



# Parish news

August 2024

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

## Church Services

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>9.30 am<br>11.15 am            | <b>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</b><br>Parish Communion<br>Sung Eucharist                      | <b>STAWLEY</b><br><b>ROCKWELL GREEN</b>                               |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>9.30 am<br>9.30 am<br>11.15am | <b>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b><br>Parish Communion<br>Holy Communion<br>Sung Eucharist | <b>ASHBRITTLE</b><br><b>SAMPFORD ARUNDEL</b><br><b>ROCKWELL GREEN</b> |
| <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>9.30 am<br>11.15 am           | <b>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b><br>Holy Communion<br>Sung Eucharist                      | <b>KITTISFORD</b><br><b>ROCKWELL GREEN</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>10.30am<br>11.15am            | <b>Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</b><br>Holy Communion & Baptism<br>Sung Eucharist         | <b>BATHEALTON</b><br><b>ROCKWELL GREEN</b>                            |

**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

|                                 |   |                              |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Ashbrittle with Greenham</b> | Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LQ<br>David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE | 01823 672365<br>01823 672436 |
| <b>Bathealton</b>               | Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW<br>Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL      | 01984 629013<br>01823 401248 |
| <b>Kittisford</b>               | Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW   | 01823 672627                 |
| <b>Stawley</b>                  | Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT<br>Colin Haddrell, Tucks Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HS         | 01823 672183<br>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 wonderful clock faces created by year six children at Stawley Primary School in a Clock-making Workshop (see page 4).*

*Photo - Michael Fairfax*

## Thought for the Month

**This summer is the 400<sup>th</sup> Birthday of George Fox, one of the founders of Quakerism. I thought you might like to share a short interview we did at Spiceland Quaker Meeting with our oldest resident – an Oak tree in the burial ground!**

In the sharing of their truth George Fox and his Quaker Friends travelled the country. Not so easy four hundred years ago – no buses, no trains, no cars. They walked hundreds of miles on tracks and lanes and in his travels George came to Spiceland. They say that over a thousand people came to hear him talk – can you imagine it?

There were no cameras then, no photos or videos. But wait, there was someone who was here at the time. Down at the bottom of the burial ground stands a Great Oak tree. We measured it and did a calculation and worked out that when George and his friends came to visit it was a skinny little sapling – now its trunk is as wide as a man is tall – its branches wide and low. So we asked it a question. What was it like here four hundred years ago?

*And the Oak tree said: It was quiet, a lot more trees, and very few humans; till the Quakers came. No buildings, just fields and orchards. Why did they come here? They had to be away from the towns – because people thought that the Quakers were trouble, going around telling everyone that no one needed the church to tell them what to do.*

Did you see George Fox?

*And the Oak tree said: Oh yes, with his big brown eyes and his long shaggy locks, you couldn't miss him. He was a big man, with a big voice. When he spoke everyone listened. He stood on a bank – down here in the meadow, right next to me. I was only small at the time – barely out of my acorn.*

I hear that there were hundreds of them? Men, women, and children – and horses and dogs. And that everyone listened to him for hours – and hours – and he told them: 'Quieten your mind, stand in the light, listen for the truth – and it will come to you.'

*And the Oak tree said: 'Yes, that's what he said. He said, 'You will know for yourself.' 'You don't need anyone else to tell you – you just need to listen to the light within you.'*

I hear he said, 'There may be darkness within the world, but inside us the light burns brighter than you could ever know.'

*And the Oak tree said: 'Yes, and they all listened. And when he left they practiced the waiting and the listening. They came whenever they could and stayed as long as they could.*

And then one day not long after did they built a house? To give themselves a place to meet and shelter?

