

Parish news

November 2023

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

Church Services

Sunday 5th November 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 22 Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday 12th November 10.45 a.m.	Trinity 23 Service of Remembrance	ASHBRITTL
Sunday 19th November 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 24 Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
Sunday 26th November 9.30 a.m.	Trinity 25 Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

The Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November at St John the Baptist, Ashbittle will be conducted by the Archdeacon of Taunton, the Venerable Simon Hill.

Special Christmas Services

Sunday 17th December 4.30 p.m.	Carol Service	BATHEALTON
Sunday 24th December 4.0 p.m.	Christmas Eve <i>Children's Christmas Celebration with Carols and the Christmas story. A short, jolly, candlelit service - everyone welcome.</i>	KITTISFORD

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

Please note that 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.

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 - 'The cows going out after milking'. A painting by Hugh Tregelles who farmed at Newhouse Farm, Kittisford for many years.

Food for Thought

I'm Phil White and farm at Newlands farm at Wellisford. I have been asked to give a synopsis of the farming year for the Harvest Service.

Just to give you a bit of background. We are a family farm with three generations still working on the farm, from eighty six years young to twenty six years old. We farm dairy cows, commercial beef and pedigree British Blue cattle.

So here goes...

Dairy really not good, last year's price was 53p per litre for our milk; this year 33.5p per litre which is well below the cost of production. There are tentative signs of an upturn in the price, so all dairy farmers are keeping their fingers crossed.

Beef still very good prices. You all obviously love your roast beef dinners and beef burgers. Keep eating!

Sheep all good on the Western front. The price goes up a little bit, the price goes down a little bit, but the finished lamb price has been quite steady for the past few years.

Pigs at long last, the price is good for pigs, but due to the sad demise of the industry through consistently poor returns there are very few breeding herds left in the country.

As the pigs have disappeared so have the specialist abattoirs and processors. If pigs make a comeback there would have to be large investment in capacity within the industry.

Poultry the meat side of the poultry industry is good and getting even better. The demand for chicken meat is ever on the up, with supermarkets not only asking for more chicken but also heavier chicken, rather than the little sparrows they sometimes sell at two for £5.

Eggs - I don't think anybody needs to tell me about the fiasco when producers are paid less than the cost of production - production slows down. Laying hens are quite a quick turnover enterprise in comparison to other things in farming, so if the returns are not there, poultry farmers do not always restock and shortages occur. Let's hope the supermarkets have learnt from last year's lesson.

Arable a very difficult year, not only troublesome weather at harvest but prices are down and costs are up, particularly fuel and fertiliser. Three words would pretty much sum up the reason - 'Russian aggression in Ukraine'.

Horticulture I must confess I don't know too much about this sector, but what I am told is that the field vegetables i.e. swedes and potatoes are okay. But vegetables with a high production cost, such as salad crops, are at breaking point, because of cheap imports and very high energy costs. Many glass houses over on the East coast have remained empty or have only had one crop rather than two or three.

Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI) this government programme is now being rolled out, basically it's public money for public good.

You may see a few of the options locally, such as pollinator strips around the edges of fields or the use of legumes i.e. clover peas or beans, to lessen the use of oil based manufactured fertilizer.

Hedges will be cut less frequently to increase the amount of over winter food for birds.

Your favourite view - I sometimes ask people to close their eyes and think of their favourite view. Whether it's when they're walking, driving or even looking out of out of the window.

I then ask them can they see fields and can they see animals? Most people nod in agreement and I then point out that they are seeing an agricultural landscape and that we all need the farming industry.

But most importantly, the farming industry need you as customers. On behalf of all farmers, I thank you for being our customers.

Phil White

Kittisford Harvest Festival

St Nicholas Church had been beautifully prepared by the residents of Kittisford to celebrate harvest.

The church was full with no empty seats for a Harvest Festival taken by our old friend the Reverend Ian Brierley.

Many thanks to the Village Festival Choir for their rumbustious performance of anthems and accompaniment to the hymns. An address '*The state of the farming nation*' given by Phil White was just what was needed to educate those not so close to the soil and encourage us to give generously to the Farming Community Network (FCN).

The sharing of cider or apple juice and cheese and sausages and biscuits was a lovely end to a great community event.

I am glad to report that we raised £190 for the FCN. Details of the work that they do can be found at <https://fcn.org.uk>.

Annie Musgrove (Churchwarden)

Having a Larf

by Steve Swan

A brief critique

I was grateful to be asked to write a brief resume of the above book by Steve. He was asked or volunteered to record in words some sketches which he wrote and performed with Chris Britton and Phil Moore and performed at Appley Pavilion. The proceeds of sales are to be donated to The Rossholme School in Kenya. They have to find new premises, at short notice, and urgently need £25,000.

