

*"The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind."
Bob Dylan*



Parish news

April 2023

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

Church Services

Sunday April 2nd 9.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Friday April 7th 10.00 a.m.	GOOD FRIDAY Morning Prayer and Meditation	BATHEALTON
Sunday April 9th 9.30 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	EASTER DAY Holy Communion Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt	ASHBRITTLE KITTISFORD
Sunday April 16th 10.00 a.m.	Low Sunday Parish Communion	St.John's, WELLINGTON
Sunday April 23rd 9.30 a.m.	Easter 2 Parish Communion	BATHEALTON
Sunday April 30th 9.30 a.m.	Easter 3 Parish Communion	GREENHAM

We are all very much looking forward to our observance of Holy Week and celebration of Easter. Readers will notice that GOOD FRIDAY's service at BATHEALTON begins at 10.00 a.m. rather than our usual starting time.

On EASTER DAY there are two services. Those in our parishes who appreciate receiving communion on Easter Sunday will be enabled to do so with a service at ASHBRIITLE at 9.30 a.m.

However, our main celebration of Easter will take place at 4.00 p.m. at KITTISFORD. This will be a service of Easter music and readings led by the Village Choir and it will also include a children's activity and the traditional hunt for Easter eggs. This will also be followed by refreshments. Do please join us and put the date in your diary.

On Low Sunday, there will be only one service in the whole Wellington Team Ministry. This will be at St.John's, Wellington at 10.00 a.m. and it will be an opportunity to bid farewell to the Revd Martin Kirkbride.

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbriitle with Greenham	Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbriitle, TA21 0LQ David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbriitle, TA21 0LE	01823 672365 01823 672436
Bathealton	Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL	01984 629013 01823 401248
Kittisford	Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW	01823 672627
Stawley	Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP	01823 672183 01823 672496
Associate Priest	Revd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR	01823 400127
Team Rector (interim)	Revd Martin Kirkbride	07746 519311

Front page painting by Liz Taylor 'Washing line in Ashbriitle'

Thought for the Month

I feel sure that all our readers will be aware that changes are on the horizon for the Wellington and District Team, of which the Ashbrittle Group of Churches is a significant and important part.

On the retirement of the Team Rector, The Revd Tim Treanor in July 2021, discussions took place across the thirteen parishes regarding the wisdom of continuing with the present arrangements. After much consultation, it was decided that the current Team is too large to provide a practical ministerial role for one person, despite the support and help provided by two other full time priests and one aged and infirm part-timer (the writer!). Further discussions followed on the future re-alignment of groups of parishes and the work loads of their priests. This goes hand in hand with the desire of the Diocese and indeed the whole Church of England, to reduce the number of full time stipendiary priests, due to the lack of financial resources.

A decision was made at the recent meetings of both the Tone Deanery Synod and the Taunton Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Group regarding the future and how this will affect us here in the Ashbrittle Group.

Our four parishes (and five churches) will join Sampford Arundel, Thorne St.Margaret and All Saints Church in the Rockwell Green Group. It is anticipated that the full time stipendiary priest will live in the Vicarage at Rockwell Green, adjacent to the bridge over the railway line.

PCCs and the Officers of the seven parishes will soon be beginning the process of advertising for and recruiting our new incumbent. If you have any views or questions about the appointment, do please contact one of the Churchwardens whose names, addresses and phone numbers can be found on the inside cover of the magazine.

If the new priest and parishioners are hoping to maintain the current pattern of a one service in one church in our group on each Sunday of the month, he or she will inevitably need some assistance from retired clergy. Whilst I will no longer be employed as your part-time stipendiary priest, I will be very willing to continue ministering in the new group and I hope and anticipate that we will see each other from time to time.

Change is seldom welcome and often difficult. We can all think back to a time when we saw more of our priests and in some cases to there being a Vicar or Rector in each of our four parishes. Sharing a priest with three others will mean that we will have to begin a process of re-configuring the shape of our group and this will need some thought and clear consultation.

However, this process begins as we approach the season of Easter. Those first disciples had seen Jesus executed, they had witnessed his death and burial. But they were also witnesses of the Resurrection. Despair was transformed into hope and death into life.

Easter is a reminder that however much we might find difficult the changes that we face, our God is the God of the Resurrection. God uses the natural process of death and decay to renew his creation and to bring to life that which had died. However much we might face the future with uncertainty, we are promised that God is with us in all and every eventuality and that He will bring life out of death and light out of darkness.

With my best wishes,

Martin Beaumont

Coronation Service

at

Stawley Church on Sunday 7th May. It will start at the slightly later time of 10:00 am. The Village Festival Choir will be in attendance, and there will be some 'Kir Royal' after the service.



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.

A Thought for Spring

"I asked the Dalai Lama what it was like to wake up with joy, and he shared his experience each morning. 'I think if you are an intensely religious believer, as soon as you wake up, you thank God for another day. And you try to do God's will. For a nontheist like myself, but who is a Buddhist, as soon as I wake up, I remember Buddha's teaching: the importance of kindness and compassion, wishing something good for others, or at least to reduce their suffering.

Then I remember that everything is interrelated, the teaching of interdependence. So then I set my intention for the day: that this day should be meaningful. Meaningful means, if possible, serve and help others. If not possible, then at least do not harm others. That's a meaningful day."

*Dalai Lama XIV, The Book of Joy:
Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*

Gardening Club

The season began with an excellent Bring and Share supper as a prelude to a discussion of events for the season ahead. Seventeen enthusiastic members created a programme of monthly garden visits, culminating in a Christmas tea which proved so popular last year.

In addition to garden visits, four generous members agreed to open their gardens for members to enjoy. The programme for September's Flower Show was also reviewed. Grateful thanks are due to Pauline Wood for, once again, hosting the occasion.

The first garden visit, to the National Trust's Dunster Castle, planned for March has been postponed until later in the year, mainly due to the extremely changeable weather which would hardly be conducive to refreshments in the delightful, outdoors Watermill café!

In April, a visit is planned to South Wood Farm near Cotleigh, a garden opened under the NGS. This garden gem, renowned for its spring bulbs, especially tulips, provides a supreme example of how contemporary garden design can be integrated around a seventeenth century thatched farmhouse.

In May, members will make a return visit to Burrow Farm Gardens, Dalwood, in addition to the annual Plant Swap in a member's garden. Members have been assured that tea and cakes will also be on the agenda!

Val Wall and Di Roberts

Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from:

Adrian Ford
Hugh Tregelles

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

Bathealton Village Hall

AGM

17th April 2023
7.30pm
Bathealton Village Hall



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday April 15th
10-12 noon

**Unlimited Coffee and Delicious
Home Baked Cakes Available**

All for £4 per head

Please Come and Join Us!