*And the Oak tree said: 'Yes that is right, and I have watched them come and go – sometimes loads of them – sometimes just a few. I have watched them marry, filled with joy! I have watched them bury their dead, laying their loved ones to rest in the meadow where the first Quakers met. I watched them knock down the old meeting house made of mud and thatch and build a new one – strong, out of stone and trees – and I have watched families live here. I have seen the house lie empty, but not for long, and soon the doors are unlocked and life returns. And now I see you all come here to meet and practice what he had preached all those years ago and I hear the young trees murmur in the new orchard and the return of the gatherings. Campers meet together in friendship and worship to connect with each other – and with us – the others who share this space – the plants, animals, the soil, the stones, the water, all parts of creation. All is one – one is all. It always was and always will be.*

*We just have to remember.*

To stop – and in the silence – quieten our minds. And wait.

*And listen.*

*Come sit with me sometime – I would love your company*

*Come sit under my branches  
And quieten your mind*

*And wait*

*And listen.*

Thank you. I would love to.

*Ali Dominy*

### Mobile Library

at

Greenham Bridge

**Next visits:** Tuesday 13th August  
and 10th September

10.00 - 10.20 a.m.





## 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.**

**STORY WATER** ~ By Rumi ~ a poem about the potential and magic of stories ~ how stories can reveal or hide a truth and help us to receive and absorb what we find hard to take in without them.

*A story is like water  
that you heat for your bath.*

*It takes messages between the fire  
and your skin. It lets them meet,  
and it cleans you!*

*Very few can sit down  
in the middle of the fire itself  
like a salamander or Abraham.  
We need intermediaries.*

*A feeling of fullness comes,  
but usually it takes some bread  
to bring it.*

*Beauty surrounds us,  
but usually we need to be walking  
in a garden to know it.*

*The body itself is a screen  
to shield and partially reveal  
the light that's blazing  
inside your presence.*

*Water, stories, the body,  
all the things we do, are mediums  
that hide and show what's hidden.*

*Study them,  
and enjoy this being washed  
with a secret we sometimes know,  
and then not.*

## Stawley and Ashbrittle Bellringers

The local bell ringers visited and rang at four towers for their annual outing on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July. All were six-bell towers - Clayhidon, Churchstanton, Angersleigh and West Buckland. The weight and feel of the bells proved challenging, but we rang to our best abilities and got to grips with the different rope lengths and textures, different swings and balances of the bells and different characters of the belfries themselves.

Lunch for fourteen (this included various partners/chauffeurs) was ably provided by the Holman Clavel. In spite of some sore hands and being somewhat weary by the end of the afternoon, we thoroughly enjoyed the day and agreed to plan another away day in the autumn.

Three of the bellropes at Stawley have broken in the last month and together with a fourth slightly frayed rope, have been taken up to a ropemakers at Radstock to be repaired. Consequently, our Thursday practice has been held at Ashbrittle, but will resume at Stawley very soon.

Anybody who may be interested in joining our enthusiastic team should first call me on 07955 126068 to check which tower is operational. At the moment we have a core of some dozen ringers who are making good progress in mastering call change and basic method ringing.

New potential campanologists always welcome!

*Angela Medlycott*

## Celebrating Clocks

Jo Hartas, Jane Embleton and Cathy Grantham led a clock-making workshop with year six children at Stawley Primary School. As you can see from the cover, the wonderful and varied designs the children came up with were fantastic. The clocks were displayed in Ashbrittle Village Hall on the afternoon of June 30<sup>th</sup> when Wassail theatre company performed their original play, *Birthday Day*, near the church.

Michael Fairfax and Jane Embleton led an adult workshop the previous week in the village hall. We are celebrating one hundred and fifty years of the church clock and thought it a great opportunity to let the community create their own clocks.



*The 'Peacock'  
created by  
Avril Silk  
at the Workshop*

*Photo - Michael  
Fairfax*

We are also hoping to have a Clock/Time exhibition later in the year at Greenways Studio and Gallery in Ashbrittle. Details to come later.

