

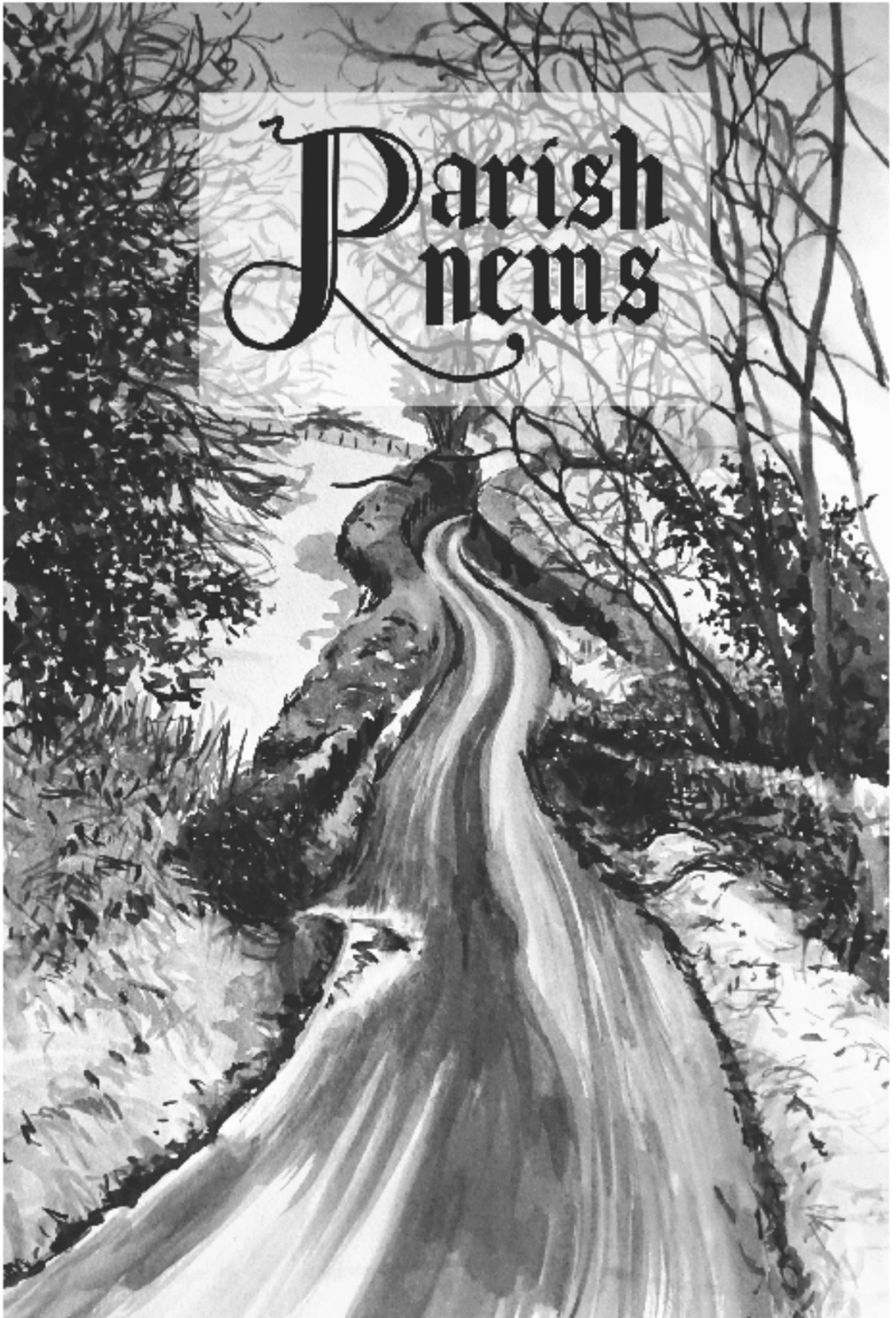
ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

STAWLEY

BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



November 2021

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

Church Services

Sunday November 7th 9.30 am	Third Sunday before Advent Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday November 14th 9.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
	10.45 am Service of Remembrance	STAWLEY
Sunday November 21st 9.30 am	Christ the King Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
Sunday November 28th 9.30 a.m.	Advent Sunday Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

Our annual Service of Remembrance this year will be held at Stawley Church on Sunday, November 14th at 10.45 am. In addition, there will be a short service of Holy Communion at Ashbrittle at 9.30 am on that day. There will be no hymns and a short homily at this service, enabling those who would like to receive their communion to also attend the 10.45 am service at Stawley.

The only restriction that remains at our services is the receiving of communion in one kind whilst remaining in our places.

Everyone is very welcome to join us at these services and the wearing of masks is no longer mandatory.

Martin Beaumont

Thought for the Week

If you would like to receive Rev Martin Beaumont's "Thought for the Week" email, please email amusgrove@cantab.net to be added to the circulation list.

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

Thought for the month

Having just returned from the Co-op in Wiveliscombe, I have been pondering the number of empty shelves and the signs on them, apologising for the lack of *availability of this product*.

It would seem that for the foreseeable future at least, we shall have to come to terms with some changes in what we can purchase, where and when. We may have to get used to the end of unlimited choice.