You are cordially invited to

Books and Biscuits,

Coffee and Cake

at

STAWLEY MILL STUDIO BOOKSHOP

on the

first and third Wednesday of each month

5th and 19th April 2023

from

10.00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

All proceeds in aid of Stawley Church

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on

Thursday 13th April

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

ST GEORGE'S DAY



Big Breakfast



Appley Pavilion

Sunday 23rd April

8.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

*In aid of
Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger
Cricket Club*

By Popular Request



BATHEALTON PLANT SALE



Saturday 7th May
HELLINGS FARM, BATHEALTON
(in aid of Church Funds)

Gate opens at 2.30pm

BEDDING PLANTS, HERBACEOUS, SHRUBS
POT PLANTS and VEGETABLES

TEAS

Contributions of surplus plants gratefully received. Please contact
Morag Berthon on 01984 623563 or Sarah Eustice on 01823 401248.

An Echo from the Past

Foolishness?

It was on the telly, so it must have been true! Swiss farm workers harvesting spaghetti from the spaghetti trees. Again, those chaps from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture turning up at farms and measuring the length, girth and straightness of the recently harvested carrots: did they meet EU legal requirements? If not, they were to be discarded!

A chap in the office found a note on his desk: he was asked to phone the number on the piece of paper and speak to a Mr. Lion. Obediently, he did so, only to find he had rung Bristol Zoo! Did you have such pranks played on you? Or did you do it to someone else?

April Fools's Day! The tradition says that such hoaxes can only be carried out on April 1st up to 12 noon. There was a time when the real fool was the person who attempted to carry out pranks after that hour. But it's an old tradition going way back in time and nobody really knows how or where it started. King John, apparently, may have given the idea a boost. He wanted to buy some land in Gotham, Nottinghamshire, to build a hunting lodge. The villagers were having none of it. The day his representatives arrived to finalise his plan, they found the people dressed up in most peculiar costumes and doing mad outrageous things – like trying to drown a fish in a puddle. Everyone was doing something so stupid that the king's servants reported that the place was full of fools. The hunting lodge was cancelled.

April 1st became the day on which it has settled because that date was regarded as the first day of Spring. It was a day to celebrate and to let one's hair down. Perhaps.

Its origins might be found in France, when a day of foolishness took place in January. It was an occasion when junior clergy took on the role of pope, or archbishop, or bishop. They dressed up in a way that mocked their grandeur and conducted ceremonies which, as we might say, satirised the religious practices of the church. It was done to show those of high position that even they can be foolish and lose their status.

Victor Hugo described such a festival in "Hunchback of Notre Dame". A vote was taken to find the ugliest man in Paris. Quasimodo was picked obviously, and he was crowned as king for the day. There was dancing and drinking and everyone had a good time. But I'm not sure if those who have a prank played on them on April Fool's Day necessarily see it as a fun experience! Embarrassed more like?

The problem is this. How do you know if it is an April 1st jape or not? If it's a good one, you

probably won't know. A bad one can prove horribly annoying and very unfunny! Let's suppose you hear that the writer of this article promises that he will pay £20 to every reader of the Parish News on the morning of April 1st if they come to his home to collect it with a copy of this magazine. Does he mean it? Perhaps he does – so if you say it's false and don't appear, you don't get it: are you then the fool, if only partially? If you turn up and he has no such gift awaiting you, then he can April Fool you. What if he does mean it and he has 10 x £20 ready just in case anyone arrives – but all of you come knocking on his door? Who's the fool then?

Thankfully I'm not daft enough to have you reading this before or on April Fool's Day!

Happy Easter, everyone!

Martin Perry

Six from Somerset Cycle in Rajasthan

A chance conversation with a pair of keen touring cyclists before the lockdowns planted the seed in our minds about a cycle tour of Rajasthan. So we booked a February tour with Sabir, who runs "Cycling In India" with a small and experienced team. Another chance conversation in the Globe in Appley inspired four local friends to join us on the tour, which proved to be quite an adventure.

Our party arrived in Delhi and we were joined by Denise, an intrepid, outgoing seventy six year old from Arizona who would buzz by us on the hills on her electric bike. Day one of the tour involved no cycling and we were whisked around Delhi to see some of its famous sights. We quickly realised that cycling in India was going to involve dodging people, motorbikes, tuk-tuks, potholes and many animals. Thankfully, they all seemed keen on dodging us too. It is hard to describe the assault on your senses, its busy, hectic, noisy and a world away from our rural Somerset lifestyle.

On Day two, we took a flight to Udaipur and after settling into a lovely, historic hotel by the lake, our cycling began with a short 10 km bike ride around the lakeshore to check out our bikes. The bikes were all hard tail mountain bikes with very rugged tyres, very different to the tourers and road bikes we are used to. Some of us had brought our own saddles, helmets and water bottles and we were assured that wearing cycling gear would not be offensive to local people.

The first couple of days from Udaipur to Kumbhalgarh were moderately hilly and some of the roads were rocky with deeply rutted tracks. Away from the city we enjoyed fairly quiet roads, winding through local villages. Every scooter that overtook us hooted loudly, but gave us a good amount of space. Mostly they wanted to cruise

next to us to take photos and ask us where we had come from.



We were an unusual sight in this rural, desert state and we were greeted with waves from virtually everyone we passed on the road side from school groups to people working in the fields. En-route our curiosity meant we got swept up into a couple of local weddings as well as a primary school. As a group we mostly rode as a “peloton” and quickly learned the benefit of stopping for five minutes every 10 km for a water break and a stretch. Our Nepalese guide Sherma, took the lead and never liked to be caught, but he set a good pace and was mindful of the group. Sabir, the tour leader, stayed at the back to ensure no one got left behind or lost.

After visiting the incredible fort of Kumbhalgarh and a few more climbs, we enjoyed a final 25 km downhill stretch on decent tar winding down the hills to Ranakpur temple. It was a perfect combination of cycling and sightseeing. After Ranakpur and the hills we had a fair number of days crossing thorn scrub and desert between Jodphur and Jaipur. We were cycling between 50 and 75 km each day and tried to get the majority of the distance completed before 2.00 p.m. as the afternoon temperatures soared towards forty degrees C. We were experiencing a February heat-wave with temperatures a good ten degrees up on the average. Our support team were always there, supplying drinking water and fruit, and at the end of the ride packing our bikes in the truck whilst we rode some of the distance through the cities in the minibus.

Palaces, forts and rooftop restaurants seemed to be on the agenda for Jodphur and Jaipur and we enjoyed free time haggling in the bazaars and eating street food. All the accommodation on the tour was very comfortable and all very different. By Day thirteen we were well used to the routine of an early start on the bikes after

breakfast, with shade stops where we could find them. From Jaipur to Ranthambore camels became a more frequent sight on the road pulling heavy carts loaded with bricks. There was always masses to see and dodge as we wove our way through hectic villages and markets. Long horned



Another unexpected hazard on the road

cows and water buffaloes were surprisingly unbothered by us riding by. At Ranthambore we enjoyed a break for a day to go on a tiger safari in the national park rattling around in a jeep.

