



Parish news

October 2023

For the Parishes of **ASHBRITTLE** with **GREENHAM, BATHEALTON, STAWLEY** and **KITTISFORD****Church Services**

Sunday October 1st 11.00 am	Harvest Festival	STAWLEY
Sunday October 8th 9.30 a.m.	Harvest Festival	ASHBRITTLE
Sunday October 15th 5.00 pm	Harvest Festival	KITTISFORD
Wednesday 18th October 6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	Bishop's Autumn Visit	ASH PRIORS VILLAGE HALL
Sunday October 22nd 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 20 Parish Communion	BATHEALTON
Sunday October 29th 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 21 Lay led Matins	GREENHAM

During the vacancy and before the appointment of a new priest in charge, any inquiries about services or the occasional offices of the church (weddings, baptisms or funerals) should be made to individual Churchwardens.

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbittle with Greenham	Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbittle, TA21 0LQ David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbittle, TA21 0LE	01823 672365 01823 672436
Bathealton	Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL	01984 629013 01823 401248
Kittisford	Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW	01823 672627
Stawley	Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP	01823 672183 01823 672496

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.

*Front cover - Flower Show judges Morag Berthon (left) and Ann Heard take a critical look at an exhibit.
(photo Maurice Stanbury)*

Thought for the Month

I am writing this on the day before the autumn equinox when the hours of darkness and daylight are nearly equal. Although the days have been growing shorter for some time now, the equinox always seems to portend the end of the summer and the beginning of what those in the USA call "The Fall".

Falling is certainly what the leaves have begun to do at Wivey Pool when I arrive in the morning for my swim. The staff have their work cut out keeping the pool leaf-free at this time of year and it's not only the leaves that find their way into the water. Two days ago, I was asked to release a small and somewhat disconcerted frog which had attempted to gain access without paying the membership subscription!

One of the joys of living in this country is the variety that we encounter during the course of the seasons. Autumn and Spring make us aware of the gradual changes that take place in the natural world and the alteration that they demand in our human behaviour.

Changes in Church life

Changes are also taking place in the church life of our parishes. I will have retired and although the Bishop is going to allow me to re-commence Sunday duties from the start of December, I will not be involved in what we might call the "running" of our church life and these duties. Those responsibilities will devolve onto the Churchwardens.

This is because the churches in the Ashbrittle group are in the process of appointing a new full time incumbent. He or she will assume responsibility for the Ashbrittle Group, in addition to three other parishes and live in the vicarage in Rockwell Green. A huge amount of work has already been accomplished in preparation for this appointment and the next step will be an advertisement. Applicants for the post will be interviewed by representatives of our parishes who will have in their minds the needs of this particular part of rural west Somerset.

I have been in post here for nearly four years. I would like to thank everyone for their support, encouragement and prayers and not least the editors of this magazine. I always look forward to reading the new edition when it awaits my wife and I at Stawley Church on the first Sunday of each month. The advertisements for parish events and resources are balanced by articles that provide information or provoke reflection and it is an unflinching pleasure to read. I know that the magazine is not taken for granted and it is an excellent example of its unique genre.

Please continue to support it; it is one invaluable way in which communication can be maintained between the members of our rather scattered community.

Martin Beaumont

Harvest Festival Lunch

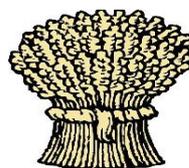
at Stawley Mill

on

Sunday 1st October

£10.00 per head

Please contact Penny Hare on 01823 672183
to book your place.



ASHBRITTLE HARVEST BRUNCH

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Sunday, October 8th

following the 9:30 Harvest Festival

Service in Ashbrittle Church

Bacon & Eggs Sausage Beans

Muffins Orange Juice

Coffee & Tea

Mulled Cider!!

**For reservations
please ring Sarah, 01398 361366**

£7 for adults, £5 for 16 and under

Payment on the door

Country Matters

Batting for the bats

As the nights lengthen, we begin to see more bats hanging in windows and doors in the company of ghosts, witches and glowing pumpkins. A symbol of Halloween, bats are associated with evil, death and the supernatural. They inhabit haunted houses, turn into vampires, are spirits and witch's familiars. How did they come to develop this pervasively dark and undeserved reputation?

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* may have played a major role in popularising the link between bats and vampires. Like the supernatural counterparts for which they are named, vampire bats feed exclusively on blood and have special "superpowers": infra-red sensors on their noses and, unlike other bats, the ability to walk, run and jump. Unlike vampires, these bats live in South and Central America, are quite small (less than 10cm long), don't take enough blood to kill, rarely drink human blood (two of the three species feed only from birds), and form strong social bonds, even sharing food with hungry colony members.

Bats were associated with evil long before *Dracula*: since at least the 1300s religious art and poetry depicts the devil and his demons with bat's wings. Perhaps this link to the supernatural and death is due to their nocturnal nature or the tendency of some species to live in caves (historically believed to be entrances to the underworld).