Having a Larf is divided into two halves: the first consists of the sketches, whilst the second is a collection of humorous musings about life that may sound familiar to many of us, under the heading of *What's that about then?*

For those of you who saw the performances, you might wonder how these could be put down on paper! Thanks to their zany sense of humour and Chris' experience in running The Forkbeard Fantasy Theatre Company for over forty years they were able to produce numerous hilarious sketches over the years.

Chris Britton played the part of Sir Laurence "Larry" Bolivier, while Steve Swan played Sir John "Jonny" Feelgood. Phil Moore appeared as Mr Philip Dudley Moore (or Mr Moore). Wardrobe by Julia Swan.

Many of these shows were accompanied by Gail Britton, Paul Jacques, Roddy Kilpatrick and Hazel Jones with assistance from Judy and Gerry Webb.

What's that about then?

Being taken for Ride is a skit about a second-hand car salesman and client who explore the wonders of a driverless car controlled by "Alexa". The scenery was back-projected and showed the car going out-of-control causing havoc and the inevitable policeman enquires who was driving the car, to which both reply, 'No-one!' The policeman goes to collect reinforcements and the couple haggle about prices ending with Mr Moore buying back his own car for £500.

Cheap Flights has a dig at Ryanair; *HMS Hopeless* tells the tale of a chef and Captain who manage to set sail without a crew; *Firing Squad* deals with the requests for those facing death.

Other titles include: *Keep Fit, Job Swap, Scissors, Tightrope and Shakespeare, The Tunnel and Antiques Roadshow*.

The musings comprise: Costa Fortune (a rant about the complications and expense of modern coffee outlets), I'll Have a '99, Please (showing displeasure at the pricing of items at

something £ .99), Plough My Furrowed Brow (about the demise of the Ploughman's lunch), Refuse or Refuse (detailing the difficulties when visiting the tip), 'Appily Ever After (the pitfalls of dating apps), Look Harder, Watson, There Must Be a Glue in There (the useful and annoying use of glues), Are You Being Served? (service in modern eateries), Incident in Aisle 5 (difficulties in the supermarket), I'm All in a Spin (an interview with Jacob Sleaze Fogg), "Take the Money" - "No, Open the Box" (the cost of funerals), and "To Pee or Not to Pee" (gender neutral toilets). Steve has managed to create an extremely funny book from some very off-the-wall sketches which had everyone in stitches at the time and it is nice to revisit them. The themes and delivery in *What's that about then?* are very relevant to today's world. Well done Steve.

If you would like a copy, they are available from Stawley shop or from Judy Webb at Chackeridge Cottage for a donation.

Mike Parkinson

Stawley Parish Council Meeting on the 3rd October

The Council meeting on the 3rd October was short. Items discussed were action that needs to be taken now that the RCI has closed its doors, payment of invoices for the continued operation of the Council, one planning application, a missing hedge and the possible closure of a footpath (both in Kittisford).

Full minutes are available at stash.org.uk.

Paul Musgrove (Clerk)

Coffee morning

On Thursday 19th October a Coffee Morning was held at Church Cottage, Stawley in aid of the Church Tower Fund and raised just over £300.

Very many thanks to those who came and enjoyed a very jolly morning and to those who kindly made donations. It was a good way to spend a rather miserable wet morning!

Sue Jacoby

Mobile Library

at

Greenham Bridge

Next visit: Tuesday 21st November

10.00 - 10.20 am



Kittisford Christmas Meal

at Kittisford House
by courtesy of Perdy and Davide.
Open to everyone
in aid of St. Nicholas Church, Kittisford

Friday 1st December at 7.00 pm

*Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding,
mince pies,
a glass of wine, and festive village fun!
(special dietary requirements on request)*

Tickets £20

Giant Raffle

Our tickets include an optional 10% donation which supports the charitable work we do, and also enables us to claim Gift Aid on the full value of your ticket.

Available from Paul Musgrove
musy@cantab.net or 01823 672627
Meadow Farm, Greenham TA210JW

Country Matters

Remember, remember the fifth of November...

and when you do, don't forget that now is also the time that small beasts are looking for a convenient woodpile to settle into for a long winter's nap.

While some animals, like squirrels and harvest mice, create food caches to help them survive winter, others have a different approach: they feast over autumn to build up internal fat-stores, then spend most of the cold weather in torpor or hibernation.

Torpor and hibernation are states in which animals reduce their metabolism to conserve energy. Their breathing and heart rate decrease and they are slow to wake when disturbed. Torpor is a state triggered by harsh environmental conditions (lowering temperatures or food scarcity), which animals may enter at any time of year for hours or days at a time. Hibernation is a deeper, prolonged torpid state which occurs in response to the shorter, colder days of late autumn and winter.

