

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ASHBITTLE

# Parish news

November 2024

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

## Church Services

### Sunday 3rd November

10.30 am	Harvest Communion	STAWLEY
	followed by lunch at Stawley Mill	
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist	ROCKWELL GREEN

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 am	<b>Twenty fourth Sunday after Trinity</b> Holy Communion following an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 9.00 am	SAMPFORD ARUNDEL
10.45 am	<b>Service of Remembrance</b>	ASHBRITTLE
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist	ROCKWELL GREEN
3.15 pm	<b>The Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony in Wellington Park</b>	

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 am	<b>Twenty fifth Sunday after Trinity</b> Morning Service	KITTISFORD
9.30 am	Holy Communion	BATHEALTON
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist	ROCKWELL GREEN

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November

9.30 am	<b>Sunday next before Advent</b> Holy Communion	THORNE ST MARGARET
11.15 am	Sung Eucharist	ROCKWELL GREEN

## Churchwardens and Clergy

### Ashbittle with Greenham

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

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

<b>Kittisford</b> Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW	01823 672627
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<b>Stawley</b> Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT	01823 672183
Colin Haddrell, Tucks Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HS	07974 804990

### Priest-in-Charge

Reverend Andrew Barton, 2 White Oaks, Langford Budville, TA21 0RB  
 Contacts: Home/Office - Phone 01823 924007 or 07795 699737  
*Email revdbarton@gmail.com*

**Front cover** - Original art St John the Baptist, Ashbittle Church by local artist, Adam Garland, part of a series of drawings celebrating the churches of the Ten Parishes. Further works available to view on Facebook under 'Hedgedwelling', or in Secret Island in Wiveliscombe.

### 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.

## How to be A GOAT?

I was troubled when someone called cricketer Sachin Tendulkar a GOAT. I googled and found out that in today's world the abbreviation GOAT does not mean an animal, it means 'Greatest Of All Time'. It is used to compliment athletes, musicians, or other celebrities. So, don't get furious when someone refers to you as a GOAT; but be happy, anything is possible!

In the past, if a sportsperson was called a goat, it meant that his or her performance was so pitiable that they bore much of the responsibility for the team losing. But that is not the case anymore. Some people are far from being GOATs, but act as though they are. They have an entourage of people who are constantly telling them how wonderful they are.

In the New Testament we find James and John acting this way (Mk 10: 35-45). They felt that they should sit at the right hand and left hand of Jesus when he came into his glory. They desired to lord it over the other disciples. They considered themselves as better than the rest. Jesus told them that they were clueless. They didn't know where greatness came from.

There are some around us who strut around as superstars in their own minds. They may be professionals, like lawyers or doctors who look down on others. Even some respected family members who do so in an arrogant way, as autocrats rather than as sources of family love. Perhaps we all act at times like this. We behave as though we are great, but the truth is that those who think that they are GOATs are naïve like James and John. Jesus knew how to be great, though. He tells us, that greatness comes through service. On the night of the Last Supper, he washed the feet of his disciples, and then gave them and us this mandate: what you have seen me do, you also must do. That is the route to greatness.

I met Mother Teresa of Kolkata several times. She was a great lady. But how did she become great? She became great by serving the poorest of the poor. Who do you think is a great person? I would say someone who constantly reaches out to others. Somebody is sick or having an awful day, he or she is there. Mother Teresa learned how to be great by following the teachings of Jesus. Each one of us has different gifts. We have an obligation to cultivate our gifts in the service to humanity. What can I do best?

Some of us are proficient in caring for others with mercy, compassion and justice. Others have a great deal of empathy for the sick. Still others are generous to the poor. Some are good teachers. Others are great foster carers. For example, some willingly become community

shop volunteers and there are forty volunteer drivers who service Wivey Link.

We are called to develop our talents. We do have our own failures, limitations and fears. At times we lack confidence in ourselves to do good works. God sees our love. He sees our resolve to seek him out in others and serve. Many of us are Christians. I did not take Christianity on myself. I was given this grace freely by God. We are good enough. He makes us good enough.

It is not the size of one's entourage that determines greatness. It is not the position of authority that a person holds that proves their greatness. In my opinion, true greatness comes from God. We are all called to be people of service. It is through service that every one of us is capable of becoming a GOAT.

*John Dawer*

## In memory of Martin Beaumont

Martin Beaumont was a rugby-playing Yorkshireman who read theology at London University and was ordained as a priest in Newcastle in 1975. He spent most of his career as a school chaplain at Marlborough, Haileybury, Taunton and Tonbridge where he prepared pupils for A level religious studies as well as providing wise counsel to pupils and staff alike.

