

ASHBRITTLE

GREENHAM

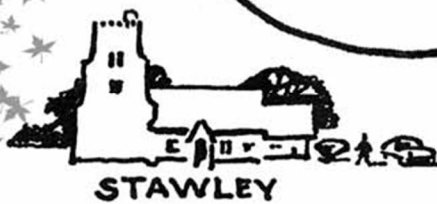
STAWLEY

BATHEALTON

KITTISFORD



Parish news



December 2021 and January 2022

Church Services

Sunday December 5th	Advent 2	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday December 12th	Advent 3	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	GREENHAM
Sunday December 19th	Advent 4	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
5.00 pm	Carol Service	BATHEALTON
Thursday December 23rd		
3.00 pm	Carol Singing	GREENHAM
Friday December 24th	Christmas Eve	
10.00 pm	The First Mass of Christmas	KITTISFORD
Saturday December 25th	Christmas Day	
10.00 am	Christmas Family Communion	ASHBRITTLE
Sunday December 26th	The Holy Family	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

The Carol Service on Sunday December 19th at 5.00 pm is the Carol Service for the whole of the Ashbrittle team. This will be a relatively informal service and our singing will be led by the Village Festival Choir. Do please join us and children are particularly welcome.

Although face coverings are not mandatory, do please feel free to wear one if you choose to do so. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available as you enter our churches and as you depart.

Please note the somewhat unusual timing of our Christmas Eve Eucharist; 10.00 pm is the customary time for the First Mass of Christmas in the Ashbrittle Group of Parishes on the understanding that it is midnight in Bethlehem!

Sunday January 2nd	The Second Sunday of Christmas	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday January 9th	The Baptism of Christ	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
Sunday January 16th	Epiphany 2	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
Sunday January 23rd	Epiphany 3	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	BATHEALTON
Sunday January 30th	Epiphany 4	
9.30 am	Parish Communion	GREENHAM

Associate Priest: Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR 01823 400127

Thought for the month

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me?

Christmas: John Betjeman

This time last year, we were in the midst of another one month lock-down. There was much debate about how much and for how long, the promised relaxation to restrictions would continue once they began.

There were challenges in parliament about *cancelling Christmas* and politicians were determined to allow limited socialising during the Christmas period. With hindsight, many now accept that lives would have been saved had more restrictive measures remained in place.

By cancelling Christmas, what seemed to be threatened was the abandonment of certain traditional Christmas occasions; the office party (one to be missed to my mind!), carol services and family meals shared with neighbours and friends at a crowded table in an unventilated room. However, many gathered outside in smaller groups and in social bubbles to enjoy a drink and some food. In addition, many aspects of the traditional Christmas survived; homes were decorated, gifts given and received and the church services attended, albeit in limited numbers.

Despite our fears and uncertainties, Christmas was celebrated. We acknowledged that 2020 was very different to our normal celebrations and looked forward to being able to do things rather differently in 2021.

I thought then and continue to do so now, that Christmas can never be cancelled. As long as we recall the birth of Christ in a stable and thank God in our hearts, Christmas remains and continues. Whenever, wherever and with whom we raise a glass in celebration of that incredible event, Christmas is celebrated.

When we decorate our modest tree with decorations and make our hearts glad with carols, Christmas has come into our homes. It does not require huge crowds of people or confined spaces to testify to the loving mercy of God.

As long as each of us can celebrate Christmas in our hearts, then that is enough.

However, this year we are able to meet together in larger numbers for our Christmas services. We have had some very happy and well attended Harvest Festivals in our churches so far this year and Remembrance Sunday at Stawley was memorable.

We are now allowed to continue to gather together in church for the Eucharist, that most significant sacramental reminder of God's living presence with us. Do please join us at one or more of our services and I would make a plea about ensuring that we (including myself!) are careful about times and places!

No love that in a family dwells,
no carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives to-day in bread and wine.

Christmas: John Betjeman

With my best wishes,

Martin Beaumont

Remembrance Day Service

The collection from the Remembrance Day Service held at St Michael and All Angels, Stawley on the 14th November came to £189.45. This sum will be passed on to the Royal British Legion.

