



# Parish news

August 2023

## **Church Services**

<b>Sunday August 6th</b> 9.30 a.m.	The Transfiguration Parish Communion	STAWLEY
<b>Sunday August 13th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 10 Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLLE
<b>Sunday August 20th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 11 Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
<b>Sunday August 27th</b> 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 12 Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

## **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 so that your lovely artwork will be displayed to even greater advantage...**

*Front cover painting - Garden Roses - Michael Parkinson*

*Back cover photograph - The Ashbittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club 1st XI - Maurice Stanbury*

## Thought for the Month

I have just returned from attending and speaking at a Primary School Year 6 Leavers' Service. These are important occasions, marking, as they do, the transition of children from primary to secondary education. There are always plenty of tears and not just from the leavers themselves; parents, younger pupils and even the teachers find these services an emotional time. One of the liturgical ingredients of these services is the opportunity for the leavers to share with the congregation their memories of school and what they will miss most when they move on. I always recall a happy and formative memory of my primary school years and use it to try and say something helpful as the current generation face the future.

When I was the age of our current leavers, I was invited by my science teacher to take care of the assorted wildlife in the science lab. There were hamsters, guinea pigs, stick insects and even a few exotic fish in a tank. It was my job, in the mid-morning break, to clean out the cages (where appropriate), change the drinking water and feed them. On my way to my daily commitment and ignoring any Health and Safety considerations, I picked up a packet of cheese and onion crisps to keep hunger at bay whilst I carried out my duties. I am grateful that this work began my interest in other living creatures, however it also means that I am unable to open a packet of Seabrooks' cheese and onion, without being transported back sixty years and remembering the smell of the animals and their food!

In the service, I tried to convey my belief that encouraging children to take care of other species, whether that be their own domestic pets or the school menagerie, is an important educational experience. Accepting responsibility for other animals and caring for them, teaches us a great deal about commitment, responsibility, empathy and the needs of others. Looking after our domestic pets helps us to understand the experiences that we share with them and to recognise that their well being is just as important as our own.

Of course, when we care for other species, we also begin to recognise the debt we owe to our fellow human beings. Looking after animals should help us to see that we should care for other people and not just those whom we love or even like.

School is a time and a place when we not only discover the art of reading, writing, arithmetic, history and geography. Our education, and particularly our early years, should be a time when we also discover the art of caring for others. Pre-school education places great emphasis on

this dimension of learning; sharing, creativity, self-expression and socialisation are foundational building blocks that later enable developing individuals to learn curricular "subjects".

It is to be hoped that in a church school all this takes place within the all encompassing message of God's love. God, we believe, doesn't attach too much importance to GCSEs, A levels, degrees or diplomas. He cares even less about our careers, our successes or, God forbid, how much we earn.

God is much more concerned that we should love each other. He invites us to take some responsibility for the welfare of others and to commit ourselves to their well being.

With my best wishes,

*Martin Beaumont*

## New Priest in Charge for our Parishes

The process of finding a new priest for our parishes and those of Rockwell Green, Thorne St Margaret and Sampford Arundel has started. It will continue with a Vision Day on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Appley Pavilion.

This short notice is to help us fill the large gap that will be left in our communities after the second retirement of the Reverend Martin Beaumont in September.

The day will start at 9:30am and conclude at or before 1:30pm. It will consider in particular what are the unique qualities of our community and what we would like from our new Priest in Charge.

If you would like a say in this, do come along. We hope that our new Priest will be appointed in the spring of 2024.

*Paul Musgrove*



You are invited to:

**COME and SING**

Sunday 20th August  
at  
STAWLEY MILL  
4.0 - 6.0pm

John Young will lead us in a sing along. There will be refreshments during and after the session. Please come and support a bit of fun and some comradeship!





## 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.**

### **Creativity**

In a broadcast Good Friday meditation given by an ex-colleague I was surprised to hear him speaking about the way in which listening to Bach's Brandenburg Concertos had been the crucial factor in his recovery from a near fatal heart attack. He said that whenever he listened to them, on the Sony Walkman his son had given him, at whatever time of day or night, he could feel the atoms in his body rearranging themselves in response to the glorious order and freedom of Bach's music. From the moment he began to listen to them his healing had begun.

For weeks after hearing that meditation I found myself reflecting on the way in which music acts as a restorative for me. I listened to the Brandenburg Concertos again and was aware of the stimulation to my own central nervous system. But then I noted that Frank Sinatra singing 'New York, New York', or Shirley Bassey singing 'Don't cry for me, Argentina' could have a similar effect. The raw energy of Tina Turner singing could, if I gave myself up to the rhythm, produce a responding surge of energy in me. I understand that students doing tests after listening to Mozart are reported to have better scores than when they do the tests without the warm-up.

The Holy Spirit can indeed restore us to health (or stimulate us to work well) through the medium of music as well as prayer or antibiotics! And why, indeed, should I be surprised that this is so? Creativity is the gift that we were given on the eighth day of creation. In naming and re-making the world we are co-workers with God, and whether we are making a garden or a meal, a painting or a piece of furniture or a computer programme, we are sharing in an ongoing act of creation through which the world is constantly re-made.

