



# Parish news

July 2023

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

## Church Services

<b>Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup></b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 4 Parish Communion	STAWLEY
<b>Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 5 Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
<b>Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 6 Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
<b>Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup></b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 7 Parish Communion	BATHEALTON
<b>Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup></b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 8 Parish Communion	GREENHAM

## 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** Rev'd Martin Beaumont, Hilltop, Milverton TA4 1JR 01823 400127

### 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.  
Please send hi-res images (300dpi) to Avril at [AvrilSilk@aol.com](mailto:AvrilSilk@aol.com)  
Portrait format is ideal if possible.

**We are using a better quality paper from now on so that your lovely artwork will be displayed to even greater advantage...**

*Front cover photograph - A gorgeous afternoon at the Stawley Fete and Garden Party. Maurice Stanbury*

*Back cover photograph - a spotted flycatcher. Clive Wall*

## Thought for the Month

Not one but two lists of honours have been in the news recently. The first, from a former Prime Minister, sought to honour those who had proved helpful and loyal to his own personage. Amongst the recipients were former colleagues, aides and even his hairdresser. The second was a rather more traditional list; not only were there honours for those who had given distinguished service in the military or the political and diplomatic services, the honours net was flung much wider and to a greater depth.

At the age of eighteen, Junior Jay Froid was honoured with an MBE for his work campaigning against bullying after being bullied himself because of his enthusiasm for dancing. Roisin Marshall, from Belfast, received an OBE as Chief Executive of an organisation seeking to extend integration in Northern Ireland Schools. Since the Good Friday Agreement, the number of children educated in integrated schools has doubled and this movement has been described as *"the most cost effective, successful community reconciliation project in Northern Ireland."* Alice Good from Northumberland received an MBE for founding "Sunflower Sisters", a woman to woman buddy system set up to support Ukrainian refugees in the UK.

The first list reminded one correspondent in the letters' page of my newspaper of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, *"The louder he talked of his honour, the faster we counted our spoons."* Honours that are awarded simply because the recipient found favour with a Prime Minister are often widely condemned as yet another example of the exercise of entitlement. The second list however, called to mind the value of a system that allows us, as a society and not just the monarch, to recognise the valuable work of individuals, many of whom are unpaid. In our group of parishes, the late Peggy Wotton, a resident of Greenham, was recognised for just such a long period of dedicated community service to school, church and the welfare of her many neighbours and friends.

In this way, we come to recognise that the word "honour" does not simply describe something, usually an award or decoration, given to a person for their meritorious conduct. Rather, an honour is, in the words of the Oxford Dictionary, *"allegiance to what is a right standard of conduct."* When we honour another, we commend them and what they do. We signify that society recognises that what they do is good.

At the same time, honouring another for their conduct is an encouragement for the rest of us to act in a similarly positive and helpful manner. This is not because we think that we too

may receive a "gong"! Rather, the rest of us are encouraged by the good behaviour of others and seek to emulate them.

*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.*

### Ten Ways to Love

Listen without interrupting  
Share without pretending  
Speak without accusing  
Enjoy without complaining  
Give without sparing  
Trust without wavering  
Pray without ceasing  
Forgive without punishing  
Answer without arguing  
Promise without forgetting

ANONYMOUS  
Taken from *Radical Love* by Satish  
Kumar (2023)

### Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from:

Dr M-C Hugh  
Christine Howe  
and in the Village Shop

Thanks again, for your kind support. Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer. Details inside back cover.

### Mobile Library

at  
Greenham Bridge

#### Next visits

Tuesday 4th July and 1st August 2023  
10.00 - 10.20 am



## Stawley Fete and Garden Party

We decided to open the gates to Stawley Church Fete and Garden Party at 2:00 p.m. this year. This meant that there was even more time for everyone to enjoy the beauty of the gardens at Stawley Mill and to either find themselves a bargain on the various stalls, or to chance their luck on the tombola or 'bat the rat'.



*Lots of choice on the plant stall.*

The weather was on its best behaviour, and we had a wonderful late spring sunny day, which of course meant that the tea stall was working at full steam for most of the afternoon.



*A very happy occasion*

We were absolutely delighted to see so many of you there, and we thank you for your generosity, and supportive feedback on the day.