Paul Musgrove, Treasurer

Mobile Library

The time of the Greenham Bridge stop is changing to 9.30 - 9.50 and visits will be on Tuesdays every four weeks.

Next dates: December 21st and February 1st.

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct 0300 1232224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

Your Library is Listening

For a chance to tell the library service what you think and enter a prize draw fill in the online survey at www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/survey.

Advertise Here

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.
Further details on page 31

Country Matters

The Future of Forestry

*How will the legend of the age of trees
Feel, when the last tree falls in England?
When the concrete spreads and the town
conquers*

*The country's heart; when contraceptive
Tarmac's laid where farm has faded,
Tramline flows where slept a hamlet,
And shop fronts, blazing without a stop from
Dover to Wrath, have glazed us over?
Simplest tales will then bewilder
The questioning children, 'what was a chestnut?
Say what it means to climb a Beanstalk.
Tell me grandfather, what an elm is.
What was Autumn? They never taught us.'*
C S Lewis

Late October; At this time of year the morning dew is covered with sheet webs, making them sparkle in the low sunlight. There are 280 species of sheet web spiders in Britain including the giant house spider and the tiny money spider. The long strands of silk, which stretch between shrubs are often the work of the hammock spider.

The rowan tree, or mountain ash, attracts insects and birds right through the seasons. The spring flowers attract pollinators, the leaves in summer feed moth caterpillars and later berries feed all four species of thrush – song, mistle, redwing and fieldfares. Not forgetting starlings.

Mid November; Not only are the trees changing into their autumn colours, shrubs look spectacular at this time of year. Dogwood in the hedges blaze with scarlet and yellow, but the guelder rose can outshine them all with its glossy red berries and its red and yellow foliage.

The only species to truly hibernate in England are: hedgehogs, bats and dormice. They enter a state of torpor where their body temperature drops and their breathing and metabolism slow down. It is reckoned that when the temperature reaches four degrees Centigrade they hibernate and their insulation keeps them at about four degrees even when it is freezing. Warm winters, not cold are the problem for such animals

One bird that is off the endangered list is the green woodpecker, which has a heavy body and undulating flight. They search for ants with their long barbed tongues. It is thought that the milder winters have led to their success, you win some and you lose some!

As the temperature falls the common wasps die off – with the exception of the queens which seek out somewhere sheltered to overwinter. Another reason for the death of the wasps is the lack of

food, especially when all the fruit has rotted.

The queens emerge in the spring and build nests of papery wood pulp in which to lay eggs.

How's the tree planting going?

Sally Merrett

Do you care for your community and surroundings?

If so, you could be just the person we are looking for!

Ashbrittle Parish Council
is seeking a new member

For an informal chat please ring:
Charles Doble [Chairman]
01823 672 365

Or speak to any councillor
Lena Massie, Jeremy Robbins
and Vicky Hughes

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 Church 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



CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOPS



Come and join the festive fun with craft expert Anna-Lisa De'Ath AKA The Crafty Country Fox. Our classes are held in a stunning studio on a picturesque smallholding in Stawley. Have fun, meet new friends and go home with beautifully crafted items you'll be proud of.

DECEMBER

Saturday 4th 10am-1pm £40

TREE DECORATIONS INSPIRED BY NATURE

This eco-friendly class makes the most of nature's bounty. We will make a range of Christmas tree decorations using natural materials such as pine cones, twigs, moss, acorns, bark, feathers and wood. We'll be using lots of different techniques, so you'll have fun experimenting!

Saturday 11th 10am-4pm £75

STITCH A SPECIAL STOCKING

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

Learn basic embroidery stitches and raid our stash of buttons, beads and embellishments to create beautiful ornaments for your tree. No sewing experience is needed to create these cute decorations.

Saturday 18th 10am-4pm £75

FELT FOREST ANIMALS

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 gifts.