Whether this situation is the result of our departure from the EU, the lack of basic raw materials or the shortage of HGV drivers, only time will tell. However, one thing that has become abundantly clear is the effect of the pandemic on local and national charities.

With many charity shops closed for months at a time in 2020, village halls, church halls, sports centres, indoor markets and many other places where people previously gathered freely, were forced to close. Charity events designed to draw together a community like fetes, open gardens and flower shows, were also cancelled.

Financially, this has had a severe and detrimental effect on the finances of many charities, including churches.

All the churches in our group have struggled financially over the course of the last eighteen months. We were instructed to cancel church services for at least four months in 2020 (April, May, June and November). For the remainder of that year and most of 2021, we have had fewer services (due to the fact that I was instructed not to take more than one service on any given day) and worshippers have been somewhat reluctant to attend, for obvious and understandable reasons.

In addition, we have been unable to organise most of our events and occasions that raised money for the churches, in addition to that generously donated by regular worshippers.

However, the amount of money expected by the diocese has increased. This is because most of what is donated by individual churches, (The Parish Share) is used to pay Diocesan expenses, including clergy stipends.

The accounts for the Ashbrittle and Greenham Parish provide salutary reading.

In 2019 (the year before the pandemic), the churches income was £9,261 and its expenditure (including the Share), £5887.

In 2020 (during which the churches were closed for four months and there were no fund raising activities), income was £3,794, whilst expenditure had increased to £7, 681.

All our churches require a regular income. This is

because there are regular outgoings, including the Parish Share, churchyard maintenance, heating, lighting and expenses.

Any additional funds, over and above the regular expenditure, can be used to make any necessary repairs to the fabric of the buildings. Without this financial surplus in the accounts, work will have to be neglected and the buildings themselves will suffer.

I very much hope that we will soon be able to organise fund raising events that assist us in caring for our churches and ensuring that they are here for future generations.

In the meantime, I continue to be grateful to all those who work so hard and give so generously to the life of the church in this diocese and to the essential maintenance of our churches.

Our Churchwardens are always happy to speak with any and all members of the community who might feel able to help us in this task.

With my best wishes,

Martin Beaumont

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on

Wednesday 8th December

Please note that the oil companies have requested, under current circumstances and coupled with the Christmas run up, a longer lead in time for orders.

To place an order, please email:

judy.milne@btopenworld.com or contact

Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205

by **Wednesday 1st December.**

New members always welcome

Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from:

Mark Westcott

A Shale

Nancy and Graham Henson

David Pearce

Avril Silk

And in the shop

Thanks again, for your kind support.

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

Andrew Millard, treasurer

Eschatology

What a deliciously splashy word!

Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines eschatology as something less promising: *a part of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of human kind*..... yawn ... so boring.

Wait a minute, if we think about this definition from the point of view of a naturalist, the subject becomes more interesting. Naturalists try to see the world as it really is and not what other people say it is. Now let us (you are elected a naturalist while you read this) ask some questions about part of OED's description of 'eschatology':

the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of human kind

Does history end? Anyway, what is it? I shall use the word 'history' to mean 'a written record of past events'. Pure historians often regard, if not dismiss, preliterate records as archaeology or palaeontology. I use 'written' to include non-verbal language such as in 'fossil history is written in rocks'. Does 'history' refer only to human activities? Surely things will go on happening and leave a history in their remains?

'Destiny': does humanity *have* a destiny? If it does, how does one find out what it is? Let us look at the whole of history and work out what has actually been going on, and then decide whether it is worth continuing that way and whether 'is' should become 'ought to'. So where do we start? Well, the beginning of time is as good a point as any, and that was Big Bang – about 13.8 billion years ago (bya). About 4.5 bya the components of atoms were rearranged to form about a hundred different atomic configurations, each one being the smallest particle of a chemical element.

About 3.6 bya, some atoms combined together to form a very complicated compound that made more of itself. In other words, the compound reproduced, and its offspring inherited the information they needed to replicate themselves. Copying the information was not perfect (it still isn't), and most of the errors hindered the process of reproduction but a few improved it. Obviously, the improvers left more offspring than the hinderers did. Repeated trillions of times over billions of years, efficiency and complexity increased until a group of chemicals collectively called Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA) evolved.

With a few exceptions, the information carried by DNA can pass only from parent to offspring. That information can reproduce only by creating another whole new individual, and, if that

individual is human, its birth bears the huge environmental costs we are having to pay today.

Apart from a few special cases such as mountain hares growing white coats, birds migrating to lower latitudes and bees storing honey, the information carried in molecules of DNA cannot predict. It can do no more than multiply, vary and be selected by *existing* conditions. It controls the development of an egg into an adult, and that adult's anatomy, physiology and feelings. DNA's information is particularly effective at making us feel good when we help other people. It does so to protect copies of itself in that other person, and we call such behaviour 'morality'.

Two hundred thousand years ago, climate change reduced the forests of Africa and forced our ancestors onto the savannah, and our total population collapsed to a few thousand individuals. Then we discovered how to think. Perhaps thinking began by our being able to put two ideas together to make a third: like retaining the images of a knapped flint, a shaped haft and a finished axe, sword or spear.