The earliest associations between bats and Halloween may have formed because of heightened visibility of bats during this time of year. Halloween originated as a Celtic festival when bonfires were lit to celebrate the harvest and mark the beginning of the "darker half of the year"; a time when otherworldly spirits and the souls of the dead could visit this world. Bats may have congregated around these fires, swooping in to eat insects attracted to the light, thus linking them to the festival. Autumn is a time when bats focus on fattening up for hibernation. In the UK that means finding as many moths, mosquitoes and other insects as possible. Perhaps some people believed those flitting bats were visiting spirits, forging a link between bats and the supernatural.

Bats may be more noticeable in autumn when they swarm before migrations: gathering together and chasing each other in and around cave entrances. In the UK only a few bat species migrate, some fly from the north to the south-west and others cross the channel to southern Europe. Swarming may be a pre-migration meeting or a way to introduce juveniles to hibernation roosts. Many believe it is part of a mating

ritual which allows bats from different summer roosts to meet. Although mating occurs in the autumn, bats are one of the few mammals that can delay fertilisation, and the eggs will remain unfertilised until May.

Another fascinating relationship between bats and Halloween is to do with chocolate. Research shows that bats help to protect cocoa crops from damage by feeding on insect pests. Feeding bats reduce losses by a third which saves farmers billions of US dollars annually. This means less environmental damage due to a reduction in pesticide use and also means more chocolate for you and me.

Those more partial to wine have bats to thank for keeping grapes safe from pests and prices rising even higher. Yields of sugar, corn, wheat, rice, citrus, apples, pears and nuts of all kinds also benefit from the munching of insectivorous bats. Some farmers even install bat boxes to encourage these predators to protect their crops.

While it's fun to enjoy the spooky Halloween bat, in reality bats do more good than harm. There are over 1,400 species of bats. They make up a fifth all mammal species (a quarter of British mammals) and play important roles in seed dispersal, pollination and insect control. Our lives would be much poorer without bats: our cupboards eerily empty and food prices frighteningly high. Not to mention the plagues of mosquitoes and midges. To support bat populations, we can support wildlife friendly farming through the food we buy, garden with bats in mind and share our knowledge of these wonderful and misunderstood creatures.

Alësha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

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

Ashbrittle Village Hall

**Next Meetings:
Wednesdays 1st November and 6th December**

**Please note: there will be no meeting
in October**

Please note new time: 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts.

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



Cinema under the Stars

An eager young audience awaits the beginning of their evening's entertainment 'Raya and the Last Dragon'.

After a week of wet and stormy weather Saturday finally delivered us a calm and balmy evening for the Stawley Community Association's first ever 'Cinema under the Stars' event.

A marquee provided the venue with blanket covered hay bales and mats on the floor for the children. There was the usual family friendly atmosphere we love at our rural community events with family picnics and friends mixing.

Viewers were well served with a bar, hot food and light up treats such as glow bands and flashing glasses. Ice cream was provided in true cinema style by an usher on a tray traversing up the aisle.

As it grew dark the film started and we tucked in to our freshly made popcorn - 'Raya and the Last Dragon' provided action, excitement and a message about the importance of trust.

Enjoyed by all it was a thoroughly fantastic night and one we hope will be repeated. A big thank you to the team behind the SCA and especially Katie for putting on such a magical event.

Liz Ranson

See also the SCA report on page 20.

You are warmly invited to the
Kittisford Harvest Festival
which is at **5.00 pm on**
Sunday 15th October

The Village Festival Choir will be singing at this Evensong service.



Refreshments afterwards
in the church.

Annie Musgrove (Churchwarden) amusgrove@cantab.net

Gardening Club

At the end of August, Club Members were treated to a Bring and Share Woodland Picnic in the grounds of John and Olga Dawer in Tracebridge. The event was blessed with the most perfect summer's day. The picnic took place on the banks of the river in a classic, and very beautiful, woodland glade. Members excelled themselves in the provision of a wide range of special dishes, in addition to a BBQ skilfully attended by John. While wine was sipped, Anthony Weeks gave a fascinating account of the history of Tracebridge – quite a revelation to many of us! The event was much enjoyed by all attendees and the Club's grateful thanks are due to John and Olga for hosting the event and for sharing their little bit of paradise.

Sadly, the September visit to Hestercombe coincided with the remnants of Hurricane Lee, so was postponed until a more settled spell of autumnal weather.

At the end of the month members shared an Open Garden for a midday gathering. We greatly enjoyed the hospitality offered by Anna-Lisa and Tim in their interesting garden with some unusual features. The weather was excellent, despite the forecast having been very questionable.

Next visit

The Club's October Garden Visit will be to East Lambrook Manor Gardens, South Petherton. This venue has been chosen over Forde Abbey (as advertised) as the property is now on the market and the future of this Grade I Listed Cottage Garden is uncertain. It was felt that members should enjoy this stunning little garden (and excellent Plant Centre) before it was, perhaps, too late!

