

IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?  
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY



# Parish news

February 2023

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

## Church Services

<b>Sunday February 5th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Septuagesima Parish Communion	STAWLEY
<b>Sunday February 12th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Sexagesima Parish Communion	GREENHAM
<b>Sunday February 19th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Quinquagesima Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
<b>Wednesday February 22nd</b> 6.30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes within The Eucharist	ALL SAINTS', ROCKWELL GREEN
<b>Sunday February 26th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Lent 1 Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

We celebrate Easter relatively early in Western Christendom this year; it is Sunday April 9th. The rather strangely sounding titles for the three Sundays before Lent are ancient and appear in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. We think that St. Augustine brought with him the three titles from Rome in the seventh century A.D. and they simply remind us that the "Septua", "Sexa" and "Quinqua" Sundays mark seventy, sixty and fifty days before Easter.

On ASH WEDNESDAY (February 22nd) there will be only one service for the whole of the Wellington and District Team and this will take place in All Saints' Church, Rockwell Green at 6.30 p.m. If you have never been to the Church before, just head for the water towers in Wellington!

Everyone will be very welcome.

## Churchwardens and Clergy

### Ashbittle with Greenham

Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbittle, TA21 0LQ 01823 672365  
David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbittle, 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

**Team Rector (interim)** Revd Martin Kirkbride 07746 519311

## Thought for the Month

Like most of you, Ruth and I took down our Christmas cards once the season drew to a close, although we were slightly later than Twelfth Night due to visiting my family in Yorkshire. Amongst the scenes of Victorian life, robins, fields of stubble and lifeboats (in aid of the RNLI) there was a goodly number of traditional Nativity scenes and not all by artists of the Renaissance period. In fact, without counting, I had a clear impression that crib scenes were on the increase from last year, with cards featuring The Three Wise Men a welcome favourite.

We celebrate the visit of the Three Kings to the manger in the season of Epiphany and many Christians, particularly in the East, regard this as their Christmas. The seasons begins on January 6th and concludes on the feast of Candlemas (February 2nd), when we recall the story of Simeon and Anna, recognising the child Jesus in the Temple.

We don't know a great deal about those Wise Men. There is a tradition that there were three of them because we are told in Matthew's gospel that they brought with them and presented three gifts; Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. However there are some Orthodox churches who believe that there were not three but twelve Kings.

We are not told their names by Matthew but there is a fifth century text discovered in Alexandria which refers to them as Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

In some parts of the world, it has become the practice of Christians to adopt the ancient practice of writing above their front doors in chalk the following sequence of letters and numbers

20+C+M+B+23

The numbers refer to the year and will therefore change every twelve months, whilst the letters refer to the names of those first Wise Men. Once the season of Epiphany is over, residents often find that the chalk marks have disappeared due to the prevailing weather conditions but it is a welcome practice and one that reminds us that although Christmas might have ended, our joy and gratitude for Christ's birth continues.

I hope that one of the reasons why we enjoy our Christmas celebrations is not simply because they bring presents and generous quantities of food and drink. Rather it is because Christmas is a time of "Peace and Goodwill". Christmas is a celebration of human goodness and compassion. I hope and pray that we may be able to take some

of this sense of peace and goodwill into the coming year.

May 2023 remind us of the human potential for love and self-giving and may we encounter it within ourselves and our neighbours.

### Lent Course

We will be holding our customary Lent Course this year at Stawley Mill on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

February 28th

March 7th

March 14th

March 21st

March 28th

More details in next month's edition of the Parish News.

With my best wishes.

*Martin Beaumont*



### Quaker Meeting for Worship at Spiceland

**We Meet for Worship at Spiceland, every  
Sunday at 10.30am till 11.30am**

**Also available on Zoom ID: 865 5570 2735  
Passcode: 498173**

*All are very welcome.*

### Sharing some Quaker Words

Friends recognize that much of the misunderstanding, fear, and hatred in the world stems from the common tendency to see national, religious, and racial groups as blocks, forgetting the varied and precious individuals who compose them. Differences between individuals, and between groups, are to be prized as part of the variety of divine creation.

Every person should be free to cultivate his individual characteristics and his sense of belonging to a racial or cultural group as long as by so doing he does no violence to any one in the human family. Only when differences are the basis for feeling of superiority do they become barriers of hate and fear.

*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1969*

## Country Matters

Many of us will have spent the beginning of the New Year reflecting on the last year and making resolutions for the year to come. These resolutions tend to focus on our health, happiness and helping those around us.

