



# Parish news

July 2024

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

## Church Services

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July

9.30 a.m.  
11.15 a.m.

### Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Parish Communion  
Sung Eucharist

STAWLEY  
ROCKWELL GREEN

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

9.30 a.m.  
9.30 a.m.  
6.30 p.m.  
11.15 a.m.

### Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Parish Communion  
Holy Communion  
Songs of Praise (Village Green)  
Sung Eucharist

ASHBRITTLE  
SAMPFORD ARUNDEL  
SAMPFORD ARUNDEL  
ROCKWELL GREEN

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July

9.30 a.m.  
10.30 a.m.  
11.15 a.m.

### Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Morning Prayer  
Patronal Festival \*  
Sung Eucharist

KITTISFORD  
THORNE ST MARGARET  
ROCKWELL GREEN

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July

9.30 a.m.  
11.15 a.m.

### Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion  
Sung Eucharist

BATHEALTON  
ROCKWELL GREEN

\*Thorne St Margaret Patronal Service with, and in aid of St Margaret Hospice, followed by lunch at Chitterwell House TA21 0HF. If you wish to attend please phone Julia and Jon Day 07792 900951

**The West Tone Benefice** consists of the parishes of Ashbrittle with Greenham, Bathealton, Stawley, Kittisford, Rockwell Green, Sampford Arundel and Thorne St Margaret.

## 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  
Colin Haddrell, Tucks Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HS 01823 672533

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](mailto:AvrilSilk@aol.com) Portrait format is ideal if possible.

Front cover - *'The children at the heart of our community'* photograph taken by David Stirzaker, senior teacher at Stawley School, with the help of his drone.

## Thought for the Month

July, what a wonderful month! Roald Dahl once said, "If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." It is summer now with its distinctive vibe. We get sunny days and warm weather with boundless possibilities. There's something amazing about the month that always makes us feel animated and alive. It gives us the chance to spend more time outdoors. Perhaps it's time for some to go hiking in the mountains or go camping in the woods. For others just relaxing in the back garden. There is no better way to soak up the summer sun and revitalise ourselves than by spending time in nature. Of course, it is BBQ time with friends and family. There's no shortage of things to do with the people we love.

For me personally July is the perfect time for reflection and self-care. It makes me feel invigorated, inspired, and thankful for all the amazing things in my life. It is time to slow down and appreciate the beauty of life and count my blessings.

Freedom is a great blessing. Last month we had the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6th June 1944 with a series of major commemorations and events across the UK and in France. "Amazing Grace" is a hymn that you hear regularly at this time. According to the Dictionary of American Hymnology, it is John Newton's spiritual autobiography in verse. It was written in 1772 and published in 1779. It is used for both religious and secular purposes.

### A fascinating story

The story of John Newton is fascinating. John was born in London, in 1725. His father was the captain of a merchant ship that sailed the Mediterranean. When John was just eleven, he went to sea with his father. After six expeditions, his father retired. John decided to seek another life. But as a teenager he was impressed by the British Navy. He joined the Navy and was forced to serve on a warship, the HMS Harwich. John loathed it. He particularly hated the demeaning way he, and everyone on board, was treated. He deserted, but was apprehended. For that he was flogged, demoted, and treated even more harshly. He wanted to get away. John was sent to a ship that was a slave trader, working the waters off Sierra Leone, Africa. He was brutally abused there too, but soon he got lucky. He was rescued by a captain of another ship who had known John's father; John had merchant blood. He saw the money being made from slaves. Eventually, John became the captain of his own slave ship.

John had no religious convictions. He didn't care whether God approved or did not approve of his occupation. Then on one

homeward trip, everything changed. He found religion. Or religion found him. He was attempting to navigate the ship through a violent storm. He was convinced that all would be lost. Just as he thought the ship would sink, he surprised himself by calling out, "Lord, have mercy on us." The storm started to subside.

John was convinced that God had spoken to him through the storm. He reformed his life and gave himself to God. He was soon out of the slave trade. After getting married he immersed himself in the study of theology and was ordained as an Anglican priest and named as pastor of Olney, in England. There along with a poet named William Cowper, he wrote the Olney hymnal. "Amazing Grace" is from this collection. It is about God who offers His grace to people at various times in their lives. God saved the life of a slave trader. Perhaps hundreds died on John's ship. How many thousands more wished they had died, all so that John Newton could make a profit. But God's grace led to his conversion.