While we often think of animals hibernating throughout the winter, hibernation is not continuous. It may last for days, weeks or months depending on the species, environmental temperature and body condition of the animal. Animals will wake if temperatures drop so low their blood is in danger of freezing and rising temperatures can also be a cause for waking. On warm winter nights you may see hedgehogs or bats venturing out in the hope of a mid-winter snack before settling back to 'sleep'. This occasional waking is not a problem, but waking frequently or for too long may burn through their fat-reserves too quickly for them to survive the winter.

With the rise in unusual weather patterns, there is a concern that food supplies may be less dependable and hibernation more often interrupted by unseasonably warm spells with detrimental results. While there is little we can do to affect the weather in the short term, we can help by providing safe places for hibernation (hedgehog houses, bug hotels, undisturbed log and leaf piles) and managing our gardens to maximise autumn and winter foraging.

In the UK there are three types of mammals which hibernate: hedgehogs, dormice and bats. Amphibians, reptiles and some insects also go into a dormant state, though there seems to be less agreement on the terms: hibernation, torpor, brumation (for reptiles and amphibians), diapause (for insects). Regardless, many of these animals start looking for relatively sheltered, safe spaces to hibernate during late autumn and any pile of wood, leaves or compost may do.

To reduce the chance of any animal mishaps during upcoming bonfires, be they for tidy-

ing-up or celebrating, there are some fairly simple things we can do. The first is to build your bonfire the day you intend to light it. If this is not possible and your pile is small, have a careful look and listen for stowaways. If you are building a large pile in advance, it's best to build it within a mesh fence to keep out unwanted visitors and always light your bonfire on a single side to allow an escape route for any undiscovered creatures.

Wishing you all safe and happy bonfires, as casualty-free as the Gunpowder Plot so many years ago.

Alësha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins

The Smelly Subject of Poo

Ashbrittle is an animal loving village. However, there appears to be an increasing amount of dog poo or, worse still, dog poo left in plastic bags. This is a concern not just because of the mess it causes, but because it can be a health risk to both humans and farm livestock (in particular if dogs are not up to date with their vaccinations and worming).

Please could owners keep a close eye on their pets, and pick up, bag **and** take the bags home to bin, any offerings in public places in and adjacent to the village.

Further afield, if away from public areas, stick and flick may be more appropriate, and is preferable to plastic coated parcels left hanging in bushes or on the ground.

THANK YOU

Ashbrittle Parish Council

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

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

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Next Meetings:

**Wednesdays 1st November, 6th December
and 3rd January 2024**

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



CHRISTMAS WREATH-MAKING CLASSES

Saturday 2nd December 1pm-3pm £35
Sunday 3rd December 10.30am-12.30pm £35

Join craft expert Anna-Lisa De'Ath, AKA
The Crafty Country Fox, in her stunning
Stawley studio (TA21) to create your
very own gorgeous fresh foliage wreath.

To book a place email
anna-lisa@thecraftycountryfox.co.uk

What's included:
All materials for the class,
plus tea, coffee and
delicious homemade sweet treats.



PCSO Louise Fyne



Following the announcement of Louise's departure in the last issue, Stawley Parish Council decided to hijack her last Beat Surgery and make a presentation on behalf of the Parish, to thank her for looking after us so well over the last fifteen years – and always with a smile!

This was duly done at the Village Shop on October 3rd with a planter of cyclamen and a nice box of Lindt chocolates. We wish her well in her new venture at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Clive Wall



Beat Surgery

**Stawley Village Shop
and
Tearoom**

**Tuesdays: 31st October
and 28th November**

From 9.00 - 10.00am

Meet our new PCSO
Brianna Whelan

AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

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

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

STAWLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (SCA)

**Supporting Stawley Village Shop
and Tearoom**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2023

6.30 p.m.

at

Stawley Village Shop

**The SCA needs new members to support this
valuable community asset**

*Please consider coming along
and joining us*

Wivey Folk Club

Held in the Wiveliscombe
Community Centre
on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

8.00 - 10.30 p.m.

November 14th and 28th

£4 - includes coffee or tea

News from the Parish News

We send the magazine by email, in a PDF format, to some people outside of our immediate area. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a regular copy in that way, please contact us at ashparishnews@gmail.com

Donations received from:

David and Nicky Welch

Anonymous donations at the Village Shop

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

Andrew Millard, Treasurer



THE GLOBE INN

APPLEY

A wonderfully warm welcome awaits you
at The Globe Inn this November

Escape the cold weather and cosy up in front of our roaring fires this autumn. Enjoy our selection of regularly changing local ales and treat yourself to a warming lunch or supper. We pride ourselves on our delicious home-reared Ruby Red Devon beef and succulent home-reared Appley pork.