A total of over £1,500 was raised, which is an astonishing amount of money for a local event.

A massive thanks to everyone who was involved in any way, and we look forward to seeing you all again on the first Saturday in June 2024.

*Colin Haddrell, Stawley PCC Secretary*

## Bathealton Boundary Buddies (BBB)



### *Why not drop into our monthly 'Pop Up' in Bathealton Village Hall*

When : First Monday of the month:  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon - 3.00 p.m.

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Have a coffee, tea, light bite and cakes -  
Catch up and Chat

Cost : £7.00 - a percentage of the profit will help to support the village hall.

*Book a place by calling Denise or Adele on  
07355 810132*



## Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbottle Village Hall

Saturday 15th July  
10 -12 noon

**Unlimited Coffee and Delicious Home Baked  
Cakes available.**

**All for £4 per head  
Please come and join us!**

## Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on  
**Wednesday 9th August**

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





# STAWLEY FESTIVAL

## Sunday 2nd July

Music, Food, Stalls, Kids' Activities and Good Vibes!

The line up:

**RADIO** *Sunset*

Matilda Reynolds **TAYLOR LATHAM**

**'THE ROBERT' WEST' BAND**

- Plus special guest! -

Ticket  
Includes:  
Kids' Activities  
Games +  
More

2-6pm, Appley Pavilion TA21 0HH

Tickets: Adults £5 (18+) - Kids £2.50 (1+) Family Ticket £15 (2 adults with 3 or more Kids)

All proceeds to be split equally between Stawley Pre-School & Friends of Stawley School

## Pelargoniums; more diverse than you think

*Pelargoniums*, or what our parents and grandparents called 'Geraniums' have had a bad press over the years. For a time, the very mention of them brought up lurid 1960s 'Kodachrome' images of post-war bedding schemes full of seed raised 'Zonals' (*Pelargonium x hortorum*) in shades of shocking scarlet. Being erroneously called 'Geraniums' just heightened the mild distaste rather than adding mystique.

The actual species *Geranium* is almost entirely made up of hardy herbaceous perennials, annuals and biennials from the northern hemisphere. Whilst being related, the species *Pelargonium* are a peculiar mix of tender sub-shrubs, woody perennials and near succulent-cacti-like plants with the majority of species found in south Africa, some in the Antipodes and a few in north Africa.

The Botanist Carl Linneaus originally grouped *Geranium* and *Pelargonium* together in the 1750s and they were not recognized as separate species until towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They were later divided into a number of different groups (or sub-sections) which reflected the remarkably diverse forms found in the wild and the first references to cultivation come from John Tradescant the elder in the 1630s after he purchased seed from ships that had stopped off in the Cape of Good Hope.

A small number of species became well known and frequently grown in European botanic gardens but commercial hybridizing of 'decorative forms' didn't really start until the beginning of the twentieth century when the 'Zonal' 'Ivy-leaved' 'Regal' 'Angel' 'Unique' and 'Scented leaf' hybrids started to appear on the market. Over the years these have been developed into a truly bewildering array of forms available and the inevitable rises and falls in fashion have meant that many original varieties and species have all but disappeared from cultivation.

### National collection

Until recently the national collection of *Pelargoniums* was held by Fibrex nurseries who are based in Warwickshire. It was started in 1958 and the family nursery held and maintained it until 2021 when they decided to donate it to the RHS. I visited the nursery on many occasions and bought copious quantities of gorgeous old fashioned scented-leaf species, Angels and Regal hybrids for Highgrove's Islamic Garden where they were shown off to great effect in simple terracotta pots or 'block' planted in small formal beds helping create the 'Persian carpet' effect.

Since early 2023 Wooten's Nursery in Suffolk have held a national collection of scented-leaf forms and species and their website looks very yummy indeed if you are looking for something special to put in a nice pot to adorn your steps or any sunny nook!

The vast majority of *Pelargoniums* are remarkably simple to grow and propagate providing a few basic guidelines are followed. Firstly, they are all tender and will need winter protection. Some are more tender than others and damp, mild winters are often more likely to see off your favourite plant through succumbing to a fungal disease. Keep them dry through the winter with a good air-flow around them. Secondly, they prefer a soil based, gritty free-draining compost and happily tolerate a certain amount of being 'root bound'. Thirdly, a potassium rich liquid feed will produce the best flowers but don't over-feed them and not too much nitrogen which will encourage soft green growth. Finally, don't be afraid to prune them or indeed cut them back fairly hard in spring to encourage new growth, particularly if you want fresh 'cuttings' material.

