



Parish news



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

Church Services**Sunday 1st December**9.30 am Holy Communion **STAWLEY****Sunday 8th December**11.15 am BCP Holy Communion **ASHBRITTE****Sunday 15th December**9.30 am Holy Communion **BATHEALTON**
9.30 am Holy Communion **KITTISFORD****Monday 16th December**7.00 pm Carol Service **THORNE ST MARGARET****Friday 20th December**7.00 pm Celebration of Christmas **STAWLEY****Sunday 22nd December**9.30 am Morning Prayer **THORNE ST MARGARET****Tuesday 24th December**4.00 pm **Christmas Eve**
10.00 pm Children's Carol Service **KITTISFORD**
Midnight Mass **BATHEALTON****Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day**9.30 am Holy Communion **THORNE ST MARGARET**
10.00 am Christmas Day Service **ASHBRITTE****Sunday 29th December**9.30 am United Benefice Service of
Holy Communion **GREENHAM****Sunday 5th January**9.30 am Holy Communion **STAWLEY**The full list of Services in the West Tone Benefice for December and January 2025 can be found at www.westtone.org.uk/services or www.achurchnearyou**Churchwardens and Clergy****Ashbrittle with Greenham**

Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LQ 01823 672365

David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbrittle, TA21 0LE 01823 672436

Bathealton Andrew Lyle, Road Hill House, Bathealton, TA4 2AW 01984 629013

Sarah Eustice, Oakwood, Spring Grove, TA4 1NL 01823 401248

Kittisford Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW 01823 672627**Stawley** Penny Hare, Stawley Mill, Wellington, TA21 0HT 01823 672183

Colin Haddrell, Tucks Farm, Stawley, TA21 0HS 07974 804990

Priest-in-Charge

Reverend Andrew Barton, 2 White Oaks, Langford Budville, TA21 0RB

Contacts: Home/Office - Phone 01823 924007 or 07795 699737

Front cover - 'Christmas Silver and Gold at Greenham Church' by Beryl Hooper

Thought for the Month

Looking Forward in Eager Anticipation

I hope your day started this morning with opening a door on your Advent Calendar. As morning rituals go, the daily excitement of what will be behind today's door is not a bad one. Perhaps you even have a calendar with the gift of chocolate inside? Fabulous.

Advent is a wonderful season of anticipation ahead of Christmas. The word Advent means "awaiting the coming of something or someone" and throughout the month of December your parish churches will be celebrating the anticipated arrival of the baby Jesus. We will be counting down the days until the familiar nativity story unfolds on Christmas Day.

Advent can also be understood as "the time when something new begins". In the church we also anticipate the day when all things are made new, when all tears are wiped away, when suffering and death will be no more. Now that really will be fabulous.

Each week, as we count down towards the nativity story, we remind ourselves that the God who was revealed two thousand years ago as a vulnerable baby will one day return and fully reveal the heavenly life which we can enjoy only in part at the present time.

Rather like the presents that you will be gathering under your Christmas tree, which contain promising gifts that for now you can touch but not see fully, life in the church allows us to get a feel of what heaven on earth will be like, whilst not fully comprehending it just yet.

I hope that you can see touches of Heaven in your life, and the lives of those around you. Whether it be the warmth of friendship in a community, the blessing of lives that are flourishing or the healing of past hurts, I hope that life is full of promise for you.

If you would like to join us as we explore the Advent story and celebrate the joy of Christmas then you are most welcome to come to any of our services this December. We are laying on a range of events for young and old, frequent church visitor or first timer. You will find details in this month's parish magazine and also online at achurchnearyou.com and www.weststone.org.uk/services.

Each Sunday we will be lighting Advent candles to mark off the weeks until Christmas. Rather like the doors on Advent Calendars they mark the time passed throughout the month as we draw closer to the Christmas celebrations. The candles represent characters in the Bible story that leads to the birth of Jesus. Amidst the candlelight we will sing familiar Advent carols and let the excitement build.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events, and if not then I hope you have a truly wonderful time wherever you find yourself on Christmas Day.

Best wishes for the season,

Revd Andy Barton

The Home Service Returns!



"The Home Service" is a weekly programme, which has broadcast on 10radio, your local community radio station, for over four years now. It aims to bring Christian worship into people's front rooms, not only for those who can't make it to

their local church for whatever reason or who want to supplement their Sunday worship. It is also there for those who are curious about what worship is like in different churches and want to find out what is going on in the life of our churches in the local area.