Our final day of cycling was from Ranthambore towards Agra. We had been cycling at a comfortable 20 km/hour but as the tour came to a close we naturally slowed to savour our last sights of rural Rajasthani life close up. It felt sad to see our bikes loaded on the truck for the last time as we tucked into packed lunches and said farewell to the support team. We had cycled 520 km in ten days of cycling and seen rural Rajasthan up close. Our final day of the tour involved an early start to see the Taj Mahal at dawn and a visit to the Red Fort before heading back to Delhi in the minibus.

Cycling in India with Sabir and his support team allowed us to go outside our comfort zone. It was hot, dusty and at times uncomfortable but as Denise our intrepid cyclist from Arizona kept saying, “It is all very interesting.”

For more information about this trip visit www.cyclinginindia.com/cycling-rajasthan.html

Annie and Paul Musgrove

Mobile Library

at

Greenham Bridge

Next visits

Tuesday 11th April and 9th May 2023

10.00 - 10.20 am

Country Matters

The Spring Equinox has passed leaving us with longer days and shorter nights. This is a time when Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Son, when from time immemorial people have celebrated the returning sun and the resurrection of the land from winter. Everywhere the trees are coming into bud, flowers are blooming in the hedgerows and birds are singing songs of love (and territorial war).

Hazels are some of the first plants to 'wake up'. Their tassel-like catkins are now mature and if you look closely along the bare branches you will see the tiny, intensely pink female flowers waiting to be pollinated by the wind. Looking at catkins it's hard to imagine that they are flower spikes like bluebells or foxgloves, except stripped down to the bare essentials, no showy petals for them!

Snowdrops and primroses are also early bloomers. The snowdrops have mostly flowered and faded now. They bloom so early that there are few pollinators around to fertilise their flowers. Instead they usually reproduce vegetatively, producing new bulbs underground. The primroses will continue to bloom into May providing an important source of nectar for early butterflies, especially the brimstone and small tortoiseshell. Primrose flowers can also be a sweet and colourful addition to spring salads or cakes. And of course there are the daffodils, sometimes called the Lent lily because the natives, at least, bloom between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Although we celebrate Easter with eggs, there are few eggs to be seen this early in the year; instead this is a time of preparation. Blackbirds, blue-tits and great tits are a few of the birds busily gathering nesting material. They are joined by early migrants such as chiffchaffs and blackcaps.

Bumblebees, like the Early Bumblebee (with the bright orange-tipped 'tail') and the Buff-tailed Bumblebee (with a buff/cream 'tail') are emerging from hibernation to nest as well. Like honey bees (which are also becoming active), these are social bees: a colony of queens, drones and workers living together in a hive. In contrast to honey bees and most bumble bees, the Tawny Mining-bees are solitary bees (females of this species are a foxy orange). They emerge in April and each female builds its own nest in which it lays its eggs and raises its brood.

We know of course that mammals such as voles, rabbits, foxes, and deer do not lay eggs but they are also preparing or caring for their first young of the year. According to legend however, the Easter Bunny (previously an Easter Hare) does lay eggs. Some say this belief was due in part to the similarity between a hare's form (a shallow depression in the grass where it raises its young) and lapwing nests, leading to the belief that hares

laid eggs. We are ever so grateful for the Easter Bunny, but happily we've come a long way in our study and understanding of nature.

On that note, we would like to invite you to join us in recording your wildlife sightings on the *iNaturalist app*. It's a great way to record what you're seeing over time, find out what other people are seeing and have expert help to identify any tricky plants or animals you observe. What's more your observations can help scientists better understand the wildlife around us so we can better protect and enjoy it.

Alësha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins

Rural Crime Focus

The Avon and Somerset and Devon and Cornwall Local Policing Teams are working together to address local issues, improve road safety for all as well as raising awareness of the many ways in which you can help support and protect your rural communities.

National crime trends are often linked to economic changes, and rural areas can often be a soft target for criminals. This can invariably lead to an increase in thefts of livestock, farm and plant machinery, equine property, fuel theft and items forming part of our local heritage. Across our rural landscape, vigilance also needs to be applied to intimidation and damage by poachers, fly tipping, poor control of dogs and those illegally damaging our environment and wildlife.

Fortunately, crime statistics across this area remain lower than most parts of the UK, however we shouldn't be complacent. There are many preventative measures and schemes available which are promoted by your local policing teams to reduce the risk of being targeted and we actively encourage the prompt reporting of any issues or concerns to assist in deterring and detecting criminal activity.

Along with preventing and detecting acquisitive crime, there is a renewed focus on improving road safety. Patrols are being undertaken across the year to increase police visibility in a direct attempt to identify and address poor driving behaviours, raise awareness of the hazards of rural driving and conduct enforcement activity.

We encourage you to join the Avon and Somerset Police or Devon and Cornwall Police Community Alert Schemes. These are two-way community messaging systems that help connect the police with our communities and enables the prompt sharing of information in your local areas:

Join the **Avon and Somerset Police** Community Alert scheme by visiting our website: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/account

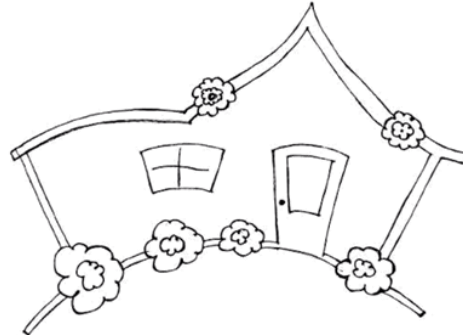
Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

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

Easter Opening Hours

Good Friday	8.00 - 11.00am
Easter Saturday	8.00am - 2.00pm (as normal)
Easter Sunday	9.00 - 11.00am (as normal)
Easter Monday	8.00 - 11.00am

Lovely white or wholemeal sourdough bread and cakes from our local bakery are being delivered to the Shop daily.

If you would like to place an order, please do so the morning before you require it, to ensure receipt the next day.

We are now stocking a great range of fresh, organic fruit and vegetables Delivery is each Monday morning, so do come by and see what is available for the week.

Unique and interesting items for the Gift Stop! are being added regularly Come and see what's new!

Katie is making scrumptious fresh soups most days, only £3 a cup with bread, please give her a call to see what's on offer on the day.

Katie and the Volunteer Team wish you all a very happy Easter.