Cuttings are best taken when semi-ripe, inserted into gritty soil-based compost during the late summer-autumn period, watering well once then leaving them to almost dry out, watering only very sporadically until well rooted in the spring when they can be potted up individually and grown on.

Seed of commercial varieties of Zonal and Ivy leaved forms (F1 or F2) are easier to come by and cheaper than they used to be and easy to germinate in a propagator or greenhouse. Seed from unusual species or open crossed varieties can sometimes be obtained from specialist growers, giving some very exciting and intriguing results. There are so many species, types and forms with so much variation that rather than suggest a few (and I don't have the space to do them justice), I recommend you have a look at some of the specialist growers' websites - they are definitely a species that has 'collect me' written all over it!

John Ridgley

### Situation Vacant

Ashbittle Parish Council is seeking a person to prepare the meeting agenda, take the minutes at the bi-monthly meetings, type the minutes and distribute them as required. Meetings are held in Ashbittle, usually bi-monthly, and last 1-2 hours; associated admin would be carried out soon after the meeting.

For further details, please apply to Charles Doble, Chairman.

[charles@greenandcarter.com](mailto:charles@greenandcarter.com)





# Chipstable Village Hall Super Summer BBQ



**Saturday August 26th 2023 -12.30pm**

**Chipstable Village Hall,**

**Waterrow - TA4 2AX**



A great way to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon. A range of BBQ dishes with plenty of Vegetarian options will be provided, including a selection of tasty salads and homemade desserts. Please bring your own drinks.

A **free raffle ticket strip** is included in the price. Simply keep and exchange the ticket stub on the door. There are some **fantastic prizes** to be won.

Tickets can be purchased from Liz at St Andrews café on Thursday Mornings, call - Sarah on 01398 361202 or you can simply pay on the door

**Priced at only £8 for adults £4 for children**

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

## Read all about it!

After all those years of swotting at school and having to learn stuff which frankly has never served any purpose in real life (comma and deep breath), here, appearing in your local vicinity, is an opportunity not to be missed.

Lurking and languishing on dedicated shelves just waiting for appreciative new homes, are hundreds of preloved books which could entertain and inform you on topics far and wide. Travel; biographies; exciting journeys to remote regions; intimate insights into other people's lives. Cookery and gardening... well, who doesn't need a bit of inspiration here? Sports interest for all those armchair exercise bunnies!

There are four shelves of children's books suitable for keeping your little imps quietly occupied. AND, of course, there are stacks of made up stories (commonly known as fiction), of imagination and insight into all manner of intriguing situations for you to marvel at, puzzle at, empathise with and enjoy.

All this at super-low, pre-Brexit prices, with guaranteed reductions on multiple purchases. Not only could you expand your horizons (without the help of electronics and Google), but with all profits going to a good cause, you could congratulate yourself that you had done one of your good turns for the day.

Do come and browse the many titles on offer in the little studio at Stawley Mill and enjoy a cup of coffee and cake, as you anticipate settling down with a good book this summer in a deck chair, or even, if you can wait, next winter by the fireside!

*Angela Johnson*

You are cordially invited to:

**Books and Biscuits,  
Coffee and Cake**

**STAWLEY MILL STUDIO BOOKSHOP**

on the  
first and third Wednesday of each month

**5th and 19th July**

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

*All proceeds in aid of Stawley Church  
Fabric Fund.*

## Bathealton Parish Walk



The annual Bathealton parish walk will be conducted on Sunday 3rd of September, starting at 2.00 p.m. from Bathealton village hall.

All residents and friends of Bathealton are welcome to join the walk.