Perhaps some of us may feel that we have not been the person we could and should be. Maybe we are correct. But we haven't missed our opportunity for redemption. God's kindness is marvellous. There is still time for him to radically change our lives. Look at some of the incredible ways that God has changed people we know. How many of us have met a person who has done serious damage to his or her life and family through crime, alcohol or drugs? Then we wonder how God's Grace not only led that person to recovery but made him or her a source of strength for others looking to recover. God never gives up on us. We can always start anew, whether we have just been half-hearted Christians or bad human beings. Not only does God refuse to hold us to our past, He also pardons us. In a way He needs us. He wants us no matter what our past has been. And that is the amazing Grace of the Divine.

*John Dawer*

*The last 'Thought for the Month' provoked some very different points of view - see pages 14 and 15.*

### A tribute to Hugh Tregelles

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Hugh Tregelles, aged 93, who lived and farmed at Newhouse Farm, Kittisford for many years before retiring to Langford Budville.

He contributed to community life in so many ways. He was Church Warden of St Nicholas, Kittisford for fifty six years and was also a long-time editor of the Parish News.

*Eds*



## Open for Business

Refurbishment work on the kitchen at Bathealton Village Hall is now complete and, once again, the premises are open for business.

The plan had been to replace the kitchen with a more modern facility but when work began it quickly became apparent that the wooden kitchen floor was in a very poor state; in spite of the fact that it had been replaced just seventeen years ago. Like so many projects in older properties, the job suddenly became much larger than had been first anticipated.

The rotten floor had to be ripped up and removed before stone ballast and concrete were barrowed in to create a completely new solid and fully insulated floor that should last for many more years. A cooker, micro-wave and fridge have been added to the facilities and the storage units replaced or completely refurbished.

The work was carried out entirely voluntarily by a very hard working team, led by Dennis Sheehan, together with Chris Campbell, Phil Broad and Village Hall Committee Chairman, Steve Cottrell.



*Dennis Sheehan (right) points out the new cooker to Steve Cottrell (left).*

The Pop-up Café will again be running monthly with the next session planned for the first Monday in September.

For hall hire - please contact Tilly Willis on 01984 624459.

*Maurice Stanbury*

### Bathealton Village Hall

#### Annual General Meeting

**Monday 15th July at 7.30 p.m.**  
**All welcome**



## 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.*

## THE LOVING EARTH PROJECT

celebrates some of the wonderful things threatened by growing environmental breakdown: people, places, creatures, and other things we love. It is helping people to engage creatively and constructively with these issues, without being overwhelmed. It's also a way to share positive examples of change and why people have taken action for the sake of love.

**This video** introduces the project.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxwURXkVW68>

Whatever our starting point, our actions affect the wider environment. Using simple questions and activities, we invite you to explore some of the issues and how we might each help reduce the threats to the world we love. **Here is a link to the website**  
<https://lovingearth-project.uk/>

Follow the links, and maybe think of making a panel yourself! Some of these panels will be visiting Spiceland Meeting House in September. We hope you will come and see them.

## Meadow Pasture Hay

### Small Bales Good Quality Late 2023 Cut Hay

Low sugar (5/6% Refractometer reading)  
No pesticides.

Suitable for older and laminitic horses and ponies

TA21 Stawley area  
Buyer Collects

Tel. 01823 673303 or 07981 164 111





# STAWLEY FESTIVAL

2024

Sunday 7th July 2-5pm

RADIO SUNSET

TAYLOR LATHAM

+OPEN MIC!

Adults £5 (18+)

Kids £2.50 (1+)

Family Ticket £15

(2 Adults & 3+ Kids)

Appley Pavilion, TA21 0HH

**Music, Food, Stalls, Kids Activities & Good Vibes!**

For more details on signing up for open mic or stalls email - [stawleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:stawleyfestival@gmail.com)

**Bathealton Parish Council.**  
**Minutes of Meeting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024**

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

**Apologies:** none.

**Declarations of interest:** none.

**Minutes:** no matters arising. PB to forward future minutes to all committee members for approval via email. Once approved they will be forwarded to the Parish News for publication.