### Health and happiness

Nature is one of those things that can greatly improve our health and happiness. Frequent interaction with nature is linked to reduced risk of cancers as well as better cardiovascular, respiratory and mental health. Exposure to sunlight can boost our immune systems, while viewing sunlight early in the morning and before sunset can improve sleep. Exploring outdoors promotes exercise. Hearing birdsong improves feelings of health and well-being.

While quiet walks on our own can be a great way to relax, clear our minds and improve focus, exploring nature with family and friends or nature groups can help us strengthen existing relationships and form new connections. These are not only a source of enjoyment but research has shown that strong social connections can have a profound and beneficial effect on health, leading to stronger immune systems, better recovery from diseases and a longer life with lower levels of anxiety or depression and greater empathy for others. Here in this parish, we are lucky to be surrounded by beautiful countryside with a wealth of options for interacting with nature to take advantage of all these benefits.

### Helping others

Our involvement with nature can also provide an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to protecting the environment around us. There are many things we do as individuals to this end; growing plants that are beneficial to wildlife, feeding birds and other wildlife, especially in severe weather; avoiding littering and activities which pollute the environment; litter picking; taking care not to disturb wildlife when cutting hedges or tidying the garden.

Additionally, we can join with groups who are working to understand and protect nature for us and future generations to enjoy. Many of these groups have limited resources for gathering information. That's where we can help. They have set up citizen science projects where members of the public (that's us!) can share our observations with them. A great example of this is the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which has been tracking the changes in our bird populations for almost forty five years.

If you are interested in doing more to support and enjoy the natural world around us,

groups such as the RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust provide excellent, detailed advice on what you can do.

Some of you may have joined in with the 2023 Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January and if you are interested in becoming involved in more citizen science the Woodland Trusts Nature's Calendar project and Butterfly Conservation both collect records throughout the year and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology also has a list of other citizen science projects.

The iNaturalist app is another good way to share observations of any plant or animal you see and makes this information available to a wide range of people working to support nature. The app is also very useful for identifying and keeping a record of the things you see and could be a good way for us as a community to track changes in our parish.

Whether it's a walk in the countryside, enjoying the birds in your garden or taking part in citizen science projects, we hope some of your New Year's resolutions will bring you closer to nature and all that comes with it.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy 2023.

*Frazer Higgins and Alësha Naranjit*

### Rainfall Statistics (inches) for December

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
7.25	7.56	6.28	5.04	5.71

December recorded nearly 6.0 inches despite it did not start raining until 18th December when we had 1.2 inches in a day.

### And for the whole of 2022

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
47.35	50.70	43.61	43.33	40.67

One of the drier years but much of the deficit was made up in November and December.

*Val Coots*

### Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on  
**Wednesday 8th February**

To place an order, please email:  
*judy.milne@btopenworld.com* or contact  
Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205 by the  
Monday before the Wednesday delivery  
New members always welcome



## An Echo from the Past - Don't be Depressed!

Open up the paper? What do you see? Strikes – railway, nurses, civil servants, ambulance drivers, paramedics, teachers: ambulances running very late to emergencies, waiting in queues outside hospitals: no available beds in hospitals. Well people in beds in hospital with nowhere to go, broken care services. Illegal immigrants and many potential legal ones, climate change, war in Ukraine, rights demands by this person or that group. Inflation: high energy bills: food banks: poverty: pandemic aftermath..... Endless!

Still with me? I am surprised! It's enough to start the day either depressed or very annoyed! Annoyed that someone thinks you should have to read all that, and it's OK for you to start the your day in a bad or sad humour. Of course, don't have a paper, nor watch the television! They are all the same and the feelings that follow are identical. Give me the bliss of "Happy Valley" every time.

Turn off the BBC – that's a solution. Then you can avoid the constant misery of their news. And all those programmes with their unbalanced view of the good traditions and cultural make-up of British society and history. I sometimes think the BBC, with ITV, forget they have no right to enter our homes, only there as our guests by our invitation, who must accept the rules of the house.

Turn them off, of course, and you shut yourself off from the world around you. You're pulling up the drawbridge to keep the world out. Is that good? Depends on what you value, I guess. But we can't avoid the world. Nor, it seems, can we do much about it.