Ideas have their main influence on the behaviour of individuals, rather than their structure or physiology. Ideas allow us to teach and learn, to contemplate the future and manage risk. They can pass freely from person to person, from paper to pixels, and thence to radio waves, and be transmitted around the world in seconds, all at the cost of a few electrons. They can reproduce, mutate, be eliminated or selected for further propagation. In some ways, an idea behaves like a living thing – one that is a parasite living in a human mind or device.

Cooperating together, combined with thinking made us enormously successful – as measured by the sheer weight of humans alive today, but that success came with a huge environmental cost: climate change, massive pollution, destruction of the natural world and loss of biodiversity.

The collapse of the human population is inevitable. But, although we can see and understand the evidence for the approaching cataclysm, we do nothing effective to prepare for it. Why don't we? Because the information carried by DNA has never been selected for interest in the future, only the present. I see no way round our population collapse being directed by DNA's message that screams "*My rights!*", "*Me first!*" and "*More!*", "*Forget the future, we are all dead by then*". They are attitudes assiduously cultivated by all but a few branches of communications media because they appeal to unthinking, DNA-managed individuals. The information carried by DNA defends itself from question by taboos, and that is another subject.

If, as is possible under these ecological circumstances, an unhinged tyrant uses nuclear weapons, the DNA-managed scenario really will be the final events of history, and our ultimate destiny.

Then the word 'eschatology' will not splash but hiss.

The alternative is to deal with reality and think.

Martin Jacoby

Harvest Festival at Kittisford

On a glorious Autumn afternoon we all enjoyed Harvest Festival at Kittisford. The church looked fantastic; decorated with fruit, flowers and vegetables.



It was great to have so many people to help prepare and decorate the church. The decoration near the font was a real show stopper. The church was packed for the service and we all enjoyed the uplifting singing by the Village Festival Choir. Afterwards there was cider, cheese and cake and a great opportunity to meet up after so long. Very many thanks to everyone who was involved and came to celebrate harvest with us. The collection raised £70 for the Taunton Food Bank.

Annie Musgrove

Decorate a Window for Christmas

It seems a bit early to be thinking about Christmas. At Kittisford we would like to invite members of the community, families, friends and businesses to decorate a window at St Nicholas for Christmas.

It's a chance to have a bit of fun being creative.



We will all have a chance to enjoy the windows in the run up to Christmas and at the service on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in decorating a window please let us know on amusgrove@cantab.net or 01823 672627

Annie Musgrove and Sarah Burns Cox

Not too serious



BATHEALTON VILLAGE HALL

on 20th November at 7 pm

**A relaxed and fun quiz to pass away a dark
November evening.**

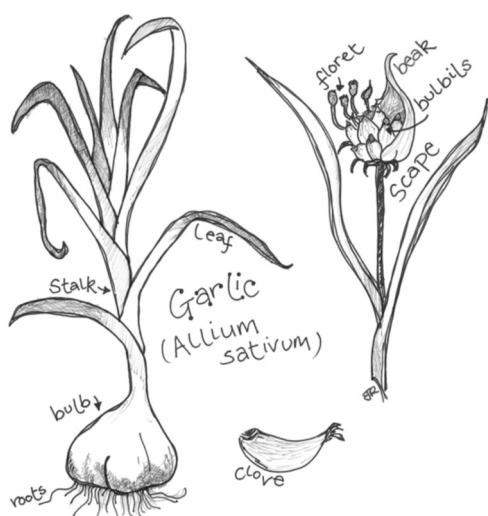
All ages welcome

£ 5

Refreshments and raffle

Garlic – a brief history and cultivation notes

November is the traditional time to plant garlic in France (November 10th I was once reliably informed!) and for the many years I have been growing it, any time between the end of October and end of November has been fine. It doesn't seem long ago that the concept of growing your own garlic was either seen as somewhat exotic or rather alarming, depending on your personal views and taste. In many minds it is intricately linked with the cuisine and lifestyle of the Mediterranean despite its cultivation spreading so much further around the world and historically so far back in time.



Garlic (*Allium sativum*) as it is known today is not found in the wild; its nearest relatives are a group of *Allium* (Onion) species from the mountains of central and south west Asia to the Middle East. It is hard to pin down the exact original ancestor species or the point in time and location at which man started domesticating and bringing it into cultivation. Archaeological records show, however, that it has been in common usage for at least 4000 years in the 'Fertile Crescent' region of what is modern day Iraq, parts of Iran, Syria, Turkey and Kuwait and there are also numerous examples from ancient China, India and Egypt. Its use by the Greeks and Romans for both food and medicine are well documented and in Spain, it was probably introduced by Moorish settlers and later, returning Crusaders.


Over this vast geographic and chronological canvas, differing cultures and peoples selected their distinctive strains of garlic watching for 'sports' (genetic mutations within the stock) and selecting to produce higher yields, better resistance to pests and diseases and superior


flavour. This is what has produced the numerous varieties of garlic available today, divided into two distinct sub-species: *Allium sativum var sativum* (soft-neck garlic) and *Allium sativum var Ophioscordon* (hard-neck garlic). The main differences between these two being that the hard-neck varieties produce a 'Scape'; a sort of flower stalk which produces a head of small 'bulbils' and is more suited to northern climates, producing fewer but often larger and superior quality cloves. The soft-neck forms only produce leaves but tend to form larger bulbs of more cloves with a milder, less complex flavour and longer storage capabilities; these are the ones found in supermarkets whereas chefs seek out the hard-neck forms.