**Planning applications:** none.

**Financial matters:**

JR is now a signatory for the Parish Council bank account. Internet banking has been set up. PB and JR to meet to ensure JR has full access.

Approval of invoices: £50.00 for minutes.

Community Interest Levy (CIL) report will be completed by JR with the assistance of PB before sending off. This report will show where the CIL money has been spent.

Audit of 2023/2024 accounts in hand.

Precept has been received into bank account, £1500.00. Closing balance of account, as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024, was £3419.93.

**Review of Parish Council's Budget including financial plans for 2024/2025 and successive years:**

- Continue support of IED located at village hall.
- Continue maintenance of churchyard paths.
- Continue monitoring of public footpaths, styles, and signage. JR has sourced new way markers. It has been noticed a finger post is missing at Spring Grove, this will be replaced when funds allow.
- Thanks to Steve, Dennis and Holly for replacing the fingerpost at the Road Hill junction.
- Village Hall refurbishment going well. New floor has been laid and new kitchen currently being installed.
- Annual charitable contributions to be decided at a future meeting.

**Future Precept:** to be discussed at a future meeting.

**Roads:** Residents are encouraged to identify any problems i.e. pot holes or poor condition of surface, to Somerset County Council.

**AOB:** Documents for the original opening of the village hall being sent from Somerset County Council.

Annual Parish walk Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 2.30pm at Village Hall.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

*Karen Tarsey*

## **Gardening Club**

In June, two Garden Visits were organised, focusing on a selection of private gardens in two nearby villages. The first, a regular favourite of the Club, was to Stogumber and was co-ordinated by Penny Stanbury.

*Penny reports:*

This year has seen an unusual number of open gardens in aid of charitable causes. Stogumber Open Gardens is in its forty-third year of opening, and they have a very slick organisation, enabling visitors to enjoy varied gardens and delicious lunches. Whether you are interested in planting styles, or garden design, wild gardening or vegetable patches, bog gardens or plant varieties, it is all there.

A small group from the Club enjoyed a very full day. Look out for the dates in early June next year. It really is one not to miss.

**Forthcoming Visits:**

At the end of June, the Club will visit a new venture for it: 'The Hidden Gardens of Bampton' show-casing private gardens tucked away behind the slopes, not to mention refreshments and a plant stall. Sue Jacoby has kindly agreed to co-ordinate this visit.

The July Garden Visit will be to Marwood Hill Gardens, an event to be organised by Brenda Hollick.

August will see a visit to the Rosemoor Flower Show and a Bring and Share Soiree in an adjacent pair of member's gardens.

**The Club Going Forward:**

My agreed two-year term as Club Chair will conclude at the end of June and this will be my last report to the Parish News. As always, it has been difficult to find volunteers to take over positions of responsibility in our community!

It is therefore extremely gratifying that Fredda and Mike Parkinson have, very generously, agreed to take on the role.

*Val Wall*





# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

Monday to Friday 8.00 to 5.00      [shop@stawleyshop.com](mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com)  
Saturday 8.00 to 2.00  
Sunday 9.00 to 11.00      Tel: 01823 674361

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Stawley Community Association** will be looking for a **Village Shop Manager (part time)**

This will be a paid position on a self-employed basis. Likely duties will be administrative ones such as stock control, ordering, liaising with volunteers, banking and basic accounts.

More details will be available in the next few weeks.

If you are interested then please

Email: [scacommunityshop@gmail.com](mailto:scacommunityshop@gmail.com)

Or phone Nigel (Chair) on 07795 664043

## **Open garden**

**Greenham Cottage, Greenham**

on

**July 13th**

11.00 - 4.00 p.m.

No charge, no raffle; no cream teas; no plant sales.



PYO weeds.