In the early years of the church, there were those who thought God wanted them to leave society and go away to live on their own. Antony was one: he left society and went to live in the Egyptian desert. What did he do there? Bury his head in the sand while praying? Shutting the world on the outside of our homes, families and friendships, is that to bury our heads in the sand? If we do, how long before all social gatherings will have to be tested to make sure they reflect the ethnic and sexual balance of society as the social elite think it should be? If not tested, the home and family would remain an unconquerable bastion of outmoded, unwelcome 'modern' attitudes. That will never happen, of course. Will it?

But if it does, we shall have to march on town halls with crude placards and hard angry faces, shouting our slogans! "What do you want?" "Our country back!" "When do you want it?" "NOW!" Depressed? Fret ye not! I jest!  
Cheers!

*Martin Perry*

## Christmas Fayre

On 3rd December we held a Christmas Fayre in aid of Bathealton Church at Bathealton Village Hall. This had been an annual event for many years which was halted by Covid 19, but hopefully now very much back in our calendar.



Thank you to all those who came, donated and helped; it was a wonderful afternoon.

The proceeds were just in excess of £800.00!

*Sarah Eustice*

## Gardening Club

As a first for the Club, it was decided to have a Christmas Tea. So, sixteen members met at the Old Well in mid-December and enjoyed an excellent cream tea. The Old Well treated members royally, with a private dining room tastefully decorated for Christmas, along with crackers etc - not to mention the extra scones and tea enjoyed by some!

The Club's gardening year will commence in February, with a Bring and Share supper hosted by one of our loyal members. This occasion will also provide the opportunity for a review of activities in 2022 and, more importantly, to plan for 2023.

It is the intention to meet monthly in 2023 and we ask members attending to come armed with ideas of gardens to visit and other activities, hopefully with the offer to help organise some of these!

*Val Wall and Di Roberts*

## ***Sarcococca*- a scent that lifts the spirits on the darkest days**



In these darkest of weeks before the first hints of Spring appear, there seems to be little of note happening in the garden. But if you are walking around on a still, mild day your nostrils may be assailed by a sweet, musky scent, the source of which may not be immediately apparent.

In a previous piece written this time last year I talked about *Daphne bholua*, the undisputed queen of winter to early spring flowering shrubs; the species *Sarcococca* follow very closely behind.

A family of around fourteen distinct species of upright or arching, glossy-leaved evergreen shrubs in the *Buxaceae* (Box) family, often of a suckering habit with small, white to pinkish-purple, scented flowers followed by black, red or purple berries. They are found spread across Asia from the Himalayas through China into Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. There are many misapplied or synonymous names and seedling hybrids found for sale which can sometimes make exact identification difficult. But, by sticking with some of the best, tried and tested species and hybrids you can have glorious scent from late November right through to early April.

Being plants of the woodland edge, they thrive in light to moderate shade, enjoy a cool root run that is rich in humus and retains moisture during the hottest months. Some species are more resilient to open and potentially sun-baked positions whilst some will show signs of yellowing and leafdrop if allowed to dry out or become heat-stressed.

Apart from one or two species, they rarely exceed 5 feet (1.75m) in height and often much lower, suckering to form a dense ground cover (from which rooted sections can be lifted and moved). Being part of the Box family, some can be lightly clipped or pruned to shape or a low, informal hedge. They work well in a woodland garden setting with plants such as *Hellebore x hybridus* or *foetidus*, *Ophiopogon planiscapus ni-*

*grecens*, *Liriope muscari* and early flowering spring bulbs but can also be planted under a sheltered north or east facing wall near a door or window to allow that rich scent into your home.

The five that I recommend trying will give you a good length of flowering season, some variation in height and form as well as flower and berry colour.

***Sarcococca confusa***: This is probably the most common and frequently planted of the Winter flowering Box; reaching about 5ft maximum in height, it is the most accommodating with glossy dark green foliage and an often slightly arching habit, white flowers and shiny black berries. It has a fairly long flowering period, from late November to early March but often throwing out a few flowers at other times of the year.

***Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *digyna* 'Purple stem'**: this plant has a more upright, suckering habit, up to about 5ft with graceful, narrow leaves and (as its name suggests) purple tinted stems and flowers (which are usually white or with a faint hint of purple on the species) followed by black berries. It flowers from December to February.

***Sarcococca saligna***: This compact species grows to between 1 and 2ft in height, suckers prolifically forming a dense thicket of ground cover with its glossy, narrow, willow-like leaves, small green-white lightly scented flowers followed by purple berries.