The November meeting will be a whetting of the appetite for the festive season, with a repeat visit to Otter Nurseries, to enjoy its Christmas display as well as partaking in the usual tea and cakes. The venue was hugely popular last year and deemed worthy of another visit. In December, the Club will celebrate Christmas with a cream (or cheese) tea at the Old Well Garden Centre – an event which was hugely popular last year.

Val Wall

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for August

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.60	4.64	2.20	2.13	2.87

Val Coots



Quaker Meeting for Worship at Spiceland

**We Meet for Worship at Spiceland
every Sunday at 10.30am till
11.30am - this is a blended
Meeting also available on Zoom -
All are very welcome.
Meeting ID: 865 5570 2735
Passcode: 498173**

"At the centre of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us. It is so to speak His name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence, as our sonship. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely ... I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is every-where."

*Thomas Merton,
Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander.*

Thomas Merton 1915 - 1968 was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion.

Quiz night and raffle

14th October
in Bathealton Village Hall

£5.00 entry fee

*Nibbles included (coffee and tea available)
BYO bottle for any other drinks.*

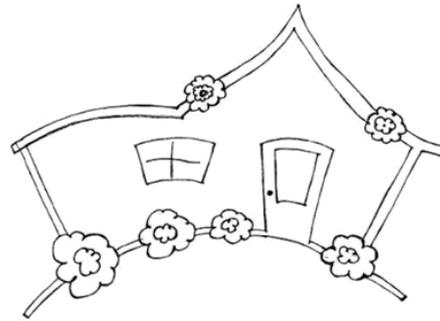
Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

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

Hello Everyone,

We hope you're all well and back in the swing of the everyday hustle and bustle of life after your summer holidays?



The weather has definitely had a more autumnal feel to it these past couple of weeks, so we are back in full soup making mode here at the shop!

After last year's successful Christmas Fair, we are going to be holding another one this year! We have decided to do it on a Saturday so that we don't interfere with School pickups and so that hopefully more people can make it. We have a date in mind in late November but we will confirm this in due course.



If you are interested in having a stall this year or know someone who might be, do let Katie know in the shop or drop her an email via the email address above. It costs £15 to have a stall and all money raised from the stalls and raffle will go to the SCA to help pay for the upkeep of the shop.

Don't forget we are here for your daily needs and much more! So do try and support the shop when you can, it's been a very testing time lately and like many other small local community shops, if you don't use it, you'll lose it!

Stawley Rural Community Initiative (RCI)

It's time to say Goodbye

It is twenty four years since the inception of the Stawley RCI, a joint venture between Stawley and Somerset County Council, and was the first of its kind in the country. Quoting from the Parish News dated February 2004:

“Stawley Rural Community Initiative was established in 1999 in order to benefit the inhabitants of all local parishes by providing a range of facilities and services to advance education, and in the interests of social welfare and provision of recreation and leisure.”

By this time, a number of schemes had been incorporated under the RCI umbrella, including Youth Club, oil syndicate, farmers' markets, cycle training at Stawley School, a credit union and a milk and paper round.

One important aim of the RCI was to find a new home for the Community Shop and Post Office following the retirement of Peggy Wootton. The site next to the school was identified and through grants and fundraising, the building was developed into the premises we know today.

At this time, the RCI adopted a structure whereby they could enter into business ventures, but apply for grants and funds as a charitable organisation, with any profits being put back into other RCI ventures of benefit to the community. The management of the Shop and Post Office could be set up as an 'arm' of the RCI as another structure, purpose-made for this venture. This became the Stawley Community Association (SCA), a not-for-profit, community benefit society, which is solely responsible for supporting Stawley Shop and Tearoom, and which operated separately once the RCI gained charitable status.

In the intervening years, clubs and activities have been added to the RCI list, including the Lunch Club, Walking Group, Tai Chi Group (now operating independently), and Art and Craft Group, with the most recent being the defibrillators and VETS scheme.

The RCI committee throughout its time has been run purely by volunteers, giving their time, energy and expertise, and two of the original members have remained on the committee to this day.

For the last twelve years, the RCI has been chaired quietly and efficiently by Mike Parkinson. Mike's work over the years has meant that many RCI activities almost 'run themselves' and at the AGM earlier this year, when Mike stepped down

as Chair with no replacement coming forward and no new committee members, it was suggested and accepted that the RCI had run its course and would be dissolved. This decision was officially taken by the committee on 10th May 2023. The application to de-register as a charity has been received by the Charity Commission and is awaiting confirmation.

What next?

The RCI committee felt it necessary to let the community know what is happening to the clubs and activities that the RCI supports.

- Financial responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillators and the VETS scheme, through the Community Heartbeat Trust will be taken on by the appropriate Parish Councils in which the defibrillators reside.
- The oil group will continue to be organised by Michael and Judy Milne.
- The Lunch Club and Art and Craft Club will also continue, organised by Delia Harling, Pauline Wood and Maggi Watts. Historically known as Active Living (a title applied by the Community Council for Somerset, CCS), we feel a new name is required, to reflect the friendly, community nature of these clubs. If you have any brilliant ideas, let me know!
- There is also room for a walking group, if anyone wishes to start it up once more.