Dick Treleaven and Kate

Re-hanging a painting recently fired a train of memories: memories of a great man and a great bird. The painting is an oil on canvas of a sombre seascape, the dark cliffs of Cornwall stretching northwards to Hartland. I first saw it in Dick Treleaven's studio – a converted greenhouse attached to his bungalow in South Petherwin near Launceston. That seascape then portrayed one of those rare Cornish days when the calm sea and the sky merge in baleful blues. I said to Dick that it was the view I wanted but no bird was going to fly in that sweltering Mediterranean sky. I had hoped for a more typically Cornish grey-green day with enough wind to make a falcon rouse her feathers, mute, and turn her slate-grey back towards the sea – she was now hunting and 'go-able' as Dick used to say.

"Don't worry dear boy, you shall have it." And a few months later he handed me the painted-over picture I had just re-hung. *"Actually, it is much improved – I think it is one of my better pieces."* Maybe. But only if you have been there.

I first met Dick in the 1960s when there were no peregrines in Cornwall. Pesticides and pollution had killed all but a handful in England, and those that did nest broke their thin-shelled eggs. A few years later, Dick asked me to take him to see something special. He didn't drive but was never short of friends to share a day on the cliff with him.

The land to the cliff edge belonged to Beeny Farm, a little north of Boscastle and the farmer had given Dick permission to take a short cut to the coastal path. When we got there, he said to me, "You are not to tell *anyone!*" I looked over the 300 foot cliff edge and there were four eyasses, (young hawks) partly feathered and huddled in the eyrie. One of the first successful eyries in Cornwall after so many years of poison. Then Kate swept over lip of cliff, rising on the westerly wind-shear, and yacking her harsh rasping call. We retreated a quarter of a mile southwards and settled down on a grassy bank in the shelter of a crumbling wall by a bend in the cliff path. A little to our left and just out of sight was an overhang where Kate would perch when south-westerly gales became tiresome. Dick painted a magnificent portrait of her on that perch, full of poised power with her barred breast faintly tinged with the pink that was her hall-mark. Our view up the coast was hers, and she could also see into her eyrie. Landslides have long since swept that eyrie away and the cliff crumbles down to the small stony beach where seals haul and gulls squabble. Black Rock stands at the far end of the little bay and gives its name in the literature to this peregrine territory though we always called it Beeny.

On another visit to Black Rock, we had found Kate on a favoured hunting perch, her back towards the sea, practically invisible. As usual, nothing much happened for an hour or so. We ate our pasties and drank our tea, taking turns to watch through the telescope. Seals moaned on the beach far below and a basking shark came into the bay, languidly waving its tail; bull-necked fulmars on stiff, sabre-like wings lifted effortlessly past us. The time slipped by in total absorption and, for most of it, we were intensely alert to the natural world around us. Then the peace and beauty around us went out of focus as Dick talked about his war experience in Burma. Later, he was to publish *To War with Trembath*, a personal memoir. Writing it soon after his beloved wife Margie died had released much that had burdened his life – particularly the time his platoon had come across the scene of a battle that had taken place a week before. One young Japanese soldier was still alive, but he died when they gave him water.

Then Dick almost shouted, "She's gone! Where?? *Where is she?*" I found her among the clouds, powering out to sea, her wingtips crossing above and below – the terrifying 'quarry-flight'. She had clearly not been gone long because she ringed up and went on the soar – a crossbow on the sky. After a few more minutes, Dick said, "Here come the pigeons!" Kate let them pass until she had the brightest sunlit clouds behind her. With a quick flip of her wings, she rolled on her back and stooped, powering vertically down, faster and faster, then with wings almost shut, she transformed into a bullet, travelling probably in excess of the 200 mph other falcons have been measured at.

Dick was on his feet and whispering loudly, "Go! Go, my darling, go!" almost in tears at the sheer beauty of such closeness to perfection. Kate passed behind the pigeons, swooped up beneath them, rolled, extended a foot as big as a child's hand, bound onto the tail-end pigeon, and clenched the long talons. Death came at once and feathers drifted down the wind across the bay.

Kate's mate was Idle Angus. 'Idle' because he had never been seen to kill a pigeon. With Kate for a mate he didn't have to. She was death incarnate. Dick saw her kill seven pigeons in a single day and cache them against hungry times. Then in 1975, Dick noticed that she had changed her favourite perches. The next year he realised that her hunting technique was different and the rose wash on her breast less clear. He concluded that Idle Angus had changed mates, and Dick hadn't noticed. This had serious consequences for his meticulous field notes, so Kate became Old Kate. The new Kate hunted just as determinedly as her predecessor, if differently.

In 2007 both Kates were long since dead but Black Rock was still occupied, perhaps by

their descendants. It was the last time I took Dick to the cliffs. He was getting frail and contemplating a hip-replacement. "You'll be out of action for only six months," he had been advised. He replied, "No thanks, I haven't many six months left." As he teetered on the cliff-edge, I wondered which part of his coat I could grab, and how I could anchor myself. Then I thought, no: I would not try to stop him falling. For a few seconds he would have been one of his beloved birds, and spared much pain and indignity.

Two years later, I was in southwest Thailand, not far from the Myanmar border, walking through forest along a path which followed a strangely level ridge. I kicked the leaves aside and saw that it was railway ballast. The next day an email told me that Dick had died.

The last time I went to the sheltered bank at the south end of Black Rock where I had spent so many hours with Dick, there was a lichen-grown bench engraved with

In Memory of R B Treleaven.

Martin Jacoby

PS Dick wrote two other books and published them privately: *PEREGRINE the private life of the Peregrine Falcon* 1977 and *IN PURSUIT OF THE PEREGRINE* 1998, both copiously illustrated with his own great paintings. Amazon want £50 & £100 respectively.

Appley Pavilion

2022-2023 Annual General Meeting
at the Pavilion Thursday 18th May at 7:30 p.m.

Please come along to the Pavilion's AGM to find out about plans for 2023/24. The Pavilion is run by a small band of Trustees and we would really welcome new members joining us.

Our committee meets five or six times a year and apart from rental income, we run a few fund-raising events to ensure the building is kept in good condition and, as funds allow, to make improvements. We keep a 'to do list' and a 'wish list' to keep us on track.

The latest project, in conjunction with Stawley Under 5s, is to tidy up the play area at the back of the building. This includes looking at costs to replace the Astro turf and make a few improvements to the layout.

So come along to the AGM and think about joining the committee or volunteer, we would really welcome new ideas and skills!

Sally Scott, Secretary



New to the area?

Looking to meet new faces?

Want to become engaged with the local community?

Why not consider joining the committee of the Rural Community Initiative.