## 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 July  
and 2nd August**

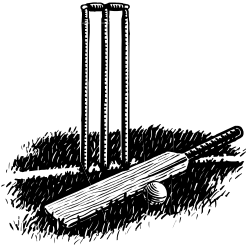
Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts, see what's going on and tell us about your favourite craft

If you are interested in joining us please contact Pauline [pjw200355@gmail.com](mailto:pjw200355@gmail.com)

*"Look out for events at the pavilion on  
our new chalk notice board."*

*Provided by the Pavilion Committee for  
all to use.*





# Ashbrittle Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club

## Fixtures for July 2023

West Somerset Cricket League Div 2 & Div 4

### 1st XI

1st	Home v Wiveliscombe
8th	Home v East Huntspill
15th	Away v Crowcombe
22nd	Home v Churchinford
29th	Away v Stoodleigh

### 2nd XI

Away v	Stoke St Mary
Away v	East Huntspill
Home v	Brompton Ralph
Away v	Hemyock
Home v	Minehead

Great excitement at the cricket ground as teas are re-introduced this season - not all clubs have got back into this arrangement, which is a shame, as it brings families together over a cup of tea and a piece of cake! All very welcome to pop down and enjoy a bit of local cricket and support your club

Big thanks to all who helped towards the Spring Ball. The cricket club reserved a Saturday for this event, which means they now have to play into mid September, but it was well worth it. A great night was had by all and the local community. The club would like to thank those who donated auction prizes and those that bid: Jack Leach - signed Cricket bat and ball with a photo, Craig Overton - batting gloves, four tickets to watch Somerset play at the county ground, signed by whole team. Exeter Chiefs rugby ball, Fox Wellington designer wool cricket jumper, Helly Henson Trio, whyknotwood Pete Cooper table, lambing experience, bags of briquettes, Westcott logs, personalised wooden sign, Pipe Race membership and The Globe - pizza night amounting to over £800 for the club.

*Suzette Williams*

**OLD MAN OAK**  
THE OLD MILL TRACEBRIDGE WELLINGTON SOMERSET TA21 0HG  
07753 814553

**VENISON FOR SALE**  
MINCE, DICED, STEAKS, JOINTS  
All naturally harvested!  
Bespoke orders fulfilled too - just call me to ask.  
If you'd like to go on the Whatsapp group, please let me know. Ant.

**SUMMER PAINTING DAYS IN THE GARDEN**  
With Jane Embleton  
At the Old House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE  
July 19th, August 23rd and September 20th.  
10.30 - 4 pm.

Treat yourself to a whole day painting or drawing the garden, sheds, barns or the spectacular views around the garden or in the village. Morning coffee and a mostly homegrown lunch and cake included. Undercover spaces for too much heat or rain, tuition, guidance and some basic materials are on offer or just come and do your own thing. It will only cost you £45 for the day!

To book your place or for further details please contact:  
Jane Embleton on 01823 672689 or  
jembleton63@hotmail.co.uk

## Kittisford Open Gardens

Three gardens in Kittisford were thrown open to us all on the afternoon of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, thanks to the sterling work of the Askews, Stanburys, and Burns-Cox family. We were blessed with fine weather, despite some thunder clouds drifting overhead. The marketing campaign of Susie Askew bore fruit with some two hundred people



coming along to the event. They saw some beautiful gardens, enjoyed a cream tea and listened to some lovely music provided by Honest John. In fact, some came along more to listen to the band than view the gardens.



The event was in aid of Kittisford Church and Ukraine and certainly exceeded my expectations, if not those of Susie, the lead organiser of the event. St Nicholas was gifted with £1,250 and the charity 'Somerset Aid for Ukraine', a local community venture run by volunteers, received a total of £1,580.

Thanks to all those who attended and all those who helped on the day to make this such a successful event, with special thanks to the gardeners of Kittisford.

*Paul Musgrove (Church Treasurer)*

## Bathealton Parish Council AGM and Annual Meeting Thursday 15 June 2023

**Present:** Phil Broad, Chair and Treasurer (PB), Steve Cottrell (SC), Jess Bunn (JB), John Ridgley (JR), Dennis Sheehan (DS).

**Apologies:** None.

(PB) informed committee members that Joanne Greenway had submitted a resignation with immediate effect. Nerys Gibbs had also previously resigned from the committee. It was agreed to purchase a thank you card and vouchers to the value of £20.00, in recognition for their past contributions.