***Sarcococca ruscifolia* var *Chinensis* 'Dragon's gate'**: This moderately compact variety grows to about 3ft, has narrow, glossy mid green foliage with creamy white deeply scented flowers from late December to late February followed by red berries. This variety was selected by Roy Lancaster, the eminent plantsman.

***Sarcococca hookeriana digyna* 'Tony Schilling'**: One of the last to flower, starting in early February until mid April; this form has very narrow, willow-like leaves with the flowers clustered on the stems almost creating spheres of inflorescence, each one being tipped with purplish-red and highly scented. It has a graceful upright habit and grows about 2-3ft in height.

*John and Julie Ridgley*

### **Mobile Library**

at

Greenham Bridge

Next visits

Tuesday 14th February and 14th March 2023

**New times 10.00 - 10.20 am**

# 'THE COMMUNITY BIG BREAKFAST'

**Saturday 4th March 2023**

**9.30 am - 11.30**

**Chipstable Village Hall, Waterrow, TA4 2AX**



**Ticket Information - Please pay on the door.  
Entry - £8 per person or £15 for 2. Under 12's half price.**

**Menu - 2 Sausage, 2 Bacon, Egg, Toast, Beans,  
Mushrooms. Vegetarian menu is available.  
Tea/Coffee and Squash are also included.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

***Yummy***



## Ashbrittle Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club

The end of season presentation and awards evening was held in December at the Ashbrittle Village Hall. A game of skittles followed a lovely pulled pork and roast potato supper - a big thankyou to Kristy Popplestone.

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI awards for 2022

<b>Batting</b>	R.Williams
<b>Bowling</b>	H Norman
<b>Player's Player</b>	C.White
<b>Captain's Player</b>	S Grant

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI awards

<b>Batting</b>	R.Popplestone
<b>Bowling</b>	S Priscott
<b>Player's Player</b>	E Popplestone
<b>Captain's Player</b>	F Barker

The Presidents Cup was awarded to C White.

R Williams and S Grant also won awards at the West Somerset Cricket Awards for their batting and bowling.

**Congratulations to all.**

The AGM was held at the Pavilion on January 6<sup>th</sup> and the following were elected:-

**Our New President** Mr J Dawes.  
**Chairman** R Williams  
**Vice Chairman and Secretary** M White  
**Treasurer** J Dawes  
**Fund Raising** K Popplestone and S Williams  
**Social Media** C White  
**Pavilion Rep** J Dawes  
**1<sup>st</sup> team Captain** R Williams  
**Vice Captain** M White  
**2<sup>nd</sup> team Captain** J Barker  
**Vice Captain** S Ridgeway  
**Youth Co-ordinator** no proposal (required, please get in contact if you can help)  
**Welfare Officer and Groundsman**  
M White

Indoor net practices start on Thursday 23rd February, Courtfields School. 8-9.00 p.m.

**Quiz Night, 25th February, Appley Pavilion**  
**Spring Ball Saturday 27th May, Appley Pavilion**

If you are thinking of playing and need any info, please ring Rob Williams on 01823 672266.

## The Kittisford Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner we enjoyed at Kittisford seems a long time ago now but this is the first opportunity I have had of bringing you news about this amazing community event.

The dinner was hosted in the festively decorated barn at Kittisford House and over fifty people attended the event. A local team of volunteer cooks provided a very sumptuous Christmas dinner and we all enjoyed a chance to meet up with friends and neighbours.



A huge thanks to Davide and Perdy Taliente for hosting this event and to everyone who made it such a memorable and enjoyable occasion. The dinner made a profit of £959 which enables us to keep St Nicholas Church open and available to everyone for worship and family occasions.

In addition, our young volunteers did a fantastic job selling raffle tickets and raised £150 for Taunton Food Bank.

*Annie Musgrove, Churchwarden*

### **Bathealton Parish Council** **All parishioners welcome to attend**

Next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
at 7.30 p.m.in the Village Hall

Agenda items to include: defibrillator, setting date for annual parish walk, finger post signs, plan to survey public walkways, and roads.

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

Donation received from:  
Neil and Margaret Lindup  
Thanks again, for your kind support. Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer. Details inside back cover.

*Andrew Millard, Treasurer*





— THE —  
**GLOBE INN**  
APPLEY

A warm welcome awaits you  
at The Globe Inn this February

Come and enjoy our weekly-changing selection  
of seasonal guest ales.

Tuck into our delicious home-reared Appley pork and  
locally-sourced meats from Tim Potter.