*Michael Fairfax*



Check out our  
Facebook page  
for details of our next  
**BBQ**  
with live  
music

— THE —  
**GLOBE INN**  
APPLEY

Celebrate summer at  
The Globe Inn this August

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 [stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk)  
 The Globe INN Appley

## Kittisford Open Garden 2024

What an amazing afternoon we all had at Kittisford House. The extensive gardens looked fantastic due to the hard work of head gardener Mark and his team. Right until opening time, Mark was running around moving pots of plants from here to there to make the gardens even more spectacular. It is such a rare, and very appreciated, treat to spend the afternoon in these special gardens with a mixture of formal areas, wild flower meadows and grasses inspired by the prairies.



*An eager audience for head gardener Mark Pearce (far left) during a guided garden tour.*

We were all very pleasantly surprised by the large number of visitors and Mark's tours were extremely popular. Mark also generously donated some of his "spare" plants and seedlings to the plant stall. It seemed that his runner beans were a particular hit with everyone. A massive thankyou to Alesha and Frazer for manning the stall all afternoon and sharing their extensive knowledge.

The weather was kind, the rain held off and we all enjoyed copious cups of tea and homemade cakes in the lavish and exotic marquee which had been brought back from India some years ago. Our thanks go to all the helpers in the tea tent and to everyone who baked delicious cakes and scones.

As a real treat, Tansy and her team worked hard making home-made pizzas in the woodfired outdoor pizza oven. At the end of the day, we had a bit of a count up and they had made over eighty pizzas during the afternoon.

There are many people to thank who made this event such a resounding success but above all we are very grateful to Perdy and Davide Taliente for being such generous hosts and allowing us all to enjoy their garden.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event which raised £2000 to help keep Kittisford Church running.

*Annie Musgrove, Churchwarden*

## Gardening Club

As the Club's new Chairs (Freda and Mike Parkinson) have only just returned from their travels, I have volunteered to cover this month's report, though future reports will be offered by them.

The latter part of June showcased 'The Hidden Gardens of Bampton' and was kindly organised by Sue Jacoby. Sue reports:

This was a new venue for the Gardening Club and it didn't disappoint. Nine of us met up at the excellent Bridge House opposite the car park then went off to explore the twenty or so gardens that were open. There was a great mix and some of them were most impressive. All the owners gave us a great welcome and it was astonishing what some of them had achieved, particularly when the access was only through the front door. Some of us discovered that Roly Willett (ex The Globe, Appley) was opening his patio garden and offering his legendary hospitality with a huge tumbler of Pimms and some nibbles. Those of us lucky enough to discover him weaved our way out and had to head for lunch pretty quickly! There was a great choice of lunch places at very reasonable prices.

We were lucky with the weather and would definitely recommend a repeat visit next year, but not necessarily for a group. Bampton is a delightful, friendly little town and we all thoroughly enjoyed visiting its gardens and meeting some of the residents.

### **Forthcoming Visits:**

August will see another new venture for the Club - a visit to the Rosemoor Annual Flower Show. The organiser of this event, Brenda Reyment, has decided in favour of members 'doing their own thing' rather than the usual organised group visit. The Member's Open Garden (a Soiree!) will be based on two adjacent gardens and will include a Bring and Share supper.

For September, a visit to the Flower Shed in Hillcommon is planned and is to be organised by Penny Stanbury.

*Val Wall*

### **News from the Parish News**

**Donations** received from:

Joyce Whittaker

Anonymous donors in 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*





## Wassail Theatre performance

In the past Ashbrittle Arts has been delighted to welcome Wassail Theatre with *Reclaimed* – a story of flooding on the Somerset Levels; *Rex, the King* (of the dartboard), and *Over the Wall Picking Apples*.



*Wassail Theatre's production of 'Birthday Day'*  
Photo - Michael Fairfax

Wassail's performances are always entertaining and thought-provoking. Their latest production, *Birthday Day*, was no exception. Three talented actors and musicians tell the story of a family running a strawberry farm in Somerset and coping with unwelcome changes. All their work is rooted in our beautiful county, so we can identify at a profound level with the characters, joined by love, but experiencing difference and separation as happens in all families. We trace the life of two sisters from babyhood to grandmotherhood and the popular music of the time is cleverly employed to help us register the passing of the years. Eleanor Westbrook, Rachel Cohen and Helena Payne, produced by Katy Tilley, engaged us throughout.