A spokesperson for the Haileybury Society said, "Martin touched the lives of many and will be remembered with deep affection and gratitude by all those who knew him."

In our parishes we came to know Martin over four years ago when he came out of his first retirement to live in Milverton and become our priest. Many will know him through his regular, relevant, and pithy commentary in the Parish News. He was appointed during the Covid period and, keen to make contact with the local community, he spent Friday afternoon each week in the Village Shop to meet people.

A Tonbridge teacher read the eulogy, "Martin's life, a life of selfless and unconditional service, was characterised by countless acts of kindness which were not always the result of conscious decisions, rather the natural and instinctive consequence of a fundamentally unselfish and loving soul devoted to God and the service of others." The full text can be read here: <https://stash.org.uk/documents/reverend-martin-beaumont/>

Tragically his life was cut short by cancer. For his wife Ruth and his wider family, it is impossible to know how much he will be missed. Here in this community, we will all miss him greatly.

*Annie Musgrove Churchwarden,  
Kittisford Church*

## The late Dick Willis

Many friends joined the family to say farewell to Dick Willis on October 14th. He was fondly remembered for his long tenure of Greenham Barton, where together with his wife Diane, they raised their family and contributed freely to the community.

Dick was an outstanding artist as well as an excellent raconteur with many stories of his life, including active service in World War II.

We featured Dick when he celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year.

If you would like to revisit that account it can be found at [https://stash.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Parish\\_News/2403\\_PN.pdf](https://stash.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Parish_News/2403_PN.pdf)

Eds



### Quaker Meeting for Worship

Spiceland Quaker Meeting Uffculme EX15 3AZ

We Meet for Worship at Spiceland every Sunday at 10.30am - 11.30am

This is a blended Meeting also available on Zoom –  
Meeting ID: 865 5570 2735 Passcode: 498173

There is also a Meeting at the Waldron Chapel,  
King Street, Westex, Tiverton.

The 3rd Tuesday of every month from 2 – 2.30pm

All are very welcome.

For more information phone Ali Dominy 07810768557

or use the "contact us" form on our website

<https://spiceland.quakermeeting.org/>

or email [spicelandnotices@btinternet.com](mailto:spicelandnotices@btinternet.com)



TRUE PEACE cannot be dictated,  
it can only be built in co-operation  
between all peoples. Yearly Meeting 1943



These images are taken from a panel of the Quaker Tapestry.

<https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/>

The tapestry tells the story of Quakers in 77 embroidered panels  
covering over 350 years of social history.

To discover how this project began in Taunton, visit

<https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/2021/04/28>

[/celebrating-40th-anniversary-of-the-quaker-tapestry-1981-2021/](https://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/2021/04/28/celebrating-40th-anniversary-of-the-quaker-tapestry-1981-2021/)



## Harvest Lunch

at  
Stawley Mill

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Following our Harvest Service at  
10.30am at Stawley Church

£10.00 per head  
(including a glass of wine)

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



## Bathealton Village Hall

### POP UP CAFÉ

Why not 'drop in' to  
our 'Pop up'.  
A friendly warm space:  
time to catch up with  
old friends or meet  
new ones.

**When: 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**We will serve food from 12 noon till 2.00 pm**

*'Make new friends or catch up with old; the new  
are silver and the old are gold'.*

### Menu this month

Cottage Pie or Vegetarian Cottage pie.  
with locally grown seasonal vegetables.

#### Sweet

Home-made: Apple Cumble with custard.

#### Drinks

Unlimited Coffee or a selection of teas.

## Ashbrittle Village Hall AGM

21st November at 7.30 pm  
All welcome

# Stawley Village Shop & Tea Room



## Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm

**Saturday 8.00am to 12 noon.**

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am

**The Post Office is here every Thursday 11.30am to 1.30pm**  
**Contact: 01823 674361 or email [shop@stawleyshop.com](mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com)**

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**The tea room offer freshly prepared sandwiches and toasties; cakes and slices, tea or coffee, either to eat in or takeaway!**

**The shop provides a wide variety of additions to your weekly groceries, including fresh fruit and vegetables, cold meats, and dairy products.**

## **Come in and see what we have!**

Our dedicated and hard working team of volunteers, are here to help and serve our many customers, community and visitors alike.

We are fortunate to have such strong community support and have recently welcomed some new volunteers to our growing team. More helpers are very welcome, so if you think you can spare a few hours, please get in touch or pop into the shop and have a chat and see how you could assist.