**Come along to the AGM at the Globe Inn,
Appley on the 19th April
at 7.30 p.m.**

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**

Wednesdays 5th April and 3rd May 2023

Gallery Visit

The Hauser and Wirth Gallery in Bruton has two exhibitions:

'The New Bend' art quilts
Rodney Graham 'Getting it Together in the Country'

Free entry

We are planning a visit on Wednesday 19th April. Meet for lunch in Bruton, visit the 'Make Hauser and Wirth' art and craft shop, then on to the gallery and garden.

Google **Hauser and Wirth Somerset** for more details

If you are interested in joining us please contact Pauline pjw200355@gmail.com

Bathealton Parish Council Minutes 23rd February 2023

Present: Phil Broad - Chairman (PB), Joanne Greenway (JG), Stephen Cottrell (SC), Jess Bunn (JB) and Nerys Gibbs (NG)

Apologies: None

The minutes from the last meeting were read and signed by the chairman.

Accounts: The bank balance stands at £4484.46 at the time of this meeting.

Planning: No applications have been received.

Donations: The Christmas donation to the charity "Open Doors" has been acknowledged, but a receipt is required for the accounts, JB is going to make contact to request one. (An acknowledgment/receipt received 14.3.23)

The donation to Bathealton Church has been acknowledged. The donation is intended to help with renovating the church porch, but realistically the cost is likely to be higher than the donation. The Parish Council may be able to help with a further donation, but until quotes have been obtained by the church, we will have to wait for an update.

The Parish Council received a request from Wivey Link for a donation. A discussion took place which included acknowledgment that several Bathealton residents use the service and it seemed appropriate to make a donation. A figure of £100.00 was agreed. (Received big thank you from Wivey Link).

With respect to the celebration of the Kings Coronation, the Parish Council agreed to donate £200 to the Village Hall fund, to support a planned event.

Footpaths: PB to obtain a map of the parish showing the public footpaths/rights of way. At the next Parish Council meeting members will be assigned footpaths to survey, over the summer months. Problems with access, footpath markers/signs and stiles will be reported to the rights of way council department. (PB has made a request to the 'rights of way' council department to conduct a survey of Bathealton's public footpaths and signage. No reply to date)

The Parish walk will be held at the end of September, a date and details to be confirmed at the next Parish council meeting.

The IED (defibrillator): There is free training available to anyone wishing to learn to use the IED, located on the Village Hall wall in an emergency. Anyone wishing to take part needs to register their interest with NG, who will then organ-

ise a date and time to hold a meeting/demonstration in the Village Hall. The Parish Council are also going to look into the running costs involved with regards to the IED, so that it can be budgeted for. (NG has arranged 28.4.23 as the date for the training)

Finger Posts: Parish council to find a suitable manufacturer to replace one missing and one damaged sign. SC to try and find a local company to obtain a quote.

It has also been suggested that an extra Bathealton Village sign is needed on the entrance to the village from via Watery Lane, Poleshill. Vehicles approaching from this side may not realise that they have arrived at the village, until after they have driven through. It was also suggested that "Please Drive Slowly" signs should be displayed at the entrances to Bathealton, as it has been noted that vehicles are speeding through the village, causing concern, due to there being several children and elderly residents in the village. PB will contact Somerset County Council, to ask advice. (PB has made a request to the council department dealing with 'rights of way' for information on supplying safety signage, awaiting a reply).

Village Hall: The inside has been painted/decorated throughout, and now appears clean and more inviting. Thank you to Dennis Sheehan and PB. During the work it was noted that two areas of flooring adjacent to the kitchen unit require repair. If necessary, the Parish Council will consider approving some funding, if any substantial work is to be undertaken.

Potholes/Road issues: Any problems with the local roads can be reported to Somerset County Council using the following web address www.somerset.gov.uk under the category roads and highways. You can then report a problem on the road, choose a problem from the list and they will access the reported problem within three working days. It does seem to be an effective way to get problems sorted. A number of potholes have recently been filled in on Stonehill Lane.

AOB: The Parish Council has invited our local PCSO to attend and provide a local update at the November meeting.

Next Meeting Dates: June 15th; September 14th; November 16th and February 15th 2024. All at 7.30 p.m. in Bathealton Village Hall.

Everyone is Welcome

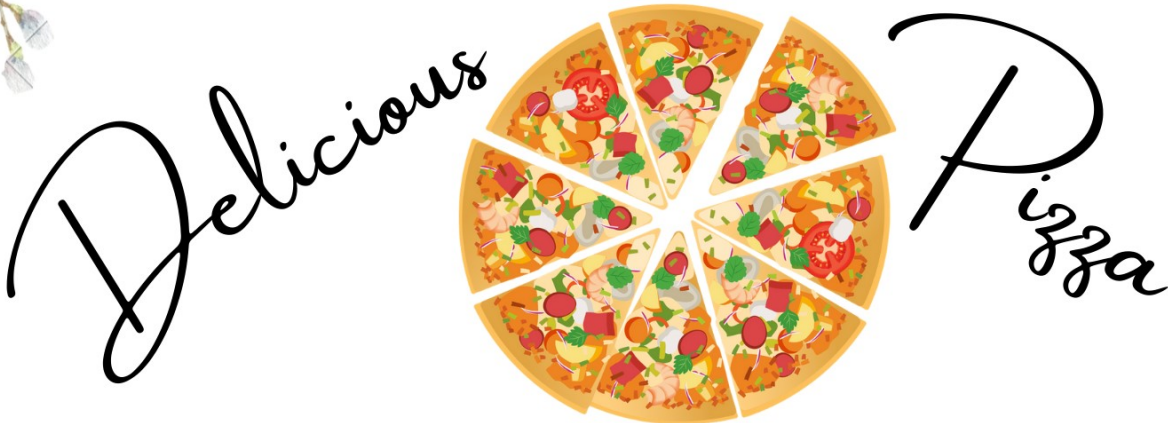
Phil Broad (Chairman)

— THE —
GLOBE INN

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Start your Easter weekend in style.

Our famous pizza nights return on Good Friday, 7th April.
Choose from our wide array of toppings to personalise your pizza.



Soak up the spring sunshine in our beautiful garden and enjoy our weekly-changing selection of seasonal guest ales.

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Chaenomeles- the Japanese Quince



The afternoon sun in mid-March illuminates the wall - trained *Chaenomeles x superba* 'Rowallane' growing on the house at Knightshayes.

Its vibrant, rich red blooms glow with an intensity that, on an early Spring-day like this, never fails to stop me in my tracks. I feel like I've been visiting this plant for many years and like an old friend, it always welcomes me back with a burst of iridescent fire bringing colour back into my life after a long, grey winter. Recently I noticed that the RHS (and others) list this cultivar as only growing to three feet high after ten years!