**SPICE UP YOUR LIFE AT OUR
MEXICAN GUEST CHEF NIGHT!**
WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER FROM 6.30PM

THERE WILL BE AN ARRAY OF MOUTH-WATERING MEXICAN
DISHES AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO ENJOY ON THE NIGHT.
CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS OF THE MENU.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

Open

Wednesday to Saturday 12 noon - 11pm
Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Food

Served from 12 noon - 2pm & 6pm - 9pm
Pizza Nights will return in the Spring

Accommodation

*The Smythy, our luxury one-bedroom cottage finished to the highest standard.
It's the perfect place for your extra house guests to stay over the festive season.*

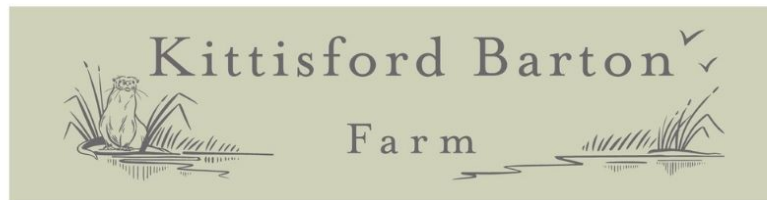
📍 Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ

☎ 01823 673147

✉ stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk

📌 The Globe INN Appley

**Bookings now
being taken for
Christmas
parties**



Organic Dexter Beef from Kittisford Barton Farm



£140 - 10kg
Beef Box

to include a mix of:

- topside joints
- fillet steaks
- sirloin steaks
- rump steaks
- roasting joints
- mince, stewing steak, braising steak and brisket

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH FOR ORDERS. FROZEN BEEF SOMETIMES AVAILABLE. WAITING LIST FOR FUTURE FRESH BOXES.



To reserve your box please speak to
John - 07872 971328
kittisfordbartonfarm@gmail.com

THE
HERITAGE CURE
FINE BRITISH CHARCUTERIE



CHARCUTERIE FESTIVE PLATTERS NOW AVAILABLE

We sell a range of cured meats and salamis all produced from rare-breed, free-range pigs on our farm in Stawley.



Scan here for quick access to
www.theheritagecure.co.uk
Hill Farm, Stawley

For enquires, or to arrange local delivery
please text Dan on 07825402038
or email info@theheritagecure.co.uk

*All products sold before the end of 2023 will have a shelf life of at least
February 2024 so will last throughout the festive season.*

**15% Discount for local orders
use code: Stawley2023**



Gardening Club

A decision was made to postpone the Club's planned October garden visit to East Lambrook Manor Gardens, South Petherton. We were advised that the garden had suffered from the recent heavy rains and winds and that it was not showing at its usual best. Instead, we plan to visit at one of the garden's highlight periods – its Festival of Snowdrops in February (2024!).

The November meeting will be to Otter Nurseries, Ottery St Mary, to savour the festive offering for which the Garden Centre is renowned. This will be a day's excursion to enable full enjoyment of the displays, plants and gifts and will include coffee and lunch.

As another prelude to Christmas, the Club's Christmas Tea will be at the Old Well Garden Centre. We initiated this event last year and it proved hugely popular and very enjoyable!

Val Wall

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for September 2023

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.59	0.00	3.66	3.66	5.47

It started out so well, but then the heavens opened! September was the third wettest month of the year so far (after February and January).

From 15th – 17th September we had 3.5 inches of rain – most of it fell on the 16th (just over 2 inches). And yes, you guessed correctly, a new record – the wettest September since the year 2001 (not a typo, I did dig out the records before 2010 to check)!

Previously the highest rainfall recorded in September was 3.74 inches in 2008.

In 2021 and 2022 we had 3.66 inches, so perhaps a trend is emerging of September getting wetter year by year?

Val Coots

Pavilion availability for 2024

If you would like to book the Appley Pavilion for a week-end event or party during the cricket season we have one week-end available during the cricket season (May to mid Sept).

Please get in touch with me before 30th November at williamspfa@outlook.com

Suzette Williams



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**

Be still and cool in your own mind and spirit, free from your own thoughts, and you will then feel the divine source of life in you turn your mind to the Lord God. And in doing this you will receive his strength and life-giving power to quieten every storm and gale that blows against you.... Therefore be still for a while from your own thoughts, your own searching, seeking, desiring, imagining, and rest on the divine source of life within you so as to rest your mind on God himself and to come close to God. You will then find strength from him and find him to be a present help in time of trouble, in time of need, and to be a God at hand.

From Truth of the Heart ~ An anthology of George Fox, selected and annotated by Rex Ambler.