Ashbrittle Arts was able to present a delightful outdoor event (plus strawberry pavlova) in the heart of our community.

Many thanks to Andy Coole for the loan of his garden, and Wassail for their creativity.

*Avril Silk*

### Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on  
**Wednesday 21st August**

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

### GARDEN PAINTING DAYS

With Jane Embleton

At the Old House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE

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)



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Somerset, TA21 0HG



**VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB**  
**ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL**  
 Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at noon.



**PICNIC LUNCH and possibly a quiz...**

**Please bring your own chair.**

**Visitors welcome - please book them in.**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

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



## BATHEALTON POP UP CAFÉ



Why not 'drop in' to our  
 bi-monthly 'Pop up' café.

A friendly warm space:  
 time to catch up with  
 old friends or meet new ones.

A light lunch of home-made soup; pies; sausage rolls  
 and a selection of savoury dishes. Handcrafted sandwiches;  
 artisan bread; homemade cakes and desserts with unlimited  
 fresh cafetiere of coffee or a selection of teas: Cost £10.00\*

**Where:** Bathealton Village Hall TA42AL:  
 what3words //grumbles.detail.colder

**When:** 2nd September and 23rd September 2024  
 7th October and 21st October 2024

**Time:** We will serve food from 12 noon till 3pm

**Why:** Make new friends or catch up with old.  
 The new are silver and the old are gold.

Please call Dee or Del to reserve a place: 07355 810132

\* With a percentage going to the Village Hall.

## VITAL VEG, FRUIT and FLOWERS

Veg, fruit and cut flowers organically grown  
 on our local smallholding.



Picked on the day and delivered to your door  
 or for sale at our market stall at  
 White Post Cafe/Nursery  
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A wide range of luscious produce:  
 from the more familiar fruit and veg  
 to the less expected melons and salad  
 with herbs and edible flowers.

A large range of vibrant cut flowers for all occasions.

Contact Juliette on 07928081430 or  
 email [juliette.durance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliette.durance@hotmail.co.uk)



## Lunch Club

Our speaker in June was Emily Sharpe who is a specialist in promoting 'Deaf Awareness' and in particular, British Sign Language. It has now been officially recognised in this country as a separate language, like any other, and is now a GCSE subject.

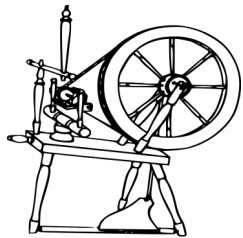
Em was a polished speaker and a lively discussion followed as to whether or not profoundly deaf children should learn BSL rather than attempting English language or, in deaf or hearing adults, writing things down.

In August our Lunch Club will be a little different as a nod to holiday time, some regulars entertaining visitors and others being away. Jackie White will provide us with a superior picnic lunch which can be consumed in the hall as usual, or outside if you wish. (Please bring garden chairs as benches are very limited). You are welcome to bring personal visitors, but you must book them in in the usual way. There will be no Speaker, but if you wish there will be a quiz. Not compulsory but big money prizes... (or similar!)

Our next lunch is on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August. Please let me know by the end of day on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August if you would like to come.

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

*Delia Harling*



### 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 August  
3rd and 17th September  
at 2.30pm

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

## To all event organisers

Please make full use of the 'Dates for your Diary' on the back page of the Parish News.

We encourage you to include forward dates to avoid a potential clash of events, which is in no one's best interest.

The month of August is quiet but it will soon be Christmas!

*Eds*

## Rainfall Statistics (inches) for June

| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 4.66 | 2.60 | 2.56 | 1.30 | 0.79 |

Well, well, well, would you believe it? A dry month. Needless to say, the driest month of the year so far – and the second driest June since local records began in 2000. Only June 2016 saw less rain (0.66 inches).

Better stop crowing now so as not to tempt fate for July!