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

We are still receiving donations towards our start-up fund and we are now approaching three quarters of our £10,000 target. Once again, a very big thank you to those who have generously given to this cause. If you can support, no matter how large or small an amount, please donate either by bank transfer to:

Bank: HSBC

**Sort Code: 40-46-05**

**Account No: 41236350**

**Account Name: Stawley Community Association Ltd**

Or you can make a donation on line at [www.gofundme.com/s](http://www.gofundme.com/s)

Just put "Stawley Village shop" into the search bar; it is very easy to make a donation using your card. If these methods are not for you, a cheque, or a cash donation in the green collection tin next to the Shop till, are convenient alternatives.

**All donations are very welcome**

## Bathealton has been busy!

### Parish Walk

Bathealton carried out its annual parish walk in September. The weather was very kind and several families and friends joined us. It was suitable for all ages and Steve Cottrell kindly mapped and led the way, with the children loving walking through fields, hills, dales and streams, stopping to talk to the Suffolk Punch horses along the way.

We finished as always, with afternoon tea in the village hall, courtesy of Hilary with local cider from Phil for those who fancied it.

We live in a beautiful part of the country and sometimes we may take it for granted just too readily.



*A walk much enjoyed by all members of the family.*

### More activities planned

Now that the kitchen refurbishment in the village hall has taken place we are able to generate more events - the first was 'Curry by Candle-light' (see p. 16) and we plan to follow this up with an evening of Greek food in the New Year.

Don't forget our 'Pop-up Café' on the first Monday of the month, which is a lunch club; somewhere warm to meet with friends, have a nice home-cooked meal and fresh coffee or tea served to you at your table.

*Adele Broad*

## Gardening Club

### Outing to Forde Abbey

It wasn't raining on October 9th! Eleven green-fingered souls from our club descended on Forde Abbey to wander around the thirty acres of beautifully tended gardens and to explore the historic buildings dating back nine centuries.

We were so lucky with the weather which kept dry as we explored the different sections of the garden, the Mount, Bog Garden, Woodland Garden, the borders, the arboretum and the Swirl.

The many different coloured salvias and dahlias and the dark astilbes were striking as the beds and borders settled into autumn. The fountain duly performed spectacularly, spouting to one hundred and sixty feet high, catching in the wind to form a curtain of water droplets. A cucumber tree (identified by mobile phone app!) intrigued us all with its knobbly red fruits. The bamboos and vast gunneras provoked discussion. The Ruby Red Devon cattle grazing on the informal avenues completed the rural picture.

Lunch was consumed in the vaulted undercroft and then we were let loose in the house, converted and much restored from its monastic origins in 1141. This century, three generations of the Roper family have cared for the historic quarters, the cloisters, refectories, state rooms and dormitories. The furniture, paintings and antique artifacts were fascinating.

And finally, the plant sales section. It was a super day out and much enjoyed by all.

Did I mention we were lucky with the weather!!!

*Angela Medlycott*

### Garden too small?

The garden in front of the skittle alley in Ashbrittle next to the village hall is available to rent.

Long term preferred - £200 per annum.

Apply by email please:

[charles@greenandcarter.com](mailto:charles@greenandcarter.com)

Any payment will be for the benefit of, Ashbrittle Church.

### Mobile Library

at

Greenham Bridge

**Next visits:** 5th November and 3rd December  
10.00 - 10.20 a.m.

### Charlie's Handyman Service

Whether it's a small home repair, a new patio or creating a cosy garden room, I'm here to help you with a wide range of home and garden projects.

With years of experience in carpentry, maintenance and construction no job is too small.

Call me on 07380 526565  
or email [charlie.j@live.co.uk](mailto:charlie.j@live.co.uk)

# GREENWAY STUDIOS



## WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA ART SALE

Find Unusual, Beautiful and Unique Artworks

November 14th - 17th and 21st - 24th 11am - 4pm

[www.greenwaysstudios.com](http://www.greenwaysstudios.com)

Ashbrittle TA21 0LE

ARTISTS:

LOUISE BAKER, TIM HAYWARD, MICHAEL FAIRFAX,  
JENNY HICKS, PAUL LEYLAND, BARBARA ROLL

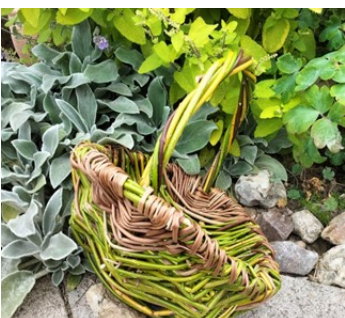
### Willow Crafts at Appley Pavilion

Cost £40 per person. Tutor: Belinda Martin

**Date:** 02 Dec 2024      **Time:** 11 am - 3 pm      **Willow Foraging Basket workshop**  
To construct a naturalistic basket from foraged materials, including a soup and roll lunch with all materials provided.