Sunday 19th 10am-4pm £75

NEEDLE FELTED DECORATIONS

Enjoy 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:

All materials for the class, tea, coffee and homemade sweet treats. Full day classes also include a delicious homemade lunch using produce from our kitchen garden and hedgerows and fresh eggs from our free-range hens - Larry, Gloria, Dolly and Loulou.

To book a place call Anna-Lisa on
07702 407747 or email
anna-lisa@thecraftycountryfox.co.uk



Find out more about our other craft workshops for 2022 at
www.thecraftycountryfox.co.uk



Follow me on Instagram
@MYCRAFTYCOUNTRYLIFE

Stawley Parish Council Report

On a recent walk near Bruton I came across the “Pitcombe News” which included a more readable report on their Parish Council than a set of minutes. This is a trial run of the same idea. Full minutes of each of the Council Minutes can be found at <https://stash.org.uk/>

The Parish Council met on the 4th November for a short meeting. We had a quorum of three Councillors plus one of our local District Councillors, Dave Mansell, at the meeting. Dave has been of great help to us in the past as he can represent our views and ask questions on our behalf at the District level.

Two planning applications were discussed so that local observations could be made to the Planning Authority. These were the ongoing application for a change to conditions of planning at Appley Orchard Farm and a new application for retrospective permission to build a swimming pool and cover at Newhouse Farm.

The finances at Stawley Council are in good shape as we have cut back over the past few years on the cost of administration. This has enabled us to keep the Parish Precept at a constant level for local parishioners whilst allowing us to make grants to the Appley Pavilion to resurface the car park and re-roof the cob hut. We have also been carrying out a refurbishment programme on the local finger posts. Some have been re-painted by local people but those on more busy corners such as the one at Appley Cross have been sent away for a complete refurbishment which has included, where necessary, new forged “fingers” to replace the more utilitarian slat painted ones. If any parishioner has an idea of how we can improve our local environment please let us know.

The saga of broadband provision goes on. We seem to be sandwiched between a fibre link coming in from the north at Waterrow and another making its way from Langford Budville to Burlescombe; neither will pass through the parish of Stawley. A company called Airband now have the contract from Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) to “deliver full fibre broadband to more than 40,000 homes and businesses in some of the most rural areas of Devon and Somerset by 2024” Their website is: <https://www.airband.co.uk/> but the map of how they are going to do this doesn’t tell us much. We will be inviting them to come to speak to a meeting in early 2022 to ensure that they understand where Stawley is!

Finally we have applied for some oak trees to plant along the boundary of the Appley Sports field as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy. Our small effort will not produce much of a canopy but we don’t have any other public space on which we can plant unless someone would like to donate some land.

The next meeting of the Council will be at Appley Pavilion at 7:30pm on the 9th December.

Paul Musgrove, Clerk

Rainfall Statistics October 2021 (inches)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1.94	2.89	6.86	6.45	6.06

This is the third consecutive year with high rainfall in October although 2021 was a little different to previous years in that half of the October total happened within just three days! On 28th October alone we recorded 1.5 inches.

Val Coots

Gardening Club

We will resume early in 2022 with the usual bring-and-share supper at the Cruck Barn, Appley on Monday 31st January at 7pm, when we will start to plan our garden visits and meetings as we have done in previous years. If getting together as a group is not for you, then please let me know if you have any ideas you wish to be included.

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!

Well, there isn’t much else left to say, except to wish you all as good a Christmas as you can have, and hope that the New Year will be just a little better for us all.

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

Pauline on 01823 672222, or email stawley.gardening.club@gmail.com

And remember, new members are always welcome.

Pauline Wood



STAWLEY MILL HAPPENINGS

COME & ENJOY

CHRISTMAS GIFTS
MULLED WINE
& MINCE PIES

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

BLACKSMITHING
DEMONSTRATION
WREATH MAKING

4TH DECEMBER 2021
11AM—5PM

STAWLEY MILL
TA21 0HT

IN AID OF STAWLEY CHURCH TOWER



Open all hours

‘What a Deliciously splashy word’

(Martin Jacoby: November Parish News)

Yes, that word from last month – “Eschatology”. All about the end times and what happens afterwards, if anything. The end of time, or of the world, or even the universe. Whether brought about by the process of ageing, or by choice, or some outside power. The kind of event our great heroine Doctor Who is always trying to fend off - to save us!

