not least because we are thereby enabled to share in the creativity of God himself. I am pleased that the

health and well being aspects of our encountering and enjoying the natural world are now being more widely recognised.

I hope that this Pentecost we will remind ourselves once again that God is present in His world. We can encounter God not just in each other but also in the natural world that surrounds us.

With my best wishes,  
*Martin Beaumont*



### 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*

#### *Death*

*Saturday morning, making chocolate clusters,*

And you with chocolate  
All smeared around your rosy mouth,  
Looking very comical  
Turned to me and said,

‘Will your body  
Come back again, Grannie,  
After you are dead?’

‘No, not this body,’ I reply,  
Putting a cluster  
Neatly shaped,  
Upon the baking tin between us.

‘But I’ll be around all right,  
Hovering somewhere, laughing with you,  
Feeling quite near  
As Grandpa does with me.’

Your thoughts had very nearly  
Moved elsewhere but, satisfied,  
‘That’s OK’ you said.

*Ruth Fawell, 1976*

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

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

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

## Country matters

### *The Blossoms*

*Fair pledges on a fruitful tree,  
Why do you fall so fast?  
Your date is not so past  
But you may stay yet awhile  
To blush and gently smile,  
And go at last.  
What! Were you born to be  
An hour or half's delight,  
And so to bid goodnight?  
'Twas pity Nature brought ye forth  
Merely to show your worth  
And lose you quite.*  
Robert Herrick (1591 – 1674)

**Late April – May.** The dry spell has ended and at first the rain was welcome, but I think May can be called “ a washout”. Arid springs can cause great hardship for many species. Without supplies of fresh mud house martins and swallows can't build their nests. However this year both swallows and house martins were late in arriving, and swallows particularly are down in numbers; although house martins seem to be holding up. I will be so sad if our grandchildren don't see swallows and know the folklore that goes with them.

In times of drought, earth worms burrow deeper into the soil, forcing thrushes to hunt for snails to feed their nestlings, thereby causing badger cubs to slowly starve.

**Mid May.** The songbirds that have arrived on our shores from Africa (warblers, whitethroats, blackcaps etc) are insectivores but use the nectar of flowers and blossoms to fuel their flight. They switch to fruit at the end of the season to fuel their epic flights back to Africa.

In the hedgerows it is the turn of the dark leaved alexanders to produce flowers which grow up to 1.5 metres tall. They were brought over by the Romans (how do they know?) as a culinary herb to use the leaves in salads and pickling the flower buds and roasting the tap root.

The 'No-mow May' campaign is trying to save dandelions, daisies and other flowers from lawn mowers, weed killers and weed wands. It has been helped this year by the continual rain.

In Ashbrittle a nuthatch decided to use a nesting box. This is pretty unusual as they generally nest in trees, often using cracks in the branches or bark. Not only did the nuthatch use the nesting box but put mud all around the hole and along the

edges under the lid!

On the Greenham end of the canal a cormorant was seen swimming. They are at home in salt or fresh water and often have communal nesting sites in trees around lakes or canals. They are generally seen by the sea perching with half-open wings to dry off the water.

Listen out for a cuckoo and watch for roe deer fawns to start grazing.

*Sally Merrett*

### **Donations for the Parish News**

Donations received from Stawley Shop and:  
JP and JJ Ridgley  
Ann Hendy.

Thanks again, for your kind support.  
*Andrew Millard, treasurer*

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

### **Stawley Mill Happenings**

As we all start to come out of hiding, after what has been an extraordinary period of hibernation during the pandemic, Stawley Mill decided to see if there was anyone about!

The wonderful thing was, that we had many visitors both to the Studio, the garden and for teas. It was lovely to see so many, and we raised over £500.00 towards our ongoing Church Tower repair fund. Thank you everyone.

The garden is changing by the day at this time of year, so much growth, beautiful blooms and now the grass and wildflowers are coming on too. There will be plenty to see in the studio and tea/coffee and cake in the garden. We are hoping for good weather and to welcome more of you on 29th and 30th May.

*Penny Hare*

### **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 9th June  
New members always welcome

# STAWLEY MILL HAPPENINGS

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## JOIN US FOR

CRAFTS  
OPEN GARDEN  
CREAM TEAS  
CROQUET

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### SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

GREETINGS CARDS  
CERAMICS  
GLASS  
PLANTS

19th & 20th  
JUNE 2021  
11 AM—5PM

STAWLEY MILL  
TA21 0HT

IN AID OF STAWLEY CHURCH TOWER



### Caring and its subversion, Part 3

Reduced to its simplest concepts, life is caring for the flow of information through time. Caring for genetic information includes propagation (= breeding), which I discussed in last month's *Parish News*. By being seen to care for people who say that they are derided for their diverse sexual preferences, caring can be subverted to a form of display. The same approach is useful in explaining why people care for existing copies of genetic information.