**Dates:** 09 Dec 2024      **Time:** 11 am - 3 pm      **Willow wreath workshop**  
Including seasonal treats and a soup and roll lunch. All materials are provided,

Contact Email: [earthrightscollective1@gmail.com](mailto:earthrightscollective1@gmail.com) **to book**  
or phone: 07971 075616



Tutor: Belinda Martin



## Chipstable Fun Ride

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, eighty riders and their horses braved the damp weather to take part in the annual Chipstable Fun Ride, organised by the Dulverton Farmers and hosted by Derek and Joanne Greenway at Woodlands Farm Bathealton.

The ride covered ten miles of the surrounding countryside. The route included fields, some with optional jumps, bridleways and some road work. Normally the views are spectacular, but this year were hampered by the rolling mist and drizzle! Despite the weather the ground held up well and everyone came home safe and smiling.



*'My favourite fun ride' - a quote from one of the riders.  
Photo - Cat Down Photography*

The ride is now in its twenty sixth year, with only one being cancelled due to horrendous weather. The route has changed a little with land changing hands or being used for different purposes, but remains a very popular event.

The last part of the ride is along a section of the old railway line, which brings the riders back to the start, where they can enjoy a hot cup of tea, a hotdog and some fabulous homemade cake, supplied by the Dulverton Farmers.

The day was a great success, the organisers stewards, land owners and anyone else who helped and gave up their time deserve a huge thank you. A proportion of the monies raised goes to local good causes.

We also want to thank all the riders and their horses who came and supported the ride and hope to see you all again next year.

*Joanne Greenway*

### Electric Fence Bits

I have a box of assorted items for electric fencing which is no longer required. Available for a donation to Kittisford Church.

Contact: Paul Musgrove 01823 672627.



## A Presentation on the Roborough Rewilders project

Appley Pavilion

Tuesday 12th November  
7:00pm

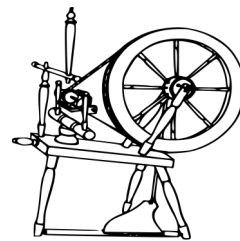
Nick will give a PowerPoint presentation on the rationale and progress of this environmental restoration project which is located on 10 acres of land near the village of Roborough in North Devon.

All welcome.

Questions and answers afterwards, as well as tea and cake.

Hope you can make it.

If you have any questions, please phone Nick on 07734 386243



## 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: 5th and 19th November  
3rd and 17th December  
at 2.30pm

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





# Waterrow Village Hall Film Night

**Saturday November 23rd 2024**

**6.30 pm start**

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

The excellent film **Saving Grace** will be shown at the Film Night. Featuring an all-star cast this

is a fantastic, feel good film. **A delicious selection of soups and rolls** will be served along with the ever popular **dessert selections**. Please bring your own drinks.

**A free raffle ticket strip** is included in the price. Simply keep and exchange the ticket stub on the door. There are some great prizes to be won at no extra cost!

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

Priced at only **£10 for adults - £5 for children** under 12

**Please note Tickets should be purchased by the 17th Nov**

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



## Eschatology and the end of history

**Eschatology** – what a deliciously splashy word!

Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines eschatology as something less promising: *a part of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of human kind... so boring.*

Wait a minute, if we think about this definition from the point of view of a naturalist, the subject becomes more interesting. Naturalists try to see the world as it really is and not how other people say it is, so are well-placed to question part of OED's description:

*the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of human kind*

Does history end? Anyway, what is it? I shall use the word 'history' to mean 'a written or spoken record of past events'. Pure historians often regard, if not dismiss, preliterate records as archaeology or palaeontology. I use 'written' to include non-verbal language such as in 'fossil history is written in rocks'. Does 'history' refer only to human activities? Surely things will go on happening and leave a history in their remains?

'Destiny': does humanity *have* a destiny? If so, how does one find out what it is? Let us look at the whole of history and work out what has actually been going on, and then decide whether it is worth continuing that way and whether 'is' should become 'ought to'. So where do we start? Well, the beginning of time is as good a point as any, and that was Big Bang – about 13.8 billion years ago (bya). About 4.5 bya the components of atoms were rearranged to form about a hundred different atomic configurations, each one being the smallest particle of a chemical element.