*Val Coots*

## FURNITURE MAKER

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# Stawley Community Association



## Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room

### Setup Funding

Following the recent consultations with the local community and the significant support received, there is a clear desire to continue with the provision of the Shop and Tea Room facilities.

We are now moving forward with the transition of the running of the Shop and Tea Room from the Tenancy structure to a fully SCA managed business, run by our local Volunteers and with a part time business administration assistant.

The aim is very much to run the facility as a financially self-supporting business with a structure to ensure its long-term future sustainability for the community, for years ahead. From the sales and cost analysis made over the last five months, we believe this to be fully viable model.

### The ASK!

To enable the successful transition, we require a **Setup Fund of £10,000**, this to provide for key items including, the initial stock purchase; newspaper account deposit; EPOS software services; and the initial facility standing costs.

We are reaching out to you, '**our community**' for a one-off financial donation to help enable this transition.

If you can support, no matter how large or small, please could you donate via a bank transfer to:

Account Name: Stawley Community Association Ltd  
Bank: HSBC  
Sort Code: 40-46-05  
Acc. No: 41236350

If you would like to reach out and discuss, then please either, email to *scacommunityshop@gmail.com* or telephone.

Nigel Paterson (Chair)  
Stawley Community Association  
Telephone: 07795 664043

**Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council**  
**Meeting held at Appley Pavilion at**  
**6:30 pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Parish Councillors present:** Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM), Pat Sweet (PS), Sarah Jones (SJ); **Others present:-** Dave Mansell (DM) (Somerset Councillor); 9 parishioners.

**WhatsApp Group** – the Chairman reported that only two parishioners had responded to the advertisement in the Parish News with regard to the establishment of a Parish WhatsApp group so this idea would seem to be a non-starter.

**Finance**

The current bank balance is £13,611.63.

**Savings.** PS reported that the National Association of Local Councils had recommended the Unity Bank as being suitable for Council savings. The present interest rate is 2.75 %. It was agreed in principle that £10,000 of the Council's balance should be saved in a Unity Bank account. PS will provide electronic copies of the account conditions to the other Councillors.

**Planning**

35/24/0004 - Change of use of land and buildings to sui generis (an obscure planning term) comprising a wellness retreat, with erection of three glamping pods, yoga studio and treatment room and cooking and washing facilities at Scarlet Elf, Tracebridge, Stawley (retention of part works already undertaken).

The meeting was closed so that the members of the public present could present their views on the application. DM explained that the decision by the Planning Officer or Committee would be based on national and local planning policies. Planning Officers take most decisions. If either the Somerset Councillor or Parish Council object to an application it may be passed to the Planning Committee for a decision if the Committee Chair so decides.

After the resumption of the meeting the three Councillors present discussed the effects the application would have on the Parish as a whole should it be approved. It was agreed that the most serious ramifications would be:

- the intrusion to neighbours in the steep valley of Tracebridge
- the increase in vehicle movements along the single track road to get to the site
- the disturbance to local wildlife, especially to the bats and peregrine falcons that are known to be present and reproducing on the site.

It was agreed that the Council should object to the application for these reasons and that a draft

comment would be approved by Councillors before it is sent to the Planning Officer.

**Reports from Members**

**Footpaths** – It was noted that the growing season has brought about the usual problem of crops being planted across the line of footpaths. The meeting was reminded that passage along footpaths could continue despite the presence of crops.

*Paul Musgrove, Chairman*



**Beat Surgery**  
**Stawley Village Shop**  
**and**  
**Tearoom**

Tuesday 6th August  
and 3rd September  
9.00 - 10.00am

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



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# Waterrow Village Hall Summer BBQ



**Saturday August 24th 2024 -12.30pm**

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



A great way to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon with

- A range of BBQ dishes and Vegetarian options
- Menu specials of Goat meat and Trout
- A selection of tasty salads and sides
- A wide variety of homemade desserts
- Tea, coffee and squash are available
- A free fun picture quiz is included in the price with great prizes to be won.

