



Parish news

February 2024

Church Services

Sunday 4th February 9.30am	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Parish Communion	STAWLEY
Sunday 11th February 9.30am	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Parish Communion	ASHBRITTLE
Sunday 18th February 9.30 am	First Sunday in Lent Parish Communion	KITTISFORD
Sunday 25th February 9.30 am	Second Sunday in Lent Parish Communion	BATHEALTON

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbrittle with Greenham

Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LQ 01823 672365
David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE 01823 672436

Bathealton Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW 01984 629013
Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL 01823 401248

Kittisford Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW 01823 672627

Stawley Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT 01823 672183
Graham Henson, Court Place Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HP 01823 672496

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

A Special Event at Ashbrittle Church

Visit of the Bishop of Bath and Wells

We were very pleased that the Right Reverend Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells, presided over our service at Ashbrittle on January 14th. It was a great success and the sun was shining on the day, even though the temperature was typical for mid-January. (See photograph on the back cover.)

It was very gratifying that so many folk came to the service and took part in what was a joyous occasion. I am particularly grateful for all the support we received from various members of the community who contributed their time and effort to ensure such a good outcome.

We are still "in vacancy" and hope to be appointing a full time stipendiary minister for the Ashbrittle group which forms part of the new benefice of "West Tone". In the meantime we have been so well supported by various retired clergy in the vicinity.

I am so pleased to be able to tell you that the Reverend Martin Kirkbride has agreed to look after us in Ashbrittle and Greenham parishes. Our next "Big-Do" at Ashbrittle will be our Easter service which will be led by the Right Reverend Michael Langrish, retired Bishop of Exeter with Martin Kirkbride. Please do come along.

Finally I would repeat my thanks to everyone who took part in Bishop Michael's service last Sunday... it was appreciated so much!!

Charles Doble Churchwarden

Kittisford Christmas Dinner

December seems a while ago now but this is the first opportunity I have to thank everyone for their support for the Kittisford Christmas Dinner.



Many hands made light work!

The event was over-subscribed this time and we all enjoyed an amazing Christmas dinner thanks to our local chefs who worked hard in their kitchens to prepare the dinner and bring it to the barn at Kittisford House on time and piping hot.

The barn looked fantastic thanks to Mark, Perdy and local helpers who transformed the space into a magical dining room. Our thanks go to Perdy and Davide Taliente for letting us use the barn and to Will Morrison for his generous donation of the wine.

This year we raised the very healthy sum of £1,136 towards maintaining Kittisford Church. During the evening the children worked hard selling raffle tickets and we raised £228 for Christian Aid in the Palestine.

Thank you once again to everyone for your continued support of Kittisford Church. It was wonderful to see the church looking so festive due to the hard work of the flower arrangers and packed to the rafters on Christmas Eve for the Children's Carol Service. Save the date for 2024!



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.**

Let me not Pray

Let me not pray to be sheltered from dangers
But to be fearless in facing them.

Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain
But for the heart to conquer it.

Let me not look for allies in life's battlefield
But my own strength.

Let me not crave in anxious fear to be saved
But hope for patience to win my freedom.

Grant that I may not be a coward,
Feeling Your mercy in my success alone;

But let me find the grasp of Your hand in my
failure.

Rabindranath Tagore

Gardening Club

The Club's annual Christmas Tea at the Old Well Garden Centre attracted fifteen members who enjoyed excellent festive cream or cheese teas and many replenishments of pots of tea! The Old Well allocated members its separate dining room and went to town with decorations, crackers, and the like. Needless to say, *en route* to the restaurant, the Plant Centre attracted much attention, with the range of Hellebores being particularly admired.



Ready, steady, pull!

Snowdrop Festival

The first visit of 2024 will be in early February to East Lambrook Manor Gardens, South Petherton, for its Snowdrop Festival. The garden prides itself in having one hundred and forty varieties of Snowdrops in different 'natural' locations in the garden, many of them being extremely rare. The garden's Plant Centre sells a wide range of varieties at very competitive prices. It is a visit not to miss to this lovely Grade I listed cottage garden.