Where is the money going?

The RCI has historically been divided financially into three sub-groups: RCI proper, Youth Club and Active Living.

The RCI proper has fund-raised over the years for activities such as new notice boards, walks leaflets and the village cook book. Some revenue has been recovered for these through donations, but the COVID situation meant that fund-raising has been severely curtailed. The recent addition of maintenance fees for the defibrillators and VETS scheme, once the initial Lottery funding was exhausted, has put further financial pressure on the RCI proper. This situation has been helped in part for the past three years by generous donations from the Parish Councils.

Following the closure of the Youth Club, their existing funds had been ring-fenced. A serious attempt was made in 2021 to re-start a youth club in the area, for which the existing funds could be used. Despite considerable

advertising and publicity, no interest was forthcoming and so the RCI committee agreed to make the Youth Club funds available to help the financial obligations of the RCI proper.

Active Living has been well supported financially through grants from CCS, together with revenue from charges to guests and participants in Lunch Club and Art and Craft Club and will retain a reasonably healthy fund to keep these groups running.

On settlement of the final RCI accounts of 31st August 2023, using the Youth Club monies to compensate the shortfall of the RCI proper and allowing Active Living to retain their funds, a small amount of money remained. The RCI committee agreed that this amount would be donated to the SCA for support of Stawley Shop and Tearoom, the SCA having suffered financially also, through lack of fund-raising during COVID.

So, that sums up what the RCI was, and where we are now: undoubtedly, the RCI has been of immense value to our community over the many years of its existence, and thanks is very much due to all the committee members who have kept the organisation going throughout this time.

Goodbye RCI.

Pauline Wood, on behalf of Stawley Rural Community Initiative

The RCI Committee meeting minutes and accounts can be made available to anyone from the community who wishes to view them.

I'm sure you will join us in saying a big 'thank you' to past and present members of the RCI who have made such a valuable contribution to our communities - Eds.

Stawley Parish Council

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council in Appley Pavilion on the 3rd October starting at 7:30pm.

The British Ploughing Championships

14th and 15th October
Bishop's Lydeard, near Taunton, Somerset,
TA4 3HU

Well worth a visit with over 250 competitors practicing an ancient skill. They will be using both modern and vintage tractors.

Eighteen pairs of horses and ploughmen also compete plus a demonstration of steam ploughing.



Beat Surgery

**Stawley Village Shop
and
Tearoom**

Tuesdays 3rd and 31st October

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



Bathealton Boundaries Buddies (BBB)

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

When : First Monday of the month:

2nd October and 6th November
from 12 noon - 3.00 p.m.

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Have a light lunch; Home made soup and sandwiches, a selection of cakes with cafetiere coffee or tea: make time to Catch up and Chat

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

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on
Wednesday 11th October

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

An Echo from The Past

That's not for me, Mate

How do you fancy going to a church for a Songs of Praise? No, not the one on the telly. It's a local churches get together. You like singing, don't you?

No, not for me, mate.

You don't think it's a nice thing to do?

Church's not for me, mate.

It's a fundraising 'do' for the Bible Society. Means lots more people round the world get to read the Book of books.

I haven't read it.

So it's not important that people get to have one?

No, not for me, mate.

There might be tea and cake afterwards. Everyone likes them.

I don't.

What if they had some beer after the Songs of Praise?

Nah, not tempted.

Why not?

Cos it's in a church, and there's singing....and why bother with the Bible?

What if they held it in the Pie and Pickle? Real ales, lagers etc, etc. Plus chips and pickled onions.

Nope.

Why not?

Cos it's religious, and I ain't religious.

Aren't you?

No, not for me, mate.

But you are here every night religiously, downing three pints – like a daily ritual? And studying the Racing Post, and reading the latest CAMRA magazine.

That's different.

Is it really?

Tell you what, I'll buy you a half of Summer Ale, and a packet of peanuts.

No thank you.

Why not?

It's not my sort of thing, sir.

OK, I'll put it up to a pint and a packet of crisps – cheese and onion.

I said, I don't go for that.

But if you do, I might come to your thingy what-do-you-call it!

Make mine a half of 6X, plus a packet of salt and vinegar crisps.

When is it, mate?

Martin Perry

22nd October 2023 3.00 p.m.