If we, individually, have no identical twin, the only way we can care for copies of genetic information that are identical to our own is by caring for ourselves. If we do, public opinion regards us as selfish. If we care for those parts of the same information in one of our relatives, some people might label it nepotism. If we care for a stranger of the same ethnic background as ourselves, and we decline to care for other strangers of obviously distinct ethnicity, it is racism. Finally, and with Samaritan redemption in sight, if we care for a complete stranger, regardless of their gender, age, race, deformity, health, criminal record or prospect of living another day, it is likely to be seen by others as altruism.

The scale of increasing need in the previous paragraph is interesting because it contains a paradox: the further along that scale carers devote their time, the more appreciation and praise their efforts seem to attract, but that order of increasing need is precisely the reverse of how natural selection works. So, what is going on here? The explanation that occurs to me – and again, I beg contradiction based on evidence – is that being seen to care is a currency in the eternal cycle of social display which unconsciously occupies most people most of the time. (Look at me now – though I like to think that I am aware of it.) 'Social' because the reward to participants seems to be feelings of self-esteem, and they are probably caused by release of serotonin, dopamine and other neuro-secretions. In searching for the good-feelings-rewards of social esteem, we need other people to be aware of our efforts; that is why we display them.

There is that complicated word 'why' which blurs into 'how'. Back to Niko Tinbergen and my first contribution to this column in April 2016. We display because it makes us feel good. We feel good because neuro-stimulators are released into our blood and cause pleasant feelings in our brains. Neuro-secretions are

released because external stimuli (e.g. a crowd of admirers responding to our showing off) elicit other nerve impulses which stimulate our genes to release instructions to secrete. Genes do this because those of our ancestors who did had more mating opportunities and so left more descendants than those who didn't. I keep telling you that life is sex.

In displaying our caring, we encounter others doing the same. Inevitably, this leads to competition between us and them. Competition causes us to seek diversity and this opens the way for selection. 'Increase', 'diversity' and 'selection' are evolution. Caring evolves, just as does its display.

So much for the mechanism, now for the story.

Throughout history, individuals and groups have represented the grievances of those who felt oppressed. In recent years concern about racial justice has joined other spheres of victimisation such as sexual preference and poverty, and included them under the blanket term 'Social Justice'. To this may be added the recent movement variously referred to as 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Woke'. 'Woke' is an Afro-American word for 'awake', as in 'Are you woke to the systemic racism in white people?'

Social Justice is an umbrella which Wikipedia summarises as the 'balance between individuals and society' but critics have called a political putsch masquerading as a moral principle that becomes an instrument of ideological intimidation for the purpose of gaining the power of legal coercion. In other words, caring has been subverted to become ammunition in the eternal competition cheered on by DNA.

Last summer, my college announced that it was abandoning excellence in scholarship as an aim in favour of the tenets of Social Justice. On 12<sup>th</sup> May – two days ago as I write this – I received the Department of Zoology's News Letter which was almost wholly devoted to the same.

*The Department of Zoology*, for Heaven's sake! It was the nursery of my life's work, and laid the foundations for achieving my secret ambition which was to understand what I am. Not what I feel I am, nor what I would like to be; not even what other people tell me I am, nor what they say I ought to be, but what I *really* am. I am really no more than a temporary combination of materials and energy whose behaviour is directed by a river of information that flows through time. What are you?

*Martin Jacoby*



# ASHBRITTLE ARTS INVITES YOU TO GET CREATIVE!

Avril Silk has 36 brand new pink lampshades. (Don't ask...)

For a mere £3 you can receive a lampshade and an entry form for

## THE FAMOUS PINK LAMPSHADE COMPETITION

As soon as you see this - contact Avril to book your lampshade.

(First come, first served and a maximum of 3 per family)

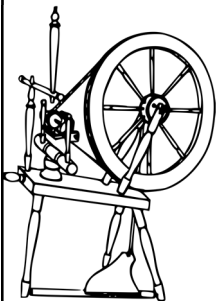
During the summer, decorate your lampshade wonderfully.

Send photos by September 1st. [AvrilSilk@aol.com](mailto:AvrilSilk@aol.com) (01823 672131)

We hope to have an exhibition but failing that, an on-line gallery.

**THERE WILL BE PRIZES!**

### Spinning and Woolcraft Group



The Spinning and Woolcraft Group will continue to meet on a fortnightly basis for the near future.

With the easing of COVID restrictions, we hope to be able to alternate Zoom sessions with meeting outside in a member's garden, weather permitting.

Meeting arrangements will be confirmed when the reminder email is sent out.

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

Perhaps you would like to come along to a garden meeting and learn to spin with us?