*Jo Farrow, 1994*

## 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

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

**Ashbrittle Village Hall at 2.00 pm**

**Next Meetings:  
Wednesday 2nd August  
and 6th September**

Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts.

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

## Help wanted

Domestic help needed for Country House in Kittisford.

4 hours per week.

**Please call 01823 672142**

## Mobile Library

at

Greenham Bridge

**Next visits**

Tuesday 1st and 29th August 2023

10.00 - 10.20 am





**STAWLEY FLOWER  
AND PRODUCE  
SHOW 2023**

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER  
AT APPELY PAVILION  
FROM 2.30pm**

***Schedules and entry forms will accompany the next issue of the Parish News  
and will be available from the Village Shop.***

Please could winners of trophies in 2022 have them engraved  
and returned to me or the Village Shop or to the show.  
There is still time to make entries for the Art and Craft classes so let's make it a bumper year.

**Special this year: Flower Show Refreshments  
Traditional Cream Tea or Sunday Pud and Pimms/Prosecco**

***Staging on Saturday 9th from 6.00 till 8.00 pm and Sunday 10th from 8.00 till 10.00 am***

## Country Matters - Wilder Churchyards

In June, we invited you to join us in churchyard wildlife surveys as part of The Somerset Wildlife Trust's Big Count and were very happy that some of you were able to come along. We surveyed at Ashbrittle, Stawley, Greenham and Kittisford churches. Each churchyard was different and inhabited by its own special mix of wild and wonderful life.

We searched along church walls, mown paths, beside gravestones and in the long grass; we chased butterflies with phone cameras and birds with binoculars; sat on the grass counting florets to determine which species of bird's-foot trefoil we'd found; pored over field guides; recorded what we saw and generally enjoyed our time out in nature.

You may remember that The Somerset Wildlife Trust asked us to focus on particular species and groups.

### Frogs and toads; slow worms; bullfinches...

These were not seen at any of the churchyards. This does not mean they were not there: these creatures are particularly good at staying hidden. There were places in all of the churchyards which may have provided ideal cover: compost piles, leaf litter, hedges and trees.

### Dragonflies and damselflies...

Metallic blue (male) and green (female) beautiful Demoiselle damselflies (*Calopteryx virgo*) were seen flying over the stream at Greenham Church. Dragonflies and damselflies are voracious predators which feed on many small invertebrates, preferentially flies, mosquitoes and moths. This helps to keep these insect populations in balance.

Information on the presence, absence or changes in abundance of these species can indicate levels of environmental pollution in an area. This is a simple method for land managers to monitor changes in the health of an ecosystem.

### Goldfinches...

Goldfinches were seen in Greenham, Stawley and Kittisford. Some of us saw them feeding on the fluffy seeds of the yellow hawkbit. They seem to enjoy the seeds of the daisy family (Asteraceae) including dandelion, thistles and teasel. In the UK the breeding populations of both goldfinches and bullfinches have declined over the past twenty five years. The foraging and breeding habitat provided in our churchyards can be important in supporting local populations.

### Common bird's-foot trefoil...

This plant is known by many names including

eggs and bacon, because of its clusters of egg-yolk yellow flowers tinged with orange, and Granny's toenails, in reference to its claw like seed pods. It is a good source of nectar for bees and an important food plant for several butterfly species. We saw it at both Stawley and Kittisford.

### Butterflies (speckled wood, small tortoiseshell, common blue, marbled white)...

There were many butterflies flitting through the churchyards, mostly Meadow Browns and Admirals. The only listed butterfly species observed was the Speckled Wood in the shade of the Ashbrittle yew.

### Fungi...

We saw mushrooms in Ashbrittle, Greenham and Kittisford. Fungi can be tricky to identify and we have hundreds in the UK. We haven't been able to identify what we saw, but have submitted photos to The Somerset Wildlife Trust through the iNaturalist app.

### Spiders...

Spiders were difficult to identify but fun to look at. We took photos of those that remained still for long enough! Some of these were identified by experts on iNaturalist, others still await identification.

### ...and snails.

There are almost one hundred different species of terrestrial snail in the UK. They come in all shapes and sizes, with striped, ridged and even hairy shells. While snails are notorious garden pests, they perform important functions: they turn decaying matter into nutrients for plants; they disperse moss and fern spores, spreading these plants to new areas; they may be the world's slowest pollinators; and are food for hedgehogs, badgers, shrews, frogs, toads, newts and birds.

Snails were seen in all of the churchyards. In Stawley we found many empty, broken garden snail shells around the church. They were likely eaten by thrushes which will break snail shells open on favourite stones in this manner.

Our information has been submitted to The Somerset Wildlife Trust through iNaturalist where it can be used to plan management actions and protect nature in our county.

If you need another good excuse to be outside in the sunshine, the Butterfly Conservation Trust is asking people to do fifteen minute butterfly counts between June 14<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup> this year. You can find more information at <https://bigbutterflycount.butterflyconservation.org>.