You are cordially invited to:

Books and Biscuits, Coffee and Cake

STAWLEY MILL STUDIO BOOKSHOP

on the
first and third Wednesday of each month

1st and 15th November
from
10.00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

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

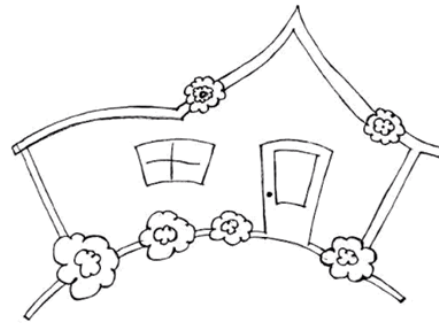
Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

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

Spooktacular greetings to all of our BOO-tiful customers, from all of us here at the shop!

We hope you're all well and polishing up your cauldrons and dusting off your broomsticks ready for all Hallows eve this terrifying Tuesday!

To celebrate the end of this menacing month, we have a delicious soupy offering of spiced pumpkin soup this week. This devilishly deep and delicious soup will have you warmer than a wolf in winter in no time! So why not pop in and 'Trick or treat' yourself to a bowl? ... too busy to stop? Don't worry, we have take-away cups handy that will house your ghoulishly gratifying grub perfectly, making it a healthy on the go lunch!

We now have a date for this years' Christmas Fair! It is being held on Saturday 18th November between 4pm and 7pm. We will be holding it in the Marquee outside the shop again like last year! There will be fantastic gift stalls, Raffle, carol singing with the choir and hot baked potatoes with various fillings available and much more! We will also be offering mulled wine and other warm and wonderful drinks to keep you toastie whilst you peruse the stalls.

We still have availability if you are interested in a stall, give Katie a call on the number above or pop in the shop to enquire further. It is £20 per stall, with all the stall and Raffle proceeds going to the SCA.

We really hope you will join us for an afternoon and evening of entertainment and socialising and revel in the wonderful community spirit that we so love.

Apple Day at Appley Pavilion

Yet again we had glorious weather. We have been lucky every year not to be mixing apple juice with rain and wellies. It was, however, unseasonably warm with many remarking that 20+ degrees in October was not as it should be.

Our amazing Kitchen Crew – Suzette, Kath and Sally – served out £340 worth of bangers and mash and everything apple related. Thank you all. It is the making of Apple Day success to have lunch and refreshments available while the apple juice continued to flow! Thank you also to Annie Musgrove – my fellow potato scrubber!



In go the apples...



Out comes the juice.

We estimated that we pressed about 900 litres of juice which is more than previous years. It was wonderful to see so many people and families turning up with buckets, bins and containers full of all manner of apples, and one with pears! Many families just came to enjoy the day and taste the juice as it came pouring out of the press; children helped throw apples in to the mashing machine before the pulp went to the press.

The 'Best Apple Cake' and 'Best Apple Pie' were both won by Suzette Williams.

Thank you also to all those who helped with the apple processing – Ian Williams, Jeremy Robbins, Judy Webb, Gerry Webb, Dan Rathbone, Paul Musgrove and Phil Broad. It's brilliant to have a team of pressers who have done it all before!!

So, same time next year? Date is yet to be decided!

Rachel Oliver



Bathealton Boundaries Buddies (BBB)

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

When : First Monday of the month:

6th November and 4th December
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 13th December

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

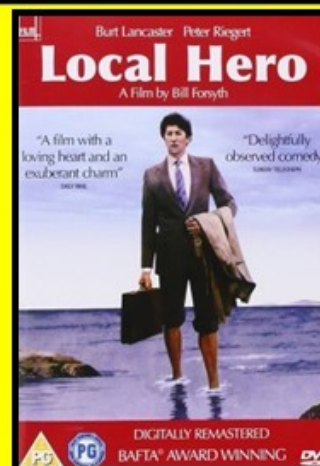


Waterrow Village Hall Film Night

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!!!

**Minutes of the RCI
Dissolution Committee
Held at Chackeridge Cottage
on Friday 13th October 2023 at 6pm**

Present:

Martin Perry (Chairman) (MP), Pauline Wood (Treasurer) (PW), Judy Webb (Secretary) (JW)

Apologies:

None

Discussion:

All issues relating to the dissolution of the RCI had now been completed. The former Chairman, Mike Parkinson, had received acknowledgement from the Charity Commission stating that a period of three months must elapse following publication of the proposed dissolution.

“Its purpose is to advise the public, donors and creditors of the intended dissolution.

The Commission must consider any representations made to it during the three months to see whether they provide sufficient cause for not removing the CIO from the Register. If so, the dissolution process may be suspended (whilst we obtain more information) or stopped”.

The final date of dissolution would therefore be 26th December 2023, as long as no representations were made.