Tuesdays 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
at 2.30pm

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

### Faces Quiz



With thanks to Alan Rose. Answers on back page

## June Quiz

- 1 Funchal is the capital of which Portuguese autonomous region, located in the North Atlantic Ocean?
- 2 Which early form of transport was known as a 'high wheel', 'high wheeler' or 'ordinary'?
- 3 What number is on the door in Downing Street that has a brass plaque with the inscription 'First Lord of the Treasury'?
- 4 The Grand Union Canal is Britain's longest canal stretching 137 miles, connecting London to which other city?
- 5 Who are the current male and female British number one ranked tennis players?
- 6 Moon-starer is an 'aptagram' of what related word?
- 7 John Lithgow, Timothy Spall, Albert Finney and Gary Oldman have all portrayed which famous historical character?
- 8 What year was the first series of 'Line of Duty' aired?
- 9 Who is the manufacturer of the trains that have recently been found to have hairline cracks, causing major disruption on UK rail networks?
- 10 Who recently became the oldest winner of an acting Oscar?
- 11 What is the main ingredient of the traditional Welsh delicacy laverbread?
- 12 Which now failed financial company was David Cameron employed by, whilst lobbying the government?
- 13 What is the alternative name for the rowan tree?
- 14 Whose products include Dove, Magnum, Persil and Lynx?
- 15 Which large UK chain of department stores closed this May, after 250 years of trading?
- 16 What are the five boroughs of New York City?
- 17 Sir Robert Mark, a Metropolitan police commissioner in the 70's, was an anti corruption campaigner stating, 'A good police force is one that catches more crooks than.....' what?
- 18 Leicester City F.C. have very recently won the F.A. Cup for the first time but what year did they win the Premiership title?
- 19 Which tidal island lies half a mile off the Cornish coastal town of Marazion?
- 20 Which BBC newsreader is taking over when John Humphrys retires from 'Mastermind'?
- 21 Which is the world's largest lake?

22 Olympian Helen Glover is ranked the world's number one in which sport?

23 Alligators are native to only which two countries?

24 Which was the UK's first million selling car, achieved in December 1960?

25 What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

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

## Open All Hours

### Blank

Reminded of the closing date for magazine contributions, I said to our editor "I don't know what to write about. Perhaps I could leave it blank". I expected something else would come along to fill the space.

But you can't have a blank space – can you?

There's a start! What did you fill it up with? If I left a bigger space, what would you like to put into it or say in it? Or would you just move on to the next article?

But we get spaces often in our lives, don't we? If one turns up unexpectedly, what do we do? Don't we look around to find stuff to stuff into it? Remember a job that should have been done or go online to buy that special something (but can't afford!). Get in the car and go to the coast (but the car's in for a service!) or just sit down and relax – and maybe go to sleep (but that seems such a waste of time!)

There it is again, a gap of nothing. What *can* we do with blanks? Face a question we often ask but never have the time to work out an answer. Rehash old memories and let them move us. Contemplate the meaning of our lives, with or without blanks!

So here's a question or two to think about. Is everything after death just one long blank? Or if there is a Hell, is it one long blank, hinting at things coming to fill it, which never arrive? Or is Heaven a blank filled with millions and millions of new things to see, and sense, and do?

But it wouldn't be blank then.....would it?

So what do you think about, when you have an empty moment or two?

*Martin at the Shop*





# STAWLEY SCHOOL FESTIVAL

Saturday 17th July 2021

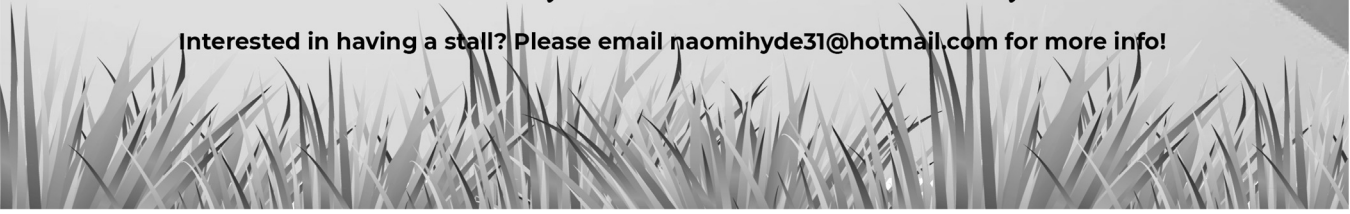
2-5pm

Appley Pavilion

Adult entry £1  
Free entry for kids

**LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, DRINKS**  
**MARKET STALLS, KIDS ACTIVITIES, RAFFLE**

Interested in having a stall? Please email [naomihyde31@hotmail.com](mailto:naomihyde31@hotmail.com) for more info!



## Edited Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on line at 7:30 pm on the 6th May

### Parish Councillors present:

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

### Others present:

Dave Mansell (District Councillor) (DM)

### Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere

PM reported that the wording plate on the seat at Greenham Bridge was just readable and stated:

*Bill and Peggy Wotton MBE  
in recognition of their long  
and dedicated service to  
Stawley Parish Council*

It was agreed that the original plate should be re-engraved.

The noise issue at the Pool Police Range was ongoing. The Clerk is in touch with the Clerk of Holcombe Rogus Parish Council and has agreed that we will offer support if or when required.