Please bring your own alcoholic / preferred soft drinks.

Tickets can be purchased from Liz Kilbride at St Andrews café on Thursday Mornings or you can call Sarah on 01398 361202

**Priced at only £10 for adults £5 for Under 12's**

**We look forward to seeing you there!!!**



## Stawley Festival Celebrates Fourth Year

The Stawley Festival has once again brought the community together, celebrating its fourth successful year and raising over £2000 for Stawley Pre-school and Stawley Primary School. The festival was a fantastic day out for families, featuring live music, delicious food, various stalls and plenty of activities for kids.

The musical lineup was a major highlight, with performances by Radio Sunset, featuring special guest guitarist Robert West, and the talented Taylor Latham. The festival also showcased local talent through open mic sessions, adding to the vibrant atmosphere. Thank you to Lizzie Merrick, Hebe Stewart, Millicent Ekless, Molly Lock and Emmeline's Samba Band.



*Learning juggling skills with Laura Burrow.*

The funds raised will directly benefit the children of Stawley Pre-school and Stawley Primary School, supporting educational trips and resources that enhance their learning experiences.

"We're thrilled with the success of this year's Stawley Festival," said Hannah Smith, Stawley Pre-School Chair of the fundraising committee. "The community's support and enthusiasm have made this event truly special. These funds will make a significant difference in providing valuable opportunities for our children."

Stawley Primary School and Pre-school are known for their active fundraising efforts, and the Stawley Festival has become a cornerstone of their annual events. It's a wonderful example of how the community comes together to support local education.

The festival's success highlights the strong community spirit in Stawley and the surrounding areas. With its mix of entertainment, family-friendly activities, and a great cause, the Stawley Festival continues to be a beloved event that brings everyone together.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and came to join us on the day.

See you next year!

*Naomi Hyde*

## Stawley Flower and Produce Show

**Sunday 8th September  
at 2.30 p.m.**

The schedule and entry forms will accompany the September issue of the Parish News and will also be available from the Stawley Village Shop. There is a list of classes in the May issue of the Parish News.

Please could winners of trophies in 2023 have them engraved and polished and returned to me or the Village Shop or the show.

With all the recent heavy rainfall everything in the garden has grown prodigiously, including the weeds, so we should have a bumper year for produce!

Staging will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> from 6.00 - 8.00pm and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 8.00 - 10.00am. Judging will be by Ann Heard and Lesley Garner.

*Sue Jacoby*

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## Digital copies of the Parish News

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*Eds*



**STAWLEY FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**  
**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER at 2.30pm**  
**APPLEY PAVILION**

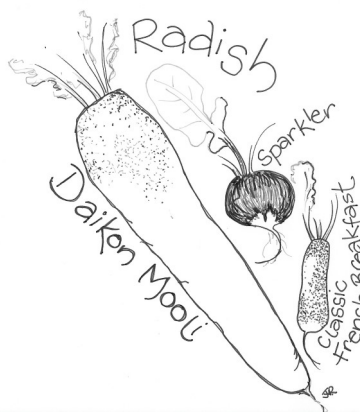


*Pimms and pudding and traditional cream tea. Raffle.*  
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## Radishes revisited



I have always been a big fan of radishes and they played an important part in the development of my interest in vegetable growing; My Dad gave me radish seed to sow when I was a small boy and we regularly ate them

for tea with bread and butter, dipped in salt.

Mum and Dad used to attend the West Somerset point-to-point races at Holnicote, near Minehead, in late March where there was always a stall selling fruit and vegetables which included large bunches of 'French Breakfast' radish which we would buy and eat with a picnic lunch and take a bunch home for later!

I often wonder why they seem to have fallen out of favour when they are so easy to grow and are excellent subjects for youngsters to grow, harvest and eat. One reason that is often offered up is their ability to 'repeat' on you... and no doubt some people do experience unpleasant 'after-effects' post consumption as is sometimes the case with a number of other vegetables. Not suiting everyone's digestion. The variety of countries around the world in which the radish is found and used in their culinary culture is wide ranging and helps to trace its history and development.