**Open**

Wednesday to Saturday 12 noon - 11pm

Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

**Food**

Served from 12 noon - 2pm & 6pm - 9pm  
Friday Night Pizzas will resume in the Spring

**Accommodation**

*The Smythy, a luxury one-bedroom cottage finished to the highest standard*

📍 Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ

☎ 01823 673147

✉ [stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk)

📌 The Globe INN Appley



*Photo Michael Fairfax*

The eye-catching poster promised 'fantastic tunes from a Balkan tradition'. We were not disappointed. Life had thrown so many curveballs at everyone since the last performance hosted by Ashbrittle Arts, and the amazing creativity showcased locally for over twenty years had been sorely missed. The hall was packed to capacity. Stunning musicianship by Zeffe; extraordinary dancing from Henry in particular (!) and delicious goulash ensured a memorable evening.

Zeffe play Klezmer – the amazing music from Jewish East Europe that makes you want to dance and laugh (and sometimes cry) at the same time – plus fantastic tunes from the Balkan traditions that fed and bred with Klezmer. We heard Klezmer Khosidls and Bulgars, Roma Coceks, Bulgarian Horos, and more, from the classic line-up of clarinet, fiddle, accordion and double bass (with some vocals as a bonus!).

*Avril Silk*

## **From volunteer to career: an innovative way of joining the NHS workforce**

Volunteers in Somerset's NHS are being offered specialist training to help them forge a career in the health service. It is all part of a new Volunteer to Career initiative, designed by clinicians, that aims to encourage volunteers to take up professional NHS roles and equip them with the appropriate tools and knowledge to thrive.

The initiative, run by Helpforce and funded by Health Education England, is also being run at two NHS trusts in London – Guy's and St Thomas Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Volunteer to Career is one way to help address the huge workforce challenges facing the

NHS. There are currently an estimated 110,000 vacancies across the NHS.

The focus of the initiative in Somerset is on the NHS trust's neighbourhood teams, which are made up of various community services and primary care (GP practices). The team of volunteers will provide support across a range of services, including clinical administration, helping address patient isolation and loneliness, reassuring patients before surgery, taking calls, offering family liaison and supporting the patient discharge process.

### **Very valuable contribution**

Since the start of the pandemic, volunteers have mobilised across the UK to provide vital complementary support to hard-working professional staff. Around 71,000 people took paid roles and thousands more volunteered to help with the UK's COVID -19 vaccination programme. And 11,000 of those who volunteered to administer jabs have since decided to take up full-time jobs within the NHS – demonstrating the value of these opportunities.

*Isobel Clements, director of people services at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, said:*

“Volunteers play such an important role in the NHS and we are excited to be able to give them something back by offering a pathway to a clinical career in the NHS, while giving them access to a creative training package. With staffing pressures in the NHS more challenging than ever we have needed to look at how we recruit and develop our workforce differently and this sort of initiative, along with nursing degrees apprenticeships and work experience, will hopefully encourage more people to consider working for the NHS.

“Traditionally our almost 1,000 strong team of volunteers have taken up roles such as ‘meet and greet’ and peer support at our hospitals, but this initiative will target young people in the latter years of secondary school and sixth form who are starting to think about their future career.”

“One of the new areas we are focusing on as part of the initiative is providing volunteering opportunities outside of the hospital environment, such as in our communities services and GP practices.”

If you are interested in getting involved in the Volunteer to Career programme, go to the Spark a Change website or contact Gillian Cook on [Gillian.Cook@SomersetFT.nhs.uk](mailto:Gillian.Cook@SomersetFT.nhs.uk) or [Jessica.Fewings@SomersetFT.nhs.uk](mailto:Jessica.Fewings@SomersetFT.nhs.uk)

*Somerset NHS Foundation Trust  
Communications Team*

# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

## Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 2.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am



**The Post Office is here every Thursday 11.30am to 1.30pm**

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

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## Christmas Fair

We would like to thank all of you who supported our Christmas Fair in December. Despite the very cold weather, there was a great turnout, and we raised an excellent sum towards the repair of the Shop roof.

## Valentine Day Box

'A Wittle Slice', who supply our lovely cakes and sourdough bread, have a Valentine Day Box available to order through the Shop for £10 each.