## **Coffee, Cake and Chat**

Ashbrittle Village Hall

**Saturday 20th July**

10.00 - 12.00 noon

**Unlimited Coffee and Delicious Home Baked  
Cakes available, for just £4.00.**

*Please come and join us - all welcome !*



## Country matters

On a walk with some friends recently we saw a hornet. It seems a common occurrence this year, at our home as well as out and about locally. We stopped to watch it hunting in the long grass. One friend asked us whether this was one of the invasive Asian hornets they'd heard about. We explained that the Asian hornet (*V. velutina*) is much darker overall (having an almost entirely dark abdomen with only fine yellow stripes, a black or brown thorax and dark legs which are yellow at the tips) and should be reported if spotted (easily done through iRecord). This hornet had a yellow abdomen with black stripes and black/ reddish brown thorax and legs: our native European Hornet (*Vespa crabro*).

Our friends were initially nervous approaching the hornet we were watching. As the largest of our eusocial wasp species the European hornet often inspires a degree of fear in many animals. Harmless species such as the hornet moth and hornet mimic hoverfly make great use of this. They have evolved a form of Batesian mimicry where they imitate the hornet's colour and pattern so that their predators falsely identify them as a dangerous insect and avoid them.

### Little to fear

Since humans are neither predator nor prey of the European hornet we generally have little to fear from this species as they are usually not aggressive. Although their bite or sting can be painful, and allergic reactions for those sensitive to wasp venom could be fatal, the sting of a European hornet generally contains less toxin than that of a honey bee (the venom is not exactly the same between these species so this isn't a perfect comparison). Most negative interactions with humans are a result of accidents such as stepping on them, trying to capture them or if their nest is approached.

While they are impressive predators of all manner of invertebrates European hornets will also scavenge for food, especially later in the season, having been observed feeding on fruit, carrion and from rubbish bins. This food is primarily chewed up to feed larvae which in turn exude a sugar rich liquid that the adults feed on. Interestingly, compounds present in this liquid appear to be able to reduce aggression and improve the social functioning of the colony.

Worker policing, where female workers eat or remove eggs laid by non-queen females, is also important for the social cohesion and efficient functioning of the colony. Some females other than the queen are able to lay eggs which would develop into male hornets. In the European hornet worker policing occurs despite workers being, on

average, more closely related to the male offspring of other workers than to those laid by the queen. Fertile workers are uncommon and may be ostracised or be the target of aggression by other workers, ensuring the dominance of the queens offspring within the colony.

Hornets were something of a rarity in the UK only sixty years ago, largely restricted to central southern England, but for the last thirty years their range has expanded greatly. In future, we may see more of them in the parish if this trend continues. Hopefully after reading this, the sight of a hornet will inspire curiosity, rather than fear, of this complex and fascinating social insect.

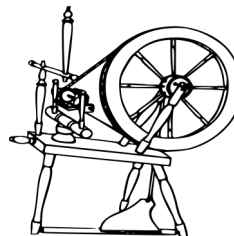
*Frazer Higgins and Alesha Naranjit*

### Rainfall Statistics (inches) for May

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
0.24	6.22	2.09	3.39	3.98

All in all May was not a bad month given that 40% of the total fell on the first day! Thereafter we enjoyed a number of dry and warm days. Could summer be on its way at last?

*Val Coots*



### 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

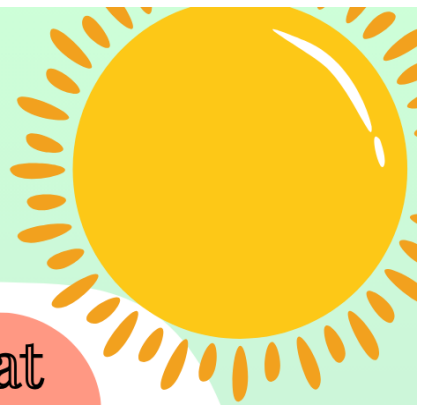
**Tuesdays:** 2nd and 16th July  
6th and 20th August  
at 2.30pm

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

Join us for a  
**BBQ**  
WITH LIVE MUSIC  
on  
Saturday 20th July  
6pm-9pm



— THE —  
**GLOBE INN**  
APPLEY



Celebrate summer at  
The Globe Inn this July

Soak up the summer sunshine in our beautiful beer garden, where you can quench your thirst with a refreshing cold beer or spritzer, or try one of our weekly-changing seasonal guest ales or delicious fruity ciders.