One of the most significant events in the Club's year will be held at the end of February in a member's home. It will comprise a Bring and-Share supper, preceded by a planning session to decide the programme of events 2024 and a brief discussion of the Annual Flower Show. Members are encouraged to come armed with lots of ideas and, indeed, offers to organise them!

Val Wall

Rainfall Statistics (inches)

December 2023

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
7.56	6.28	5.04	5.71	7.20

Total Annual Rainfall - Year on Year

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
50.70	45.32	43.33	40.67	55.24

December turned out to be the wettest month in 2023, beating November (6.97) and January (6.85 inches). It was also the second wettest year since local records began in 2001 - only 2012 was wetter (58.81 inches).

I wish you a healthy, happy and drier 2024!

Val Coots



Beat Surgery

Stawley Village Shop and Tearoom

Tuesday 20th February
and 19th March

9.00 - 10.00am

with PCSO Brianna Whelan

Tel 07761 405460 or email:

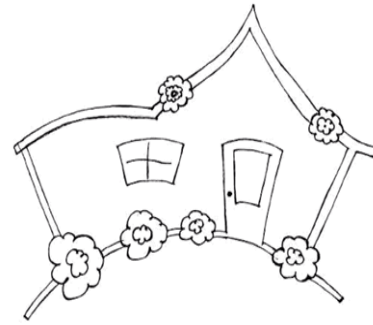
brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Meadow Pasture Hay for sale

Small Bales - Low Sugar
Perfect for horses
Stawley Area

01823 673303 or 07981 164 111

Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room



Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Saturday 8.30am to 2.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am

Shop email & phone number:

shop@stawleyshop.com

01823 674361

The Post Office is here on Thursdays between 11.30 and 1.30pm



Hello Everyone! Happy chilly February to you all! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and we wish you all a healthy and happy new year.

I start the new year on a bit of a sad note...

As some of you will already know the shop has been pretty quiet of late and this has had an impact on the shop finances and ultimately my income.

The cost of living continues to rise and our suppliers are having to pass on the increases to us, their customers. To make any sort of profit, I then need to add a bit on top of that before I can sell the items, which is something I find hard to do as I understand that costs are already becoming extortionate.

So, it is with a heavy heart that I have had to make the tough decision to leave the shop. I have absolutely loved the last two years as, 'The Stawley shop lady'! I have met some wonderful people and have very much enjoyed getting to know you all.

I hope the friendships I have made within the shop and the local community will be lasting ones and I can honestly say that it has been an absolute pleasure to run the shop on behalf of you all.

Thank you so very much for your custom and support during my time here, it has been truly appreciated, Thank you.

I believe the SCA are hoping to continue running the shop as a community entity and I hope that some of the fundraising events I have introduced, continue. Please support the shop more if you can, it is vital for the shop to remain open for the future.

Please do pop in so that I can say, 'Farewell' to you all! My last day will be on the 10th February 2024.

Best Wishes
Katie xx

Perpetual Spinach - the hardest working winter vegetable

I was recently asked the question ‘of all the vegetables you grow, which gives you the best value for money?’ If it was summer I would probably say French or Runner beans which, provided you keep them well watered and just keep picking (and maybe have a sizeable freezer?) will provide you with a seemingly endless crop until the colder nights come along. Or maybe some of the cut-and-come-again salad crops such as wild Rocket or the oak-leaf lettuce varieties.

But as it’s winter, there is one leafy-crop which I grow every year which provides greens from September until the following May when it starts to ‘bolt’ or run to seed. Perpetual Spinach (*Beta vulgaris subsp. Cicla var. cicla*) is a member of the Beetroot family and closely related to the wild Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris subsp. Maritima*) found growing around our coastlines (which is also edible and delicious!). The seed for Perpetual Spinach (or ‘Leaf-Beet’) is remarkably cheap to buy, from as little as 99p a packet, and very easy to grow. It enjoys a good, humus rich soil with plenty of available nitrogen— I grow mine on a bed after a leguminous crop such as broad beans or peas. Don’t sow too early; any time before August and it will probably bolt.