Growing garlic is simple; firstly, do not grow where you have recently grown other members of the onion family. For best results, buy your 'seed' garlic from a reputable source, so it is free of disease and virus (very much like seed potatoes!); buy it as complete bulbs and do not break it into cloves until you are ready to plant and do so carefully. The 'Isle of Wight garlic farm' is a good place to buy your seed as they have been growing and selecting from across Europe and Asia for many years to find the best varieties to suit the vagaries of the UK climate. Plant in October or November; this is because garlic requires a long cold season to initiate growth as well as triggering the swelling of the clove to create a new bulb in spring. There are also soft-neck varieties which can be planted January to March which give good results. Plant the cloves in well drained, well prepared soil (which has, in previous seasons, had plenty of compost incorporated but avoid adding fresh when planting) about 6 inches apart and about 2 inches deep. A balanced organic, potash rich 'onion' fertilizer added at planting and again in early spring will boost your results but avoid nitrogen rich feeds as this makes for soft growth prone to fungal rots and 'leek rust'. Keep well weeded and watered during the spring and early summer, stopping completely in the last weeks running up to harvest. This can be from mid-May to mid-August depending on variety and planting date, usually when the foliage starts turning from green to yellow-brown and starts to flop over (going 'weak at the knees' as growers say). Lift carefully and dry in a shady spot before cleaning and trimming or plaiting the bulbs (soft-necks are best for this) in to 'ropes' to be hung up. Garlic stores better and for longer in warmer environments as colder temperatures encourage them to sprout so the kitchen is the ideal place to store and use! Bon Appetit!


John and Julie Ridgley

— THE —
GLOBE
INN
APPLEY

 Appley, Stawley, Wellington,
Somerset, TA21 0HJ

 01823 673147

 stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk

 theglobeinnappley.co.uk

Open **Wednesday to Saturday 11 till 11**
Sunday 12 till 4

Food **served from 12 till 2 and 6 till 9**
Pizza evening every Friday 6 till 9
(booking recommended)

Don't forget our Halloween Spooktacular!

For the children: pumpkin carving competition, fancy dress, hide and seek sweetie competition. Prizes galore! Free children's spooky hotdog for competitors. Following on the adults get to dress up with prizes, spooky BBQ and music. Call for details.

Now taking bookings for Christmas Parties and don't forget to book well in advance for December Christmas Lunches.

We would also like to announce the opening of a new games room with pool table!

November quiz

- 1 Based in Palo Alto, California, which is the world's most valuable car maker?
- 2 Daniel Craig's first Bond film was 'Casino Royale' and his last is 'No Time to Die'. What are the titles of his three intervening Bond films?
- 3 Which of the Canary Islands has recently been devastated by a volcanic eruption?
- 4 Which US President was assassinated in a theatre, by John Wilkes Booth in 1865?
- 5 What was the German encryption device called, used for secret communications during World War Two?
- 6 Ian Rankin is famous for writing novels of which genre?
- 7 As of 2020, how many thousand acres does the National Trust own? 150, 380 or 620?
- 8 Which famous 90 year old American actor recently became the oldest person to fly to space?
- 9 A stenographer is a person trained to do what?
- 10 Which body of water were Alcock and Brown the first to cross by aeroplane in June 1919?
- 11 What cabinet position does Elizabeth Truss hold within the current government?
- 12 San Jose is the capital of which Central American country?
- 13 Which American multinational manufacturer makes Twix, Galaxy, Snickers and M&Ms ?
- 14 Standing at 978 metres above sea level in Cumbria, which is England's highest mountain?
- 15 How are Dave Myers and Simon King better known?
- 16 Myanmar, in Southeast Asia, was previously known as what?
- 17 Cameron Norrie became the male British number one after winning which California based tennis event this October?
- 18 The Boxing Day tsunami in the Indian Ocean occurred in what year?
- 19 Which English county contains Rye, Seaford, Lewes and Hastings?
- 20 What is an alcoholic drink taken before a meal to stimulate the appetite called?

- 21 Which British athlete, now aged 47, held the women's World Marathon Record from 2003 to 2019?
- 22 Civic, rotor, racecar and refer are all examples of what?
- 23 Lycanthrope is an alternative name for what mythical (scary) creature, often associated with a full moon?
- 24 How many players are there in a Rugby League team?
- 25 Which 'age related' award did the Queen 'politely but firmly' decline in October?

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

Ashbrittle Art Group

We are starting afresh with a monthly get-together as a self-directed group to do whatever 'arty' or 'crafty' project takes your fancy

Painting and drawing Clay work Textile crafts ETC

Ashbrittle Village Hall
1st Wednesday in the month
2pm

Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts, see what's going on and tell us about your
Favourite Craft

**Next meeting Wednesday 3rd
November**

For more information, contact Pauline
pjw200355@gmail.com

Bathealton Parish Council Meeting

At 7.30pm November 25th 2021
in Bathealton Village Hall

Charles Eustice

Apple Juice Galore! Apple Day 2021

Thankfully the previous day's downpour had turned to sunshine. To date we have been incredibly lucky with Apple Day weather.