About 3.6 bya, some atoms combined together to form a very complicated compound that made more of itself. The compound reproduced, and its offspring inherited the information they needed to do so themselves. Copying the information was not perfect (it still isn't), and most of the errors hindered the process of reproduction but a few improved it. Obviously, the improvers left more offspring than the hinderers did. Repeated trillions of times over billions of years, efficiency and complexity increased until a group of chemicals collectively called Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid (DNA) evolved.

With a few exceptions, the information carried by DNA can pass only from parent to offspring. That information can reproduce only by creating another whole new individual, and, if that individual is human, its birth bears the huge environmental costs we are having to pay today.

Apart from a few special cases such as mountain hares growing white coats, birds migrating to lower latitudes and bees storing honey, the

information carried in molecules of DNA cannot predict. It can only multiply, vary and be selected by *existing* conditions. It controls the development of an egg into an adult, and that adult's anatomy, physiology and feelings. DNA's information is particularly effective at making us feel good when we help other people. It does so to protect copies of itself in that other person, and we call such behaviour 'morality'.

Two hundred thousand years ago, climate change reduced the forests of Africa and forced our ancestors onto the savannah, and our total population collapsed to a few thousand individuals. Then we discovered how to think. Perhaps thinking began by our being able to put two ideas together to make a third: like retaining the images of a knapped flint, a shaped haft and a finished axe, sword or spear.

Ideas have their main influence on the behaviour of individuals, rather than their structure or physiology. Ideas allow us to teach and learn, to contemplate the future and manage risk. They can pass freely from person to person, from paper to pixels, and thence to radio waves, and be transmitted around the world in seconds, all at the cost of a few electrons. They can reproduce, mutate, be eliminated or selected for further propagation. In some ways, an idea behaves like a living thing – one that is a parasite living in a human mind or device.

Cooperating together, combined with thinking, made us enormously successful – as measured by the sheer weight of humans alive today – but that success came with a huge environmental cost: climate change, massive pollution, destruction of the natural world and loss of biodiversity.

The collapse of the human population is inevitable. But, although we can see and understand the evidence for the approaching cataclysm, we do nothing effective to prepare for it because the information carried by DNA has never been selected for interest in the future, only the present. I see no way round our population collapse being directed by DNA's message that screams "*My rights!*", *Me first!*" They are attitudes assiduously cultivated by all but a few branches of communications media because they appeal to unthinking, DNA-managed individuals. The information carried by DNA defends itself from question by taboos.

If, as is possible under these ecological circumstances, an unhinged tyrant uses nuclear weapons, the DNA-managed scenario really will be the final events of history, and our ultimate destiny.

**An alternative is to think.**

*Martin Jacoby*



# CHRISTMAS WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOPS

Saturday 14th December 1pm-3.30pm £35

Sunday 15th December 11am-1.30pm £35

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

To book a place email  
[mycraftycountrylife@gmail.com](mailto:mycraftycountrylife@gmail.com)

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



As featured  
in this year's  
Your Home  
Christmas Made Easy  
magazine &  
HomeStyle Christmas  
magazine.



## Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th October 2024

Parish Councillors present: Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM), Olga Dawer (OD), Sarah Jones (SJ), Pat Sweet (PS)

### Minutes of last meeting

It was noted that Parish Councils in the UK are required to make their meeting minutes available to the public, but they are not specifically required to keep hard copies. According to the Local Government Act 1972, minutes must be available for public inspection at any reasonable time. It was agreed that as the Minutes of our meetings are posted on the *stash.org.uk* website this requirement was met. In order to save paper and ink the minutes would no longer be printed but would still be recorded as correct by the Council at the following meeting.

### Business Plan

The new Stawley Parish Council Plan was presented to the meeting. Discussion on the effect of the plan on future precepts took place. PS pointed out that the Parish Council would continue to budget for churchyard maintenance grants and the grant for maintenance of the Pavilion as this would no longer be coming from Somerset Council. There may also be a need in the future to carry out more works on our local roads and gullies. The Plan will be published on the *stash.org.uk* website.

### Finance

The current bank balance is £3,526.51.

**Savings.** PS had successfully opened a savings account with the Unity Trust Bank that had been recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. The balance in this account is now £10,015.07

PS was thanked for undertaking the task of opening the new savings account.

### Planning

Hedges – the appeal against the decision by Somerset Council to reinstate the hedge removed in Kittisford is outstanding.