*Alësha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins*



St Michael & All Angels Church  
Stawley  
Flower Festival



14 -17 September, 10am - 6pm  
Garden and Teas at Stawley Mill,  
TA21 0HT





## Blackcurrants - Home-made Ribena and Magpie moths



As I sat upon an upturned bucket in amongst the old blackcurrant bushes, clear-picking what fruit I could between the heavy showers, I considered how this rather old-fashioned, fiddly to harvest fruit seemed to have run a thread through my life.

Firstly, though, a bit about these particular 'bushes' that we inherited when we bought the place. They looked old, a bit woody with some dead stems and past their best. We harvested a moderate crop off them then pruned a load of old stuff out, pulled the worst long grass and weeds out around them and chucked in a mulch of lumpy, rough compost that I thought would help keep equally rough and lumpy weeds down. A couple of dressings of wood-ash was the only other thing that was applied in the early Spring then they were basically ignored.

My longer term plan was to grub them out as I have some three-year old *Ribes nigrum* 'Ben Sarek' bushes, grown from hardwood cuttings, sitting in pots waiting to replace them. Then the original bushes decided to throw out perhaps the bumper crop of their lives and despite the recent wet and windy weather we managed to crop just under 25lbs of fruit off four (large) bushes.

So what to do with them; 5lb went into the freezer, 3lb made a batch of jelly, 6lb made two gallons of wine and apart from giving a few pounds away, the rest went into making our own home made Ribena (other blackcurrant juice drinks are available) or to avoid any trade-mark related confusion, cordial. We use a standard Scandinavian recipe which makes a not-too-sweet, cool and refreshing Vitamin C rich drink, pure sunshine in a glass. Also a generous splash in a gin and tonic is rather nice, as is a dollop in a fruit smoothy, or on ice-cream. The wine is a new one for me (a good recipe from my trusty 'Farmers Weekly book of country wines, beers and methaglin') but I'm sure I remember Dad making a batch during an equally prolific year in the early 1970s from the 'hedge' of blackcurrant bushes which separated the front lawn from the vegetable garden at 1 Charles Cottages. Those plants took a fair beating from a football, I seem to remember, as well as regular attacks from escaped goats. And then we had years when Magpie moths (*Abraxas grossulariata*) just seemed to completely de-foliate whole bushes.

These rather attractive and unmistakable

moths, rather fragile looking in some respects, have wings of white, speckled and spotted with black and yellow, and a body of yellow banded with black. The caterpillars are of similar colouration and feed on a wide range of shrubby material including hazel and privet but are particularly fond of all currants and gooseberries. They were once a serious pest to commercial growers, though not anymore, apparently. Probably in part due to the fact that the once common sight of fields of commercially grown blackcurrants in Taunton Vale are no more; indeed I remember the fields owned by the Gillmans at Stawley and helping pick with my Mum and other locals. A fiddly job which I found awkward and eventually boring; you really had to work fast and to a high standard if you wanted to make good money and not have your trays rejected for containing too many stalks and leaves!

Less fiddly and more rewarding was taking and striking hardwood cuttings in a sand-bed which was one of the tasks I had in one of my first nursery jobs after leaving school; pencil thickness and about 8-10 inches in length, flat cut at the bottom and slanted cut at the top, tied into bundles and set at an angle into a cold frame of almost pure sand. This was done in late autumn/early winter and by the following autumn they had formed new roots and could be lifted and sold or grown on singly into bigger plants.

And with those thoughts and memories I am brought back to my upturned bucket amongst the bushes; I'm just finishing off the last few stems and the wind is bringing on the rain again. Not ideal picking weather but it's better than not picking at all. Will probably knock up a bottle or two of blackcurrant gin, for medicinal purposes mind, great to sip when you have a bit of a sore throat!

*John and Julie Ridgley*



### Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday 19th August  
10 -12 noon

**Unlimited Coffee and Delicious Home Baked Cakes available.**  
*All for £4 per head*  
**Please come and join us!**



# 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!!!**



## What a Ding Dong

Early one Saturday morning in mid July an intrepid group of locals stole quietly away to South Somerset for a challenging day of campanology. The nine members of Stash Clappers (or the Eminent Society of Stawley and Ashbrittle bell ringers) and their spouses were on their annual outing.

The first tower visited was in the village of Ilton where six bells, the heaviest of which weighed some twelve hundredweight, were waiting to be pulled up. Our immediate audience was four window cleaners who were restoring the beautiful engraved Whistler window. Everybody had a 'go' and, much to our general relief, we made a respectable noise and suffered no injuries to either bells or ringers.



We then proceeded to Seavington, a delightful, musical ring of six bells. We managed rounds, call changes and Plain Hunt (for more info. consult Google). The next tower was in the pretty village of Dowlish Wake. Here, somewhat to our surprise, for we had not anticipated interrupting a baptism, we rang our usual repertoire to welcome baby Theo into the world. This was closely followed by well earned refreshments at the New Inn, who did us proud.