I suppose if it was left to just form a sprawling shrub it would grow outwards but the act of training it 'up' a wall over numerous years finds this specimen some ten feet or more in height. And according to the National Trust plant records, it is a scion from the original cultivar 'Rowallane' that was identified in the garden of that name in County Down during the 1920s. Then it became commercially available when it was awarded its RHS 'Award of Garden Merit' in 1984.

The Japanese Quinces are a genus of deciduous, early spring flowering shrubs native to the wooded regions of China and Japan. They are members of the Rose family (*Rosaceae*) and so are related to 'true' Quinces (*Cydonia oblonga*) and have fruit of varying sizes and colours. I am often asked about their edibility; the RHS confusingly lists that they are both 'potentially harmful' and 'edible'!

I think most people accept that if you are really determined you can make a jelly or 'fruit butter' from them and some have said they prefer it to 'real quince' butter. The smell of ripe (or 'bletted') Japanese quince can be either 'floral and exquisite' or 'stomach churning' depending on your personal preference. Personally, I feel the fruit have a definite ornamental quality on the plant but are probably best left there.

They are tolerant of most soils, even very alkaline ones but prefer a good loam with some organic matter. They are equally happy in a border in full sun or in a dappled woodland setting. If you have inherited one that is a tad

overgrown or congested, either prune it progressively over a few years or go in hard and accept you may have few flowers for a year or two as they flower on previous years growth. Four main species make up the pool from which the many garden cultivars available today are derived; *C. Speciosa*, *C. japonica*, *C. cathayensis* and *C. thibetica*.

Four garden varieties I would heartily recommend are:

- C. speciosa* 'Moerloosei' (syn 'Apple Blossom'): Large white, pink flushed flowers
- C. speciosa* 'Nivalis': a good upright habit with white flowers
- C x superba* 'Nicoline': a more spreading habit with deep crimson flowers
- C x superba* 'Pink Lady': again, of a more spreading habit with rich pink flowers

As a genus, Chaenomeles have had a chequered history; they have been extremely popular in the past and became a symbol of the 'journeymen' gardeners who came to learn their trade in the large private gardens and estates of England. The bothy in which they lodged (often with other trainee gardeners) was frequently called the 'Ponica' (an abbreviation of Japonica which was another name by which the Chaenomeles was known).

Today, the symbol of the Professional Gardeners Guild is a sprig of 'Ponica' and I was once given a cast iron fire-surround which came from an old garden bothy decorated with the naked blooms of the Japanese Quince. I think that as a garden plant they fell out of fashion mainly as a firm hand and sharp pair of secateurs are needed to keep them under control, their native habit being fairly unruly. Also, many of the species tend towards producing thorny spikes which can be very unpleasant if one becomes impaled. And I think they, like many stalwart shrubs such as *Kerria japonica* and some of the *Hypericum* species, were just considered a bit 'old hat' and 'vulgar'; not 'choice' enough. Such are the shallow vagaries of fashion as in any area of culture and art. Luckily, like many plants, they are once again being recognized for their vigour and utility as well as grace, and above all, for being good 'do'ers'.

John and Julie Ridgley

Stawley Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at Court Place Farm at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday 13th April

Everyone is welcome.

An illustration on the left side of the page shows three young people and a panda. At the top is a girl with grey hair and a blue tie, smiling broadly. Below her is a boy with a beard and a yellow shirt, also smiling. At the bottom is a girl with blonde hair and a yellow shirt, holding a small panda. The background is green with white lines.

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Stawley Parish Council Meeting - 14th March 2023

The Parish Council met in March for the first time since last December; the break was caused by there being little to discuss. This meeting had a full agenda and started with a brief talk by a member of the Friends of the Grand Western Canal about their plans to develop a heritage and wildlife corridor along the line of the canal from Tiverton to Taunton. Further details can be found at <https://www.friendsgrandwesterncanal.org.uk/>

The canal in our Parish goes from the border with Devon through to Cothay and is discernible for most of its length. The plan is for information boards to be placed along the corridor with one possibly by the point where the canal crosses the road in Greenham. The Council is keen to support this and is waiting for fuller plans to be made by the Friends. It was also agreed that Stawley Council would become a Corporate Friend.

Somerset County Council will become Somerset Council from the 1st April. The immediate change for us is that all planning applications will now be determined by Somerset Council rather than the District Council as in the past. The new Council is proposing to change the way it informs Parish Councils and neighbours of planning applications so Stawley and our local Somerset Councillor, Dave Mansell, has made representations to ensure that we are kept informed about new applications.

Broadband continues to be an issue of concern. Airband are still rolling out fibre across Somerset and Devon and are apparently getting as close as Holywell Lake soon but the Parish is in a tranche that is to be connected in the last quarter of 2024. The central government funding for this roll-out also ends at the end of that quarter, so we are at risk of being left out. The Council will be contacting Airband to arrange a meeting with their representative, in order to get more concrete information about their provision into our Parish. We will also be contacting Openreach again as we are aware that there are at least two fibres passing along the road from the Greenham exchange towards Ashbrittle and cannot see why properties along this line cannot be connected to fibre.

There have been many movements of large lorries to and from the top of Bullockfield Hill. It is not clear what they are carrying but further enquiries are being made with the help of the new Council to ensure that their activities are legal.

Our finances are sound. The precept for the next financial year has been maintained at the same level as last year but, as there are more properties on the list, the resultant bill has been

reduced by 4% for each in the Parish. There is a refurbished fingerpost on the Greenham corner as you come into the Parish; this cost us £2,200 as three new fingers had to be cast to replace the previous utilitarian flat metal fingers.

The Parish Council also approved a donation to Wivey Cares of £100. This charity was established to provide a communication hub for those in need of care, and those who can provide the service, but has now expanded.

See article below.

Paul Musgrove (Clerk)

Wivey Cares

Wivey Cares is a unique charity which links local self employed carers with elderly people so that they may be looked after and be able to stay in their own homes. It is based in Wiveliscombe and offers support to people in the town and also in the surrounding parishes of Ashbrittle, Batheaton, Brompton Ralph, Chipstable, Fitzhead, Huish Champflower, Milverton and Stawley.

Wivey Cares also runs a weekly Memory Activity Group in Wiveliscombe Community Centre to help and support people with memory difficulties. It will also help people to claim their Attendance Allowance, providing some of the funding needed to help with care needs.

The care available ranges from personal care during the day to walking the dog and providing meals along with companionship.

If you would like to know more about the care available or to register as a carer then please email co-ordinator@wiveycares.net or contact Tamzin on 07508 331661.

Chris Howe



**Coffee
Morning**
and
Bring and Buy

at
**The Old Rectory
Stawley**

Thursday 27th April
10.00 a.m. – 12 noon

All proceeds in aid of Stawley Church



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The new unitary Somerset Council

As you may have seen, a new Somerset Council takes over from the county and district councils from April. This big change was proposed by the County Council in 2020 during the pandemic. Government agreed, with consultation following and a Secretary of State decision in July 2021.