RCI Funds:

PW had completed the accounts as at 31st August 2023 and they had been audited by Derek Sowden. The allocation of funds had been previously agreed.

Final accounts on 31st August 2023 were:

RCI Proper	-189.52
Active Living	861.72
Youth Club	502.95

Active Living to retain its sum.

So, YC - RCI proper is $502.95 - 189.52 = \text{£}313.43$ to be paid to SCA.

The Treasurer was formally thanked for her hard work in closing down the accounts.

Community Room:

PW undertook to contact the local council to arrange transfer of responsibility for the Community Room which is located within Stawley Shop, to the SCA, including the annual claim for rate relief.

Final statement:

It was agreed that Mike Parkinson, as the final Chairman for twelve years, had done an excellent job and very many useful and positive actions and activities, which now continued, had been instigated under his leadership of the RCI. Its dissolution in no way reflected on him or the work of the RCI; the Community owed him, in particular, a huge debt of gratitude.

Dissolution Party: Although originally arranged for 13th October, It was agreed that this should now take place in the new year on a date to be decided.

The final meeting of the RCI Dissolution Committee closed at 7.00 p.m.

Judy Webb (Secretary)

‘The Dong with a Luminous Nose’

The good folk of the community were delightfully entertained with a concert programme on the last Saturday evening of September, organised by Judy Webb to raise money for Rossholme School in Kenya.

The local choir, led by John Young, accompanied by Gail Britton and individual soloists, sang a wonderfully theatrical, time-warped interpretation of Edward Lear’s poem about the thwarted love of the Dong with a luminous nose. The choir’s Jumbly green hair and waving blue hands added drama to the varied ‘modern’ popular songs that had an appreciative audience foot tapping and humming along. The solos were moving and accomplished.

After a short interval, in which wine and nibbles magically appeared (and disappeared!) and much social interaction took place, seats were resumed for an explosive performance by Richard Lennox on the keyboard. Music from Bach to Disney had been promised and was delivered in a thrilling stream of powerful playing by the enthusiastic musician. His energy dominated. His versatility and ability gave the audience snatches of classical soundbites, ably interspersed with melodies from the twentieth and twenty first centuries. The Pavilion was filled with music; the audience was filled with admiration for the speed and accuracy of the nimble fingers that dashed relentlessly up and down the keyboard. It was breathtaking!

Many thanks to all those who conceived, organised, and contributed to a marvellous evening. Ticket sales, donations and a raffle raised over £3300 towards supporting the pupils of Rossholme School.

Angela Johnson



PAVILION QUIZ NIGHT

**FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
7 FOR 7.30pm START**

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RAFFLE

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Saving seed from your favourite flowers and vegetables is, depending on what you're harvesting, potentially an all-year-round activity. But it does reach its zenith during late summer and autumn, which is when I notice that most of our windowsills and available surfaces becoming clogged up with yoghurt pots, recycled envelopes and paper bags, all containing seeds of some sort, in need of processing, cleaning and labelling. It's an element of gardening that can get a bit obsessive and slightly out of hand if you don't apply a little discipline.

I've been saving and donating seed to the Professional Gardeners' Guild seed exchange for a number of years as well as for my own use. There is nothing like sowing seeds of something rare and unusual and the buzz when the first seedlings start to appear. Some species, *Paeonia* (Peony) for example, can take up to three years to germinate so extreme patience is required!

For many, the most practical and immediate reasons for seed saving are in the vegetable garden and primarily that of 'saving money;' being independent of the big seed companies; saving a 'Heirloom' or 'Heritage' variety that has been in your family for some time and knowing the seed is fresh, its provenance and whether it has (or has not) been raised organically.

My Dad used to grow big long rows of peas. He was fed up with the inconsistent germination of the seed he used to buy by 'the pint' from the seed merchant so eventually started to leave a percentage of his crop to go 'to seed' which he would dry and save. These would germinate more evenly and would grow away more rapidly. He would sow his rows thickly - 'One for the mice, one for the crow, one for the devil and one for me' he used to say (or something very similar). In most years he would have to thin the seedlings but I don't think he minded as it was infinitely better

than seeing patchy, sparse and often spindly plants with empty earth in between. I'd like to think seed is better quality these days but peas are something I still struggle with when bought in, yet my own saved seed, of an unusual yellow podded 'mange tout' that originally came from Asia, romps away.

Tomatoes are another crop that is very easy to save seeds from; like the peas, most varieties are self-fertile (they don't require a pollinator and very rarely cross with other varieties unless deliberately hand fertilized) though seed saved from F1 varieties (first generation from a deliberate cross of two stable and proven parents) will often revert back to a mix of characteristics from both parents often losing hybrid vigour.