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WELLINGTON
SONGS OF PRAISE
plus refreshments**

COLLECTION FOR THE BIBLE SOCIETY

You are cordially invited to:

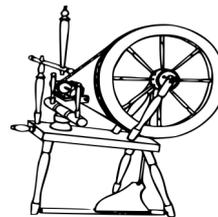
**Books and Biscuits,
Coffee and Cake**

STAWLEY MILL STUDIO BOOKSHOP

on the
first and third Wednesday of each month

4th and 18th October
from
10.00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

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



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: 3rd and 17th October
7th and 21st November
at 2.30pm**

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

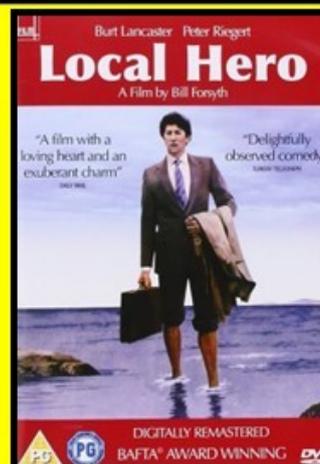


Waterrow Village Hall Film Night

Saturday November 18th 2023

6.30 pm start

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



The excellent film Local Hero will be shown at the Film Night. Celebrating 40 years since it's original release this is a fantastic, feel good film. **A delicious main meal** will be served along with the ever popular **dessert selections**. 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 great prizes to be won at no extra cost!

Ticket Information: Tickets can be purchased from:
Liz Kilbride at St Andrews café on Thursday Mornings.
Alternatively you can call - Sarah on 01398 361202,
or Liz on 01984 623431.

Priced at only £12 for adults - £6 for children under 12

Please note Tickets should be purchased by the 11th Nov

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Bathealton Parish Council Meeting on 14th September 2023.

Present: Phil Broad, Chair and Treasurer (PB), Steve Cottrell (SC), Jess Bunn (JB), John Ridgley (JR), Karen Tarey, minutes (KT).

Apologies: none. PB advised that the council requires one more member.

‘Clear Council Insurance Policy’ is available from PB to view. Copy of accounts to be placed on noticeboard in village hall.

Minutes: approved for meeting held on 15th June 2023. Matters arising: Precept 2024/2025: it is recommended this stays the same, however will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Planning applications: none. JB reported activity in Milverton Woods, lights on at night. SC advised not to be overly concerned. PB concerned about fallen branches onto the road, and questioned as to who is responsible for their removal.

Financial matters:

a. Approval of invoices for payment; Heart Start Machine £100.00, minutes £50.00, gifts for Parish Council leavers £44.00, Parish Council Insurance policy £384.00.

b. Current financial position £5140.00.

c. Community Interest Levy (CIL): PB advised committee that the Community Interest Levy (CIL) must be spent within the next 4 years, or the county council can claw back the money. PB also sought advice from the CIL department on what the monies can be spent on and received confirmation that this money can be used to renew/repair the village hall floor and kitchen, and all parish councillors were in agreement as to using the money for this purpose.

Review of Parish Council’s budget and/or financial plans for 2023/2024 and successive years:

a. Continue to support IED located at the village hall. No training update.

b. Continue graveyard upkeep.

c. Upkeep/replacement of public footpath signs: nothing to report.

d. Replacement of missing finger post signs: SC liaising with relevant parties and should receive a quote shortly. Sign at Venn Cross needs painting.

e. Support repairs/improvements to village hall: see 7.c.

f. Support for charities: Charities: Open Door Taunton £100.00, Parish News £50.00, Wivey Link £75.00. PCC payment £350.00 for graveyard maintenance, SC and PB to arrange online payment.

g. 2024/2025 Precept: to be discussed at next meeting.

Footpaths:

a. Footpaths: PB urges reporting of inaccessible footpaths to Somerset Council. It is the Parish’s responsibility to ensure stiles are accessible.

b. Parish walk: PB thanked SC for an enjoyable walk, in glorious sunshine. Thanks also to Hilary Cottrell for providing a lovely afternoon tea.

Roads: PB reported that the system works well for reporting issues, although some repairs are not adequate. A particular problem with flooding at Cow Corner, and several deep pot holes in evidence. SC to report on line, and if no action undertaken PB to write a letter to the council.

Schedule of meetings 2023/2024:

Monday 13th November and Thursday 15th February. Both at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

A.O.B: PB would like to pass on the role as treasurer to another member of the parish council. An expression of interest was made, and will be formally discussed at the next parish council meeting along with the election of posts.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Louise Fyne – Our PCSO

We are very sad to hear that Louise will be leaving us on the 4th October after fifteen years as our local PCSO. She is known to most of the law abiding citizens of our parishes and some of the ne’er-do-wells who obviously live in areas outside our area.

Louise will be missed but we wish her well in her new role which will allow her more regular time with her family.

*Paul Musgrove,
Clerk to Stawley Parish Council*

Donations for the Parish News

Donations received from:
Bathealton Parish Council
Mary Bucannon

Thanks again, for your kind support.

Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer. Details inside back cover.