Live broadcasts on 105.3FM (and streaming on the internet at 10radio.org) usually take place on Wednesday mornings at 11.00 am and are repeated at 10.00 am on a Sunday morning and consist of a thirty minute act of worship led by a local Christian minister or church/worship leader. In addition, there is an opportunity for news and information about what is happening in our churches to be shared and to listen to local people telling something of their spiritual and life journeys. The programme is also available throughout the week on 10radio's "Listen again" facility at 10Radio.org

"The Home Service" is being relaunched from Wednesday 27th November in anticipation of the Advent season and the lead up to Christmas. Thanks to the support of Tone Deanery Synod and Churches Together in Wellington, posters and leaflets will be available in our churches so do please take some, display and please spread the word. And if you have events, special services or important stories you want others to know about please let us know.

You can contact the programme by emailing revandrew@10radio.org or by leaving a message on 01984 624137

Andrew Norris

Mobile Library

At Greenham Bridge

Next visits: 3rd December and

14th January 2025

Note new time 9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

Creating futures

As a new year approaches we often reflect on the past and set goals for the future. Many resolve to work toward a future in which we, our children and grandchildren (or future generations for those of us without children) have clean air and water, a more stable climate situation and beautiful, wild nature to enjoy. However, research suggests that most people stop pursuing their New Year's resolutions within the first month. We want these things for ourselves and others, we know what needs to be done so why don't we follow through?

We don't for the same reason that it's difficult to exercise, eat well or save money despite a plan to work toward a healthy and financially stable future. We have a natural tendency to place short-term needs and wants ahead of long-term dreams and goals.

How we think

A surprising reason we do this is because we don't actually think of present-us and future-us as the same person. This is clearly illustrated by an experiment in which scientists observed people's brains using fMRI scans. They found that participants used one part of the brain when thinking about their present selves and a second when thinking about a celebrity. They also used this second area of the brain when thinking about their future selves.

Knowing this, we can stop berating ourselves for "being weak" or "not trying harder" and we can "try smarter." The trick is to become emotionally involved with this future-us in these future plans. What future-us feels needs to be as important as what present-us feels. Too often when we consider the future we want for ourselves or others it is an intellectual exercise; a list of things or situations. What we need to do is imagine the details, including, importantly, how we will feel.

Goals of locally clean waterways or increased biodiversity are less motivating than imagining a polluted stream finally clean and full of children laughing and splashing in it the way you did as a child, or the quiet joy of picnicking in the woods with your grandchildren under trees you will plant this year in your field.

Emotions alter our behaviour in a way pure logic does not, they can pull us to the future we imagine for ourselves and for others. Marketing understands this: the most effective advertisements invoke emotional responses that result in the purchase of the product.

So how do we "market" these futures to ourselves in ways that lead to action? One experiment showed that people who were placed in virtual reality and shown an aged reflection of themselves in a mirror contributed more money to an

imaginary savings scheme than those who did not.

The experience lead to a stronger connection and feeling of empathy for their older self. While we might not be able to duplicate this experience, there are online options to age a person's photo. Looking at it can remind you to be kind to this future loved-one through your current actions.

A low-tech option

Or, if you want a low-tech option, you can write a letter to your future-self. This inspires change primarily as you write the letter rather than when you receive it. Choose a time-frame (six months from now, or a year or five) and while you write imagine where future-you might be, what significant events might they have experienced on their path from you to future-you. Doing this clarifies who you want to be at the end of that time-frame, what your life might look like after achieving your goals and how you will feel.

Both the aged photo and the letter writing can also be used to emotionally connect to others, even those far in the future. This is especially useful for goals that focus on large-scale, long-term improvements such as reducing biodiversity loss or ending the climate crisis. Reaching these goals may seem impossible if we view them in the frame of our lifetime and we may abandon them in despair. But these are trans-generational goals. Think of it as being part of a relay race taking the baton our parents handed us and carrying it to the generation to come. And in this time of big transitions what we do with the baton may matter much more than we think.

Even so, we don't need to take big actions for them to be meaningful. Whenever we act in alignment with the futures we want to see we are modelling a way of being in the world: the type of companies we purchase from, the food we eat, the way we treat people, how we value nature. These values and habits can pass to those around us (especially children) affecting the relationships they have with themselves, others, nature as a whole and bring about the type of future we desire.