**Chair's annual report:**

(PB) delivered a short summary of the work/activity of the parish council which included PB undertaken a course regarding the painting of finger post signs; some have been painted, although this will be an ongoing piece of work across the parish. New glass for the church porch is in hand, and a contribution toward the materials for the redecoration of the village hall.

Charitable donations for 2022/2023 totalled: £1650.00.

**Ongoing costs:**

Maintenance of Church grounds £325.00

Village Hall Hire £200.00

Insurance £273.00

Maintenance and repairs £17.98

**Receipts**

Precept £900.00

Burial grounds £325.00

Footpaths £250.00

Community Infrastructure Levy £2265.02

**Accounts have a healthy balance of £4184.46**

John Ridgley (JR) was elected to the committee and will assist with secretarial work. (PB) welcomed John to the committee and looks forward to working with him.

We are currently short of one Parish Councillor. Any expressions of interest can be directed to (PB).

**Followed by a Parish Council Meeting:**

**1. Public participation:**

To allow members of the public to be present at meetings in order to raise matters relevant to the Parish of Bathealton Parish or the work of the Parish Council.

**2. Apologies:** None.



**2a. Thanks.** PB thanked DS and Karen for completing these minutes at short notice.

All parish council members would like to thank Nerys Gibbs for her contribution to the Parish Council over the last several years.

**3. Declaration of interest:**

Councillors were reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.

**4. Minutes:**

Minutes agreed for meeting 23 February 2023, there were no matters arising.

**5. Reports from County and District Councilors:** None

**6. Planning applications:** None

**7. Financial matters:**

No payments to be approved.

Council's current financial position: £4184.46

The Community Infrastructure Levy was received. £2265.00.

Action: PB to establish what infrastructure this can be used for. **(PB has subsequently established the definition of infrastructure, in respect to any future expenditure).** Kit also noted that CIL monies must be spent within five years, any unspent CIL monies after this period are returned to Somerset Council.

Thankyou to Ian McVicar, for auditing the Parish Council accounts and completing all necessary documentation, which has been forwarded to Somerset council.

**8. Coming year 2023/24:**

- a. Graveyard maintenance to continue
- b. Continue the upkeep and replacement of public footpath signs. Residents to be encouraged to report any rights of way issues to Somerset Council via their web site.
- c. Replacement of two missing fingerpost signs. SC to obtain quotes. PB has applied to Country-side Charity for a grant of £750.00, awaiting reply.
- d. to continue to support local charities.
- e. Provide financial support (within the confines of a limited budget) for infrastructure projects/ plans.

**9. Precept 2023/24:**

The Parish Council agreed to set a Precept of £1200 for the current year.

**10.** Any requests for the reinstatement of historical footpaths, must be made to Somerset Council via the web site rights of way department.

**10a.** Bathealton Parish Annual Walk: Sunday 3rd

September 2.00 p.m. Meet at Bathealton Village Hall. This has been advertised separately with the July edition of the parish news.

**11. Roads:**

Residents to be encouraged to identify and notify the Council, via the council website, of any pot-holes, drainage, or surface issues.

**12. Next Parish Council Meetings:**

Thursday 14 September 2023 at 7.30pm

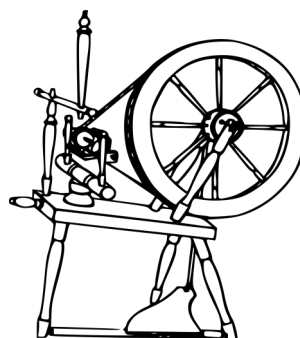
Thursday 15 February 2024 at 7.30pm

**13. AOB:**

It was agreed to restore the village hall notice board and continue maintenance of the phone box (library) which requires painting, and repair a water leak. PB to discuss at the next Parish Council meeting the use of CIL monies for these items.

PB requested funds for materials to paint fingerpost sign approx. £100.00. This was agreed by the committee.

*Phil Broad (Chair)*



**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 July**

**1st and 15th August  
at 2.30pm**

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

**Stawley Flower and Produce Show**  
**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
**at Appley Pavilion**

Below is a list of classes so that you can get prepared. The full schedule and entry form will accompany the August edition of the Parish News.

A gentle reminder for those who won trophies last year to have them engraved so you don't have to do it at the last minute.