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

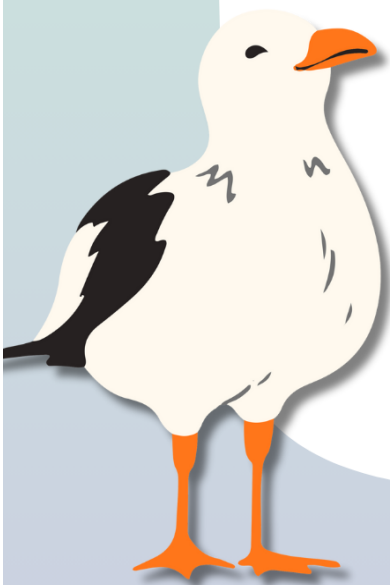


**Open**

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

**Food**

Served from 12 noon - 2pm & 6pm - 9pm  
Pizza night every Friday 6pm-9pm



-  Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ
-  01823 673147
-  [stuartdurston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuartdurston@hotmail.co.uk)
-  The Globe INN Appley



## Lunch Club

Our May speaker was Michael Fairfax, local Sculptor and Musical Inventor. He had recently visited Thailand at the invitation of the British Council where he met with other like minded people in the interests of cultural exchange.

Michael's talk was fascinating. Shining through was the spirit of good will, mutual respect and co-operation which developed despite cultural differences and the lack of a common language.

The British Council should be well pleased with their investment in our 'local boy'.

In July our speaker will be local gardener Jo Hartas. Her topic will be 'What do I do in August with my garden which is likely to either suffer from drought or be waterlogged.'

If you would like to join us on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 12:00 noon please let me know as soon as possible.

My contact details are: telephone 01823 672203 or email [harlingdelia@gmail.com](mailto:harlingdelia@gmail.com)

*Delia Harling*

## Are you a Democrat?

July 4<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. Perhaps you've wearied of hearing about it. I make no apologies for mentioning it here. You may be reading this article and the election has yet to take place and you are still wondering whether or not to vote, or for whom you will vote. The day may have gone and you made your choice. The result has been announced. Whatever the outcome, was it democratic?

We know that we don't live under a dictator. We did in the days of Henry VIII or Oliver Cromwell, but not these days. A dictator holds all power to make decisions and controls everything, even, sometimes, what we think. If such a ruler is someone of integrity and of genuine concern for the people, it needn't be bad. Often, though, it is, involving an abuse of power.

Are we an oligarchy, perhaps? If you don't know the word, it means government by a group of people, a kind of group dictatorship. You may wonder, therefore, if that is what our election is about. Groups of people seek our backing through the ballot box, to govern us according to their point of view. Is it democratic?

### The definition of democracy

It was Abraham Lincoln who said that "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people." That being the case, an election is a time when we choose someone who, we think, will best represent us and the UK's

interest in parliament. Democracy is not primarily about the vote but having someone to represent us, our hopes and aspirations, our views and needs, in any government's decision-making.

Suppose, then, that I vote for the Labour candidate but the Conservative wins the seat. In a democracy, it doesn't really matter because that Tory victor is sent to Parliament to represent my interests and everyone else's, however we voted or didn't vote. If they fail us by, for example, putting personal power or party above the constituency or the country, then the next election is the time to reward their failure to represent us by voting them out. Democracy in action, choice, vote and representation.

Democracy, I think, is very much part of being human. I am aware that our Creator is not a democrat. Everything that exists is an expression of him, for his purposes, under his control, from eternity to eternity. But among it all there's us on planet Earth, with the power to create, think and express ourselves. We have the power to decide and choose our lives and our futures for good or ill. We can serve or dictate; we can represent the well-being of others or use them for our own purposes. We are meant to be democratic towards our fellows in other words.

So back to the election. We will soon find out, by their choices and actions, if our elected "representatives" are democratic or something else...

*Martin Perry*

## Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

### Painting and drawing Clay work and Textile Crafts

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.

We meet at a member's house.  
Arrangements will be confirmed in advance,  
via the monthly reminder email.