Alesha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins

Now there is a meaningful New Year's Resolution for us all to make - Eds.

Stawley Parish Council

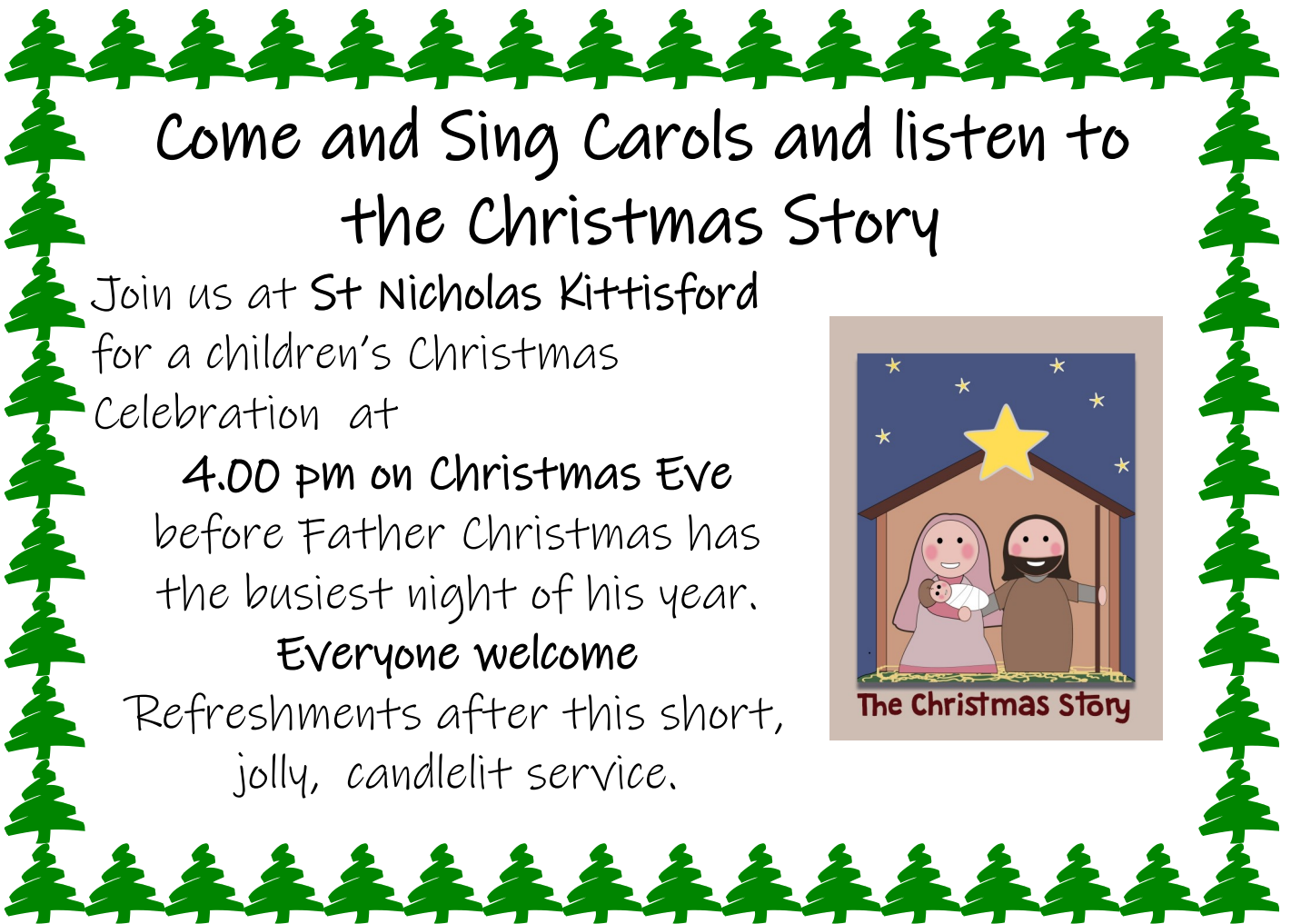
The Council will be holding a meeting on the 10th December at 7:30pm in Appley Pavilion. The meeting is open to all parishioners who wish to attend.