**Vegetables**

- 3 potatoes
- 6 runner beans
- 6 French/other beans
- 5 sweet peppers (can be mixed varieties)
- 1 truss of cherry tomatoes on the vine
- 5 tomatoes all the same size
- A pair of root vegetables
- 5 onions or shallots
- A display of vegetables. Max size 45x45cm
- A display of herbs
- 1 cucumber

**Fruit**

- 5 dessert apples
- 5 cooking apples
- A small basket of mixed fruit. Max size 30x20cm
- A dish of soft fruit

**Flowers**

- A collection of perennial flowers, 6 stems, 3 varieties
- A collection of annual flowers, 6 stems 3 varieties
- A single stem rose
- A scented rose stem
- 5 dahlias
- A specimen bloom
- A floral display 'Coronation Colours'
- A cactus or succulent plant

**Cookery**

- A jar of marmalade\*\*
- A jar of jelly\*\*
- A jar of soft fruit jam\*\*
- A bottle of home made drink
- 6 eggs
- An apple cake
- A jar of chutney/pickle\*\*
- 5 scones
- 5 cheese straws
- 5 chocolate brownies
- 5 bread rolls
- \*\*Cellophane lids please

**Arts & Crafts**

- A wool craft item
- A needle craft item
- A portrait in any medium. Max size 60x60cm
- A photograph of a local sunset. Max size A4

An item made from upcycled or recycled material  
An item made from wood

**All items in the above classes to be made within the last year**

**Children's Classes Ages 3-7 & 8-12**

Drawing for the front cover for next year's programme, size A4

A decorated clay flower pot. Max diameter 15cm

A garden on a dinner plate

3 decorated cup cakes

2 shop bought digestive biscuits, decorated

An animal made from fruit and/or vegetables

Sue Jacoby

**Broadband, Stawley Parish Annual  
Parish Meeting and Stawley Parish  
Council Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June**

The evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> June was busy for some as we had three meetings back to back. The first was a standard Council meeting at which the Council agreed to take on the maintenance of the defibrillators within the parish and the distribution of Welcome Packs and footpath pamphlets should the RCI wish to pass these over.

The Council were informed that Enforcement Officers from Somerset Council have visited Greentop Farm and concluded that no action should be taken with regard to the movement of materials in and out of the site. The Council decided to object to the application for the use of Wagtail Farm as a glamping site. Full minutes can be found at [stash.org.uk](http://stash.org.uk).

The Broadband meeting welcomed the representative of Airband but we didn't learn very much more than that we already knew; our area is due to receive fibre in the fourth quarter of 2024 but we do not know whether that is the calendar fourth quarter or the financial year fourth quarter. We don't know when our area might be surveyed for the works or what will happen if the works slip beyond the fourth quarter (whenever that might be). We do know that there is Openreach fibre through to an address in Tracebridge and that there is a possibility of other addresses being linked to that fibre. When we know more the Parish News will be the first to publish the news.

The final meeting was the Annual Parish Meeting. This was attended by the Councillors and one parishioner. The accounts were presented and the Chairman stated that the balance of £10,000 was being kept for any future emergency when such a sum may be required for help from a contractor or consultant. Again full minutes are available at [stash.org.uk](http://stash.org.uk).

*Paul Musgrove (Chairman)*





— THE —  
**GLOBE INN**

APPLEY

A warm welcome awaits you  
at The Globe Inn this July

**Come and soak up the summer sunshine in our gorgeous garden, where you can quench your thirst with a refreshing cold beer or cider, or try one of our weekly-changing seasonal guest ales.**

**WHY NOT TAKE THE NIGHT OFF AND ENJOY SUPPER ALFRESCO?  
TAKE YOUR PICK FROM OUR EXTENSIVE MENU OR START YOUR WEEKEND  
BY ENJOYING ONE OF OUR MOUTH-WATERING MADE-TO-ORDER PIZZAS,  
AVAILABLE EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.**

Make sure you check out our Facebook page for details of this month's exciting guest chef night.