— THE —
GLOBE INN

APPLEY

A wickedly warm welcome awaits you
at The Globe Inn this October

Eat, drink and be scary at our
Hallowe'en Spooktacular
on Saturday 28th October

Join in the ghoulishly good family fun, from 3pm-6pm, at our children's Hallowe'en party with fancy dress and pumpkin carving competitions. Please book so as not to disappoint. Plus we've got spooky bites available too! Then grown-ups get your graveyard gladrags on, from 7pm til late, for the devilishly exciting Taunton Vale Harriers Spooktacular fundraiser. Tickets cost £15 each (available from the bar) and include a delicious buffet supper. Plus, there will be fancy dress competition prizes and a frightfully good raffle. (Advanced booking essential)



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

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Stawley Flower and Produce Show

Despite a really challenging year for growers, exhibitors at the annual Stawley Flower and Produce Show produced a stunning show of flowers, fruit and vegetables. All the classes were well supported.

The Pavilion Committee worked really hard to supply delicious cream teas, cakes and Prosecco which were very popular on the sunny afternoon we were lucky enough to have.

Morag Berthon and Ann Heard were the judges and had the sticky task of sampling the jams and jellies, cakes and home-brews as well as some lovely needlework.

It was good to welcome newcomers to the show, several of whom won prizes. The childrens' entries were of a high standard and the winner of the Junior Rosshome Cup for the cover of the 2024 programme went to ten year old Gracie Oliver-Black.

Angus White won the Childrens' Special Prize for the number of entries in both adult and childrens' classes.

Adult winners were as follows:

The Cothay Cup for the most points of the day went to Ann-Lisa de'Ath

The Vegetable Award to Anna-Lisa De'Ath

The Flower Cup to Pip White

Fruit Award to Liz Burt

Produce Award to Anna-Lisa De'Ath

Cookery Award to Anna-Lisa De'Ath

Croft Bowl jointly to June White, Kirsty Coles and Anna-Lisa De'Ath

Art Award to Robyn Farmer

Photo Shield to John Hannon

Rossholme Cup jointly to Robyn Farmer and Anna-Lisa De'Ath

Chair's Cup for the best newcomer to Kirsty Popplestone

The Burrow Trophy was a new award kindly donated by Laura and Ian Burrow and made by Ian for the most humorous entry. This went to Emilia White for her hilarious cardboard character in a bath tub with a book and surrounded by stickers with slightly risqué jokes.

A big thank you must go to all the helpers who made the day possible, particularly Pat Sweet and Anna-Lisa De'Ath, to the Pavilion Committee for their delicious teas and finally to members of the community of all ages who brought along the products of their efforts in the garden, kitchen and workshops. It was a quintessential English village afternoon, enjoyed by all.



'Going, going, gone'.

Chris Clapham auctioned off the produce at the end of the show and raised £120.

Sue Jacoby

A view from the veranda

To echo Sue's comments, many thanks to everyone who supported the Flower Show and generously donated raffle prizes and cakes for the teas. What a lovely, busy afternoon in the hall and on the field.

Many thanks to Suzette for keeping the flow of tea, cake, puddings, Pimms and Prosecco coming and to Liz, Alison and Marie for keeping going all afternoon!

The teas, raffle and games raised £400 towards the upkeep of the Pavilion. Thank you all for your support.

Sally Scott Appley Pavilion Committee

Wivey Folk Club

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8.00 - 10.30 p.m.

October 10th and 24th
November 14th and 28th

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The proud prize winners at the Flower and Produce Show.



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The *Sorbus* family: Rowans, Whitebeams and Chequers



The first tree I noticed colouring-up for autumn this year was a wild Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) in a hedgerow near our house. It was towards the end of a wet, cool, low-light level August and I thought 'Well, that's summer over then' as I observed the red tints starting on the tips of the leaves and the berries beginning to turn scarlet. Since then, presumably due to the sudden increase in temperatures and sunlight, the process has stopped but many of the leaves have just browned and scorched instead of continuing to increase in hue and many have dropped prematurely.

I've noticed similar phenomena on some of the cultivated Whitebeams (larger, entire leaved species, collected together in sub-genus *Sorbus aria*) at Knightshayes, shedding some of their leaves in extreme heat which can look a bit shocking but often it is a survival tactic, leaving firm, waxy resting buds for the following Spring. They are cool climate plants and whether they come from northern Europe and America or China and the Himalayas, they prefer moister and more temperate conditions. Although many species are found growing in exposed and seemingly inhospitable places, the daintier ones do best with some shelter and association with other trees.

Certainly, many of the sub genus *Sorbus* types (including our native 'Rowan' or 'Mountain Ash' with compound pinnate, ash-like leaves) and their numerous garden hybrids are peerless in the autumn colour stakes with examples such as the Japanese Rowan (*Sorbus commixta*) and its culti-

var 'Embley' which flames up to an intense mixture of red, scarlet, gold and purple.

Berries are another important and eye-catching feature; not only are there the classic reds, scarlets and oranges but also pinks, whites and yellows. *Sorbus vilmorinii* is a small, well-proportioned rowan which has berries which turn a rich, deep rose pink, fading as they age but remaining on the tree a long time. It is one rowan which will benefit from a sheltered spot as its not the toughest of trees but it is certainly one of the most graceful with delicate fern-like foliage. *Sorbus 'Joseph rock'* is an old cultivar with a slow, steady upright growth habit, good red and gold autumn tints and fantastic yellow berries- one good reason for picking a species or cultivar with 'not red' berries is that the birds will tend to leave them till last thus extending the winter interest.