Firstly thank you to Ian Williams, Gerry and Judy Webb, Jeremy Robbins and Paul Musgrove for carrying out the pressing procedures!

After a slow start the apples started arriving. Thousands of apples were squashed and pressed, resulting in hundreds of litres of delicious juice to be



either bottled and pasteurised or consumed on the spot.

From the Pavilion kitchen Suzette and Kath produced a seemingly endless supply of bangers and mash, apple pie and crumble which raised £260 for Pavilion funds - thank you awesome kitchen team!

A Preschool cake stall was an addition to the day - it was really good to do a joined-up fundraiser.

So, same time next year! It's an annual event.

Rainfall Statistics

September 2021 (inches)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
3.59	2.69	3.59	0.00	3.66

A rather strange month – it rained on only 8 days but the total is still over 3 ½ inches. The standout day being the 27th with 1.6 inches alone.

Val Coots

Kittisford Pudding Club



at Greater Brimley Farm

(1st turning right as you get to Kittisford from Appley)

Saturday 6th November
at 7.30pm

tickets £15 at

Stawley Village Shop

or from Sarah Burns-Cox 01823
672245/07599 071867/

sarahburnscox@btinternet.com

or Penny Stanbury 01823 672216

You are cordially invited for supper,
a glass of wine and then to sample
and rate a selection of truly delicious
homemade desserts

Best Pudding wins!

All proceeds to Kittisford Church
and the

Taunton/Wellington Food Bank

(please let us know if you have
special dietary requirements)

Open All Hours

Jinxed?

Have you ever felt that, under certain circumstances, things always seem to go wrong? If other people were observant – or wise – they would take avoiding action? “Lookout, here come the Perrys! Everyone indoors, don’t travel; change your plans.....” Could be anyone, of course. Even you and yours, fellow Parish-Newser!

We haven’t had a holiday for two years. Due to Covid, we had to cancel what we had arranged. But our volunteers have been kind by opening up for us on a Wednesday morning. This meant that we could have a day and a half away from the shop. We opted for a night away in such exotic places as Chard, Crediton and Crewkerne – exploring the area and having a walk. Mini-holidays, much valued and enjoyed. Thank you.

We have also had to go to Plymouth for family reasons for half-days after work. All this has meant travelling, mainly by train. And that is where the feeling of being a jinx comes in. (All very neurotic, of course!)

In recent weeks, twice our train has had to wait outside Plymouth station: points failures. Then a train was in our way at Liskeard. Another train we were waiting to board was held up because of a damaged track. Another was ninety minutes late, due to someone being taken ill. Then there was the young man, high on something, shouting somewhat foully against Devon and his mother, and threatening damage – so we had to wait for police to come and drag him off.

This week, another man was getting attention. Complaints had been received about his behaviour and language, directed against women. The police removed him.

The question is this. Are we jinxed? Are you? Or are these events just common place examples of that constant imperfection and wilful failure we all experience?

After the last chap left the train, I wrote this poem.

Fellow Traveller?

He sat across the carriage aisle
awaiting a cup of tea,
his dark clothes matched his lack of smile,
though patterns that I could see

of orange circles cheaply stitched,
suggesting a happier mind,
yet sombre thoughts to me were hitched
he did not much goodness find.

To him the train conductor came
so tickets to him are shown,
they were in order, nought to blame,
but were other problems known.

At Exeter, arrived police,
that man had to leave with them:
abusive swearing would not cease,
his hatred inside not stem.

But peacefully the train he left
and taken to place unknown –
I wondered why he was bereft
and seemingly on his own?

What former choices had he made
which brought him to such a state?
Whose treatment did his life degrade
thus teaching him how to hate?

What do we do to those we know
by handing out loveless ways,
to graft in them such ills that grow,
can never receive much praise?

He had made his choices in life. But how free had his choices been? What kind of mental, emotional, moral and spiritual genes had he inherited from his parents, grandparents and all the thousands whose histories led to his birth, as the person he is?

And is there a way all that can be changed so he can have his life re-directed for the better? And who is free enough themselves to be able to help him have such an opportunity?

Martin at the Shop

Defibrillators and The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

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



STAWLEY MILL HAPPENINGS

COME & ENJOY

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
MULLED WINE
& MINCE PIES

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

GIFTS MADE BY
LOCAL CRAFTS PEOPLE

BLACKSMITHING
DEMONSTRATION

4TH DECEMBER 2021

11AM—5PM

STAWLEY MILL
TA21 0HT

IN AID OF STAWLEY CHURCH TOWER



Lunch Club in Ashbottle Village Hall

The next Lunch Club will be on Thursday 25th November at 12.00 noon. The speaker will be Nerys Gibb from Bathealton who will be talking about hedgehogs and how we can look after them. (see advert for more details). If you would like to join us, please contact me - details below.

In September we enjoyed a grand re-opening after the fallow covid months. It was good to see our 'regulars' as well as some new people. Proceedings were opened by Judy and Gerry Webb giving us a run down of their lockdown travels and family adventures. It all felt very exhausting for us listeners, as well as highly entertaining. Fortunately the participants appeared to have endless energy and a virtually inexhaustible supply of good humour, apparently much needed at times!