The box is inspired by Love Heart sweets and contains:  
2 red velvet cupcakes with buttercream rose, 6 all-butter shortbread hearts and 2 mini-packs of Love Hearts sweets

A perfect Valentine Day treat for your loved-one

Please pre-order by Friday 10th February, for collection on Tuesday 14th February (Valentine Day, of course)



## The end of an era

It was the end of traditional apple pressing at Hellings, Bathealton. The apple press and cider making machinery are off to a new home. Lawrence and his 'boys' will be doing something different on Sundays during the autumn from now on.



The 1966 David Brown tractor powered the machine that mulched the apples and they were put in net bags for pressing. The apple juice was yummy and the cider even better.



*The apple pulp ready for 'the big squeeze'*



*Enjoying the end product*

Thank you Lawrence for allowing Phil and me to watch and have a go at helping (or hindering).

*Adele Broad*

## Homes for Ukraine - an update

The Homes for Ukraine scheme in the Wivey area has been a great success and has received fantastic support from the community. There are currently sixty plus Ukrainian guests in our area living with about twenty hosts in their homes. The first guests arrived in April and there was a peak around June. We are still getting enquiries from families and individuals in Ukraine who are seeking hosts in our area. The majority of Ukrainian guests want to return home when it is safe to do so but for a good proportion it will be a long time before their homes are liberated and rebuilt.

Guests who have been with us for six months or more have made very positive strides towards integrating themselves in the community. They have completed all administration requirements to put themselves on the same footing as UK residents; they have learned English to a reasonable standard; children are well established in local schools; they have their own transport; and a good number of guests have secured employment or are doing voluntary work. They no longer need day-to-day assistance from their hosts and they do not need to live in a family home. They want to be in a position to have a private family life in independent accommodation.

So we are looking for the next generation of hosts and landlords who may not be able to share their family homes but may be able to help out in the next phase. There is very little housing to rent on the open market so we are appealing for



otherwise empty places to be made available – holiday cottages, lofts, 'granny-flats', separate self-contained sections of family houses etc.

Financial recompense can come in various ways - the 'thank you payments' to sponsors through the homes for Ukraine scheme, 'welcome' payment from Somerset County Council and through charging rent. This could be time limited though we ask for a minimum period of six months. Please do forward this appeal to anyone who may be able to help. Thank you.

### **Furniture Needed**

Even this week one of our families is moving into new unfurnished accommodation in Wiveliscombe. They need white goods and all kinds of furniture, and later this month another family may be in the same position.

If you email us or WhatsApp Peter on 07787 554259 we can put you in touch with those who need it.

### **Sending Help to the Front Line - Somerset Aid for Ukraine.**

*Somerset Aid for Ukraine* is run by Ukrainian and British volunteers in Somerset who take care to find out the most pressing needs in the areas of Ukraine most affected by the war. Recently two large containers of aid left Bridgewater for Eastern Ukraine following a wonderful response to their appeal.

High value items such as generators and medicines are still needed: if you have anything like this please message Anastasiia by email: [nastusa@gmail.com](mailto:nastusa@gmail.com) or Whatsapp on +380958012968

**Financial donations** are very welcome and they have an account with Reflex Medical for anyone who wishes to send urgently needed medicines: details at <https://www.somersetaidforukraine.org>

### **Help Needed at our Welcome Hub**

We'd like to be able to offer nourishing brunches at our Saturday welcome hub and even sell these to locals to raise money for Ukraine (see above). Several of our guests are happy to do this but we need a few others especially for when they are in their English lessons. If you might be able to help do this please get in touch.

The 'new term' for English lessons has started well and we are getting enquiries from slightly further afield, as there are many gaps in the provision of English lessons and welcome hubs across the county.

If your New Year good intentions include supporting our work do get in touch.

*Peter Pearson*

## **Update to Refurbishment of Wellington Library**

There has been a delay to the refurbishment of the library due to an ecology issue, which needs further investigation. As soon as I have more information on when these works will be undertaken, I will let you know. The library will remain open as usual for now.

### **How do I renew my books or check when they are due back?**

You can return books to any other Somerset library. You can renew your books and check your return dates via your library account at [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk) or use the LibrariesWest app. If you need help logging in, or have any queries about your loans, library staff can assist, email [wlnlib@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:wlnlib@somerset.gov.uk) or phone 0300 123 2224.

**For general support and further information,** please phone **0300 123 2224** or email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk)

*Sue Crowley - Somerset Libraries*

## **Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group**

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

**Painting and drawing  
Clay work and Textile Crafts**

**Ashbrittle Village Hall At 2.00 pm**

**Next meetings**

**Wednesday 1st February and  
1st March**

**Some extra mosaics sessions are being held,  
please contact Pauline for more details**

**\*\*We are considering a group mosaic project\*\***

If you have any unwanted/broken china or ceramics we could use, please let Pauline know.