It’s not a common word, heard across the check-out in the Co-op. Yet it is a common idea, it crops up in all sorts of religious or philosophical thinking. The end may be good, heaven, or not good. Many try to visualise it while others set it off without realising it.

The Rev. Thomas Malthus, in the 19th century, studied population growth. He pictured a vast increase in the future which would prove a threat to mankind. Marx and others saw heaven coming after the inevitable death of capitalism, leading to worldwide revolution and freedom for the alienated working classes. This is how utopia would arrive.

On the other hand, Brunel, the Stephensons, James Watt and the rest set off the industrial revolution, believing it would be good for human society, not realising it would lead to pollution and the eschatological threat of climate change.

But it’s not all big stuff beyond our ability to imagine. We all have eschatological moments, tiny fragmented versions of the real biggy! For example: you’ve been saving up for something special as a gift for someone. You haven’t found it yet anywhere. It’s an important element in your life and the search is preparing you for the moment of discovery – or giving up. Then, when you had almost given up, as you walk along Fore Street, there is one, across the street, in the window of Buy’n’Save. It’s the end time of the hoping and searching, so over the road you go. Heaven, just the other side of their cash machine. Then someone shouts “Look out!” and a bus screeches to a halt. The other sort of end time. Changes of different kinds always follow an eschatology event.

After all the preparation, a recent marriage, and following strange claims and promises, her big end-time moment comes. Crouching in a stable, she feels the birth movement of her baby. Is it going to be as she was told? A boy? What if it was a girl? Call it Jayne, or Janet, or what?

But it was a boy. She named him Jesus, and his arrival marked the end time of old ways. Millions and millions of lives ever since were, at that point, destined to be changed in one way or another, both in this life and for any future life, for good or not so good.

Eschatology. A delicious splashy word, but about the important happenings, and events, big and small, which all of us experience.

Martin at the Shop 8

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WIVEY LINK NEEDS YOU!



Wivey Link is a community run transport service for those without access to a car. We take people to health and medical appointments as well as social visits, shopping, hairdressers etc.

To keep this vital service running we need more volunteer drivers. Come and join our friendly team, we will provide full training and you can make a real difference to peoples lives.

To find out more telephone Jill, Hope or Caroline on 01984 624666,

email wiveylink@wiveliscombe.com or pop into the

Community Office, The Square, Wiveliscombe TA4 2JT .

Office open between 10.00am and 1.00pm weekdays



WIVELISCOMBE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Wiveliscombe House, The Square, Wiveliscombe, Somerset TA4 2JT

Registered in England and Wales No 4351175 Charity No 1132983

Supported by Somerset West and Taunton Council and Wiveliscombe Town Council



**ADVANCE NOTICE
January Lunch Club
Ashbrittle Village Hall
Thursday 27th January 12:00
Locally based quiz**

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

Kittisford Christmas Meal



at **Kittisford House**

by kind permission of Perdita & Davide Taliente

open to everyone

in aid of St. Nicholas Church, Kittisford

Friday 10th December at 7pm

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pud, mince pies,
a glass of wine, and festive village fun!

Giant Raffle in aid of Afghanistan

Tickets £15.00

(If you are able to donate an extra £1.50 and pay income tax,
we can claim Gift Aid on the total amount)