The final challenge was yet to come. South Petherton, with its unusual octagonal tower, houses twelve bells, cast in 1998, the tenor weighing 22 cwt 3 qr 15 lb (1,163 kg) and striking the note D. We are used to the rhythm of six bells so controlling twelve was hard work.

A record peal had been rung here previously, taking fourteen hours twenty six minutes of non-stop ringing; five minutes each was enough for us! Some of us also had fun trying out the portable mini ring of six tiny bells which had been constructed inside the church for educational purposes..

We thank Richard for supervising our four learners and I thank everybody for taking part

with such enthusiasm and good humour. All in all, it was a most enjoyable day.

If anybody feels they would like to learn how to ring bells, they would be very welcome at our Thursday night practice.

*Angela Johnson*



## Beat Surgery

**Stawley Village Shop  
and  
Tearoom**

**Tuesday 8th August**

From 9.00 - 10.00am

with PCSO 6945  
Louise Fyne

**AVON AND SOMERSET  
CONSTABULARY**

Working together to make the communities of  
Avon and Somerset feel safe and be safe

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## Bathealton Boundary Buddies (BBB)



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

**When : First Monday of the month:**

August 7<sup>th</sup> and 4th September  
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.



# **Pilates at The Pavilion!**

**Backache?**

**Stiff joints?**

**Hip or knee pain?**

**Come to class and FEEL BETTER!**

Never done Pilates?

No worries, it's suitable for beginners!

Feeling out of shape?

No problem, you'll feel better in no time!

Confused about what Pilates is?

Doesn't matter! It will feel familiar and comfortable.

**Tuesdays at 10:45am**

**Appley Pavilion**

Contact Sarah Grey to book your place:

**Email: [PilatesSouthWest@gmail.com](mailto:PilatesSouthWest@gmail.com)**

**07876 141605**

**move more - feel better**

## Deer Watch and why eating venison is a good thing.

I hope you found the previous article informative. As well as being stunningly beautiful animals, deer are also a very natural part of the food chain. In particular, our food chain. Back in the day before mankind decided to manipulate the environment, deer had natural predators: wolves, bears, lynx and so on. These predators would consume the unwary, the young and the old of various species. However, since the eradication of these large apex predators, only humans manage the deer population. For a time in the Middle Ages until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century deer numbers in the UK were very low because of over-hunting and indiscriminate 'pest' control.

Since World War II however, numbers have flourished in the UK as a result of the increasing amount of woodland cover and because hunting of these animals is now regulated by various laws. Escapees from country parks allowed non-native species (Muntjac, Sika and Chinese water deer for example) to move into the countryside and become very successful inhabitants.

### The largest population ever

Fast forward to today and the UK has the largest population of deer it has ever had - so much so that deer numbers are now causing significant problems to woodland, farming crops and regeneration of our native flora.

Dealing with deer numbers is an emotive subject. They are wonderful creatures who inhabit the edges of our environment and are amongst the prettiest of our native mammals. Additionally, they play a hugely cute and romanticised role in film and TV.

Nonetheless, they are still great eating. Almost everything deer eat is 'organic' and wild. They grow at nature's natural rate and they are as free as the birds to come and go in our wonderful countryside.

Deer stalking and deer management sets out to take a 'wolf's eye view' of the deer population and cull those that are old or young, ideally leaving a balanced population. If this is going to happen what better than to eat the culled animals? It's just as natural as picking blackberries from the hedgerows.

I've been deer stalking now for a number of years. I've never been a 'trophy' hunter, only taking deer for the freezer. As a result of these activities more and more folk have come to enjoy eating venison. It is naturally high in protein and very lean. The deer are free and sentient until the very last second before they are culled in a humane way. As much of the animal is used as pos-

sible: bones for broth, meat products, dog chews.

I find all of the food products from the deer delicious. The mince, for example, just tastes so clean and makes great burgers or lasagnes!



*Female roe deer in tall grass – Rachel Oliver*

Without some form of deer control, the flora and fauna of our woodlands will suffer. In some parts of the country they are already suffering: by browsing the ground cover in woodlands and woodland edges, insect life has less to live on and ground dwelling birds have a reduced habitat. I've seen first-hand the unintentionally destructive habits of red deer in woodland: areas unfenced are woodland deserts when compared with fenced areas filled with saplings, ground flora, understorey plants and shrubs and so on.

As far as I can make out roe deer numbers around here seem to be stable. However, a herd of four hundred fallow deer rampaging through an arable farm (as happened on a friend of mine's estate in Gloucestershire) causes a lot of issues. A herd of red deer couching out in a wheat field will leave their droppings behind and subsequently tonnes of cereal crop will be rejected, leaving the farmer with a reduced income – as if they need this right now!

Fallow deer have started to become an issue in Plymouth for example, wandering around housing estates and getting caught up in goal netting or fences, or worse still causing road traffic accidents.

If deer are not 'managed' sensibly then two things will happen: firstly, our native flora and fauna will suffer: secondly, some completely clueless organisation may step in and order a major cull without considering the wider issues at stake.