**Next Meetings:  
Wednesday 3rd July  
and 7th August**

**1.00 - 4.00 p.m.**

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



**VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB**  
**ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL**  
**Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at noon**

**LOCAL GARDENER JO HARTAS**

What do I do in August with my garden  
 which is likely to either  
 suffer from drought or be waterlogged.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**  
 Delia Harling ~ 01823 672203  
 harlingdelia@gmail.com

**GARDEN PAINTING DAYS**  
 With Jane Embleton  
 At the Old House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE  
 July 17<sup>th</sup>, August 21<sup>st</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30 - 4 pm.

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

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



## Pat's Guitar Services

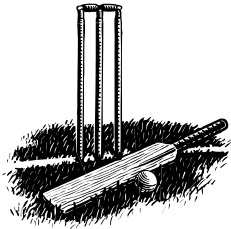


Re-string  
 Professional  
 set ups  
 Fret dress  
 Re-fret  
 Wiring altera-  
 tions & pickup  
 mods  
 Repairs

Professional guitar servicing  
 and repairs.

Contact: [patrick.weeks@btinternet.com](mailto:patrick.weeks@btinternet.com)  
 07724338853

The Old Mill, Tracebridge, Wellington,  
 Somerset, TA21 0HG



## Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

### A continued run of wins

Both teams have remained unbeaten heading into July, having won all seven league games, plus all Minor Cup and League Cup matches.

Luke Williams was the star of last week's 1st XI huge win over Brompton Ralph, scoring an incredible 171 from 80 balls! This was in a total score of 375 that Ashbrittle defended for forty overs to continue their streak of brilliant results.

The 1st XI have drawn Middlezoy Cricket Club away in the next round of the Minor Cup, hoping to carry on through the tournament towards the Finals Day at the County Ground.

### July fixtures

#### 1st XI

Bridgetown CC 1s (Away) - 6th July  
Churchinford CC 1s (Home) - 13th July  
East Hunstpill CC 1s (Away) - 20th July  
Over Stowey CC 1s (Home) - 27th July

#### 2nd XI

Roadwater CC 2s (Home) - 6th July  
Buckland St Mary 1s (Away) - 13th July  
Over Stowey CC 2s (Home) - 20th July  
East Hunstpill CC 2s (Away) - 27th July

Please come and support the lads for as many games as you can as both teams head into a title race for the second half of the season.

*Callum Hamer*

## Stawley Parish Council

It is intended to set up a WhatsApp Group for the parishioners of Stawley. The aim of the group is:

1. To allow the Parish Council to rapidly disseminate information on matters such as planning applications, road diversions, power or water outages.
2. To allow all members to share information about an event which has just occurred and that could affect parishioners, such as a road blockage. The Group is not intended to become a chat line or a forum for advertising things such as fetes, events in the Pavilion or Churches.

Details of the members of the Group will be kept on a list held by the Clerk to the Council. If you would like to join this group please contact me by e-mail [stawleypc@stash.org.uk](mailto:stawleypc@stash.org.uk) with the following information, so that the Group can be set up:

Name  
Mobile phone number  
First line of address  
Postcode

*Paul Musgrove, Clerk*



## Beat Surgery Stawley Village Shop and Tearoom

Tuesday 9th July  
and 6th August

9.00 - 10.00am

with PCSO Brianna Whelan  
Tel 07761 405460 or email:  
[brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## STAWLEY MILL

JOIN US FOR



BOOKS & BISCUITS  
COFFEE & CAKE

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

3RD & 17TH JULY  
10AM—12.30PM

IN AID OF CHURCH RESTORATION FUND





**POSSIBLY THE LAST  
WORLD FAMOUS  
BRIC A BRAC  
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## Stawley Church Garden Party and Fete

The sun shone, the strawberries were ripe and the flowers were in bloom. Over one hundred people enjoyed the beautiful garden at Stawley Mill and sampled cream teas and home-baked cakes.

The stalls attracted a lot of attention and in total we raised an amazing £1,806.25 towards the Stawley Church tower fund.



*'Bat the Rat' proved to be a popular attraction.*

Stawley PCC would like to thank everyone who came along and supported our fete. Thanks also go to the wonderful team of helpers who ran stalls, poured tea and helped to set up and close down the fete. We couldn't run this annual event without you and we are extremely grateful.

Last, but by no means least, thank you to Penny Hare for once again opening up her home and for making us feel so welcome.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the fete next year, on the first weekend in June!