Slugs can be a problem, particularly early on, when you need to keep the young plants well watered. Woodlice can, on occasion, also be a problem with emerging seedlings if you have wooden-edged raised beds. And in rural gardens, voles and sparrows can ‘mow off’ seedlings when they are fresh and juicy, particularly in a dry autumn. I’ve found coffee grounds and cold, diluted coffee to be a moderately good deterrent for both slugs and rodents. If you are troubled with sparrows then a netting or mesh cloche will keep them at bay and provide a little shade in an ‘Indian Summer’. Luckily, the seedlings are remarkably resilient and will grow back strongly after most attacks. The best policy is to sow fairly thickly to cover any possible pest-based losses and thin out whole, small plants which can go straight into the salad bowl.

Once they are growing away you can start harvesting- small leaves are perfect for salads and the larger leaves are excellent as a steamed vegetable or in quiches, lasagnas, curry, stir-fry or steamed then flash-fried with garlic and olive oil to be added to pasta dishes. I grow two rows beside a row of low-growing leafy kales (directly sown) such as ‘Red Russian’ or ‘Devon Ragged Jack’ then pick-and-mix the two to be steamed together as an accompaniment to sausage or pie and mashed potatoes and gravy. Delicious!

The plants will stand up to virtually the hardest of winters but if you have a cloche to keep off the ravages of the worst weather, so much the better. They don’t get stripped by the pigeons like brassicas (though I’ve seen the odd pheasant have a peck!) and don’t suffer from many diseases (occasionally, a little ‘brown spot’ on the leaves but that’s usually caused by a mineral deficiency). You can slot them in anywhere in a crop-rotation and you’ll get an acceptable crop even off the poorest of soils.

True Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) is definitely worth growing too, particularly in the spring for salads and also the tougher, over-wintering types which, if you can get them through the winter, will give a fantastic flush of top-tasting spring greens before bolting but are so much more susceptible to chronic slug damage and succumbing to winter wet than perpetual spinach. And true Spinach, being a member of the *Chenopodiaceae* means it is very closely related to that classic garden / dung-heap weed, Fat Hen, which, believe it or not, is a perfectly edible spinach alternative and its seed was a nutritious source of food for our ancient ancestors.

And finally, Fat Hen’s South American cousin is the increasingly trendy seed/grain crop and so-called ‘super-food’, Quinoa!

John Ridgley

STAWLEY MILL

JOIN US FOR
BOOKS & BISCUITS
COFFEE & CAKE



1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7th & 21ST FEBRUARY
10AM—12.30PM

IN AID OF CHURCH RESTORATION FUND



STAWLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

supporting

Stawley Shop and Tearoom

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is with great regret and sadness that the SCA reports that Ms Katie Ashworth has given notice to terminate her contract as tenant of Stawley Shop & Tearoom with effect from 11th February 2024.

Katie has been with us for almost two years, during which time she has worked hard to continue the service to the community that the Shop provides, and always with a cheery smile and warm words of greeting to her customers. However, she has decided that it is time to move on, and we give her and her family all good wishes for their future.

The SCA now has to decide what the future of Stawley Shop and Tearoom might be.

We can re-assure all of our customers that the Shop will still be open on Monday 12th February, and all newspaper and milk deliveries will be in place as usual.

The shop will remain in business for an interim period of six months, which will allow the SCA to assess the viability of the business and to make informed decisions as to its future, together with consultations with customers and local residents as to what they might want from their shop.

Alternatives to be considered are a replacement tenant, a volunteer-run community shop with or without a part-time manager, and the very sad possibility that the shop will close altogether.

Our loyal customers and coffee-drinkers, and visitors to the area tell us how wonderful the Shop is, an asset to the Community etc. etc.

However, the bottom line is that without more support from the community, both as volunteers (short-term or long-term) and increased custom, the shop **will** close.

There will be a public meeting in approximately two month's time to allow free discussion on this, and to work out how we keep this valuable community asset.