One solution is for everyday folk to eat more venison. It's not expensive really, is super good for us and is a natural product. You can buy

venison from many sources: online, supermarkets (although avoid this if possible as it's often farmed venison from New Zealand so the eco miles are not particularly eco-friendly!) and local producers. Clearly, I sell it in small quantities but among others there is also Robert Hawker who has a stand at Taunton Farmers' Market on a Thursday.

### **The roe deer rut**

Finally, now is the time for the roe deer rut. The bucks will be seen chasing the does to persuade them they are the chaps to mate with! The bucks will also be fighting off any interlopers who stray onto their territories. Often the courting display will involve running around in circles creating 'roe rings' in the grass. The females once mated will 'pause' the conception and growth of the newly fertilised eggs until January. This delayed implantation is unique to the roe deer.

Until next time...

*Antony Weeks*

## **Good news from Musgrove Hospital**

Construction work has started very recently on the main build of a new £87 million surgical centre at Musgrove Park Hospital.

The new state-of-the-art surgical centre will replace the current hospital theatres and critical care unit, which were built during the Second World War as part of a temporary casualty evacuation hospital for the D-Day landings. It will also house a brand new endoscopy suite.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (FT) chairman Colin Drummond was joined by the clinical teams who'll use the new centre and those responsible for the build, along with Taunton Deane MP Rebecca Pow and lead constructors Kier, in a short ceremony to mark the start of building work.

"Our much loved Musgrove Park Hospital dates back to the Second World War," said Colin. "The new theatre block is the latest in a series of transformative developments on our site, designed to give the people of Somerset and our colleagues the facilities and environment which they deserve. It will make a huge difference to the service we can offer and the experience of our patients.

"The next key part of the jigsaw is our further planned developments, including a new maternity and paediatric centre, which is a confirmed part of the government's new hospital programme."

The new surgical centre will include:

- Six endoscopy rooms, patient recovery and clinical support areas

- Eight operating theatres (including two state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatres that can be used for both surgery and interventional radiology), recovery areas and clinical support.
- Twenty two critical care beds, all specified for level 2 and 3 critical care patients

Dr Daniel Meron, chief medical officer at Somerset FT, said the news was a huge boost for people in in the county.

"This is an important milestone in the future of surgery and critical care in Somerset and we're already starting to count down towards opening our new surgical centre in early summer 2025," he said.

"The quality of care provided to our patients is something we are very proud of, and we want to help people to stay as well as possible, but where people need specialist intervention, our new centre will be there to support them through surgery and intensive care.

"We want to support our excellent clinical and non-clinical teams to further improve the outstanding care they provide to our patients, and we are very excited at the prospect of being able to care for and treat our patients in state-of-the-art operating theatres and critical care facilities.

"Our new surgical centre will also mean we can continue to phase out the use of our older 1940s buildings for patient care and treatment, which is an important step as they're increasingly difficult to maintain."

Much building work and service moves have taken place over the last few years in preparation for the new surgical centre, including a new sterile services centre, relocated superficial x-ray department, and main hospital kitchen move, among others.

Dejan Branc, a critical care nurse at the hospital, said: "The new surgical centre is an excellent development for the hospital and I feel it will improve both colleague satisfaction and the experience of our patients.

"I'm excited to see the new surgical centre and strongly believe that our hospital needs new, modern, well equipped, and staffed units so we can meet the ever-increasing demands of healthcare."

Wambui Wamugunda, clinical manager for the hospital's general theatres, said: "The new surgical centre will improve the environment and experience of our patients in Somerset and we are delighted that the work has now started. This exciting development will help drive our transformation of acute care for our community".

*Paul Hopkins, Communication Officer*



## *An Echo from the Past*

### **Just Ads?**

The TV flickers in the corner of the room. The crook is cornered; his gun in his hand; the heroic copper approaches. Close-up on a finger squeezing the trigger. Bang! “Buy your car the motorway way!” Put on this cream and your wrinkles will disappear “because you’re worth it!”

TV adverts - expensively made, with all the latest in diversified culture, promising all you want: instant cure for your headache, rub-on stuff to make you younger, ready-made meals to impress your guests. Besides all that, though, ads are perfect to make you sleep (and miss the next bit in the drama!), or for refilling your whisky glass.

Companies shell out oodles of dosh to get good ads. Doesn’t matter how true or daft or mock serious they are. The punter can’t tell the difference between a handsome ‘consultant’ or an actor giving the message. They want us to think of them, remember them, perhaps believe them, when we are next in their shop or need a job done. If we do, they’ve got what they wanted.

But the ads I really don’t like are the ones put out by charities. I know there are genuine causes out there. I know that charities need people to give. They can’t do their work otherwise. I have no objection to being asked for donations and what they are for but it’s the way it’s done. We all know what a cleft palette looks like. None of us want animals being treated cruelly. We know it’s good for people to have clean water to drink. But do we really have to be made to see what we already know, often in vivid or grotesque forms?