### Date of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

It was agreed that the APM will be held at 7:30pm on the 3rd June in Appley Pavilion.

### Finance

• **Audit** The Council reviewed the requirements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and concluded that:

\* There had been no change to the risks faced by the Council in the past year which justified a change to the Risk Assessment.

\* The Council could sign to agree to the statements made in Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement.

\* Section 1 of the AGAR; CW proposed and SB seconded that the Section had been completed correctly and the meeting agreed that the Section should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

\* It was agreed that the RFO and Chairman would fill out and sign Section 2 of the AGAR with the figures from the agreed accounts which were distributed to the Councillors.

The Council recorded its thanks to Maurice Stanbury for his audit work this year.

### • Insurance

It was agreed that the premium should be paid for the insurance which was in the third year of a three-year contract. The premium is £168.18p.

### • Invoices

It was agreed that the following should be paid:

- Salt Bins invoice for £368.10
- Microsoft invoice for £54.72.

The balance of the account at the date of the meeting is £12,989.10, following the arrival of the precept of £2,927.

### Planning

• 35/21/0010- Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Newhouse Farm, Kittisford Road, Stawley.

The Parish Council agreed to make no comment.

• The works being done at Greentop Farm, Kittisford were discussed. The Council thanked DM for his assistance in this matter and agreed to provide him with copies of the information on works being done on the site that will be sent to the Planning Officer.

### Reports from Members

**Roads** – The Council thanked SB for his time in placing the salt bins out and protecting them from over enthusiastic hedge trimmers with posts.

**Refurbishment of finger post signs**, previously agreed, will hopefully start in July/ August.

**Footpaths** – The possible problem with the path from Beardsley Farm to Greendale Farm has been proven to be false; the path is clear.

**Date of Next Meeting** 3rd June at 7pm

### Any Other Business

The Council has received a request from the Rural Community Initiative (RCI) for a donation to maintain the defibrillators at the Shop and Kittisford and the VETS scheme. CW stated that the service now supplied through the RCI was good and the Parish Councils should be prepared to pay a share of the cost. PM will liaise with the other two Parish Councils to determine the level of support.

CW expressed his concern about the “dual hats” of the Chairman and Clerk. Advice will be sought from the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) on the advisability of this system of running a Parish Council.

*Paul Musgrove, Clerk*

### Rainfall Figures (inches)

#### April 2021

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1.01	4.59	3.08	1.43	0.71

*Val Coots*

# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

Phone us on 01823 674361 or email  
[shop@stawleyshop.com](mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com)



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

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

## Ashbrittle Parish Council Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 6.30pm

**Councillors Present:** Charles Doble (Chairman), Jeremy Robbins, Helena Massie, Vicky Hughes

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Election of Chairman:** The Chairman stood down and asked if others wanted to stand as Chairman for the forthcoming year. No applicants had come forward from the existing parish council or the wider community and CD offered himself for re-election for a further term; this was proposed by VH, seconded and agreed JR and HM. Charles Doble was therefore elected as Chairman.

The Chairman was warmly thanked by all present for agreeing to continue in the role and for all the work he has done. CD thanked the councillors for their support.

The Chairman reported on events since the previous AGM. Many parish events had been curtailed due to the pandemic situation. This year, it is the Parish Council's intention to continue and increase its funding of charitable organisations that benefit the community.

**The AGM concluded at 7.00pm and was followed by a regular Parish Council meeting**

## Minutes of Regular Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7pm

**Councillors Present:** Charles Doble (Chairman), Jeremy Robbins, Helena Massie, Vicky Hughes

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:** i) It was noted that the land adjacent to Stawley School had now been sold. ii) JR had replaced the vimpel to fly from the church tower in time for VE day and he has now sourced a supplier of stronger vimpels when a replacement is needed.

**Correspondence Received:** PCSO Louise Fyne sent her regular reports about crime and other policing matters within our area. A letter had been received from a parishioner concerning funding for the defibrillators (discussed below).

### Reports from Councillors:

**Highways and Planning** (Charles Doble) CD has spent much time contacting Highways, trying to ensure that pothole repairs are done properly as current repairs do not seem to last through the

seasons. He suggested a programme of repairing and re-painting road sign finger posts and it was agreed that specifications and quotes should be sought. Burrow Farm development is proceeding with the construction of a barn conversion and other dwellings. Other local planning issues had been resolved.

**Footpaths:** (Jeremy Robbins) JR is surveying footpaths to assess the signage. These will be replaced where needed. HM described the deep ruts which flood in Dark Lane. JR will assess the possibility of filling with hardcore to enable easier passage for horses and walkers.

**Finance** (Helena Massie) HM presented the accounts and noted that the election fee had been paid twice in a previous year. This year's fee will therefore come out of the pre-paid amount. The insurance fee has been paid and the burial grant has been paid to the PCC. Accounts will now be sent to the independent accredited auditor. The certificate of exemption is referenced as 8.3.28.04.21; this reference includes the annual governance statement and the accounting statement for 2020/21. HM was thanked for all her work collating and managing the accounts.