Advance Notice of our Christmas Lunch Club. This will be on Thursday 16th December. We have once again been able to secure the services of Chris Britton and Steve Swan. Even now they are plotting and scheming with the intention of putting on an entertainment currently entitled ' Laugh after Lockdown'.

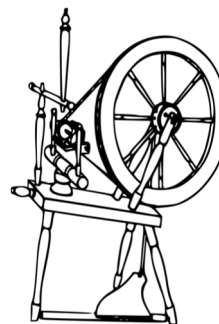


It would be prudent to book early to guarantee a place at this world premier.

Delia Harling
Telephone 01823 672203 or email
deliaharling123@tiscali.co.uk

Contact The Parish News on:
ashparishnews@gmail.com

Spinning and Woolcraft Group



The Spinning and Woolcraft Group will continue to meet on a fortnightly basis, on the first and third Tuesdays in the month.

The group have now decided that for the near future, all meetings will be 'in person' and will take place in members' houses where a large and well ventilated indoor space is available.

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 meeting and learn to spin with us?

Next Sessions
Tuesday 2nd and 16th November
at 2.30pm

**** Do you have a spinning wheel in your attic which you no longer need or use? ****

**** Would you consider selling or donating it to our group? ****

Please contact Pauline:
pjw200355@gmail.com



Quaker Meeting for Worship at Spiceland, Uffculme

We Meet for Worship at Spiceland every Sunday at 10.30am till 11.30am – this is a blended Meeting also available on Zoom

All are very welcome.

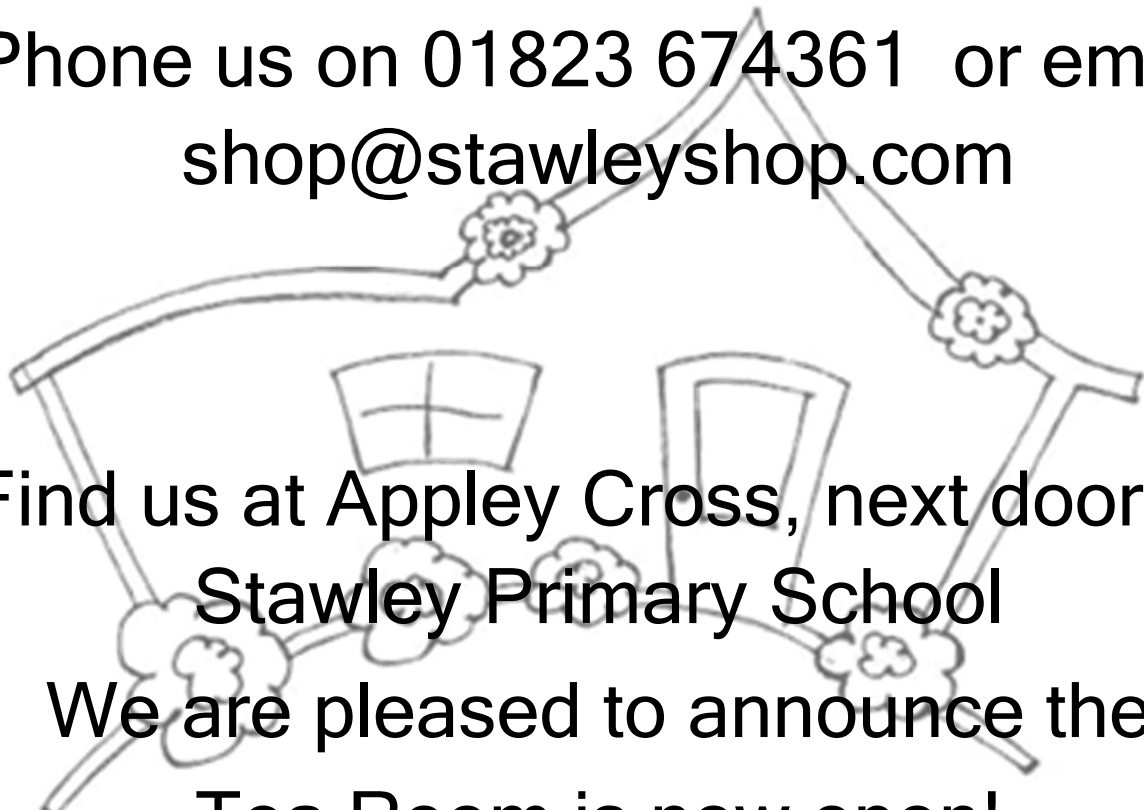
For more information phone Ali Dominy **01884 266537** or use the "contact us" form on our website:

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

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

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

We are pleased to announce the
Tea Room is now open!

Come and try breakfast or coffee/tea
and cake!