Then the voice-over, in a sombre, even pleading, manner talks about the helpless and vulnerable, particularly children. We are told of the terrifying disasters that will await them if we don’t give a lump sum or so much per month. The charities will get a sufficient response to make their appeal worthwhile. That’s the idea – appeal to the sentimental, the easily moved, the emotionally gullible. I don’t like these appeals. Why? Because, even as I write this, I feel bad, yes, guilty that I don’t respond with a donation, or choose to give in other directions, But that is what the charities and their ad-makers want me to feel. And you too. And some will give because they have been manipulated in this way.

It’s a bit like having some friends around for dinner. Before the dessert, one of them starts telling a sob story while passing the hat round: if you don’t give, their kids will have to go without their Majorca holiday this year. You’re trapped. You don’t know how true it is. Aw shucks! He’s a long-time friend. He wouldn’t try to con you, would he? That’s alright, Jim, here’s a tenner. Would you invite them again?

Advertisements! I learn nothing, gain nothing – all the time being made to think and feel unwelcome things in my own home by a form of uninvited guests. Then while I am grumping – and then going to sleep - I miss what happened between the crook, his gun and the copper in the real world of the TV crime drama!

*Martin Perry*

### **Village Oil Group**

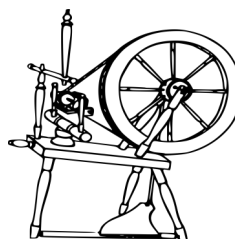
The next oil delivery is due on  
**Wednesday 9th August**

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

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

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*



### **Spinning and Woolcraft Group**

**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:** 1st and 15th August  
5th and 19th September  
at 2.30pm

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



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APPLEY

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AVAILABLE EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.**

Make sure you check out our Facebook page regularly  
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  
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## Gardening Club

Since the last Parish News, the Club has enjoyed two very well attended events.

The first was a 'Bring and Share' Drinks and Tapas evening in the delightful garden of Sue and Martin Jacoby. The event was blessed both by the most perfect summer evening and a brilliant spread of tasty tapas, including some from Corfu! As always, the garden looked resplendent, with Sue's wonderful herbaceous borders at their best. The vegetable garden was again brimming with interesting produce and looked remarkably good, bearing in mind the excessively dry weather. Martin's impeccable lawn edging gave an added touch to both and was much admired by all.

The month's Club visit was to **National Trust's Coleton Fishacre**, an amazing coastal garden near to Dartmouth. The weather played ball and the sun shone throughout. The extensive property is nestled in a valley and therefore takes full advantage of the mild South Devon climate. As such, many exotic and tender plants can thrive. Our Garden visit was greatly enhanced by a riveting talk by the Head Gardener, James Grainger,



who spent close on ninety minutes with us, sharing the background to the twenty four acre Garden and its ongoing evolution, mainly to future proof it against climate change.

The Garden enjoys splendid coastal views, with its grounds extending down to the SW Coastal Path, from which one can take advantage of the views of Pudcome Cove. The Garden has been designed to embrace the house - the original home of the D'Oyly Carte family. It still includes many favourites of the family, not least the fiery colours of the Hot Border in the front of the house and the Rill Garden, Lady Dorothy's favourite. The excellence of the Garden is acknowledged by the RHS as one of its accredited gardens.

The unique curved house, built in the 1920s, capitalises on the views down the valley. The Art

Deco country home was designed by architect Oswald Milne and its interiors are both minimalist in style, yet cosy and intimate. Visitors feel privileged to enter the life of the family, as the National Trust has skilfully restored it to demonstrate family life at the time. A light, joyful atmosphere fills the many rooms, and music plays, echoing the family's Gilbert and Sullivan connections.

Looking ahead, unfortunately the Member Open Garden event scheduled for this month has had to be postponed. However, the Club Diary is still brimming, with a forthcoming visit in August to the NGS Bradon Farm, near Taunton, which will be especially opened for us, and a Bring and Share Woodland Picnic in another member's garden. In September, there will be a visit to Hestercombe and yet another Member's Open Garden event.

*Val Wall*

### Rainfall Statistics (inches) for June

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
4.90	4.66	2.60	2.56	1.30

The driest June since 2015 (1.21 inches).

*Val Coots*

### 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





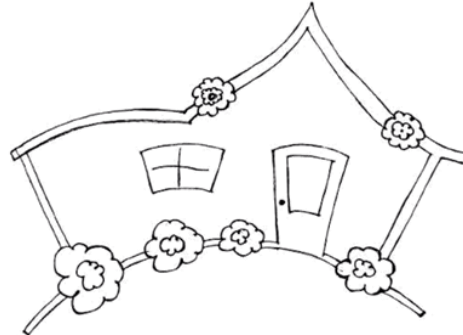
# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

## Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 2.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am



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

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

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Hi Everyone! We hope you're all enjoying the sunshine in between the showers and are having a lovely start to your summer hols!?

Thank you to all who have enquired about, or have ordered Picnic platters off the back of last month's Parish News Ad. We hope you enjoyed your platters and really appreciate your custom. Thankyou.



We have some more exciting news! We are undergoing a Menu makeover and hope to have the NEW one in place for the start of the Autumn. If you can't wait until then, you can pop in and try one of our baps with a new summer style filling such as the grilled halloumi, red pepper, onion, mushroom and pesto bap....already a massive favourite of some of our locals.