Most of the older-fashioned, open pollinated and heritage types can be reliably saved every year. Take a selection of the best shape and size fruit (for the variety), let them become 'over ripe' and then scrape out the seeds with the protective jelly that surrounds them. Put in a small container (I use recycled single portion yoghurt pots) with a little water and place in a light position (but not in direct sun) and let it start to ferment. Stir daily but do not worry if a little mould forms on top. Add more water if necessary to stop drying out and after about five days tip into a fine metal sieve and wash through thoroughly. The action of fermentation breaks down the jelly and makes the seed easier to dry (it is better to use newspaper rather than kitchen roll as they can stick to it) and separate the seeds individually before putting into envelopes. The jelly also acts as an anti-germinant and is designed to protect the seed as it travels through the gut of an animal to be dispatched ready to go at the other end.

French Beans (bush and climbing forms) are also self-fertile so certainly worth saving - for years I've been growing a 'filet' bean (small, tender and thin bean to cook whole) with a tiny, white bean about the size of a (large) grain of rice that I've only ever called 'Rice Bean'.

Runner beans and Broad beans do have a tendency to cross out so, whilst worthwhile saving seed, do expect some variation from year to year in height, flower colour and productivity. My red flowered broad beans do seem to get a few white flowered plants in amongst them but the best thing to do is 'rogue out' (remove) the white ones and try to grow them as far away from your maincrop broad beans as possible.

I hope this has piqued your interest as seed saving is an easy, fun thing to do and actually, when it comes to food crops, it's another small way in which you can help to make your plot self-sustaining.

John and Julie Ridgley

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**CHRISTMAS
BINGO**

Saturday 9th December

Doors open 7pm

Eyes down 8pm

£1 admission to include refreshments

Re-arranging the deckchairs ...

Re-arranging the deckchairs on the Titanic, so says the old adage following the sad demise of that unsinkable liner. It is suggested that the phrase is a comment on futile manoeuvres being made in the face of overwhelming odds. It can also refer to lots of tweaking and concentrating on irrelevancies while more serious and important issues are ignored.

We've not long since returned from a holiday in Europe. We couldn't avoid making comparisons. When in Vienna, for instance, how clean and tidy it all seemed: I saw only one piece of litter on the ground. Back home, Wellington's streets had been litter fed, left to lie after the carnival. Why?

Again, we visited towns that, their tourist guides told us, had been flattened by the RAF, but there they were, rebuilt soon after the war and rebuilt to what had been their former glory. Yet how often, whenever improvements are suggested, or essential house developments are recommended, out come the protesters, and consultations have to take place. Can't be doing that here – put it over there!

Of course, there are people who do make an effort. Programmes like 'Spotlight' and 'Country File' show us individuals planting some trees or picking plastic off their local beach. They are doing their small best to make a difference, and they are lauded for their work, hailed as saints or heroes. But why do they feel they must do it? Are they really heroes?

Are the real heroes the ones we don't hear about: those families on the beach who always clean their patch and collect their rubbish, taking it home with them? And councillors who argue that a budget priority must include adequate means to keep their town and country clean and litter free? Is it true that small minds can only produce small visions? They can't absorb the bigger picture, or deal with any realities that go deeper than immediate wants.

Perhaps they have never faced the necessary demands and inevitable events of being alive. Listen to conversations around you and it's nearly always peripheral, the newest passing phenomenon or fashion – Harry Kane's latest successful penalty or Auntie's visit to the chiropodist!

Is life really about the next bit of unwanted plastic? What colour do we want our new deckchairs to be? And where shall we put them?

How will that help when the unavoidable icebergs, freezing storms, and sharp-edged rocks draw close, waiting for each one of us?

Martin Perry



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday 18th November

10 -12 noon

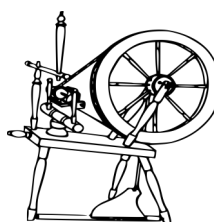
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If you are interested, please get in touch, email pjw200355@gmail.com and I will make enquiries.



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: 7th and 21st November
5th and 19th December
at 2.30pm

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

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CHRISTMAS MENU

Starters

Ham Hock rilette, pink peppercorns & toasted French bread

Roast parsnip soup with sage croutons & basil oil

Gravlax & smoked salmon plate, capers & rye crispbread

Baked brie & cranberry tartlette on a bed of rocket salad

Mains

Turkey Wellington, assorted seasonal roasted vegetables, sausage sage and onion stuffing, bread sauce & turkey cranberry jus

Nut Wellington, assorted seasonal roasted vegetables, sage and onion stuffing, bread sauce & vegetable cranberry gravy

Christmas Beef Bordelaise, celeriac mash, roasted chestnuts, haricots verts & red cabbage