For more information, contact Pauline  
[pjw200355@gmail.com](mailto:pjw200355@gmail.com)

## THE LIVING RIVER

Far inland a tiny tinkling trickle sprang and spurted from an untitled source,  
Giving birth to a river that quibbled and dribbled, carving its own natural course,  
Like a mother labouring from her aching loins, delivering a babe unbaptised,  
The infant is named, tamed, nurtured and nourished, and highly prized.

It runs through steep deep dark woods, under oaks, willows and alders,  
It splashes and dashes around mossy tree trunks, stones and giant boulders,  
Where secretive burrowing badgers, furtive foxes and diligent deer  
Quench their thirst from the cool streamlet, its waters crystal clear.

It glides, giggles and wiggles over rocks and pebbles, gravel and grit,  
Along the edges of hedges that shelter the blackbird, sparrow and blue tit.  
Along tracks of dirt and dust and pastures of grazing cows and sheep,  
By rambling brambles and gambolling lambs that skip, bleat and leap.

The river twists and turns, forming an oxbow bend like a giant curved snake,  
Running on and on where geese and swans congregate by pond and lake,  
Where brooks and burns, ditches and drains, rivulets and leats meet,  
Where banks are flanked with great willow herb, vetch and meadow sweet.

Under bridges broad and narrow that join roads, footpaths and lanes,  
Bridges made of wood, stone and steel for people, cars, cattle and trains,  
Crossing valleys, fords and gulleys, and wide open swampy lands,  
These bridges unite and marry; stretching and connecting like human hands.

And on it flows down into wetlands, onto marsh, moor, bog and fen,  
Where bottle sedge, reeds and bulrushes hide the coot, duck and moorhen,  
And anglers sit and wait, with rod and reel, net and bait upon a bench,  
Like the heron silent and still waiting for the carp, roach, trout and tench.

Through farm and field, by house and hamlet, into village and town,  
Where once tall ships with square sails would ride the tide up and down,  
And children would play on the slipway, dabbling and paddling and skinny dipping,  
As mothers would watch with towels and treats and ice lollies dripping.

Eventually the river's essence bleeds and seeps into the ceaseless saline ocean,  
As tides rearrange the depth and breadth, silt and sand with endless motion.  
Pushing and pulling, growing and flowing, water and wave, river and sea,  
As brown brackish brine mingles with the dirty, murky mud in the estuary.

Waters receding, revealing a naked river bed, mud flats and glistening sand banks,  
Waters easing, bringing oyster catchers, sandpipers, plovers and red shanks,  
Gulls patrolling amongst rusty chains, anchors, concrete blocks and wet ropes,  
Egrets and avocets strolling beyond the buoys and bare hulls of reclining boats.

As the sea appears, the river apprehends its last bend before the end,  
Where mud skippers leap, lug worms stay deep, and common terns and teals greet,  
The river is spent, its fresh waters muted, diluted and polluted, with no one there to salute it.  
Like an old man inhaling his last breath, in and out of consciousness until death.

Joanna de Valero

Joanna attends Avril Silk's writing support class. This is her first poem.

Credit: Photography by Willem van Aken  
Copyright: © CSIRO Land and Water



## Curry and Quiz night

at Bathealton Village Hall



*A Curry and Quiz night to help beat the winter blues*

**7.00 p.m.**

**on Saturday 4th March**

Admission will be £5 per person,

Bring your own bottle

*We will need to know numbers for catering, please ring Adele Broad (07980) 994082, and leave a message and return contact number.*

## Lunch Club

Forty people sat down to a traditional Christmas meal with all the attendant festivities at our December meeting. Very many thanks to Jackie White, our cook, for managing it all, cooking in her own home and bringing it to us, piping hot.

The meal was preceded by a unique entertainment, devised, written, produced and delivered by a team of locals. A potted run down of the history of Ashbrittle, no less. So very many thanks to Michael Fairfax, Pip Wilson, Avril Silk, Gail Britton, Judy and Gerry Webb and Paul Jacques (our part time local), not forgetting Chris Britton, the Audience Stooage.

As an extra treat the village choir joined us for carols after the meal, which again was much appreciated.