### Early domestication

The radish (*Raphanus sativus*) is a member of the *Brassicaceae* family that was probably domesticated in Europe in pre-roman times and earlier in Greek and Egyptian traditions; it first appeared in China around 500 BC and around 700 AD in Japan. Wild relatives of radishes along with its close relatives, turnips and mustard, are found from western Asia to southern Europe which suggests their domestication took place in those regions.

There are four basic groups of cultivated radish grown today; the smaller, faster growing red or/and white radish mostly grown in Europe such as 'French Breakfast', 'Cherry Belle' and 'White Icicle' originating from the Mediterranean regions. The black-skinned varieties are the most ancient group and probably derive from the North African Mediterranean through to Spain and Italy. The larger white, pink and red skinned varieties originated in central Asia and were selected and cultivated in northern China, often used in cooking rather than salads but are also used for carving intricate birds and flowers to decorate dishes and

are generally winter hardy. The 'Mougrri' or 'Rat-tailed' radish types probably originated in Asia and India producing long, succulent peppery-flavoured seed pods which should be picked when young and crisp; these are often also pickled or preserved in brine or oil. A form of this type of radish also threw up the variety 'München Bier' which produces a large white root as well as edible pods which are eaten in Germany with long Steins of lager beer.

Quick growing summer varieties require only good light, plenty of moisture and a good, light soil for success, germinating in three to seven days and are best sown in small fortnightly batches utilizing cold frames or polytunnels to achieve early and extended cropping. Modern varieties are developed for rapid maturity and reduced or delayed 'bolting' whilst older, rustic varieties tend to show more propensity to run to seed. Autumn or Winter radish are sown later in the season and can be prone to flea-beetle when young and cabbage root fly later but with good establishment, moisture and thinning these can reach a good size without becoming woody and will sit in the ground through a mild winter, lifting as required. All radish seed can be sprouted like cress on a plate, spicy and nutritious when put in a mixed salad. They are very nutritious, high in folic acid and potassium; they are an excellent source of vitamin C, B6, riboflavin, magnesium, calcium and copper.

### A special festival

A final thought about radishes comes from Oaxaca in Mexico where on December the 23<sup>rd</sup> the local farmers gather in the town squares or 'Zocalo' and create ornate sculptures out of these roots - they can range from nativity scenes and giant models of Jesus and the Virgin Mary to traditional village and cemetery tableaux. The radishes which provide the modelling material are not the 'bite-sized' forms used in salads but huge beasts left in the ground to get as big as possible; it is probable that each farmer has his own secret method for getting them to grow as big as possible and in as auspicious a shape for carving as possible! The festival is probably no more than 100 to 150 years old and its origins are rather lost in the mists of folk-lore but it is thought that a farmer found an un-harvested radish in a field which he carved into the shape of the local priest... luckily the priest had a sense of humour and it was displayed in the local church. In 1897 the mayor of Oaxaco made the festival official and the art of the bizarrely carved radish developed into the incredible, sometimes humorous and often macabre display created every Christmas in this region of Mexico.

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## Nerds of the world, unite!

I confess. I am a nerd. Yes, one of the classic variety – a small boy, wearing a school cap and blazer, standing on a busy railway station with a notebook and pencil, jotting down engine numbers. Then I went home and underlined the ones I'd seen in my copy of Ian Allan's ABC of Railway Engine numbers (Western Region)!

I became interested when my uncle Cedric took me to Woking station. I was introduced to express steam-pulled trains thundering by at eighty mph. They were awesome and powerful. Boat trains to Southampton. Express trains to distant holiday destinations as yet unknown. Sidmouth, Padstow, Bude, Ilfracombe.

Then came the engines of the Great Western Railway, elegant, shining in their Brunswick green, dressed in the gleaming steel of the driving rods and wheels, plus copper and brass on chimneys and nameplates. They were named after kings, castles, earls, counties, halls and more. I can still visualise, from the late Fifties, at about four o'clock in the afternoon, "The Bristolian", a train of seven chocolate and cream carriages, slowly being drawn into Bristol Temple Meads behind a gleaming green GWR express locomotive, ready to race non-stop to London Paddington.