**Charitable Giving** A request from the RCI [Rural Community Initiative] for ongoing funding of the defibrillators, was favourably received and it was agreed that the matter would be decided once a discussion with Bathealton and Stawley PCs had taken place. The Chairman recommended a general donation to the RCI since, if specific to defibrillators there could be a liability issue for the APC. The community infrastructure levy aims to fund local, community-based projects so HM will ask the PCC and the Village Hall Committee if there are specific projects that require financial support. Other suggestions included the community website, the Parish News and refurbishment of the telephone box library.

**Any Other Business:** HM raised the matter of a large pothole and drainage problems on the access from the road to the back gate of the church. This is a shared road accessing properties, a parking area as well as the church. The Chairman confirmed it was on private property and therefore not a PC or highways issue.

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

*Vicky Hughes, Clerk*

### Mobile Library

Greenham Bridge

From 10.00 to 10.20

July 6th

**Margaret Aldridge**  
**19th August 1932 – 26th April 2021**



The funeral of Margaret Aldridge, aged 88, of Greenham, took place at Taunton Crematorium on Monday 10th May 2021.

Margaret was born at Burnt House, Hockworthy and went to school in Hockworthy and Holcombe Rogus – often walking to school with her friend Daisy Berry.

Margaret's love of animals started as a child, she had many pets and trotted round the lanes in a goat cart!

Most of her working life was spent looking after cattle, she was known as a very good stock woman. Margaret cared for all animals great and small; from her love of German Shepherds to an aviary full of canaries.

Margaret and her husband, Doug, came to live in Greenham in the 1950s to work for Mr Waller at Bishop's Barton (who, at the time, was in hospital after accidentally shooting himself in the arm). Sadly, Doug died in 1979, Margaret never forgot him and would not change anything in the garden that Doug had planted. Margaret's garden was most productive and she regularly won the annual Greenham vegetable competition.

In the 1980s her father, Dickie Cockham came to live with her in Greenham and he took on many odd jobs around the village.

Margaret will always be remembered for; driving her MGB Roadster around the local villages, tearing along on her bicycle and striding out with her dogs, she always had a cheery smile and wave for everyone.

Margaret died at The Firs Nursing Home, Taunton and her funeral was well attended. Martin (at the shop) gave a splendid address which captured the spirit of the real Margaret.

Her ashes will be scattered in her garden at Greenham near to her beloved Doug.

*With thanks to Margaret's friends and neighbours for sharing their memories*

**Defibrillators and The Village  
Emergency Telephone System (VETS)**

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

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 and, if someone is available, a local volunteer will respond.

The location of all the defibrillators and the phone numbers for the local volunteers for your area are now inside the back page of the Parish News.

*With thanks to Judy Webb, Eds*

**Competition: Where is this gateway?**

The drawing on the front cover is one of a series of local scenes by Michael Parkinson. Can you identify its location?

Please send you answer to the Parish News at:

*ashparishnews@gmail.com.*

The winning entry will be

announced next month and will receive a prize.

Sets of notelets, including this picture are available at Stawley Shop, their sale raises funds for the RCI.

*Eds*



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

***ashparishnews@gmail.com***

## Appley Pavilion Summer 2021

To keep everyone safe and feeling confident about coming back to the Pavilion to attend classes and events, we are taking a slow and steady approach. Stawley Under 5s continue to enjoy their time at the Pavilion and play ground, plans are being developed to give the children more garden space this summer.

From 6th May we welcomed back our Parish Council, (8th May Polling Station), from 17th May -Tia Chi, from 21st June - School Events and from 6th July – Pilates and it is great to have a wedding party booked in for August 2022. Please see the 'Dates for your Diary' for the Flower Show, Music evening and Apple Day.

Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club hope to play a full season. They have been busy maintaining the field and, as ever, it is looking superb. Until 21st June Covid 19 rules continue to impact on how the club can operate its practice

sessions and competitive games (this includes limited fund raising & socialising).

The Community Council for Somerset has been an amazing support to the Pavilion, we are able to tap into 'common sense' advice and find out about grant opportunities. Many thanks to Sally Sargent and her team for help, advice & patience!

The Pavilion has been eligible for some of the Covid 19 grant funding and has recently been awarded a 'Restart Grant'. With this in mind it would be good to hear what (modest) improvements those of you who know the building would like to see.

We keep a 'wish list' and most years we are able to make a few improvements over and above the day-to-day wear and tear repairs. A few ideas are listed below. Maybe you could come along to our AGM (date in next month's Parish News) and bring some fresh ideas.