Sorbus cashmiriana has pearl-like white berries which remain almost untouched by birds throughout the winter; it has a spreading and lightly drooping habit and autumn shades of the richest russets and golds. And, of course, one must have a good red-berried form for the birds and either the good old cultivar of our native Mountain Ash, *Sorbus aucuparia 'Sheerwater seedling'* which is a tough, upright form often used as a street tree or *Sorbus sargentiana* (Sargent's Mountain Ash from China) which has truly stunning autumn colours, amazing large, dark, sticky resting buds in winter and great heads of foamy-white flowers followed by bunches of orange-red berries that the birds adore. All Rowans (perhaps with the exception of *S. vilmorinii* which is a little more finicky) are remarkably tolerant of all soil types and make excellent town and city trees due to their pollution tolerance.

Of the Whitebeams, perhaps the best-known garden form is the ubiquitous *Sorbus aria 'Lutescens'* which for many years was used extensively in street, park and municipal plantings for its toughness and tolerance of all manner of soil and atmospheric conditions. It is a form of the native European whitebeam with distinctive upswept habit and silver, felted young growth which develop into corrugated grey-green, rounded foliage. Heads of white, muskily scented flowers are followed by red-russet berries much beloved by birds. I would also recommend the Tibetan whitebeam *Sorbus tibetica 'John Mitchell'* with its huge, rounded grey-green leaves, felted below with silver indumentum; its broadly conical, spreading habit and the medium sized russet-brown fruit make it a small to medium sized tree that packs a big punch. There are 'intermediate' forms too, either naturally occurring or hybrids, which fall in between the Rowans and the Whitebeams; the most notable of these is the Swedish Whitebeam,

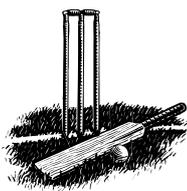
Sorbus x intermedia which is a naturally occurring hybrid from Scandinavia. Again, due to its toughness, it has been planted expansively in municipal and urban settings but is now often found naturalized in many parts of the country.

Finally, a word about our, sadly now rare, native 'Wild service tree' or 'Chequers', *Sorbus torminalis*. I was born in a village called Prestwood in Buckinghamshire; the local pub was (is still?) called 'The Chequers' and a few miles away, near the town of Princes Risborough, is the Prime Minister's residence, 'Chequers'. The main reason appears to be the historical predominance and importance of these trees in the woods of the Chilterns hills where the fruit, or 'chequers' were traditionally harvested and used to flavour beer.

When I last went there (a few years ago now) I visited one of the old chalk pits on the edge of the village and the old, rather neglected looking mature 'Chequers' were still there. Despite their natural preference seemingly being alkaline soils, they are remarkably tolerant of other soil conditions, particularly dry ones and were found widespread across the country. Their 'Maple-like' foliage turns rich reds and golds in autumn and, again, their autumnal russet-brown fruit are adored by birds and mammals alike. They are slower growing but longer lived than many *Sorbus* and can attain a good size in the wild.

I read somewhere that 'if you only have enough room in your garden for one tree, make sure it is a *Sorbus*' and I would tend to agree.

John and Julie Ridgley



Ashbrittle Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club

The season has now come to an end, and a good season was had by both teams, and even with a bit of wet weather cancelling matches in August it didn't affect the overall outcome of the results table...Yes! The 1st XI gained promotion into the West Somerset Cricket League Division 1, with the 2nd XI finishing fourth in Division 4.

A big thank you to the players who made the captain's job of team selection each week simple by having the numbers available to select from, which hasn't been easy over the past few years but we have managed to keep two teams competing each week.

Thank you to the two captains Rob Williams, John Barker and Vice Captains Mark White

and Shaun Ridgeway.

Special thanks to Mark who was in charge of keeping the ground at Appley cut and kept very tidy. I think we all enjoy the view from Appley Pavilion!

A presentation of awards will be held in November and the AGM will be on Thursday 30th November at Appley Pavilion at 8.00 p.m. - all welcome. If you would like to get involved, please come along. We would love to get the youth section back up and running. Children from eight years old would enjoy this, but parents need to be able to help out also.

The club have wicket loam soil to apply, fund raising to organise and practice nets start in February, so no winter resting!

Suzette Williams

Somerset Playing Fields' Association



Suzette Williams accepted the award on behalf of Appley Pavilion and the Cricket Club

Awards 2023

Many congratulations to Mark White and the Ashbrittle, Stawley & Clayhanger Cricket Club for recognition of the superb condition of the cricket pitch and playing field, at the 2023 Playing Fields' Awards.

Stawley Recreation Field and Appley Pavilion was awarded 'Highly Commended' in the Large Fields category.

The Playing Fields' committee make anonymous visits to all nominated playing fields during the summer to assess and compare the condition and upkeep of each field.