In the meantime, please feel free to talk to any of the SCA members (listed below), contact the SCA by email: scacommunityshop@gmail.com, or pop into the shop for a chat with the volunteers.

SAVE STAWLEY SHOP AND TEAROOM

Nigel Paterson
Kate Holloway
Alison Caswell
Pauline Wood
Maggi Watts
Martin Perry

The New Appley Pavilion 20 Years on...

In 2004, after ten years of fund raising and planning, ground works started for the new Appley Pavilion. A mammoth task involving many people, local groups and the determination of a committee that had the vision and drive to 'get it built'.

Nothing was wasted! The old Pavilion was sold on eBay and ended up in Wales being used as a holiday recreation centre for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Pre-school was temporarily relocated to Ashbrittle and the old building's contents were stored in various barns.

User groups and volunteers helped prepare the site, the cricket pitch and wicket were adjusted to accommodate the new building. Ground works and project management were a true labour of love by a dedicated few. The architect came up with innovative ideas to make the best use of limited funds to give the community a 'traditional' looking building using modern methods.

Kitting out the new building was done on a shoe-string, second hand kitchen units, repurposed work tops, tables salvaged from skips and a few lucky auction bids for furniture.

A success from the very beginning

The new Pavilion was a success from the day it opened in May 2005, welcoming back Pre-school, Stawley School, Cricket, Youth Group and new activities, Tai Chi and Pilates, that are still going strong. Over the years it has hosted so many events: weddings, parties, balls, bingo, quizzes, flower shows, teas, Take Art, Polling Station, music evenings, plays, meetings, band practices, cricket, big breakfasts, training, birthdays, all sorts of celebrations, sports days, Apple Days, car boots and more.

Is there anyone reading this who hasn't been to a Pavilion event?

The Pavilion continues to be run by a small group of dedicated local volunteers. Many hours of hard work are still put in to keeping the building in good working order and the doors open. It is managed as a charity under Charity Commission law. As a public building there are many requirements to keep users as safe as possible - Covid was a particular challenge!

Budgets are tight and getting tighter, bills are going up and it now takes approximately £10,000 a year to cover running and maintenance costs. This is a considerable worry for the Committee. Rental income is supplemented by fund raising and, where applicable, grant funding.

The Pavilion needs new committee members to bring fresh ideas and innovations to keep it successful for the next twenty years.

Please consider joining the Pavilion team, come along to one of our meetings, you would be most welcome and we do still have fun!

A final thought, maybe it's time for other groups to join forces with the Pavilion for mutual benefit, there's a lot of talent out there. For more information please contact:

Suzette 672266 (williamspfa@outlook.com);

Sally 672675 (sallyforgehouse@yahoo.co.uk)

or come along to the Pavilion meeting on:

Thursday 29 February 2024 at 8.00 p.m.

There will be coffee and cake!

Sally Scott

Hedge and Tree Maintenance

Further to a couple of incidents recently where vehicles have been damaged by low hanging branches, this is a reminder to all land and property owners who own property adjacent to the highway.

Under the Highways Act 1980, Section 154, it is the responsibility of the property owner adjacent to footpaths and highways to trim any hedge or overhanging branches to allow the passage of users. While no specific guidance is given in the Act, it is generally accepted that the minimum clearance should be 2.4m over a footpath and 4.5m over a road.

Thank you for helping to keep our footpaths and roads safe and fit for purpose.

Stawley Parish Council



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

**Saturday February 17th
and 16th March**

10 -12 noon

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

Please come and join us - all welcome !

No charge but we will be running a raffle



Waterrow Village Hall Film Night

Saturday March 2nd 2024

6.30 pm start

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



The excellent feel good film Dream Horse will be shown at the next Film Night. A

true story about people in a Welsh Town who form a syndicate to buy a racehorse, which was trained by Phillip Hobbs from Minehead, so also a strong local connection!

A delicious Soup will be served along with the ever popular **dessert selections. Please bring your own drinks.**

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 £10 for adults - £5 for children under 12

Please note Tickets should be purchased by the 24th Feb

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Stawley Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd January

The Stawley Parish Council met last month to discuss some planning issues and set the Precept for the year 2024/25.