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**

Country Matters

Autumn 1964

*Red apples hang like globes of light
Against this pale November haze,
And now, although the mist is white,
In half-an-hour a day of days
Will climb into its golden height
And Sunday bells will ring its praise.
The sparkling flint, the darkling yew,
The red brick, less intensely red
Than hawthorn berries bright with dew
Or leaves of creeper still unshed,
The watery sky washed clean and new,
Are all rejoicing with the dead.*

John Betjeman

Late September: Nuthatches, on the bird feeders, are the curmudgeons of the bird table and woodland. A flourish of its dagger-like bill sees off the tits, sparrows and greenfinches. They also don't tolerate other nuthatches as they are hyper territorial. They stay close to the tree where they were born and defend the area all year round. But a redeeming feature is their 'love life'; mating for life, calling to each other and sharing food sources.

This time of year sees plant's seed dispersal (anemochory). Thistles, dandelions, willowherb, bulrush and others use the wind to lift the seeds high in the air and broadcast them far and wide. Water lilies use water to float their seeds. Burdock seeds cling to passing animals or people. (They were the inspiration behind Velcro).

As the temperature falls so do the number of insects, causing birds to migrate and others, such as robins, to change their diet.

Early October: One of the fungi at this time of year is the pale phallic shape of the stinkhorn. You might miss seeing it, but no-way will you miss the smell; it really stinks!

At night the tawny owls are calling; the *too-whit, too-woo* sounds really loud. This call is made by a duet of owls, tawny owls are one of the few species of bird which sing to each other. The female supplies the *too-whit* and the male the longer *too-woo*. Another sound heard during the day is the plaintive mewing of buzzards. Their numbers have grown a lot since the absence of certain pesticides and gung-ho gamekeepers.

During lockdown the number of road kill animals went right down and few dead badgers, foxes and hedgehogs were seen. Unfortunately, cars are killing again and two hedgehogs were run over in Appley.

Although this year there are few acorns; not

like the abundance last year. I hope everyone has found space on their land to plant an oak tree or another native species. (Field maples are good and support lots of insects and small mammals).

Sally Merrett

Gardening Club

On behalf of the Gardening Club, I want to say a big thank you to Sue Jacoby and her band of helpers for the organisation of a very successful Flower Show this year. After the uncertainties of the past months, it was very special to be able to run such an event again, which was really appreciated by us all.

The Flower Show has most certainly been the highlight of the Gardening Club year, with the COVID restrictions allowing just a handful of visits to open gardens, which were enjoyed by the few that ventured out.

There will not be a Christmas decoration workshop this December. Julia Swan is going to take a break this year, but there's every chance the workshop might resume in the future.

Amazingly, we are already in the latter part of 2021, with our social lives picking up a bit at last. We may even be (apologies for this) already thinking about Christmas. So the Gardening Club, like our gardens, will be 'put to bed' for the next couple of months.

We will resume early in 2022 with the usual bring-and-share supper at the Cruck Barn (date to be confirmed), to make plans for our garden visits and meetings as we have done in previous years. Let us all hope that we will be back to some sort of normality by then.

In the meantime, do share photos of your garden activities, nature finds, or pose questions or queries. We are all very interested to hear what our fellow gardeners are up to!

If you have any suggestions and new ideas, or any other inquiries, please contact Pauline on 01823 672222, email stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com,

And remember, new members are always welcome.

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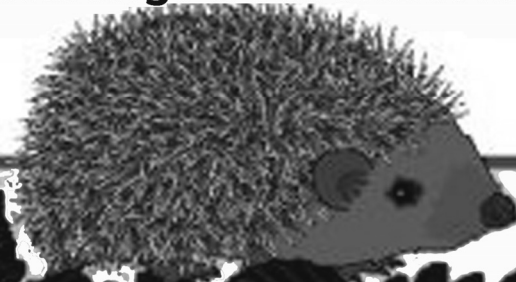
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NOVEMBER

Saturday 20th 10am-1pm £40

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Sunday 21st 10am-1pm £40

TREE DECORATIONS INSPIRED BY NATURE

THIS ECO-FRIENDLY CLASS MAKES THE MOST OF NATURE'S BOUNTY. WE WILL MAKE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS USING NATURAL MATERIALS SUCH AS PINE CONES, TWIGS, MOSS, ACORNS, BARK, FEATHERS AND WOOD. WE'LL BE USING A RANGE OF DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES, SO YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF FUN EXPERIMENTING!

Saturday 27th 10am-4pm £75

LINO PRINTED CHRISTMAS CARDS

IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO DESIGN AND CARVE YOUR OWN LINO PRINTING BLOCK. THE WORKSHOP BEGINS WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO LINO CUTTING, YOU'LL BE TAUGHT HOW TO SAFELY USE THE CARVING TOOLS AND THE BASIC CUTTING AND PRINTING TECHNIQUES. YOU WILL TAKE HOME A SET OF LINO PRINTED CARDS AND ENVELOPES AND YOU CAN TAKE YOUR LINO-CUT BLOCK AWAY WITH YOU SO YOU CAN CARRY ON PRINTING AS MANY CARDS AS YOU LIKE ONCE YOU GET HOME. THIS WORKSHOP IS SUITABLE FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS, EVERYTHING IS EXPLAINED CLEARLY WITH DEMONSTRATIONS. LOTS OF SUPPORT AND ADVICE IS GIVEN THROUGHOUT.