**Open**

Wednesday to Saturday 12 noon - 11pm

Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

**Food**

Served from 12 noon - 2pm & 6pm - 9pm

Pizza night every Friday 6pm-9pm

**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



The Globe INN Appley

## Country Matters

### Red kites - their history and recent sightings

In June we saw the unmistakable silhouette of a red kite circling above our field in Kittisford. This was unexpected as red kites are rarely seen in this area. While red kites are uncommon in the South-west today, they once would have been a familiar sight across the whole UK. In many places they were probably as unremarkable as a crow or buzzard is to many of us now.

In the 1400s, the red kite was valued for its role in maintaining hygiene in towns and villages by scavenging carrion and hunting rodents. For these services it became the first wild bird to be protected by Royal Decree with the penalty of capital punishment.

By the early 1500s, however, the red kite was listed as vermin. The list included animals thought to reduce harvests such as hedgehogs (which stole milk from cows), foxes (which worried farm animals) and kingfishers (which stole fish). People were punished for not killing vermin and rewarded with a bounty for every vermin carcass. Kites, believed to endanger livestock, were worth a penny per head (a quarter of the daily wage at the time).

Based on observations of wildlife species, many of these “vermin” had little negative impact on yields and positive impacts in other areas. While red kites hunt small birds, mammals (up to a small rabbit), worms and insects, they often scavenge. In Wales red kites mainly feed on sheep carcasses and there is no evidence, even after decades of observation, that they attack living sheep or lambs. Research suggests they are, in fact, unable to feed on a sheep carcass until it is opened by a larger scavenger.

This law and the systematic extermination of many species continued for over a century and is thought by some to be one of the main reasons for the poor state of biodiversity in the UK today. Even after it was repealed, the story of wildlife-as-vermin continued to permeate the culture. By 1870 red kites were extinct in England and Scotland, with only a few individuals surviving in Wales.

In 1903 a group of concerned individuals started the Kite Committee, beginning one of the longest running wildlife conservation projects. Their efforts slowly reduced illegal poisoning, egg collection and shooting of adults for taxidermy. Despite this success the kite population could not recover without more drastic action. This led to the introduction of foreign kites into England and Scotland in 1989, followed by further releases over the decades to boost numbers. Red kites are once again well established in England, Scotland and Wales with their populations slowly expanding to recolonise their historic range.

There have been a number of other reports of kites this year in the parish: four together in February and in June a pair feeding on a dead sheep, a few single birds and a series of almost daily sightings of a pair of kites in the same area. This seems to indicate that a few red kites may have taken up residence here, at least this year. Are kites moving in? Time and observation will tell. All kite sightings welcome (send to [alesha.r.n@gmail.com](mailto:alesha.r.n@gmail.com) with the subject “Red Kite Sighting”).

*Alësha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins*

### Rainfall Statistics (inches) for May

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.65	0.24	6.22	2.09	3.39

There were only seven days of rain in May, but on 9th May alone we had two inches. The small Bathealton stream flooded our garden like never before - the flood even invaded the pond!

Good news, the newts survived! Since they all had to come up for air we actually got to see them and were pleasantly surprised about the large number of residents.

*Val Coots*



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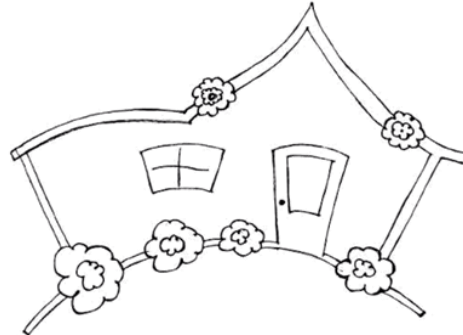
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## The Spring Ball at the Pavilion

**Oh, what a night!**

Huge thanks to everyone who bought tickets, came along and made it such a success.

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped behind the scenes. To the months of planning by a talented team from the Pavilion, Cricket Club, Pre School and School, to everyone involved in the setting up the marquees, dance floor and bar, to all the helpers and volunteers who worked their way through lists of jobs on the day and then turned up (a bit worse for wear) to clear up.



*Posh frocks, black ties and fizz*

There were many great auction donations and raffle prizes from across the groups and many generous bids on the night!

And, finally, thank you to everyone who kindly sent messages saying what a “*what a brilliant evening it had been*” ... here’s to the next time!

The total proceeds were an amazing £3,700.