There is an application yet to be decided by Somerset Council for the extension of Rose Cottage in Tracebridge. This has caused concern to the residents of Tracebridge and although the Council has previously objected to the application it was decided at this meeting that a further statement of objection should be made.

Brookbank in Kittisford has been operating as a care home for two or three children for the past four years. An application for a Lawful Development Certificate has been made by the operators for use as a children's residential care home. A comment has been made to Somerset Council that any further expansion of the business should require an additional planning application.

Major financial squeeze

Somerset Council are in a financial squeeze and one way of alleviating the problem has been for them to stop some services immediately and look at other services which could be carried out by Parish Councils instead of the Somerset Council.

In order to maintain the grants that the Parish Council makes to help maintain the churchyards and the Pavilion and to achieve a balanced budget during the coming year, it was determined that the Parish Precept would need to increase by 10.85% to £3,291. This would require an increase of 8.29% to each Council Tax payer, £1.60 per year for a Band D property. As no increase has been made for a number of years the meeting agreed that this was a fair and proportionate increase.

The full minutes can be found on the website at <https://stash.org.uk/>.

Paul Musgrove (Clerk)

Bathealton Village Hall

Bathealton village hall is expected to be closed to events until early April due to extensive refurbishment of the kitchen and its floor area.

It is hoped the pop-up cafe will be open for business on Monday 8th April.

Upgraded kitchen facilities will be installed including: a new oven, new kitchen units, new sink/drainage unit, refrigerator, and microwave.

Phil Broad

Award winning service

Patients treated for cancer in Somerset are benefiting from an award-winning clinical service that provides continued support in the months and years after radiotherapy treatment. The Macmillan Radiotherapy Late Effects service provides specialist advice, support and management for people who are experiencing ongoing effects from radiotherapy.

Radiotherapy is a highly effective treatment for many types of cancer, but it can cause physical or psychological late effects for people, sometimes months or years after their treatment has been completed. The support provided by the service ranges from lifestyle changes and self-management, through to prescribing medications, and referrals to specialist regional and national services.

The Late Effects team has grown and now leads a new regional service in a partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support, the Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire Cancer Alliance – also known as 'SWAG', and radiotherapy services across the South West region.

Prestigious award

This work was recognised with a prestigious Macmillan Professionals Award for Innovation Excellence in November 2023.

The partnership is initially a two year project that will see radiotherapy late effects services develop a network of support at four radiotherapy centres in the areas that made up the SWAG Cancer Alliance – the Beacon Centre at MPH, Royal United Hospital in Bath, Cheltenham General Hospital, and Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre. The team also provides mentorship, developing further services at hospitals in Exeter, Torbay and Truro.

It's the first project of this kind in the UK, where all the NHS trusts in a cancer alliance have worked with Macmillan to give patients across a region the same level of support. It will provide equity of care across the south west and help to inform the long-term future of a radiotherapy late effects services.

Lisa Durrant, a Macmillan consultant therapeutic radiographer for late effects at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, said:

"This award recognises the work done by all members of the regional team, but most importantly it raises awareness about late effects and ensures our patients continue to be supported to thrive even decades after their treatment is completed."

*Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
Communications Team*

MISSING

PLEASE CHECK GARAGES / SHEDS



Albert is a tabby neutered male Exotic Shorthair cat who went missing on 28 October 2023 at around 00:00hrs. He is microchipped.

£1000 REWARD OFFERED

**LAST SEEN:
HOCKWORTHY, WELLINGTON TA21 0NQ.**

**If you have any information:
Call 07459 761621**

Ref: PR100298

YOU CAN HELP!

Please photograph this and share on social media.

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FOR MORE DETAILS SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR VISIT:

<https://petsr.eu/40j3lZt>

Just Cheese

Blame Wallace and Gromit for this. In, or out, of the wrong trousers, Wallace always seems to be wanting cheese – or grumbling about the lack of it. Gromit might have said, “Hard cheese, mate!”