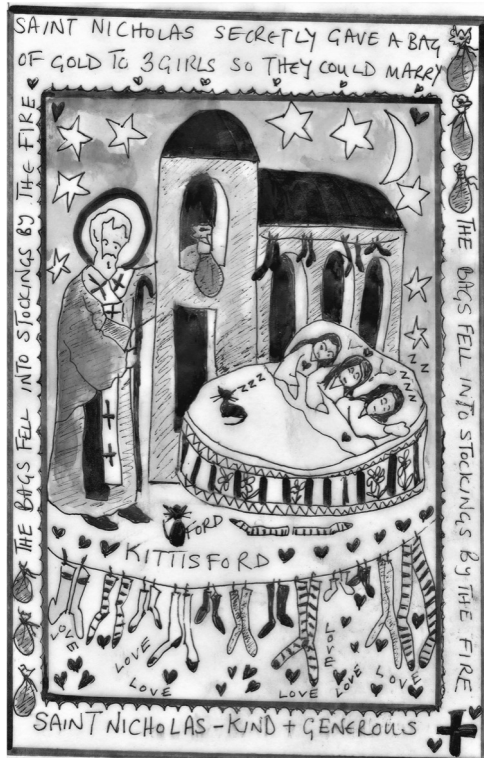
available from **Stawley Village Shop** (01823 674361)

or sarahburnscox@btinternet.com

(special dietary requirements on request)

New at the Village Shop

Greetings cards telling the story of St Nicholas, are being sold in aid of St Nicholas Church, Kittisford.



Annie Musgrove



Ladies



Have A Relaxing Liz Earle Facial

By Jane in your own home

Lovely Luxurious Natural

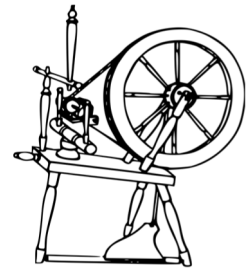


Products



Call Jane on 07879 539419

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 been holding some meetings 'in person' at members' houses where a large and well ventilated indoor space is available, but there may be the need still to have Zoom meetings from time to time.

Meeting arrangements will be confirmed in advance 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 7th and 21st December 2021

Tuesday 4th and 18th January 2022

at 2.30pm

Thank you to those kind people who have donated spinning wheels to our group. We



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.

Meeting ID: 865 5570 2735 Passcode: 498173

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

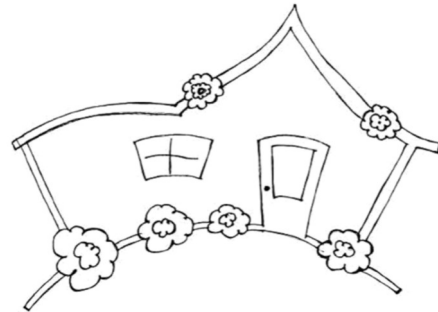
<http://www.spicelanduffculmequakers.com/>

All are very welcome.

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 would like to wish you a peaceful Christmas
and a very blessed New Year!**

**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**

Christmas Eve OPEN as normal on until 5.30 pm!

Pop in for a (free) mince pie and hot mulled Appley drink!

Christmas Day and Boxing Day CLOSED

**Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 Dec OPEN 8 am to 12 midday
(Bank holidays)**

New Year's Eve OPEN as normal till 5.30 pm

New Year's Day CLOSED

Sunday 2 Jan OPEN as normal, 9 am till 11 am

Monday 3 Jan OPEN 8 am to 12 midday (Bank holiday)

Ashbrittle Parish Council

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 6.30pm

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

Apologies: Rob Simpson

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th April 2021 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: None

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 a village organisation (discussed below). Letters were also received from the Somerset Wood project and Wivey Cares.

Reports from Councillors:

Highways and Planning (Charles Doble) No ongoing planning matters were raised. Certain road sign fingerposts need attention and will be surveyed. Notification had been received from the planning department that the Burrow Farm roof issue has been regularised.

Footpaths: (Jeremy Robbins) Several footpaths would benefit from new signs; most paths are accessible. Some clearance and maintenance have been carried out at the end of Dark Lane.

Finance (Helena Massie) HM presented the accounts and stated that the Burial Grant had been received from Somerset West and Taunton. Continuing charitable donations were discussed. A request had been made from the Village Hall committee for a donation and CD will reply, asking what specific projects require funding and estimated costs. The Hall kitchen refurbishment had been carried out which was good. Support was agreed for Wivey Link, the Parish News and website, the RCI and any cost to maintain the telephone box. CD and VH expressed an interest and left the room while a donation to the PCC was discussed by the other councillors.