A Celebration Of Christmas

Stawley Church
Friday 20th December
7.00 pm



All are welcome to join the Village Festival Choir, led by John Young, in singing some favourite Christmas carols and sharing readings to celebrate Christmas and the arrival of winter.



Come and Sing Carols and listen to the Christmas Story

Join us at St Nicholas Kittisford
for a children's Christmas
Celebration at

4.00 pm on Christmas Eve
before Father Christmas has
the busiest night of his year.

Everyone welcome

Refreshments after this short,
jolly, candlelit service.



Quaker Meeting for Worship

Spiceland Quaker Meeting Uffculme
EX15 3AZ

*We Meet for Worship at Spiceland
every Sunday at 10.30am till 11.30am
also available on Zoom -
Meeting ID:865 5570 2735 Passcode:
498173*

All are very welcome.

Hoped For Peace

Who can hope for peace?

Amongst the carnage and strife that will
not cease

Who can dance to the tune of hope?

When faced with ignorance and pride's near
vertical slope

Sit then, or stand, static and mute

Before the never-ending trail of humanity's
dispute

Yet listen, wait still, strain the ear of your heart
To hear the beat, the pulse that makes you a part
You, yes, you, loved and cherished, the beloved
Not condemned to hate, acquiescent to slaughter,
but moved

Inspired to hope, radiant with light received
Living, whole, active, so that peace may be
conceived

Bring to life then that fragile newborn hope
And in so doing reach beyond the
impossible slope

To dance the dance of hoped for peace
Reconciled in hope eternal that will never cease.

Tony Lane (October 2024)

Friends at Spiceland wish you
a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Hopeful, New Year.



Beat Surgery

Stawley Village Shop
and
Tearoom

Tuesday 6th December
9.00 - 10.00am

with PCSO Brianna Whelan
Tel 07761 405460 or email:
brianna.whelan@avonandsomerset.police.uk



A date for your new diary

The Kittisford Pudding Club
will meet this year at Springers, Kittisford
on
Friday 14th February at 7.00 pm

After a main course, all participants will have
the chance to sample and mark a selection of
puddings produced by our very talented
Kittisford folk

*Tickets costing £15 (including the first glass of
wine) are available from:
Penny 01823 672216 or email
pennystanbury@btinternet.com*

Limited tickets so book early.



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.

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

2nd December

Menu: Home-made: Venison Pie or Cheese and
Onion Pie with Potatoes and seasonal veg
Home-made Mince Tarts with cinnamon
cream

6th January 2025

Menu: Home-made Rustic Soup with
crusty bread.
Home-made Apple Pie with Custard

Unlimited fresh coffee and a selection of teas

We will serve food from 12 noon till 2pm

All for £8.00 with a percentage going to the
village hall fund.

**Please call or text Adele: on 07355 810132
or just drop in**

Stawley Community Village Shop & Tea Room



Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 12.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am

Christmas opening hours: 24th December 8.00am until 2.00pm
25th and 26th December closed
31st December 8.00am until 2.00pm
1st January closed

The Post Office is here every Thursday 11.30am to 1.30pm
Contact: 01823 674361 or email shop@stawleyshop.com

Thinking of Christmas, there are a variety of wines and spirits and cooking ingredients that you might need for those Christmas recipes. As always there is a good range of products and those essentials that you may have run out of.

In the tearoom we will be trying out some of Wittle Slices' Christmas cakes and tray bakes including chocolate orange tiffin. Please do come and try one with your cup of coffee or pot of tea.

We have a new Facebook page where we are posting special offers and items that we have for sale in the shop. If you are a Facebook user please do "follow" us or "like" or "share"; search for Stawley Shop.

December sees Stawley Village Shop and Tearoom become a fully fledged community run enterprise. Many thanks to all of you who have made this possible. We are now in the fourth quarter of our £10,000 target start-up funding, almost there! We will be making the final push to achieve our target funding, if you can help please kindly make your donation now.

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

Thank you also to those many individuals, some of whom anonymously, have very generously donated to date. It is greatly appreciated and puts the 'Community Shop' on a firm footing to serve our community into the future.

**We would like to thank all our volunteers and customers for their support
and wish you all a Merry Christmas.**

Remembrance Service

On a suitably overcast Sunday morning some forty five hardy souls gathered in the church of St John the Baptist, Ashbrittle for the annual Service of Remembrance. The officiant was our Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Andy Barton CF (Chaplain to the Forces).