*Annette Haddrell*

### A very different point of view

I fundamentally disagree with Martin Perry and his Thought for the Month (*A time to be born and a time to die*) published in the last Parish News, both in content and tone. The subject was that of assisted dying – which is commonly defined as 'allowing a dying person the choice to control their own self administered death if they decide their suffering is unbearable', currently illegal in the UK. It is distinct from euthanasia, when death is effected by another person.

I agree with Martin that death is the inevitable outcome and corollary of life, which we all have to face. The question posed for me is whether there should be some individual say and control over the time and manner of that death. We all want a good death – perhaps the one described by

Martin, contentedly surrounded and 'comforted by love and human closeness', still able to make 'the best of each day'. The reality for many, as Martin must know, is far removed from this idyll. The anguish and misery of terminal illness and conditions with chronic and acute pain can indeed be faced. But they should not have to be endured and suffered if against the express wishes of the dying individual. We do 'know the outcome to our state' – death; this makes intolerable suffering, both physical and mental, all the more unnecessary when the outcome is the same. Much emphasis is already placed upon individual consent before medical treatment. We already allow individual input on restricting medical intervention, such as DNR (do not resuscitate) instructions.

### The position in Australia

With appropriate protocols and protections (Australian states have developed an interlocking web of safeguards and oversight, which assure the patient and all participants a safe and legal process), we should be able to allow individual intervention in the approach to the end of our lives.

Having argued that assisted dying could be a slippery slope, Martin describes having his cat, Widdy, put to sleep. I feel for him and Sally. We too have just had our much-loved black labrador, Archie, euthanised or put to sleep on his thirteenth birthday. He had an aggressive and incurable mandibular cancer, which would soon risk the agony of a broken and unfixable jaw, and potentially uncontrolled bleeding. We took him for a last walk on Exmoor, an (illegal) swim in Wimbleball, and on the morning of his death, a walk alongside and in the River Tone! He bounded into the vets, where he achieved a lifetime ambition of weighing his most, before two injections which saw him peacefully unconscious and then die. We held him throughout, wept, but it was a good death. My oldest daughter, a Vet, often says we humans are hypocritical – in that we are kinder and show more compassion to our pets at the end of their lives than we do to fellow mankind. Neither she, nor our other two children, both doctors, see any contradiction between assisted dying and the oaths they all swore on graduating, and the day to day discussions and decisions they make which balance health, care, potential harm and respect for the life – and death – of their patients.

Finally, Martin drew a parallel between the debate over assisted dying and abortion. The reasons for having an abortion will be many and various. The legal basis for abortion captures the right of the individual – a woman – to choose to continue with or terminate a pregnancy. To describe it as 'a way out of something inconvenient' under a heading of 'A slippery slope' appears

both judgemental and pejorative. It belittles or ignores the mental, physical and social circumstances and consequences of the decision maker. It also implies that there is something wrong with deciding on abortion, when in law - and hopefully society - there isn't, with one in three women in UK accessing abortion by the age of forty five.

*Jeremy Robbins*

### And another point of view

Martin Perry is brave to tackle such a contentious subject but he gives a clue to some of his true motives with his last sentence, "I believe we should give comfort and see them reach their end safely and at peace."

*SAFELY??* – Safe from what? Might there not be an element of safety for the carers – safety from blame, or even from public opinion. When teaching in schools, I used to give teenagers the following moral problem:

Imagine you are driving along a country road and you hit or run over a number of animals (in alphabetical order): a bird, a cat, a child, a dog, a fly, a frog, a lizard, a mouse, a rabbit, snail, a spider, a worm, There is no traffic, and you can see that it is safe to stop.

Write down the animals you would stop the car for and go back to see if you could help. I predict that you would stop for: a cat, a child, a dog, a rabbit – **list 1**; maybe you would stop for a small bird, a mouse, a frog, a lizard – **list 2**; but not for: a fly, a snail, a spider, a worm – **list 3**.

How do I know? The animals in Lists 1 and 2 all have backbones, like us humans. The animals in List 3 do not. The animals in List 1 plus the mouse are all warm-blooded and furry, again like us. Birds are warm-blooded but their feathers set them apart from us mammals. Major characteristics, like having a backbone, being warm-blooded, and having fur or feathers are controlled by DNA. DNA is a complicated chemical that stores information which controls how we develop.