**Also coming soon..... The Shop and The SCA (The Stawley Community Association) are bringing the joy and excitement of the big screen to Appley with an outdoor family cinema evening!**

**Join us for a fun evening of film along with all the usual accompaniments such as hotdogs, popcorn, ice cream and even a licensed bar for the parents, so pull up a beanbag or straddle some straw and snuggle down for an evening of entertainment with a difference!**



# Wivey Grows



Wivey Grows is a community-based growing project, run by volunteers, that aims to provide the opportunity, space and support for people of all ages and abilities to grow food and flowers, eat, learn, create and play in a nurtured and shared haven.

Langley House in Wiveliscombe is our stunning 11-acre home. It includes a main growing area with a beautiful spiral veg plot, polytunnel, and assortment of wheelchair accessible plots and raised beds for a diverse variety of flowers and veg. Next to the growing area are the rabbit barn, toolshed and art hub, the perfect spot for coffee and cake. Slightly beyond this is a beautiful meadow, lake and woodland with dens and an impressive roundhouse.

Since the successful launch in May 2022, nearly 4,000 hours have been clocked from a total of one hundred and eight Wivey Grower volunteers, all attending any of the three to six scheduled sessions on site per week. Various external groups enjoying the site too on a weekly basis.

Although there's much to join in with, many individuals just come to sit and be or to have a laugh and meet others during mid-morning coffee and cake.

With lots of areas to the site and different activities, you can get involved in the things that interest you:

**General Wivey Grower sessions** are once or twice a week for anyone to just turn up. You can do anything from sitting and relaxing, to joining in with the gardeners, to building raised beds, coppicing woodland, or whatever activity is planned for

that session. No experience needed.

**Team Flowers** meet Wednesdays 6-8pm and learn together to grow stunning flowers to give away.

**Team Veg** meet at the same time and follow the growing plan written by gardeners to increase our vegetable and food production. Each week veg is free for anyone to take, but a large harvest goes straight to the Wivey Food Project – a local community group who have cooked more than 60,000 free meals for Wivey and the 10 parishes since the pandemic started.

**Team Bees** meet every Saturday at a nearby site (Pitt Farm, Ford TA4 2RH) to learn from an expert all about beekeeping and look after our swarms.

**Wild Wivey** are passionate about wildlife, conservation, and biodiversity. They have run wildlife safaris and built homes for insects, hedgehogs, raptors, birds and bats.

**WiveyPlays** is a parents and tots group who meet every Friday morning.

We have lots of plans for the coming years and are always looking for more people who are interested in any of the above to get involved and join in.

Sign up to hear about upcoming sessions/activities:

Email us – [info@wiveygrows.net](mailto:info@wiveygrows.net)

Follow us - [@wiveygrows](https://www.instagram.com/wiveygrows)

*Rosie Riley*



# Take

# 3

An exhibition  
of work by  
3 local artists.

9th  
to 17th  
September 2023

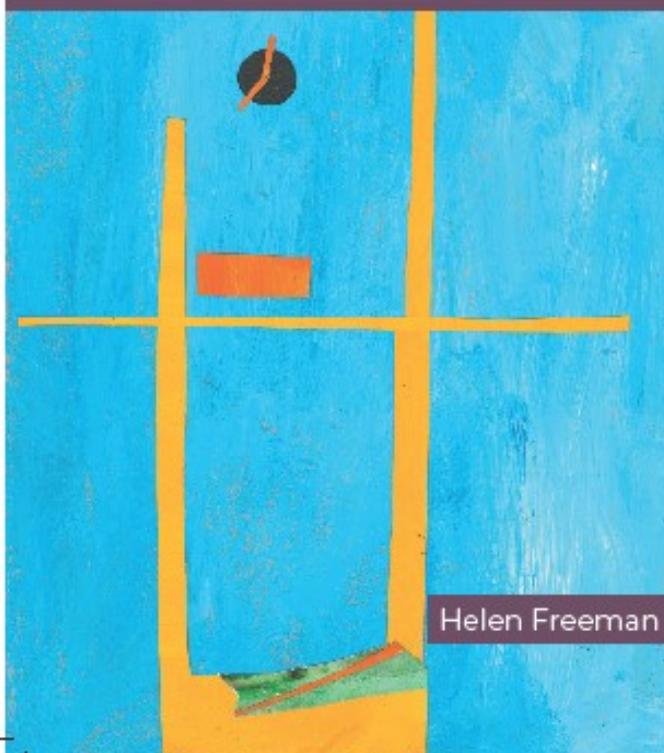
Exhibition Preview  
31st August | 5.30 - 8pm