### Reports from Members

**Roads** – The suggestion to put a mirror up on the turning at Greenham Barton to enable a safer turn towards Cothay has been investigated and found to be unworkable as the wall is set too far back and the sight line from any mirror would still not give a sight line down the road. The use of a new sign to warn drivers of walkers, cyclists and horse riders would be investigated.

**Footpaths** – A folder with the definitive map of

footpaths in the Parish put together in the 1950s has been discovered and was shown to the meeting. It was decided that the folder should be sent to Somerset Archives for safe keeping.

A new footpath warden is being recruited and hopefully John Melrose will return to our area.

Meeting closed at 7:58pm.

The full minutes can be viewed at <https://stash.org.uk/>

*Paul Musgrove (Chairman)*

## And who is my neighbour?

“Who is my neighbour? Tell me, tell me do!”  
(from a 1960s rock musical “A Man Dies”)

An important question. One which caused the thinking up of a story known as “The Good Samaritan”.

It partly depends on what is meant by *loving* my neighbour. “Love your neighbour as yourself.” You care for yourself? So care for them. Whatever you would like them to do for you, in all sorts of ways, you will do for them if needed. Not that you do it in order to get what you want. That’s manipulation. Not much love in that! Your agenda, not theirs.

So then, who is my neighbour? In order of priority?

The person who lives with you – husband, wife. Your children, at home or wherever they may be.

Those next door and down the road. The people at work, in organisations belonged to, fellow team-mates, drinking partners.

Those who come together and make up the community and the wider society.

The rich, the poor, those in stately homes and the homeless. The highly thought of and the rogues. Our nation and others having different cultures and traditions. A vast list.

Abandon the neighbours, give up on them, see them as a problem, and, ultimately, what do you get?

**Sample example.** Missiles from Lebanon and Palestine into Israel. Massacre in Israel. Bombs on Lebanon and Palestine.

**Result on all sides** – dread, devastation, destruction, death. Whatever love was ever there fades like the sun into a black stormy night.

*Martin Perry*

# Kittisford Christmas Meal

at Kittisford House by kind permission of Perdita and Davide Fraser Taliente

**Open to everyone**  
in aid of St. Nicholas Church, Kittisford  
Friday 13th December at 7.00 pm

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

**Tickets £20**  
*(book early to avoid disappointment)*

## Giant Raffle

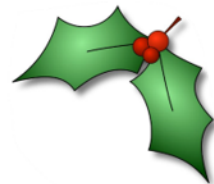
Our tickets include an optional 10% donation which supports the charitable work we do, and also enables us to claim Gift Aid on the full value of your ticket.

Available from Paul Musgrove [musy@cantab.net](mailto:musy@cantab.net) or 01823 672627  
Meadow Farm, Greenham TA210JW

# Carols by Candlelight



**Saturday 14 December 2024**  
**7 pm**



**Mulled Wine and Mince Pies**

**Bathealton Village Hall**  
**TA4 2AN**

**Adults £5**  
**Children £2**

## Apple Day at the Pavilion

We have been so lucky with Apple Day weather until this year! Despite the weather – and ultimately the rain - we had an amazing turnout of apple pickers with everything from small bags to wheelbarrows and crates, full of all manner of cooking or eating apples! It was a test of resilience to have to wait for your turn with the masher and presser. We thank you all for your patience, and may have a think about how to arrange this better in the future.



*A friendly chat while in the queue.*

Thank you so much to the Apple Pressing Team! Gerry and Judy Webb, Paul Musgrove, Phil Broad, Ian Williams and many others who helped out throughout the day. We made about 750 litres of apple juice to be made in to cider, or to freeze, or pasteurised.

The equipment we hire is from Brendon Orchard Cooperative in Wiveliscombe (<https://brendonorchards.co.uk>) and it is worth explaining how our, and other Apple Days enable them to continue providing this service. As a cooperative they have investors to whom they provide information about the yield of apple juice their equipment has helped to produce. For certain quotas of juice a proportionate number of apple trees (and therefore orchards) are being put to good use and preserved by their investment.

Teas, coffees, bangers and mash and apple themed puddings were served between 12 and 2.0 pm by the brilliant kitchen team Kath Rose, Suzette Williams and Charlotte Westcott (and many other helpers!). They produced approximately seventy-seven meals and twenty-seven puddings for which the proceeds towards the Pavilion funds was about £500. Thank you so much to the team, an excellent result. The idea is that Apple Day

should be no cost to the Pavilion and if possible should raise money towards the upkeep of our community building.