The information carried by DNA has only one purpose and that is to make more copies of itself. Looking after the same information in other living things is a way of at least preserving copies of that information. We share more information with furry, warm-blooded animals with backbones (mammals – List 1) than with cold-blooded animals with backbones, and more with them than with animals without backbones. That is why we have a genetically controlled system of weighing risks when acting morally.

We humans are different from other animals in another, rather unexpected way: we are all remarkably uniform genetically. This is because,

about two hundred millennia ago, our population crashed to a few thousand individuals, all of us living on the coast of South Africa. Two hundred millennia is not long enough for genetic diversity to evolve. This means that the 8.4 billion of us share the same genes as the few thousand survivors. Thus DNA directs us to look after strangers as if they were relatives. So, *never send to know for whom the bell tolls*.

Oh yes, there is another way in which we differ from other animals: we can understand, and I find that the most calming comfort of all.

Finally, remember the apocryphal story of the French philosopher, Voltaire. When the great man lay dying, his family sent for a priest to administer the Last Rites. The priest asked, "Do you renounce the Devil and all his works?" Voltaire replied, "Certainly not – this is no time to make new enemies."

*Martin Jacoby*



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**Diary Dates 2024 - Waterrow Village Hall**

**Monday 29th July 7.30 AGM**  
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**Saturday Aug 24th 12.30 BBQ**  
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**Sat Nov 23rd 6.30 Film night**  
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### News from the Parish News

Donations received from:

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*Andrew Millard, Treasurer*

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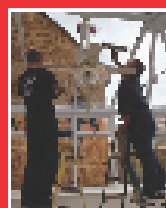
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APPLEY: 01823 245101**

The VETS numbers are available should you need assistance in an emergency or help to access a defibrillator. Remember, in the event of a possible cardiac arrest in your household: **ALWAYS DIAL 999 FIRST IN AN EMERGENCY AND, IF A CHANCE ARISES, THEN DIAL THE VETS NUMBER, SPECIFYING THAT YOU NEED A DEFIBRILLATOR RATHER THAN GENERAL HELP**

There are four local **defibrillators** which are easy to use and available to anyone. They are permanently located at these places and can be found using the //What3words codes below.

**Ashbrittle Village Hall**, on outside wall  
*blurts.flats.crouching*

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

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

**Stawley Shop**, on outside wall  
*messaging.servers.quaking*

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

### Editorial Policy

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

## Local Information

### Neighbourhood Watch Contact Numbers

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

**Police non-emergency number 101**

### Police Beat Team

PCSO Brianna Whelan

Email: [brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

### Parish Councils

**Ashbrittle - Chairman** Charles Doble 01823 672365 / 672618  
Email: [charles@greenandcarter.com](mailto:charles@greenandcarter.com)

**Bathealton - Chairman** Philip Broad 07584 657106  
Email: [philip.broad1@outlook.com](mailto:philip.broad1@outlook.com)

**Stawley - Chairman** Paul Musgrove 01823 672627  
Email: [stawleyipc@stash.org.uk](mailto:stawleyipc@stash.org.uk)

### Community Halls

**Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field**  
– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266  
or email: [williamspfa@outlook.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto:ashparishnews@gmail.com)

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### July

3rd and 17th	10.00 - 12.30 p.m.	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
7th	2.00 - 5.00 p.m.	Stawley Festival
13th	11.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Open Garden at Greenham Cottage, Greenham
20th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
25th	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

### September

2nd		Pop-up Café re-opens - Bathealton Village Hill
8th		Stawley Flower and Produce Show
15th	2.30 p.m.	Bathealton Parish Walk - meet at the Village Hall

### October

6th	10.00 - 3.00 p.m.	Apple Day at the Pavilion
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## Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club - 1st XI



Front row (left to right) Charlie Cooper, Luke Williams, Rob Williams, Pete Woodberry, Oliver White.  
Back row (left to right) Sam Shaikh, Andy Hill, Callum White, Mark White, Matt Lovell, Rob Popplestone.  
Photo - Maurice Stanbury

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 19th July 2024**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**