Ashbrittle, Greenways  
Studios, TA21 0LE

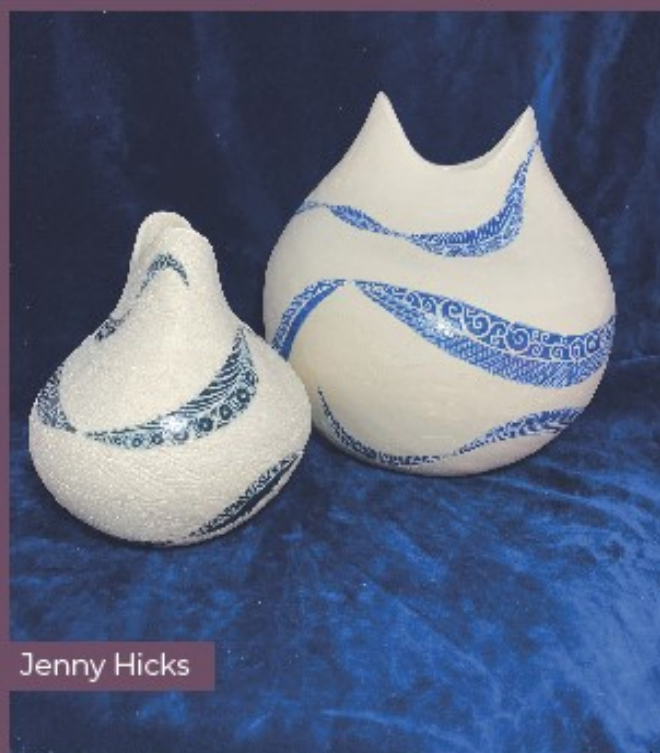
**10**parishesfestival  
visual and performing arts



Barbara Roll



Helen Freeman



Jenny Hicks

## Stawley Festival



Thank you so much to everyone who supported Stawley Festival in any way, however small. We are so grateful for every donation, everyone who attended, traded, performed at, or promoted the festival.

We raised an incredible amount of money, with over £1000 each for Stawley School and Stawley Preschool!

This money goes towards opportunities that simply wouldn't be possible for our children otherwise, so once again, on behalf of both FOSS and the Stawley Preschool fundraisers, **thank you all.**

We were treated to music from several brilliant acts, a huge variety of stalls selling locally made items, family fun activities and delicious food and drink. We are already making plans for an even bigger and better festival next July, so keep your eyes peeled for a 'save the date'!

*Becky, Preschools Manager*

## Lunch Club

Jeremy Robbins was our speaker in June and as ever, was very popular. His topic was his Australian experience. Clearly he has packed a huge range of activities into a comparatively short time and presumably also found time for eating, sleeping and everyday family life. We found it fascinating and look forward to further reports in the future.

Our next Lunch Club is on Thursday 31st August at 12.00 noon. It will be a little different from the usual format. Please feel free to invite visiting adult friends and relations. There will be

a choice of activities, some prizes to be won and as usual a very good lunch provided by Jackie White. Participating in quizzes will not be compulsory unless you are that way inclined...

If you would like to join us please let me know: email [harlingdelia@gmail.com](mailto:harlingdelia@gmail.com) or telephone 01823 672203.

*Delia Harling*

### Cleaner required

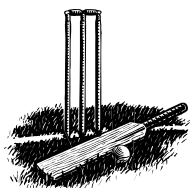
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## Ashbrittle Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club



### Fixtures for August 2023

West Somerset Cricket League Div 2 & Div 4

#### 1st XI

**5th** H v Huish Champflower  
**12th** No Game  
**19th** A v Fitzhead  
**26th** H v Roadwater

#### 2nd XI

A v Sampford Arundel  
A v Roadwater  
H v Buckland St Mary  
A v Over Stowey



**VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB**  
 ASHBITTLE VILLAGE HALL  
 Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at noon  
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# 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.



- Door to door transport service operating from Wiveliscombe
- We cover all surrounding Parishes as well as Taunton and Wellington
- Wheelchair friendly cars
- Fares are very reasonable and bus pass holders get a concessionary rate.

For more information on using Wivey Link, telephone 01984 624666  
Lines open: Mon—Fri 9.30 am to 1 pm Answerphone out of hours



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## Defibrillators and The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

### ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY:

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 / 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**  
– 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 Allder 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

### *August*

7th	12.00 - 3.00 p.m.	'Pop up café' in Bathealton Village Hall
19th	10.00 - 12 noon	'Coffee, Cake and Chat' in Ashbrittle Village Hall
20th	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.	'Come and Sing' with John Young at Stawley Mill
31st	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

### *September*

10th	From 2.30 p.m.	Stawley Flower Show and Appley Pavilion Teas
9th - 17th		'Exhibition of Work' at Greenways, Ashbrittle
14th - 17th	10.00 am - 6.00 pm	Stawley Church Flower Festival
16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup>		Somerset Open Studios at Meadow Farm, Greenham
30th	7.30 p.m.	Concert at the Pavilion, in aid of the Rossholme School in Kenya.

### *October*

8th		Apple Day at the Pavilion
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### *December*

2nd		Mrs Bart's Christmas Fayre in Bathealton Village Hall
17th		Carol Service in Bathealton Church

### Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club - First XI



*Back row (l to r) C White, C Hill, W Embleton, A Hill, M White, S Grant.*

*Front row (l to r) W Burns-Cox, O Edwards, R Williams (Captain), O White, H Norman.*

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 18th August 2023**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**