Elections to the new council were in May last year. Those of us then elected have served as county councillors for a year, as well as taking decisions on setting up the new council.

From this April, the County Council will be renamed as Somerset Council and the districts, including Somerset West and Taunton Council, will be merged in to it. The new council takes on responsibilities from both former tiers, which have always had overlaps. It should be beneficial and simpler to bring all services together under one roof. From the county, services taken on include social care, transport and waste disposal. From districts, it includes housing, planning and waste collection. There are many more service areas, including economic development, libraries, public health, special educational needs and addressing climate change.

Services provision should largely continue as previously, although there will be common arrangements established where these had differed across districts. Current planning policies will continue to apply, until a new Somerset-wide Local Plan is agreed, which is expected to take three to five years.

For information and online reporting, there is a new website at www.somerset.gov.uk and a new single phone number for all services – 0300 123 2224. Old council websites and phone numbers will redirect to the new ones for up to twelve months. The new website will show the wide range of services provided and contain most of what is needed, although further content may be added over the coming months.

Council offices with receptions will continue, although there may be some rationalisation in the future and some surplus buildings already identified, which will be sold or rented.

There is a new council logo with a dragon's head, which was produced at low cost in-house. This will be used where needed from the start, but otherwise will be phased in over time as signs and assets are replaced.

As councillors, we have reviewed arrange-

ments and plans for the new council and been able to secure some improvements. We have prepared and agreed a new constitution, set a vision and priorities in the Council Plan and agreed a budget. £40m of savings were needed for 2023/24, although some were in the system already, such as Recycle More collections that have increased recycling, and some result from having a single unitary council.

A new staffing structure is being put in place. Redundancies will mostly be from the director tiers, which will give a £3m saving. Other staff will transfer into the new council, with interim structures to be followed by new service teams established in coming months.

A lot of work has been undertaken to achieve a smooth transition into the new authority, including to adopt common IT systems in advance and ensure services are ready.

A concern with the new council is that it could be too remote from communities and local needs. Divisions covered by Somerset Councillors are larger than those previously covered by District Councillors and we cover a lot more services. In Upper Tone, Cllr. Gwil Wren and I will do our best to cover the fourteen town and parish areas we were elected to represent.

To strengthen council and community links, eighteen Local Community Networks (LCNs) are being established across Somerset. Ours covers Wellington and Wiveliscombe and the parishes between, including Ashbrittle, Bathealton and Stawley. These will involve representatives from parish councils, local businesses and community organisations. They will provide a forum for joint working and reporting into Somerset Council. It will be found how well this works in practice, after LCN meetings start this summer.

Cllr Dave Mansell - Somerset Council

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for February

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.00	8.30	4.37	3.86	0.59

What a difference a month makes. From 6.85 inches in January to this – just over ½ an inch for February. And yes, it is a local record. I checked the rainfall statistics back to their inception in 2001. The closest is February 2012 with 1.2 inches followed by February 2005 with 1.28 inches. 2023 could turn out an interesting year!

Val Coots

APPLEY PAVILION

PRESENTS

Spring Ball

Silent Auction

DRESS CODE - BALL GOWNS & BLACK TIE

Saturday 27th May - 7.30pm - 1am

TICKETS: £25pp - Includes Supper!

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rob.kristy@tiscali.co.uk**

**RAISING MONEY FOR APPLEY PAVILION,
ASHBRITTLE CRICKET CLUB,
STAWLEY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL**

Lunch Club

Our February Lunch Club was unusually lively. Tables were pushed aside and Sally and Martin Perry treated us to a demonstration of their rock and rolling skills. After some gentle hand jiving we were invited to take to the floor to learn some basic steps. A surprising number of our group jostled for a position on the floor as Sally patiently and expertly guided us through the movements amidst much laughter and many mistakes. Several of us had our appetites whetted for more of the same...

Our April talk occurs shortly before the Coronation. To mark the occasion we have Colin Spackman of the Wellington History Society giving us a talk on 'Broadcasting in 1953'.

This will be a 'nostalgic journey through the Coronation edition of the Radio Times recalling radio and TV programmes, presenters, some intriguing advertisements and a couple of local connections'.

The date is Thursday 27th April at 12 noon. If you would like to join us, please let me know, at the latest by Monday 24th April.

Telephone 01823 672203 or email harlingdelia@gmail.com

Delia Harling

Ashbrittle, Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club

Thank you to all who attended the quiz night in February. £540.00 was raised to help with ground maintenance. Thanks to Alan Rose for being the question master, and all the help in the kitchen for the supper, Kath, Janet, Jon, Kristy and Suzette.

Ground force day Sunday 2nd April
from 10.00 a.m.

Weather permitting outdoor nets will begin
20th April 6.30p.m.

If you are interested in getting involved in any way with the Cricket Club please get in touch with Rob Williams; email williamspfa@outlook.com or call 01823 672266.

Wivey Folk Dancing

at Wiveliscombe Community Centre

April 25th and May 9th
8.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

£4.00 includes tea or coffee

A welcome guaranteed, no experience needed



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Tuesdays 18th April and 16th May

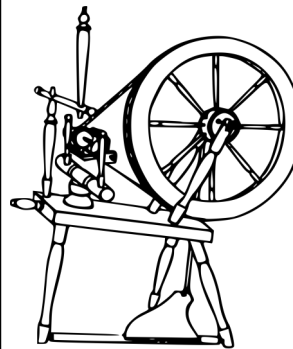
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Spinning and Woolcraft Group

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.