Those were the days of British Railways, nationalised in 1947. They still carried something of the aura and glamour of the pre-war years. The engines built by BR lacked something in comparison, but they fitted into one's interest in all things rail.

### Dramatic changes

But diesels were coming, and they did. Gradually the old uniqueness began to fade. Dr Beeching and Co removed thousands of track miles. Car travel and motorways took pride of place. Passenger numbers fell. Holiday package tours grew in popularity: Majorca and the Spanish Costas sounded more exciting than rainy days at Paignton and Exmouth. It was all about economics and efficiency. So much, via diesel and electric traction, together with the colours and styles of the rolling stock, was standardised.

People moaned about the railways, just as before nationalisation and after privatisation. Too expensive. Too many breakdowns. Dirty stations and unclean trains. Poor catering. Late running. Unreliability.

Then in 1992, the railways were privatised in part. The train running infrastructure, namely the tracks and bridges plus signalling, all remained under the control of Network Rail, kept in public ownership.

What privatisation did was to bring back the

old railway companies and names. Our area has the Great Western Railway, with a smart green livery, even though it is owned by First Group PLC. The return of that famous name was a source of pleasure to me. Though the trains across the system may look the same, they are distinctive to each company. What it did was restore something of the former romance, attraction and historicity of the past. It recalled to mind those mighty steam engines as well as characters from the outset like Isambard Kingdom Brunel, George and Robert Stephenson, et al.

Now, Sir Keir and his followers are going to re-nationalise it all, at a time when the numbers travelling are getting back to pre-Covid figures. They may sort out ticketing complications and bring down prices. The main day-to-day problems will remain because that is how railways are. Whoever owns it will always have similar problems to face. But will they remove the romance, the pleasure, the historic nature of it all? Economics and efficiency are all very well, but to take away those other qualities is to take away the essential spirit of the railways. It's like living in a world without a strong past, pretending that now is all that matters, living without a sense of awe and without a sense of the Divine Spirit. All that does is lead to human impoverishment and dryness of being. It's like a hard dry ground without any rain to soften it and enable growth to take place.

*Martin Perry*

## Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

### Painting and drawing Clay work and Textile Crafts

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

**Next Meetings:  
Wednesday 7th August  
and 4th September**

**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)



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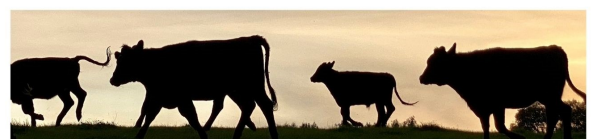


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**Kittisford New House Farm**, on wall,  
opposite church *bonkers.regime.lyricist*

**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: [stawleypc@stash.org.uk](mailto:stawleypc@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)

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

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### *August*

|              |                    |   |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| 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  |
| 29th         | 12 noon            | Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall             |

### *September*

|              |                     |   |
|--------------|---------------------|---|
| 2nd and 23rd | 12 noon - 3.00 p.m. | Pop-up Café re-opens - Bathealton Village Hill            |
| 8th          | 2.30 - 5.00 p.m.    | Stawley Flower and Produce Show                           |
| 15th         | 2.30 p.m.           | Bathealton Parish Walk - meet at the Village Hall         |
| 20th         | 7.00 p.m.           | 'No-one is listening' Ashbrittle Arts in the Village Hall |

### *October*

|     |                   |                           |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 6th | 10.00 - 3.00 p.m. | Apple Day at the Pavilion |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------|



*The pizza making team (left to right Tansy Denham, Lola Denham, Lucas Fraser-Talliente, Charlie James and Ludo Fraser-Talliente) worked hard and added a new dimension to the afternoon.*

*Photo - Maurice Stanbury.*

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 23rd August 2024**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**