If anyone is interested in helping out next year, do please let us know via email [wil-lolive1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wil-lolive1@yahoo.co.uk)



*Off home with the spoils of the day.*

So, another good Apple Day, and a big thank you again to all who braved the weather, cooked the meals and mashed and pressed the apples.

*Rachel Oliver*



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## Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

The club held its annual awards night at Appley Pavilion on 28th September when a very successful season by both the First XI and the Second XI was celebrated.



**The Award Winners** (left to right) Rob Williams - President's Cup; Pete Woodberry - 2nd XI Captain's Player; Leon Westcott - 2nd XI Player's Player and 2nd XI Batting Award; Suzette Williams - 1st XI Captain's (Player); Callum White - 1st XI Bowling Award; Sam Shaikh - 1st XI Player's Player and 1st XI Batting Award; Mike Hill - 2nd XI Bowling Award. *Photo - Callum White*



### Beat Surgery Stawley Village Shop and Tearoom

Tuesday 26th November  
and 6th December

9.00 - 10.00am

with PCSO Brianna Whelan  
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### Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

#### AGM

November 8th at Appley Pavilion at 8.00 pm

### Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on  
**Wednesday 11th December**  
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

## Lunch Club

Our September lunch club was particularly well attended. The speaker was Jeremy Hammett who gave us a stellar talk about what we may look for in the night sky from this locality. Jerry lives in Appley, has built an astonishing telescope in his garden and specialises in photographing what he can see. It was fascinating to hear about just what was possible with our reasonably dark skies, without the need to travel to the Sierra Nevada and other far flung places. The infinity of the stars is simply mind boggling. Thank you Jerry. I hope you will come to our lunch club again.

At our Lunch Club on Thursday 28th November the speaker will be Nick Benge, also a local, this time from Kittisford. He is spear heading a charitable environmental project known as 'Roborough Re-Wilders'. In four years the ten acre site is now supporting five hundred and seventy different species, more than double the original number. Wild life ponds have been created, hedgerows replaced and wild flower meadows created.

If you would like to join us to hear this presentation, please let me know by Monday 25th November. As ever Jackie White will serve us a delicious lunch at 1.00pm.

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

### Advance Notice

Our traditional Christmas lunch is on Thursday 12th December. Limited numbers, so please let me know if you are able to join us.

*Delia Harling*



## Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

**Saturday 16th November**

10.00 - 12.00 noon

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

*Please come and join us - all welcome !*

## A great atmosphere

Bathealton Village Hall was beautifully lit by candlelight on the evening of 5th October when more than thirty people enjoyed the enticing aromas and delicious tastes of our 'Curry by Candlelight' evening. On the menu was chicken korma, lamb bhuna, cauliflower cashew and pea curry, masoor dhal, and roasted aubergine and potato curry (the latter three dishes all being vegan-friendly), accompanied by rice, poppadoms, chutney and raita.

The diners needed little encouragement to come back to the newly refurbished kitchen for second helpings of everything, and they stayed chatting for ages even once the food had all gone.

We were delighted with the excellent turnout, which enabled a generous donation towards the Village Hall – thank you to all the diners.

This was the first in a series of Bathealton suppers by candlelight, and the next (date to be announced) will be an evening of authentic Greek food – you will all be made most welcome.

We will also be having Carols by Candlelight in Bathealton Village Hall on 14th December - see p. 13.

*Simon Monty*

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**1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**6TH & 20TH NOVEMBER**

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## Health giving bacteria

Bacteria are among the oldest life forms and can be found in every habitat on Earth. They live in the soil, underwater and even in the air we breathe. Despite this, they are some of the most overlooked and misunderstood species. Most people associate them entirely with disease, if they think of them at all. While there are virulent bacterial species, most are harmless, many are beneficial and some are essential for life.

Cyanobacteria, the first photosynthesising organisms, are thought to be responsible for the formation of Earth's oxygen rich atmosphere and through that, the formation of the planet's protective ozone layer. Even now, bacteria produce some of the oxygen we breathe. They aid in the decomposition of dead organisms and recycle nutrients which enriches the soil. Our world would be unrecognisable without them.

Bacteria are also involved in intricate beneficial relationships with other life forms. While we consider ourselves to be singular beings, there are ten times more bacterial than human cells in our bodies. We are essentially a small, mobile ecosystem, host to hundreds of different species of bacteria (and fungi) on our skin and within our digestive, respiratory and reproductive tracts. These bacteria help form a shield to exclude harmful microbes, educate our immune system to protect us against pathogens, digest our food and make vitamins. We in turn provide a safe environment for them to live.