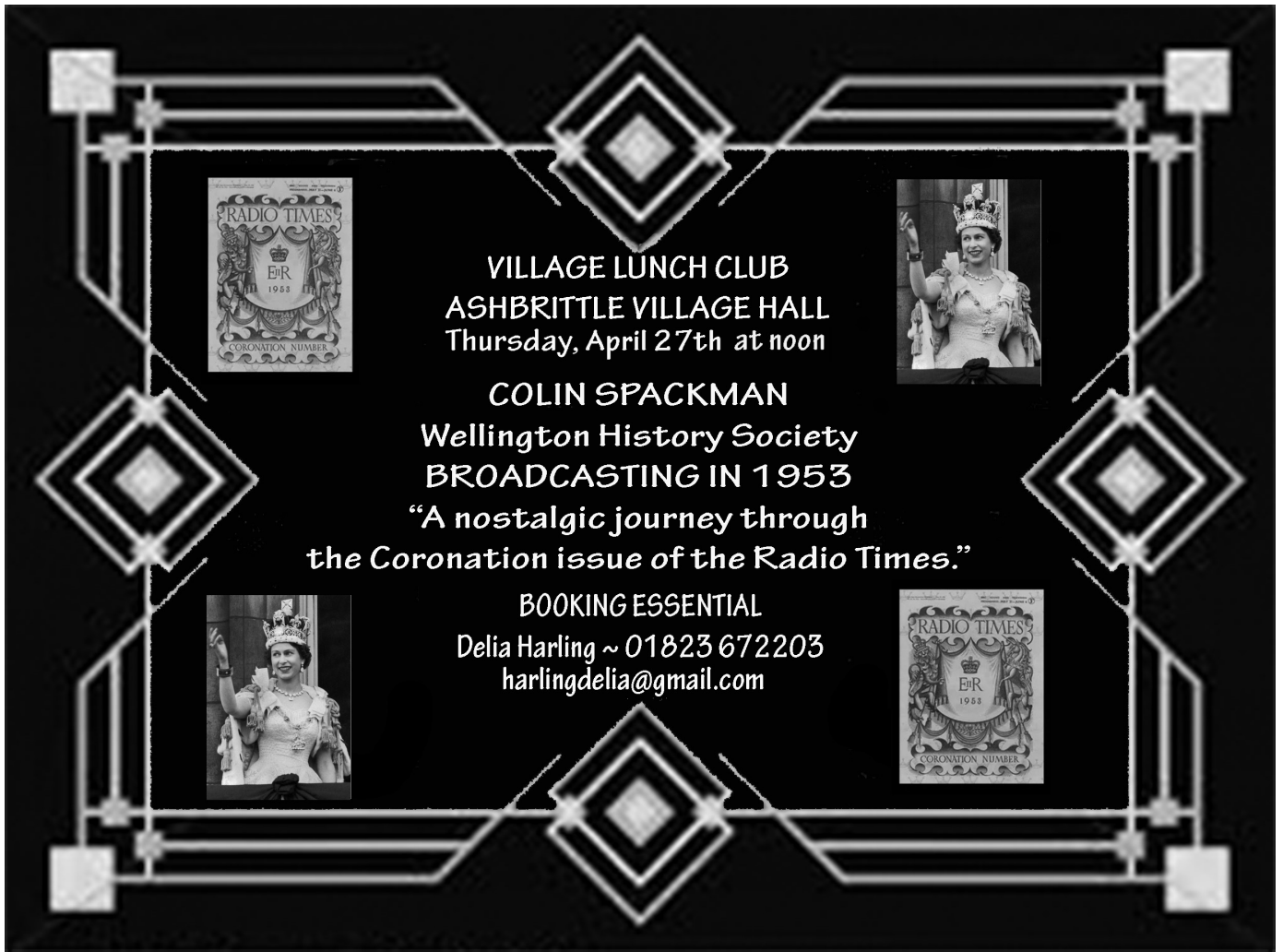
If you would like to join us please contact me and I will add you to the mailing list. Perhaps you would like to come along and learn to spin with us?


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

Next Sessions


Tuesdays: 4th and 18th April
2nd and 16th May
at 2.30pm

Contact Pauline: on 01823 672222 or
email pjw200355@gmail.com







VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, April 27th at noon



COLIN SPACKMAN
Wellington History Society
BROADCASTING IN 1953
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the Coronation issue of the Radio Times.”



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**Parking alongside
Ashbrittle Village Green**

While not responsible for the village green the Parish Council supports the preservation of this space as a community asset. Over recent years the boundary has been eroded in places by traffic passing or parking.

It would be appreciated if all road users could take care not to mount the grass and residents park with all four wheels on the road tarmac, giving the grass the chance to grow back to create an attractive mud-free boundary that is safe to walk on. Many thanks.

*Pip Wilson (contact 07968 181816)
on behalf of Ashbrittle Parish Council*

Attic Sale
Bathealton Village Hall

Come and grab a bargain
15th April 2023
2.30pm

Admission 50p – children free

Wivey Link

Going places.....

Wivey Link offers a community run transport service for those of any age with out easy access to a car. We can take people to health and medical appointments as well as social trips, shopping, hairdressers etc.



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Defibrillators and The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

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01823 244104

BATHEALTON: 01984 322919

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

The VETS numbers are available should you need assistance in an emergency or help to access a defibrillator. Remember, in the event of a possible cardiac arrest in your household: **ALWAYS DIAL 999 FIRST IN AN EMERGENCY AND, IF A CHANCE ARISES, THEN DIAL THE VETS NUMBER, SPECIFYING THAT YOU NEED A DEFIBRILLATOR RATHER THAN GENERAL HELP**

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

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

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

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

Stawley Shop, on outside wall
messaging.servers.quaking

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

Editorial Policy

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

Local Information

Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

Greenham & Tracebridge	Caro Ayre	01823 672603
Appley	Rachel Chesterton	01823 673063
Ashbrittle	Charles Doble	01823 672365
Stawley	Pat Sweet	01823 672380
Wellisford	William Thomas	01823 673143
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

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

April

15th	10.00 - 12.00 noon	'Coffee and Chat' in Ashbrittle Village Hall
15th	2.30 p.m.	Attic Sale in Bathealton Village Hall
19th	7.30 p.m.	AGM of the Rural Community Initiative in the Globe Inn, Appley
23rd	8.30 - 11.30 a.m.	St George's Day Breakfast in Appley Pavilion
27th	10.00 - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning at the Old Rectory, Stawley

May

13th	2.30 p.m. Gates open	Bathealton Plant Sale
20th	10.00 a.m. - 12 noon	'Coffee and Chat' in Ashbrittle Village Hall
24th		The Taunton Deane Morris Men will perform: 8.00p.m. Ashbrittle Village Hall; 9.00 p.m. The Globe, Appley
27th	7.30p.m. - 1.0 a.m.	Spring Ball at Appley Pavilion

June

3rd	2.00 p.m.	Stawley Church Garden Party and Fete
11th	2.00 - 6.00 p.m.	Open Gardens at Kittisford with music by 'Honest John'
17th	10.00 - 12 noon	'Coffee and Chat' in Ashbrittle Village Hall

July

2nd	2.00 - 6.00 p.m.	The Stawley Festival at the Pavilion
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September

10th		Stawley Flower Show and Appley Pavilion Teas
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October

8th		Apple Day at the Pavilion
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Beacon Lighting to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III
at the Trig Point Field above Hellings Farm

*Beacon to be lit just before dusk
6th May 2023*

Artists Wanted!

Do you have a painting or photograph which could be used as a cover design for the Parish News? Seasonal and local images are particularly welcome - and of course, there's a Coronation in the offing! Please send hi-res images (300dpi) to Avril at AvrilSilk@aol.com Portrait format is ideal if possible.

Next Deadline Date: Friday 21st April 2023

Editors: Maurice and Avril