*The Pavilion Committee – Rachel, Suzette, Kath, Jon, Charlotte, Paul, Dan & Sally*

WISH LIST FOR THE PAVILION	
Update Kitchen	Units / storage/tiling and working tops.
Replace wooden tables/chairs and table trolleys	New tables and trolleys for storage behind curtains.
Improve cloakrooms and changing rooms	Redecoration / tiling - consider installing electric showers in the changing rooms.
Commercial Floor Cleaner	Cost approx. £1,000.
Wall Lights and general lighting	More ambient / efficient lighting – survey completed and quote on file approx. £1,700.
Performance spot lights and sound system	For performances, parties and celebrations, will need a control board / mixing desk etc.
Outside Bar / BBQ area	Better outside facilities
Woolly Clouds	4 more clouds to further improve acoustics in the main hall.
Heating	More controllable heat in the hall.
Outside seating	More sturdy outside benches.
Display boards	Replace old style boards.

### 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>.

**Closing Date: June 11th**



### Bathealton Plant Sale at Bathealton Village Hall

Sales have been going slowly but steadily, in spite of the weather. We still have a good selection of unusual plants so do come and look. There is an honesty box which is emptied very regularly.

*Morag Berthon*

## **Elaine McNicholas**

Elaine and Terry have lived in Bathealton for many years and have been key members of the community. Elaine, as a lay reader is known and loved by many, including generations of local children, for Sunday School, Monday Club and her regular contact at Stawley School.

As they are about to move away from Bathealton, Colin Haddrell collected some reminiscences from some of her many friends.

### **From Ian Brierley**

I first met Elaine at a Harvest/Christmas service I'm not sure. She introduced herself and told me that she had started Lay Reader training. This was the first time I knew anything about her; I hadn't been informed by the then Team Rector or anybody else that I had a person in training for the ministry. She told me that she had only done some theory and no practical work. And so started a thirteen year relationship in the parishes in which we did many and various things together.

We were both, one could say, people orientated and so found it easy to mix with all sorts. It was clear from very early on that Elaine's ministry was with children. Because I had another job she was able and pleased to go to Stawley School and conduct morning assemblies there. She loved it and the children loved her too.

We also decided to change the old matins service to a morning prayer service on Sundays and then to a family/children's service. This was very successful and many attended. I do remember those wallpaper sermons and the puppets of course, which all had names. The children loved them, what fun.

Elaine had full control of these services whilst I concentrated on the more traditional and the Pastoral Services. We often shared the many varied seasonal services. Elaine didn't have the greatest of health and often we would have to work around times when she was poorly.

I do wish Elaine a very peaceful and enjoyable retirement with the grandchildren and Terry. Goodbye and God bless. xx

### **From Ed Haddrell.**

I have very fond memories of going to Sunday School as a child. In the early days this was led by Elaine and Shirley Colton.

What has stayed with me in the years since then is Elaine's passion for life, love and worship. She has shared that passion with everyone she comes into contact with and has left more of an appreciation for life with each and everyone.

### **From Alice Hannon**

I used to go to Elaine's Monday Club when I was little, and it was such a lovely part of my childhood. We would all just chat and have such a lovely time; I'd look forward to it every week. I loved the arts and crafts and having such a giggle! Growing up, Elaine was such an inspiration to me as she is so kind and caring, always putting everyone else first.

She is so talented with her batik skills, creating gorgeous pieces like these poppies which she so kindly gave to me. I will always treasure the memories we made with Elaine, it was an honour to have such a beautiful person to look up to! She is part of the reason why I always want to help others. I spent six years at an animal rescue and now I work for a



homeless charity, showing that her amazing kindness has stuck with me. I'm sorry I haven't seen you in such a long time Elaine, but I wish you all the best for your new adventure. Thank you for being you!

### **From Rosie Alway, nee Swan**

Elaine is pure sunshine, an amazing person that has been a key staple in the parish for my whole life, a mentor at Sunday school and Monday Club, a wise leader, a friendly face and a loving friend to the community, with Terry always by her side as an integral part of the village. They will be missed but I wish them all the luck for the future.

### **From John Hannon**

Hello Elaine. I shall fondly remember but so sadly miss our huge hugs whenever we met ( Terry, I apologise!).

P.S. I still have the organ (which you used to entertain the young 'uns ) which you asked me to look after and store 'for a couple of weeks ' in 1999! All the very best.

### **From Angie Hannon**

Hello Elaine. I will miss those lovely warm hugs too!

Thankyou for your kindness, generosity and humour.

You are a ray of sunshine!

Love and best wishes.

## Gardening Club

We are very pleased to report that following the easing of the COVID-19 restrictions there are now some garden-related events we can attend!

### **Toby Buckland's Festival at Powderham Castle**

A firm favourite with the Club, there will be a trip to Powderham on Friday 11th June. The festival starts at 10.00 am and will have the usual attractions including quality nurseries and local food producers. Tickets are £11 and should be purchased in advance if possible, there are a limited number available. For information on their COVID measures and to buy tickets, see the website [tobygardenfest.co.uk](http://tobygardenfest.co.uk). Club members will need to organise their own transport, but if you intend to go, please let Sue Jacoby know.