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CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOPS



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Saturday 11th 10am-4pm £75

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IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU WILL LEARN SIMPLE SEWING AND EMBROIDERY TECHNIQUES TO CREATE A BEAUTIFUL HEIRLOOM STOCKING, THAT YOU'LL WANT TO USE YEAR AFTER YEAR.

Sunday 12th 10am-1pm £40

FELT CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

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Saturday 18th 10am-4pm £75

FELT FOREST ANIMALS

IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU WILL LEARN TO HAND SEW ADORABLE WOODLAND CREATURES, SUCH AS FOXES, BADGERS, OWLS AND HEDGEHOGS, THAT CAN BE USED EITHER AS TREE DECORATIONS OR AS BROOCHES - WHICH MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Sunday 19th 10am-4pm £75

NEEDLE FELTED DECORATIONS

IN THIS WORKSHOP YOU'LL LEARN ALL ABOUT THE ART OF CREATING 3D FORMS USING WOOL ROVING, DISCOVER HOW RAW FLEECE IS PROCESSED INTO ROVING AND BATTING AND MASTER THE BASIC NEEDLE-FELTING TECHNIQUES TO CREATE YOUR OWN ADORABLE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TO MAKE YOUR TREE EXTRA SPECIAL THIS YEAR.

What's included:

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Stawley

An extract from 'Edmund Rack's Survey of Somerset'

Mr Rack (1735 - 87) was born in Norfolk and carried out this survey in the late 18th century.

Stawley is a small parish six miles west of Wellington and five south west of Milverton, bounded north east by Ashbrittle, east of Kitsford and Baddleston, west and south by the borders of Devon.

It is situated on the north edge of the Tone in a low vale and dirty country, encumbered with wood, and contains about 30 houses, 17 of which are straggling about the church.

The country is finely varied with swelling hills, between which are some very romantic winding dingles over hung with wood which cloaths the steep slopes of the hills. The hills are round and swelling. Not picked nor very steep in general. The tops have little wood, but large enclosures and quick hedges.

Two hamlets. 1st Trace bridge, half mile north, five houses. 2nd Upley, one mile south east, eight houses.

Farms mid-sized. Roads abominably bad and narrow.

The manor belongs to Lord Paulet. The living is [a] rectory in Taunton deanery and in the gift of Earl Paulet. The Revd Mr Grant is rector. The Revd Thomas Clarke of Ashbrittle is curate. Tithes compounded for at 2s in the pound for every thing.

The Tone runs through and turns two mills here.

Another small stream turns a grist mill at Trace Bridge.

The church is a small Gothic structure, 67 ft long and 16 ft wide, consisting of a nave, chancel, ceilings and white washed in [?] squares, with a tower 60 ft high and three bells. The nave roof is 20ft high, chancel 18ft. An open screen between nave and chancel. Alley bricked, belfry rough pebbles, chancel earthen floor full of holes, boards under the seats rotted to powder. Four pews, three doors, eight windows. Singers' gallery fronted with deal.

Contributed by John Hannon

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Further details on page 31

Bring and Buy Coffee Morning

Even the weather was generous, giving a perfect late summer's day to those who gathered in the garden at Church Cottage for a Bring & Buy coffee morning in aid of the Stawley Church Restoration Fund.

Social distancing was no problem out of doors. The occasion had been an annual event until it was cancelled by the virus last year.

Those who came, and several who were unable to, were most generous in their donations, which included a handsome woollen rug (3x2 metres), a pair of folding camp-chairs, masses of naughty confections and an almost embarrassing volume of bottles for the raffle. We send all of you who contributed a big thank you and are happy to announce that the Restoration Fund is now £539 better off.

Martin & Sue Jacoby

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Maurice Stanbury

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opposite church *bonkers.regime.lyricist*

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

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

Local Information

Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

Greenham & Tracebridge	Caro Ayre	01823 672603
Appley	Rachel Chesterton	01823 673063
Ashbrittle	Charles Doble	01823 672365
Stawley	Pat Sweet	01823 672380
Wellisford	William Thomas	01823 673143
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
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– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760

Bathealton Village Hall

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

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

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 **Bank details:** Account Name: The Parish News,

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

4th	11 - 5 pm	Stawley Mill Happenings
6th	7.30 pm	Kittisford Pudding Club at Greater Brimley Farm
20th	7.00 pm	Quiz, Bathealton Village Hall
25th	12 noon	Lunch Club, Ashbrittle Village Hall
25th	7.30 pm	Bathealton Parish Council meeting in Bathealton Hall

December

10th	7 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner, Kittisford House
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November quiz answers

1 Tesla	13 Mars, Incorporated
2 Quantum of Solace, Skyfall, & Spectre	14 Scafell Pike
3 La Palma	15 The Hairy Bikers
4 Abraham Lincoln	16 Burma
5 Enigma	17 Indian Wells
6 Crime	18 2004
7 620	19 East Sussex
8 William Shatner	20 An aperitif
9 To type or write in shorthand methods	21 Paula Radcliffe
10 Atlantic Ocean	22 Palindromes
11 Foreign Secretary	23 Werewolf
12 Costa Rica	24 13
	25 the Main 'Oldie of the Year' trophy.

Cover picture kindly contributed by Tilly Willis

Next Deadline Date: Friday 19th November

Editors: Julia and Maurice