Any Other Business: i) CD will write to Rob Simpson thanking him for his contribution to the Parish Council and service to the community as a councillor.

ii) There is a vacancy for a new parish councillor. An advertisement will be placed in the Parish News asking for any interested parties to come forward.
iii) An advertisement will be placed offering work painting road sign fingerposts and replacing footpath signs, work to be carried out in the Spring.

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm

Vicky Hughes, Clerk

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

Ashbrittle Art and Craft 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 meetings
Wednesday 1st December 2021
Wednesday 5th January 2022**

For more information, contact Pauline
pjw200355@gmail.com

★ ★ *Fenton Farm* ★ ★

**ORDER
NOW**

Delicious Local Free Range Turkeys

Andrew Gabriel Fenton Farm Holcombe Rogus
www.fentonpoultry.co.uk Tel: 01823 672075

CHRISTMAS SKITTLES



**MULLED WINE
MINCE PIES
(NO CHARGE)**

**CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING**



ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER 7:30 PM

Lunch Club in Ashbittle Village Hall

In October we focussed on Wellington Monument. Avril Silk, our well known local writer, remembered that some 40 years ago she wrote a play about the Monument which was performed by her local amateur dramatic group. Characteristically, not only had she done extensive research at the time, but also had still in her possession, the script and her notes!

She gave us some most interesting nuggets of information, not only from those distant days, but also most recently from the Internet. The standard information to be found on the leaflets and Bill boards on site, were well and truly supplemented by Avril's own investigations! A most intriguing talk. Thank you Avril.

The next Lunch Club is the Christmas special on December 16th. Jackie White will provide us with the usual traditional fare and Chris Britton and Steve Swan will provide us with the, now traditional, top quality entertainment.

We are very conscious of the continuing presence of covid particularly in our area. We have decided to restrict our numbers, continuing as we have done since September, with only six people on each table and less tables than is usual at Christmas. We would ask everyone to wear a mask all the time, unless they are of course, eating or drinking. We are also

requesting that wherever possible everyone will take a lateral flow test before they arrive.

This year will of course be different from our usual packed to bursting hall, but I hope that the atmosphere can be the same and we can all enjoy a memorable and happy occasion.

If you have not already booked please let me know if you would like to attend. If we are oversubscribed I will have to give priority to regulars, and set up a waiting list if needed.

In January we will meet on Thursday 27th January 2022 for a locally based quiz. Please let me know whether you can come, if you can think that far ahead!

My details are telephone 01823 672203. Or email deliaharling123@tiscali.co.uk

Delia Harling

Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from: A Shale, Mark Westcott, Colin Gillet 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

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 every Friday 6 till 9

Christmas Opening

Christmas Eve: 11am to 11pm

Christmas Day: 11am to 2pm

Boxing Day: 12am to 2pm (no menu available but treats on the bar)

Closed: 27th and 28th December

Open as usual Wednesday 29th – Christmas Raffle Draw 8pm

Book your Christmas Party

Three Course Menu: £28

New Years Eve Party – All welcome!

Dweller in the deep mid-winter: *Helleborus niger*, the Christmas Rose

The Christmas rose is a well known and long cultivated garden plant famed for its supposed flowering at Christmas time though its peak is usually February-March. An evergreen perennial member of *Ranunculaceae* (the Buttercup family), this hellebore comes originally from the sub-alpine regions of Switzerland, Austria, Southern Germany, Northern Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, where it is found in rocky scrub and lightly wooded areas. Out of all the hellebores this is one I (and many gardeners I suspect) have sometimes found difficult to establish and grow successfully; it dislikes acid soil, needs some shelter and humus rich soil and has fairly specific seasonal needs regarding water. It can suffer badly from leaf spot and the flowers can be damaged by heavy frosts, winds and excessive rains. Like all hellebores it can also suffer from 'Vole attack', stripping the buds before they get



to open. Yet, when it likes you and the season and position are in its favour, there is no finer sight in the winter garden than the large silken-white blooms with their golden yellow central 'boss'. Numerous selections have been made over the years including the well known 'Potter's wheel' form with its even larger flowers. These turn pinkish green as they mature. 'Christmas Carol', which is a more recent and floriferous selection has the purest white flowers which, given some shelter, flowers reliably from December onwards and copes well with container growing where, moved under cover to avoid the worst weather it can be better appreciated at close quarters.