### Next event

The February lunch club is on Thursday 23rd February 12.00 noon. We are delighted that Sally and Martin Perry have agreed to talk a little about the development and history of rock and roll, illustrated with lots of live demonstration. There will also be an opportunity for the adventurous to have a go, learn some moves or show off what they learnt long ago!

If you would like to join us, please let me know in good time. This is likely to be a very popular event.

Please contact me by emailing [harlingdelia@gmail.com](mailto:harlingdelia@gmail.com) or call me on 01823 672203.

*Delia Harling*



## Beat Surgery

**Stawley Village Shop  
and  
Tearoom**

Tuesdays 21st February and 21st March

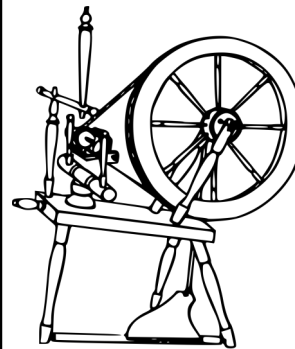
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## Spinning and Woolcraft Group

**The group have been holding some meetings at members' houses where a large and well ventilated indoor space is available, but there may still be the need to have a Zoom meeting 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 and learn to spin with us?**

**Or bring along your knitting, crochet or other needlecraft project. All welcome.**

### Next Sessions

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March  
at 2.30pm

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





**Ashbrittle Stawley & Clayhanger  
Cricket Club**

**Annual  
Quiz**

**Friday 24th February**

Appley Pavilion

7.30pm Start

Maximum six per table, £8 per person (*including food*)  
Refreshments available & raffle

*Please book as limited table numbers  
07890261387 or [williamspfa@outlook.com](mailto:williamspfa@outlook.com)*

# QUIZ NIGHT

at Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall



In aid of  
The Nelson Trust  
and  
Taunton Foodbank



on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
7:30pm start

Tickets: £13.00 per head (includes fish & chip supper)  
Please bring your own drinks and glasses

Teams of up to 6 Raffle and Prizes

*Tickets available from Jane Barrie*

*Tel: 01823 451388 or 07850 996686*

*Email: sitaunton@outlook.co.uk*

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Phillip Hummel

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Mobile telephone number. 07456668530  
Email [philliphummelplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:philliphummelplumbing@gmail.com)

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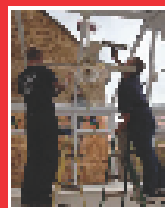
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### ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY:

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**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
Springrove	Doreen Orton	01823 400731

**Police-non-emergency number 101**

### Police Beat Team

**PC Rachel Lang** 2347 Tel: 07889 655887  
*Rachel.Lang@avonandsomerset.police.uk*

**PCSO Louise Fyne** 6945 Tel:07889 659476  
*Louise.fyne@avonandsomerset.police.uk*

### Parish Councils

**Ashbrittle Chairman** Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 67261  
Email: *charles.doble@ukgateway.net*

**Bathealton Chairman** Philip Broad 07584 657106  
Email: *philip.broad1@outlook.com*

**Stawley Chairman** Paul Musgrove 01823 672627  
Email: *stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk* [www.stash.org.uk](http://www.stash.org.uk)

### Community Halls

**Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field**  
– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or  
email: *williamspsfa@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 Alder Pre-schools Manager  
Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues  
Stawley Under Fives 07707 416871 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 *mike.parky3@gmail.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 Avril Silk 01823 672131

*e-mail address: ashparishnews@gmail.com*

**Treasurer:** Andrew Millard, Barton Barn, Kittisford, Wellington TA21 0RZ

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### *February*

- 23rd 7.30 p.m. Bathealton Parish Council meets in the Village Hall  
24th 7.30 p.m. Annual Quiz Night at Appley Pavilion

### **March**

- 4th 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Big Breakfast in the Chipstable Village Hall, Waterrow  
4th 7.00 p.m. Curry and Quiz night in Bathealton Village Hall  
10th 7.30 p.m. Bingo in Ashbrittle Village Hall  
18th 10.00 - noon Coffee morning in Ashbrittle Village Hall  
25th 7.00 p.m. Wellington Choral Society will be performing J S Bach's St John Passion at St John the Baptist Church, Wellington,

### *April*

- 23rd 8.30 - 11.30 am St Georges Day Breakfast in Appley Pavilion

### *May*

- 13th Bathealton Plant Sale  
27th Spring Ball at Appley Pavilion

## *Wivey Link* *Going places.....*

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**Next Deadline Date: Friday 17th February 2023**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**