Despite the sombre occasion the decorations in the church were stunning and yet completely appropriate; poppies everywhere wreathed with other flowers and foliage. Thanks also to the folk who made the church so "spick and span"! We were greeted by impressive and splendid half muffled ringing by the bell-ringing team.

Despite the writer making his usual muddle which necessitated a dash for hymn books from St Peter's Greenham and almost forgetting to light the altar candles, all was set for the 10.45 start. He was much relieved to see Gail, our organist, whose playing of the organ throughout the service was faultless. Thank you Gail!

A poignant moment

The sun even peeped through briefly as the service started. We were very pleased to host Mrs Penelope Chandler (nee Quicke) who, during the first hymn, laid a wreath in memory of her Great Great Uncle, Major Francis Churchill Quicke, who was killed in the Boer War. She placed this below his memorial in the chancel on a small marble shelf. This was erected by his father the Reverend Charles Penrose Quicke (Rector of Ashbrittle and Greenham 1863 to 1911) to allow the original temporary wooden cross placed on his son's grave in South Africa to be placed thereon; it sadly disappeared at some stage. This was a significant, and emotional, moment in the service.

The Last Post, two minutes silence, laying of wreaths, and Reveille were held at the village cross immediately outside the church porch. Thanks to Brigadier (Ret'd) Jeremy Robbins; Captain (Ret'd) James Luard RN; Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Paul Musgrove; Majors (Ret'd) Gerry and Judy Webb for their roles in this.

The "Ashbrittle Guild of Clock-winders" did a terrific job in getting the church clock to be right to the second!!

We then retired into the church for the rest of the service. Lessons were read from the King James version of the Bible being from the Book of Psalms and Revelation.

Special thanks to my wife Susan, Colonel US Air Force (Ret'd), for arranging the extensive food and drinks after the service.

Charles Doble, Churchwarden

STAWLEY MILL

JOIN US FOR

BOOKS & BISCUITS

COFFEE & CAKE



4TH & 18TH DECEMBER

8TH & 22ND JANUARY

10AM—12.30PM

IN AID OF CHURCH RESTORATION FUND



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!

Based in Kittisford, get in touch today for a free consultation and a friendly, reliable service you can trust.

Call: 07380 526 565

www.charlieshandymanservice.com

His Majesty's Bark Endeavour

'There is simply nothing quite as much fun as messing about in boats.'

What do daughters give their father for his fiftieth birthday? Nelly, my sixteen year old and youngest, advised me that I must 'realise my limitations'; Antonia, coming towards the end of her gap year in Australia decided to test them, and booked us both on board HMB Endeavour as crew. Could we survive six days in close proximity, without Mum to referee?

If you haven't visited the Australian Maritime Museum in Sydney's Darling Harbour, you should. One of the exhibits is a faithful replica of HMB Endeavour, built to detailed specifications held by the Admiralty. Originally a 1750 Whitby collier, she was bought by the Royal Navy and modified before sailing in 1768 under the command of Lieutenant Cook with secret instructions 'to make discovery of the Continent in the latitude forty Degrees'. For two months of the year the replica of HMB Endeavour sails from Sydney as a mobile museum, manned by a small professional crew, and a volunteer crew who man the three watches on board. Whilst she has modern navigation, galley, heads and an engine, in all other respects she is equipped, rigged, sailed and handled as an C18 ship, and apart from safety harnesses when up the rigging, is as close to the experience of the times of James Cook as is possible.

The beginning of the adventure

Antonia and I embarked at Coffs Harbour as crew (there are four berths for supernumerary 'Gentlemen' – but this neither applied to Antonia and me, nor allow the full experience). The first day was spent in safety and ship acquaint, including how to put up and stow hammocks, and a first climb up the rigging, all whilst at anchor but in a heavy swell, with a motion that was almost more uncomfortable than being at sea. We set sail the next morning in a brisk 25-30 knots of wind and with a two metre swell. The crew was at this stage much reduced, many seen on the decks clutching 'happy buckets'. But within twenty four hours nearly all found their sea legs and appetites from a galley which produced much appreciated gargantuan meals – no bully beef and weevil biscuits here.