*Sally Scott*

## Gardening Club

The month’s Club visit was to the **Yeo Valley Organic Garden** at Blagdon, near Bristol. It seems that this garden has been on many members’ wish-lists, and it certainly did not disappoint! Indeed, future visits at different times of the season have already been mooted.

As gardens go, this one is small, (six and a half acres) though the intricate patchwork of rooms makes it feel far more extensive. It was established by Sarah, the wife of the owner (of the Yeo Valley Company), who had a vision for an

ever-evolving garden, combined with her artistic flair. Thus, one finds, growing along-side traditional produce in the vegetable garden, giant wrought iron flowers and vegetables and there are quirky sculptures strategically placed throughout the garden.

Grasses are used extensively to link the garden to the rolling Mendip landscape, while a sweep of hay meadow provides fine views of Blagdon Lake. The more informal areas of the garden include coloured-themed borders, an exquisite birch grove of densely planted young birch with regularly placed ferns, which provided much needed-shade on the very hot day of our visit. There is an extensive gravel garden, filled with colour and movement, achieved by generous repeat planting.

As its name applies, the garden is managed totally organically and is one of only a few gardens certified by the Soil Association. Highlights include a sensationally organised compost area, with bays each with its own sloping black blind and drums of marinating comfrey and garlic juice! That said, the garden exuded health and vigour, despite the impact of the exceptionally dry season.

June’s activities will end with a bring and share ‘Drinks and Tapas’ evening in a member’s garden. Future Club highlights for July include a visit to the wonderful National Trust’s coastal garden, Coleton Fishacre, Kingswear, Devon, for which the services of the new Head Gardener have been enlisted to provide a forty five minute lecture and guided tour. An evening at a member’s garden is also scheduled.

*Val Wall*



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## Lunch Club

Open to all residents in our parishes - just let me know in advance if you would like to join in.

Our May meeting was a triumph. Maurice Stanbury was our speaker and brought his impeccably behaved Springer spaniels. He talked about his work with spaniels and they, in turn gave a demonstration of training techniques on the green. The audience was most impressed.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 27th July at 12.00 noon. Entertainment will be provided by Paul Jacques (locally well known as the 'Wandering Minstrel') playing saxophone, clarinet and flute. Accompanying him will be Brighton based Alan Taylor on guitar. They have played together for many years and we look forward to a mixed bag of music - and some active audience participation - which will be planned to suit most (more mature!) tastes.

If you would like to join in and enjoy a Jackie White lunch, as well as the entertainment, please let me know: email [harlingdelia@gmail.com](mailto:harlingdelia@gmail.com) or telephone 01823 672203.

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**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

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### 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 / 672618  
Email: *charles@greenandcarter.com*

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

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

### Community Halls

**Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field**  
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### Local Groups

**Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.**  
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**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 **Bank details:** Account Name: The Parish News,

Sort Code: 30-98-45. Acc. no. 01828373 **Distribution:** Pat and David Sweet 01823 672380

**Printed** by Sharper Print Tel 07906 52190

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>July</b>		
2nd	2.0 - 6.00 p.m.	Stawley Festival at the Pavilion
3rd	12.00 - 3.00 p.m.	'Pop up café' in Bathealton Village Hall
7th and 21st	10.00 - 12.30 p.m.	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
8th	2.00 - 6.00 p. m.	Holcombe Rogus Fete at Holcombe Court
17th	10.00 - 12 noon	'Coffee, Cake and Chat' in Ashbrittle Village Hall
29th	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall
<b>September</b>		
10th		Stawley Flower Show and Appley Pavilion Teas
14th - 17th		Stawley Church Flower Festival
25th	7.30 p.m.	Concert at the Pavilion featuring Mary Thorneloe, Flautist, in aid of Rossholme School in Kenya.
<b>October</b>		
8th		Apple Day at the Pavilion
<b>December</b>		
2nd		Mrs Bart's Christmas Fayre in Bathealton Village Hall



Seen in Clive and Val Wall's garden:

A Spotted Flycatcher sitting on the back of one of their garden chairs with an insect in its beak.

These beautiful little birds migrate to our parish from Africa, arriving in May and nest in some of our gardens (Clive and Val currently have three pairs nesting). They are on the RSPB's **Red** List = Endangered!

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 21st July 2023**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**