What is it about cheese? Not the Camemberts or Bries of this world. It has to be Cheddar doesn't it? Hard cheese! Tough cheese!

It's the evening after the evening after the night before in the Bricklayer's Arms. Two pints of Heineken stand barely touched on the bar, not reaching the parts that no other beer can get to. Jim has on his empathetic face. Tom, just gloomy.

“So what went wrong?” asks Jim, as sensitively as he can.

“Don't understand it. Thought all was good,” moans Tom. “She liked the card that I got from Asda – their most expensive! And the red roses I got from the BP garage on the way. There we were, at a quiet corner table for two in Wetherspoons. I produced the box and opened it so she could see the ring, one with a single diamond. You knows how I feel, says I, will you be my girl for life?”

“Then what did she say?” Jim enquired quietly.

Tom expanded. “She laughed. Don't be daft, she said, my Ted wouldn't like it.”

“Who's Ted?” asked Jim.

“Hubby apparently,” moaned Tom.

“What you gonna do, then?” Jim sounded sad.

“Take the ring back to the pawnbrokers, I guess.”

“I'm sorry, really sorry, mate. What can I say? Hard cheese, mate, hard cheese!”

Now there's a cheesy Valentine tale for you!

PS St Valentine was martyred in Rome because of his faith in Jesus Christ. Any hen-pecked husband or football widow will understand how Valentine must have felt at the loss of his dreams.

Tough cheese all round.

Martin Perry

Mobile Library

at
Greenham Bridge

Next visits: Tuesday 27th February
and 26th March

10.00 - 10.20 am

Wellington Choral Society

We will be performing a concert of music for Faith, Hope and Love on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 7.00pm at St John the Baptist Church, Wellington. The programme includes:

Mass in D by Dvorak

Requiem by Matthew Coleridge

Love Divine by Howard Goodall

Peace I leave with you by Amy Beech

We do hope new singers will come and join us to sing this wonderful music. We rehearse at 7.30pm on Wednesdays at Wellington Prep School Hall.

Please put the date in your diaries.

Lucy Watson

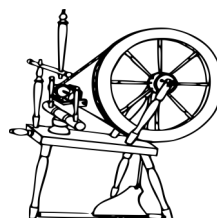
Appley Pavilion

**Requires a
Cleaning person**

Couple of hours on a Monday;
anytime after 11.0 a.m.

£30

Please contact 01823672266 for more info or
email williamspsfa@outlook.com



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: 6th and 20th February
Tuesday 5th and 19th March

at 2.30pm

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

— THE —
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

A warm welcome awaits you
at The Globe Inn this February

Kiss goodbye to the January blues and come in from the cold this February. You'll always find a warm welcome awaiting you from Mandy, Stuart, Luna and the team. Sit back and cosy up in front of our roaring fires while you enjoy our weekly-changing selection of seasonal guest ales. Let us take care of the cooking while you tuck into our delicious menu, which includes home-reared Appley pork and locally-sourced meats from Tim Potter.

Open

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

Food

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

Accommodation

*Looking for somewhere for a Valentine's getaway?
Book a romantic couple's break
in **The Smythy**,
our luxurious one-bedroom
cottage, which is finished
to the highest standard.*

- 📍 Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ
- ☎ 01823 673147
- ✉ stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk
- 📌 The Globe INN Appley

**TREAT YOUR LOVED
ONE TO DINNER AT
THE GLOBE INN THIS
VALENTINE'S DAY.
BOOKINGS NOW
BEING
TAKEN.**

Country Matters

Plants can be farmers too...

The Iroquois people of North America dried corn (maize) seed each year to plant. They would gather roots of wild grasses from the woodlands and streams, rinse or grind them in water and germinate their corn seeds in this mix. This practice, known as “Iroquois corn medicine”, resulted in improved growth and healthier plants.

But why? Scientists now know seeds get microbes from their parent plant, just as we get our microbiomes from our mothers when we're born. When seeds are dried some of these microbes are lost. Just as our gut microbiome is crucial to our immune system and ability to get nutrients, the same is true of plants.