The story regarding how the epithet 'Christmas rose' came about is that a young girl, coming to see the infant Jesus, had no gift to give and so wept. The flower sprouted in the snow where her tears fell. There are other tales from medieval Europe connected to the fact that in the pre-Gregorian (Julian) calendar, Christmas day fell on what is now 6th January when the plant tends to be more reliably flowering. It contains a number of poisonous substances and has a long and well documented history as a powerful medicinal herb and talisman against magic going back to Hippocrates. Its other common name, the black hellebore, refers to the thick mat of black roots which form around the crown.

In recent times *Helleborus niger* has been used in numerous breeding programs with other hellebore species to create a seemingly ever-expanding range of 'Interspecies hybrids' many of which are truly stunning to behold, often hardy and robust and frequently eye-wateringly expensive. I can whole-heartedly recommend the *Helleborus x ericsmithii*, *x nigercors* and *x ballardiae* hybrids and the best place to view and buy these is from Ashwood nurseries in Worcestershire for whom these 'choice' hellebores are one of their specialties.

Maybe (just maybe) I will look at other hellebore species and varieties in future scribblings as they are one of my favourite perennial plant groups but I will finish by saying the biggest thrill I got from a hellebore was finding our exceedingly rare native species, *Helleborus viridis* (the green hellebore or 'Bears foot') in a nature reserve in the Cotswolds; its subtle pea-green flowers peaking up at me through its finely cut leathery foliage and the Dogs mercury under ancient coppiced hazel and sweet chestnut. Ahh. And with those thoughts of sunnier spring days to come We'll wish you all a merry Christmas.

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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

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Police Beat Team

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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

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

Sort Code: 30-98-45. Ac no. 01828373

Cover Design - Church illustrations derived from originals by the late Diana Willis.

Distribution: David Sweet 01823 672380

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

1st	2pm	Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group, Ashbrittle Village Hall
4th	11 am - 5pm	Stawley Mill Happenings
10th	7 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner, Kittisford House
10th	7.30	Christmas Skittles, Ashbrittle Village Hall
16th	12 noon	Christmas Lunch Club, Ashbrittle Village Hall

January 2022

5th	2pm	Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group, Ashbrittle Village Hall
27th	Noon	Lunch Club, Ashbrittle Village Hall

February

19th	7 pm	Demonstration of Portrait Painting by Tilly Willis Bathealton Village Hall.
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The Parish News - 2021

Many thanks to all our contributors and advertisers who have helped create another year of the 'Parish News', and of course, those of you who have so generously donated to the funds. We had hoped to see the end of the Covid pandemic but that has not yet happened. A number of community events have been held, but others have either been put 'on hold' or cancelled at the last minute. In spite of that, we have had plenty to report plus the welcome addition of quiz material from Alan Rose, we really don't know where he has found it all.

Also, many thanks also to our willing band of helpers, led by David Sweet, who distribute the magazine directly and promptly to every household each month.

The distribution team:

Ashbrittle Andrew and Liz Burt, Gail Britton and Lena Massey

Bathealton Morag Berthon, Fiona McVicar, Nick Bunn, Sara Bloxham, Fiona Holmes, Michael Tarr

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Kittisford Penny Stanbury, Adanna Ranson; John and Christine Brinkman

Stawley Pat Sweet, Mike and Freda Parkinson

Tracebridge Dominic Tinckner

A few copies are posted out to people who have left the area from the Village Shop. Martin and Sally also deliver copies by hand to those now living in Wellington who still want to keep in touch.

Finally, we would like to say a special thank you to Matt Venn of Sharper Print who has always been most helpful and has provided us with a first class service.

The magazine is also available on the Stawley website www.stash.org.uk

Julia Swan, Maurice Stanbury and Andrew Millard

February Edition Deadline Date: Friday 21st January

Editors: Julia and Maurice