Throughout the plant and animal kingdoms, healthy communities of beneficial bacteria protect and support their hosts in multiple ways. This is seen clearly in agriculture: plants grown in healthy soil are colonised by bacteria, promoting strong growth and higher nutrient content in the resulting crops. Meanwhile plants with poor or no associated bacterial communities (often due to poor soil health) exhibited reduced growth, lower nutrient content and required the use of additional chemicals (fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and antibiotics) to help them survive.

Our society's increasing desire for germ free environments and the now common practise of using antibiotics to treat and even prevent bacterial infection in humans, animals and plants is damaging age-old bacterial partnerships. While cleanliness is important and the correct use of antibiotics is lifesaving, we are losing our beneficial bacteria and it is increasingly difficult to regain them naturally from a sterilised environment. Children grown up in over-sanitised environments are failing to develop healthy bacterial communities.

Constant exposure to antibiotic residue in our diets exacerbates this problem, disrupting the

balance of microorganisms. Without our healthy bacterial communities our health and wellness is dwindling. For example, reduction of *Bacteroides fragilis*, which supports the correct functioning of our immune system, may be related to the rise in auto-immune diseases.

Research on the "language" and behaviour of bacteria may provide a solution to the problem of avoiding bacterial illness while maintaining healthy bacterial communities. Bacteria secrete molecules into their environment saying "I am here". Other bacteria receive these signals and when they sense that enough of their species are in an area they perform relevant behaviours. For example, disease-causing bacteria only attack a host when numbers are high enough that they are likely to be successful. Scientists are now able to prevent specific bacteria from detecting enough of that species' "I am here" signal which means they can be in us but never begin disease causing behaviours. Research is still ongoing but this may be an important tool to support healthy microbiomes and prevent disease.

In the meantime, protect your microbes and don't be *too* clean.

*Frazer Higgins and Alesha Naranjit*

### News from the Parish News

#### Donations received from:

Janet Morris

Helen Lock

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*

### Rainfall Statistics (inches) for September

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1.72	3.66	3.66	5.47	5.83

The wettest September since local records began in 2001, it even beat last year's total. For comparison, here are the September totals from the previous five years.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
0.57	2.31	2.20	3.59	2.69	3.59

*Val Coots*

VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB  
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL  
Thursday, November 28th at noon

**ROBOROUGH RE-WILDERS**  
Nick Bengé from Kittisford :

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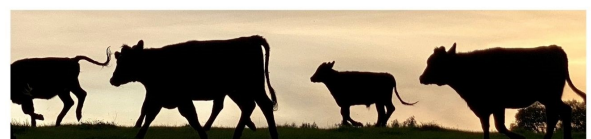


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## Defibrillators and The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

**ASHBRITTLE & STAWLEY:**  
01823 244104  
**BATHEALTON:** 01984 322919  
**KITTISFORD, TRACEBRIDGE &  
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  
or 67261 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 or  
07713 276656

**Bathealton Village Hall**  
– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 01984 624459

### Local Groups

**Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.**  
Becky Allder Pre-schools Manager  
Swallows, Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tues  
Stawley Under Fives 07707 416871 Weds/Thurs/Fri

## PARISH NEWS DETAILS

**The Editors and the next issue deadline date are on the back cover.** Please send items for publication to the Editors in good time to ensure publication. There is only a short time between the deadline and the printing of the Parish News and late items may not be included. We are pleased to receive items in any form (typed, in long hand, or by email). Naturally, we prefer items by email [ashparishnews@gmail.com](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

### *November*

3rd	12.00 pm	Harvest Festival Lunch at Stawley Mill
4th	12 noon - 3.00 pm	Pop-up Café - Bathealton Village Hall
6th and 20th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
12th	7.00 pm	Talk on 'The Roborough Rewilding Project' at Appley Pavilion
16th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
23rd	9.30 - 12 noon	Wiveliscombe Craft Market
23rd	6.30 pm	Film Night in Waterrow Village Hall
28th	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

### *December*

12th	12 noon	Christmas Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall
13th	7.00 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner at Kittisford House
14th	7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight in Bathealton Village Hall

### *February 2025*

14th		Kittisford Pudding Club
28th	7.30 pm	Quiz night at the Appley Pavilion

### *May*

10th		Appley Pavilion 20th Birthday Celebrations
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*An eager queue for the delicious curries, served by (left to right) Adele Broad, Simon Monty and Shelley Ward. (See full report on p. 16) Photo - Maurice Stanbury*

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 22nd November 2024**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**