### **Stogumber Open Gardens**

There will not be a Village Open Garden Weekend at Stogumber this year, but there will be 4 gardens open on Sunday 20th June, 2-6pm, under the National Garden Scheme. Entrance is £6, booking advised but not essential. Teas will be available, plus some plants for sale. Details on the website [ngs.org.uk/view-garden/17849](http://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/17849)

We hope you are all enjoying getting your gardens into shape, everything is growing so fast right now. It would be lovely to see some photographs of what is happening in your garden, or out and about in the area.

If you have any suggestions and new ideas, or any other inquiries, please contact Pauline on 01823 672222, email [stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com](mailto:stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com), or Sue on 01823 674471.

And remember, new members are always welcome.

*Pauline Wood and Sue Jacoby*

### **Exmoor Pony Centre Fundraiser - Update**

You may remember from the April issue that twelve volunteers were to set out at the beginning of May to cover 387 miles in two weeks by exercising daily and recording the distance covered. 387 miles sounds a lot, and believe you me it was a long, long (virtual) journey from our Ashwick base to the grazing site in Hexham, Northumberland. Each team was 'led' by one of our popular ponies.

Here's the good news: The Team Challenge 2021 is over. I do not think I could have carried on for

much longer in this weather; even the dog hid the moment she saw me putting on my boots. The four of us exercised our socks off and Team Almond reached Hexham in Northumberland a day ahead of schedule, with a total mileage of 389 miles. We thought we'd bagged it – but we were wrong!

Victory went to Team Winston who also arrived a day early but clocked up a total of 409 miles. Since Team Almond and Team Winston were not in need of any miles from the last day, we 'donated' miles to Team Tom and Team Abbi – the latter having started several days late and only compromising 2 volunteers.

You can be forgiven for thinking that we are all a bit mad, but that's what Exmoor Ponies do to you. They are such wonderful enchanting creatures and if you have not yet visited us please come and find out for yourself and meet the 'team leaders'. Almond has not yet digested the fact that his team came second in two consecutive years, whilst his mate Winston is basking in the glory of leading the winning team. Tom and Abbi, on the other hand, have returned to business as usual, focusing their attention on the hay nets and being nice to visitors.

We have now entered the phase I like best in fundraising, that is totting up the donations from kind supporters. If you would like to help the ponies with a small donation you can do so online at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/volunteer-team-challenge> or by cash or cheque. The Just Giving site also shows you our adventures in pictures.

We very much hope to welcome you in person some time at the Exmoor Pony Centre! We are open, but you need to book ahead at the moment, just ring 01398 323093.