Scientists saw this when they cultivated wild tobacco. Each year they saved seed to plant the following year. By year seven, it suffered from a fungal disease not seen in wild populations. When they inoculated the cultivated seeds with microbes from wild tobacco plants, as the Iroquois did, the disease was eliminated.

The presence of these microbes increases oxidative stress in plants which make them more resilient to stressors such as drought, heat or damage from pests by producing various compounds such as antioxidants and other phytonutrients. Many of these compounds are produced by plants to protect themselves but are useful to us as they make plants healthier to eat or better tasting.

Without a healthy microbial community seeds develop into weaker plants, their roots grow only near the soil surface and fail to develop root hairs. In a healthy system, microbes stimulate proper development of roots and shoots. These microbes move in and out of the plant roots: they absorb nutrients from the soil and when they re-enter the plant roots, some or all of these nutrients are extracted by the plant. Plants “feed” these microbes by releasing carbohydrates from their root hairs so they continue to shuttle nutrients to the plants.

This may be part of why the re-introduction of healthy microbiomes to seeds can result in increased potassium, sulphur, nitrogen, zinc and magnesium uptake. Some plants, like corn, which we thought couldn't fix nitrogen, actually can in the wild because they have microbes which do it for them. In modern varieties of crops such as corn, where healthy microbial communities have been restored to plants, they have subsequently reached optimal crop yields with very low or no nitrogen fertilizers.

Bacteria “farmed” in this way by plants can also reduce disease. They colonise pathogenic fungi so they not only don't cause disease but the

fungi actually become beneficial. Additionally, because the fungi aren't being killed as they would be by fungicides, they are highly unlikely to become resistant to this form of “treatment”.

So is it possible that the solution to improving plant health, resilience and nutritional value may be more microbes, not less?

There is an open question as to whether it is possible to re-inoculate large quantities of seed in this manner but with the increased interest in regenerative agriculture it's likely that it's a question which may be answered soon.

Alësha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins

Come help us plant trees – on 23rd, 24th, 25th February

Join us on our woodland launch weekend, and help us plant the first two thousand trees and make a hands-on contribution to creating the West Field Wood. We will be planting on Friday 23th, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February.

No prior tree planting knowledge is necessary – one of our team will be on hand to show you what to do. All you'll need are some wellies or sturdy boots, warm and dry winter clothing, a pair of gardening gloves and a love of the great outdoors.

However, if you are not able to take an active role but interested in learning more about our project, please come along, we would love to meet you.

We'll kick off at 10.00 a.m. each day, finishing at 4.00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and around 2.00 p.m. on Sunday. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided along with a roll and a bowl of hearty vegetarian soup at lunchtime. You are welcome to plant with us for the whole weekend or just a for a couple of hours according to what works for you.

Let us know when you are planning to come so that we can be ready for you by signing up on our web form: <https://volunteersignup.org/T997D> The West Field is really only accessible by car and is located on Bullock Field Hill, Stawley TA21 0HW opposite 'The Bungalow'. **What.3.words location: speakers.lawfull.corkscrew.**

For more information about our woodland creation project please visit our web site: www.woodcouldshould.org

If you would like to get in touch email us at hello@woodcouldshould.org.

Kiran, Adam and Lawrence.



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**Friday 23rd
February 2024**

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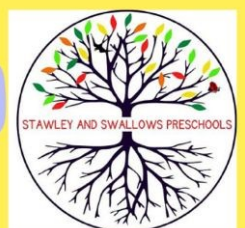
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News from the Parish News

Donations received from:

Neil and Margaret Lindup
Ashbrittle Parish Council
Rachel Oliver and Ian Williams
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

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The next oil delivery is due on
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Lunch Club

As ever the Christmas Lunch Club was very popular. Jackie White once again prepared a lavish and delicious meal for us which was consumed with many compliments.