Appley was amongst august company and the Pavilion Committee would like to thank Mark and the Cricket Club for all the hard work that goes into keeping the field, hedging and fencing in tip-top order.

Sally Scott, Secretary of the

Lunch Club

Our August lunch club gave us three activity options. Doing nothing except chatting to neighbours and friends; participating in a quiz involving getting wet feet walking round the church yard looking at gravestones; or participating in a fiendish mathematical quiz set by Robert Boutwood. To my surprise the majority of people chose the maths quiz and I was astonished at the mental dexterity in the room which beat the wet feet hands down!

The topic at our next meeting is 'Finding the Longitude' with well-known public speaker Ken Atherton. He describes his talk as follows:

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries mariners crossed the oceans without any reliable means of measuring their longitude, relying on 'dead reckoning'. Voyages frequently ended in disaster as vessels, wildly off course, were lost on unfamiliar shores. Whereas the scientific community favoured a celestial answer to the problem, an unknown clockmaker by the name of John Harrison had other ideas.

We meet on the last Thursday in the month which will be 26th October. If you would like to join us please let me know: email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Advance notice - The Christmas Lunch Club will be on Thursday 14th December. I will be taking bookings in November. As ever, Jackie White will be providing us with a traditional meal with 'all the trimmings' which has always been exceptionally well received.

Delia Harling



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Cinema under the Stars - SCA report

The fundraiser organised by Stawley Community Association and Stawley Village Shop & Tearoom was a successful evening judging from the smiles on people's faces as they left. Our grateful thanks to them all for coming and for their good humour, and understanding at the delayed start to the film.

There are so many people to thank for supporting our fundraiser. The local businesses who sponsored the event; their generosity is very much appreciated and although at the time of writing this report, we haven't got a full picture on the monies raised, we do know that a large percentage of the costs involved will have been covered. Also, those of you who could not attend but supported us by donations and buying raffle tickets.

It was a truly community effort all round with a large team of willing volunteers who helped on the night, in the setting up and in the tidy up at the end of the evening. A very big thank you to all.

Alison Caswell, SCA Committee

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ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, October 26th at noon

FINDING THE LONGITUDE
Ken Atherton

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

Local Information

Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

Greenham & Tracebridge	Caro Ayre	01823 672603
Appley	Rachel Chesterton	01823 673063
Ashbrittle	Charles Doble	01823 672365
Stawley	Pat Sweet	01823 672380
Wellisford	William Thomas	01823 673143
Springrove	Doreen Orton	01823 400731

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PCSO Louise Fyne 6945 Tel: 07889 659476
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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

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field
– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or
email: *williamspfa@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

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,
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

2nd	12.00 - 3.00 p.m.	'Pop up café' in Bathealton Village Hall
4th and 18th	10.00 - 12.30 p.m.	'Books and Biscuits, Coffee and Cake' at the Stawley Mill Studio
8th	10.00 - 3.00 p.m.	Apple Day at the Pavilion
10th and 24th	8.00 - 10.30 p.m.	Wivey Folk Club in the Wiveliscombe Community Centre
14th	7.30 p.m.	Quiz night in Bathealton Village Hall
19th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee morning at Church Cottage, Stawley
21st	10.00 - 12 noon	'Coffee, Cake and Chat' in Ashbottle Village Hall
26th	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbottle Village Hall
22nd	9.00 - 1.00p.m.	Breakfast and Car Boot Sale at Appley Pavilion

November

24th	7.00 p.m.	Quiz Night at Appley Pavilion
30th	7.30 p.m.	Cricket Club AGM

December

2nd		Mrs Bart's Christmas Fayre in Bathealton Village Hall
15th	From 8.00 p.m.	Christmas Party with "Las Torders" at Appley Pavilion.
17th	4.30 p.m.	Carol Service in Bathealton Church

February 2024

23rd		Cricket Club Quiz Night at Appley Pavilion
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THE SKY PORTRAIT ARTIST OF THE YEAR '23

TILLY WILLIS

Heat 4 will be aired on November 1st on Sky Arts
(channel 11 Freeview)

This is the second time Tilly has been selected to participate in the show having appeared in 2014 painting ParaOlympian Ade Adepitan.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the popular show. 3000 artists submitted a self-portrait; 65 of which were selected.

Filming took place in May at Battersea Arts Centre.

Each heat involves nine artists painting three celebrity sitters; three artists to each sitter. The celebrity sitters are revealed once artists are stationed at their easels ready to paint.

The artists had four hours to paint with breaks and constant interruptions from crew, producers, chats with judges and presenters, being filmed the whole time. During the breaks "super fans" of the show can converse with artists.

One artist from each heat is selected by the judges to go onto the semi-final. It was a twelve-hour day - 7am until 7pm.



**Judges are: Kathleen Soriano, Tai Shan Schierenberg, Kate Bryan
Presenters: Stephen Mangan, Joan Bakewell**

Next Deadline Date: Friday 20th October 2023

Editors: Maurice and Avril