*Val Coots*

### **Ashbrittle Art Group**

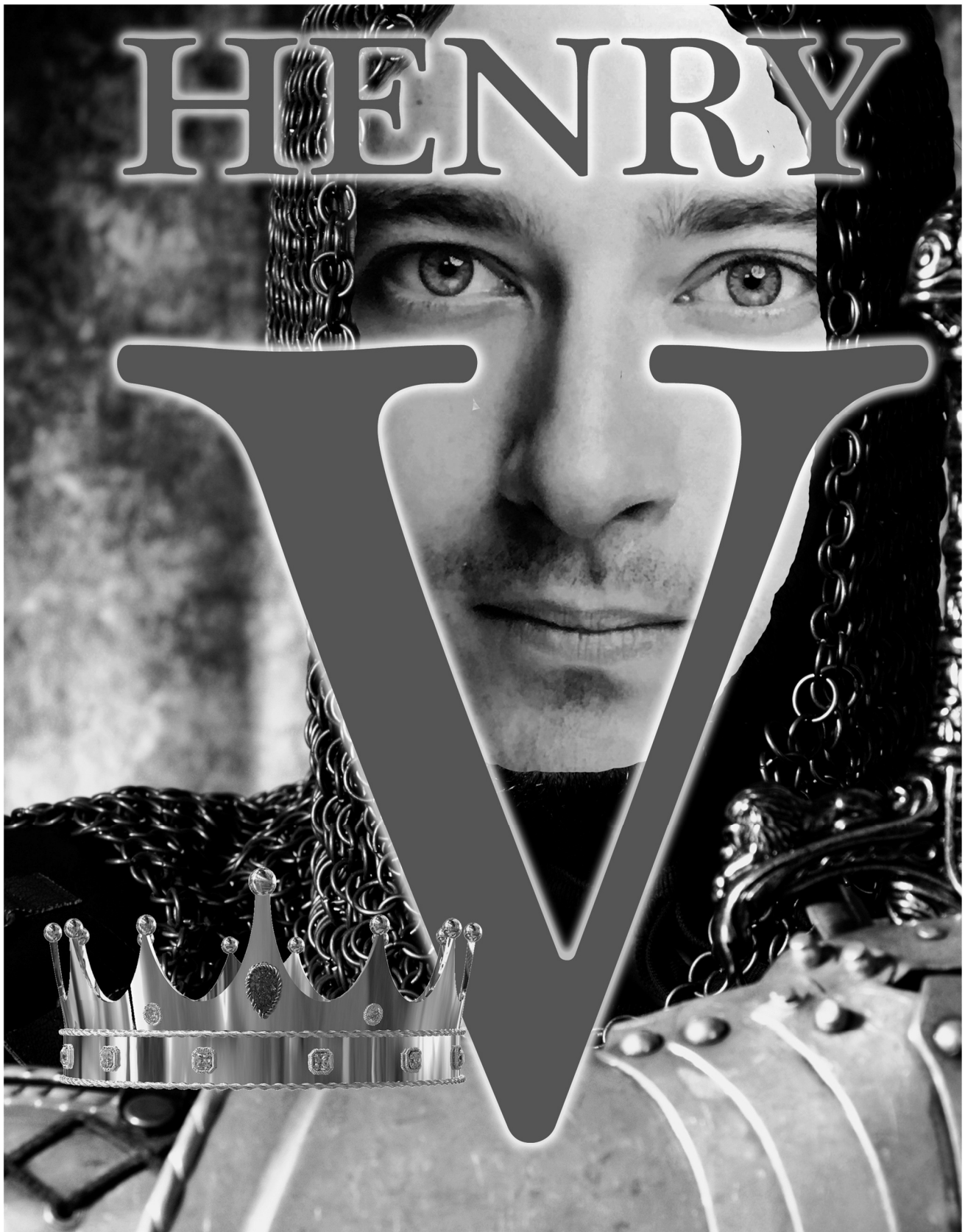
### **REVIVAL!**

We are now meeting on Wednesday Afternoons, socially distanced in Ashbrittle Churchyard at 2pm

**Everyone welcome**

Contact Liz on 01823 673000 for more information





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**NOTES:** Picnic Hampers will be available, to place your order please visit [www.originalkitchen.co.uk](http://www.originalkitchen.co.uk) by Thursday 24th June. If you have any questions or to let us

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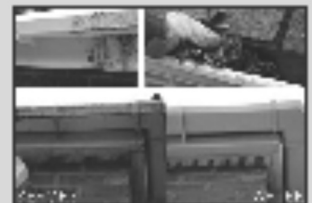
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Telephone: 01823 461324 \*Open 7 days a week  
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Fax: 01823 672950      Mobile: 0374 108884 . [greenandcarter.com](http://greenandcarter.com)

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**07960 589734**

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**Carl Westcott**

m: 07973 564759



**Emma Hurford**

**Home & Garden Services**

**01823 672003**

***indianamaish@hotmail.com***

## Defibrillators and The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

### ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY:

01823 244104

**BATHEALTON:** 01984 322919

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

The VETS numbers are available should you need assistance in an emergency or 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**

There are four local **defibrillators** which are easy to use and available to anyone. They are permanently located at these places and can be found using the //What3words codes below.

**Ashbrittle Village Hall**, on outside wall  
*blurts.flats.crouching*

**Bathealton Village Hall**, on outside wall  
*relatives.widgets.rolled*

**Kittisford New House Farm**, on wall,  
opposite church *bonkers.regime.lyricist*

**Stawley Shop**, on outside wall  
*messaging.servers.quaking*

These are all accessible 24 hours a day and no access codes are required.

### 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 email). Naturally, we prefer items by email *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

### *June*

Every day All day Bathealton Plant Stall at Bathealton Village Hall

19th and 20th 11 am - 5 pm Stawley Mill Happenings

26th 7.00 pm Henry V at Cothay Manor

### *July*

17th 2.00 - 5.00 pm Stawley School Festival

17th and 18th 11 am - 5 pm Stawley Mill Happenings

### *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

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Madeira                     | 20 Clive Myrie   |
| 2 Penny Farthing              | 21 Superior      |
| 3 10                          | 22 Rowing        |
| 4 Birmingham                  | 23 USA and China |
| 5 Dan Evans and Johanna Konta | 24 Morris Minor  |
| 6 Astronomer                  | 25 Pumpkin Pi    |
| 7 Winston Churchill           |                  |
| 8 June 2012                   |                  |
| 9 Hitachi                     |                  |

### Faces

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 10 Sir Philip Anthony Hopkins                                     | 1 Dominic West         |
| 11 Seaweed  | 2 Andi Oliver          |
| 12 Greensill Capital  | 3 Christopher Timothy  |
| 13 Mountain ash   | 4 Anna Richardson      |
| 14 Unilever   | 5 Martin Lewis         |
| 15 Debenhams  | 6 Miriam Margolyes     |
| 16 Manhattan, the Bronx,<br>Queens, Brooklyn and Staten<br>Island | 7 Idris Elba           |
| 17 'it employs'   | 8 Amanda Owen          |
| 18 2015/16 season   | 9 Alex Horne           |
| 19 St Michael's Mount   | 10 Anna Maxwell Martin |
|   | 11 Scott Mills         |
|   | 12 Tessa Sanderson     |

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 18th June**

**Editors: Julia and Maurice**