Seasonal white fish, parsley mash, smoked mussels, samphire & sauce vin blanc

Puddings

Christmas pudding, brandy butter & creme anglaise

Apple strudel & cinnamon ice cream

Trilogy of tartlettes; lemon meringue, traditional mince pie, dark chocolate torte

West Country cheese board consisting of: Vale of Camelot blue, Montgomery smoked cheddar, Cricket St. Thomas brie, Godminster organic vintage cheddar & homemade quince jelly £10

2 courses - £30

3 courses - £35 (not including cheeseboard)

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Lunch Club

Avril Silk was our September speaker. Having previously delighted us with a range of subjects from Cats to Wellington Monument, this time the focus was on the art of writing. We were not a passive audience. From the start we were thinking about the elements that needed to be included in a story which engaged the reader. Before we knew it we were beginning to write a story ourselves. Lunch time came too soon! But as always, Jackie's lunch was delicious.

In November our speaker will be Antony Weeks from Tracebridge. His topic is as follows - 'A talk on the benefits of eating wild venison and how this helps out the environment'.

I help cull deer in various locations in Gloucester, Dorset and here in Somerset/Devon. I harvest the meat, butcher it and then occasionally sell it. I'm not interested in 'trophy' hunting but I am keen on managing the deer population so that both the venison and the deer themselves are sustainable. There are lots of deer around here and I can chat about where to see them and the best times of day.

If you would like to join us at the next lunch club, on Thursday 30th November 12.00 noon please email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Delia Harling

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ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, November 30th at noon
WILD VENISON AND SUSTAINABILITY
Antony Weeks from Tracebridge
The benefits of eating wild venison
and how this helps out the environment.
There are lots of deer around here ~
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DECK THE HALLS



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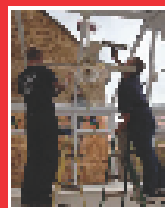
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blurts.flats.crouching

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

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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

PCSO Brianna Whelan

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: stawleypc@yahoo.co.uk www.stash.org.uk

Community Halls

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

Ashbrittle Village Hall
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Local Groups

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Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager
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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

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

Bank details: Account Name: The Parish News,

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

1st and 15th	10.00 - 12.30 p.m.	'Books and Biscuits, Coffee and Cake' at the Stawley Mill Studio
6th	12.00 - 3.00 p.m.	'Pop up café' in Bathealton Village Hall
14th and 28th	8.00 - 10.30 p.m.	Wivey Folk Club in the Wiveliscombe Community Centre
18th	10.00 - 12 noon	'Coffee, Cake and Chat' in Ashbrittle Village Hall
23rd	7.30 p.m.	Ashbrittle Village Hall AGM
24th	7.00 p.m.	Quiz Night at Appley Pavilion
30th	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall
30th	7.30 p.m.	Cricket Club AGM

December

1st	7.00 p.m.	Kittisford Christmas Meal at Kittisford House
2nd	2.30 p.m.	Mrs Bart's Christmas Fayre in Bathealton Village Hall
9th	7.00 p.m.	'Deck the Halls' an illustrated talk in Bathealton Village Hall
9th	8.00 p.m.	Xmas Bingo in Ashbrittle 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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Order by the end of November

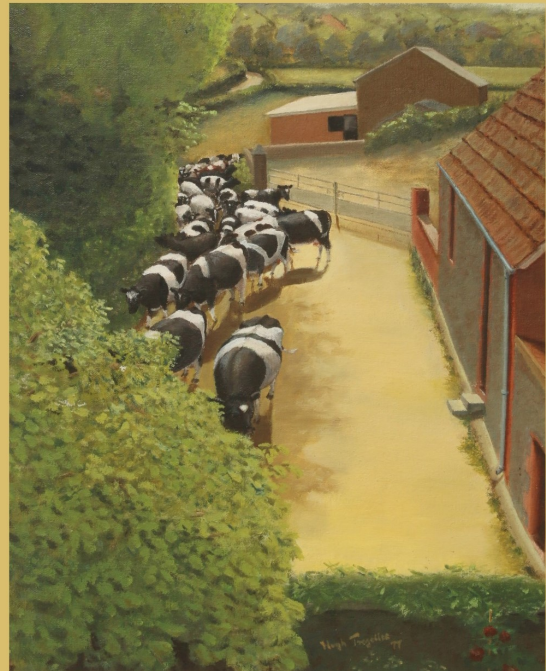
These stunning blank notecards,
"The cows going out after milking in Kittisford" by Hugh Tregelles are available and being sold in support of St Nicholas Kittisford. Samples are in the church and Village Shop.

£2.50 large card or £10 for 5 cards

£10 for 6 smaller cards

Contact Annie Musgrove with your order by end of November

amusgrove@cantab.net



Next Deadline Date: Friday 17th November 2023

Editors: Maurice and Avril