The entertainment was provided by Paul Jacques with full assistance from Gerry Webb on guitar. Paul played a variety of instruments - in fact, as he says, 'anything that I can blow'. There was plenty of audience participation which kept us on our toes before the meal.

Our meeting on Thursday 29th February will have an entirely different flavour. Recommended by Michael Parkinson, Mrs Enid Halliwell will talk about her own family life and experiences during her adolescence and as a young woman in Northern Ireland, before and during The Troubles.

Our group is open to anyone living within our parishes, or who has strong connections with us. We always welcome new people as well as our regulars.

If you would like to come in February, please let me know in advance.

Contacts: email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Delia Harling

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

Painting and drawing
Clay work and Textile Crafts

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Next Meeting:
Wednesday 6th March

(please note no meeting in February)

1.00 - 4.00 p.m.

We hold a monthly get-together as a self-directed group to do whatever 'arty' or 'crafty' project takes your fancy. Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts.

Come along for tea and cake, to discuss what we would like to do in 2024

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

VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, February 29th at noon

THE TROUBLES - A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

Enid Halliwell will talk about her own family life and experiences during her adolescence and as a young woman in Northern Ireland before and during The Troubles.

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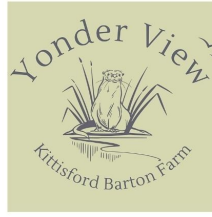
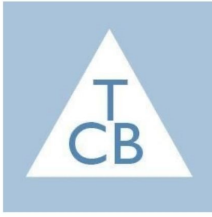
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blurts.flats.crouching

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

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

Stawley Shop, on outside wall
messaging.servers.quaking

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

Editorial Policy

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

Local Information

Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

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

Police non-emergency number 101

Police Beat Team

PCSO Brianna Whelan

Email: brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Parish Councils

Ashbrittle Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618

Email: charles@greenandcarter.com

Bathealton Chairman Philip Broad 07584 657106

Email: philip.broad1@outlook.com

Stawley Chairman Paul Musgrove 01823 672627

Email: stawleypc@stash.org.uk

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266 or
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Ashbrittle Village Hall

– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760

Bathealton Village Hall

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager

Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues

Stawley Under Fives 07707 416871 Weds/Thurs/Fri

PARISH NEWS DETAILS

The Editors and the next issue deadline date are on the back cover. Please send items for publication to the Editors in good time to ensure publication. There is only a short time between the deadline and the printing of the Parish News and late items may not be included. We are pleased to receive items in any form (typed, in long hand, or by email). Naturally, we prefer items by email ashparishnews@gmail.com when they should be in Microsoft 'Word' format, as this saves a great deal of typing!

Advertising Our rates are £1.40 per month for a small box, £3.00 for a quarter page, £6.00 for a half page and £12.00 for a whole page. Advertising for community events, charity and church fundraising events in our area are normally carried free of charge. Occasional one-off adverts from residents in our area seeking to sell or buy an article or seeking to acquire or offer a service are also carried free of charge. In all cases the style, layout and size allocated to an advert is at the discretion of the Editors.

Editors: Maurice Stanbury 01823 672216 and Avril Silk 01823 672131

e-mail address: ashparishnews@gmail.com

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

Bank details: Account Name: The Parish News,

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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

7th and 21st

10.00 - 12.30 p.m. Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill

17th

10.00 - 12 noon Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall

23rd

From 7.00 p.m. Cricket Club Quiz Night at Appley Pavilion

23rd

7.30 p.m. Pig Racing and Raffle at Holcombe Rogus Village Hall

29th

12 noon Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

March

23rd

7.00 p.m. Spring Concert by Wellington Choral Society at St John the Baptist Church, Wellington

April

28th

9am - 11.30am. Big Breakfast at the Appley Pavilion.

June

1st

2.00 - 5.00 p.m. Stawley Church Garden Party and Fete at Stawley Mill

September

8th

Stawley Flower and Produce Show



The Bishop of Bath and Wells, his family and members of the congregation under the ancient yew tree at Ashbrittle Parish Church.

Next Deadline Date: Friday 16th February 2024

Editors: Maurice and Avril