Organised in three watches (foremast, mainmast (us, the Pirates) and mizzen mast), each watch had two permanent crew, a topman and upper yardie and ten volunteer crew. The routine was four hours on, eight hours off, but in that eight hours had to be included all sleeping, eating, and daily ships chores. No watch was ever dull, and

the watch rotated through manning the wheel, to fore and aft lookouts, to conducting rounds of the ship, and being on hand to change course and trim the sails and cleaning ship. One of our watch was a bush poet, and if it was ever quiet, we were regaled with Banjo Paterson poems, the Pam Ayers of the bush?

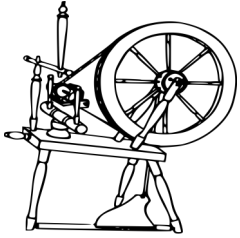
Rigged entirely with hemp and tar ropes, and with no winches, crew muscle power (and block and tackle) set and take in the sails. The basic rig consists of seventeen sails, and some one hundred and fifty running lines (including braces, brails, buntlines, clewlines, downhaul, halyards, sheets and tack), none colour coded or labelled! And if there was a major change of course, or change of sails, then it was two or all three watches on deck, so in the end we averaged about four hours sleep a day. Hammocks were virtually touching, and I can truly say that I have never heard snoring of such stentorian ferocity!

Unforgettable sights

This was an unforgettable trip; Coffs Harbour to Port McQuarie is only seventy miles as the crow flies, but we sailed nearly five hundred miles into the Tasman Sea, towards New Zealand. We saw albatross, minke whales and dolphins; we sailed through a huge magnetic storm at night – pitch dark on deck, punctuated with brilliant sheet and fork lightning; the night sky is always sparkling clear when away from city lights, and four hours on watch guaranteed shooting stars and the enormity of the Milky Way; when the Moon rose, ship, sails and sea were illuminated in a blue/black light, and the bow pushed out a phosphorescent wake; we swam when sixty miles out to sea in four thousand metres of water, with the ship hove to under sail; Antonia won the longest potato peel from a single potato competition; and we gained an inkling of an idea of what it must have been like for Lt James Cook and the crew who set sail, circumnavigated the globe, and charted the East coast of Australia, with soundings that still appear on some Admiralty charts today.

In early July 08 we had sailed in a Sydney-Hobart competition in the Whitsundays, anchoring in isolated inlets with turtles, sailing in the company of migrating humpback whales, and snorkelling on Island fringe coral (more colourful and diverse to our minds than diving out on the Barrier Reef proper). But the sailing memory that will remain with Antonia and I will be of HMB Endeavour, and the upper yardie calling 'hauling in on the downhaul, clewlines, lifts and buntlines, letting the bowlines, tack and clew run and squaring the braces, Mainmast watch two, six .. heave; two, six ... heave'.

Jeremy Robbins



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: 3rd and 17th December
7th and 21st January
at 2.30pm

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

A Hat Trick at Stawley!

We like to have celebrations at Stawley Church, and thanks to the superb leadership of John Young and Gail Britton, together with the efforts of the Church and community, we held a well-attended **Celebration of Autumn** in mid-October. Having been welcomed by the bells the packed church was treated to a marvelous selection of seasonal music from the choir, which was both traditional and modern. It was interspersed with a variety of autumnal readings, of both poetry and prose.

We feel that if you've done some singing at Stawley Church then you'll be in need of some refreshment afterwards. It was provided, and much appreciated.

On Thursday 24th October, a good number of people gathered, by kind invitation of Martin and Sue Jacoby, at Church Cottage for our **Autumn Coffee Morning**. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of so many of you, an impressive display of products was available to purchase, which included homemade cakes, chutney and marmalade. There were also good books, and lots of items of interest.

The large selection of quality raffle prizes ensured a continuous flow of ticket sales. The event raised an amazing total of £436, which will be put towards maintaining the church building, and making our contribution towards the running costs of the diocese.

A successful harvest has been vital to the survival of not just country people, but the population as a whole for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. If the harvest failed, starvation loomed. So, it's not surprising that a **Harvest Festival** is such a meaningful celebration for all of us who live in a rural area and can closely observe the changing of the seasons, and their effect on the land.

We were delighted to see so many 'thankful people come, and raise the song of harvest home' at our Church. Our thanks to the bells ringers who set the scene and to Penny Hare and her team for preparing a wonderful Harvest Lunch at Stawley Mill after the service. A good time was had by all.



Penny Hare (left) and Sue Jacoby are 'ready to serve'

And we're not finished yet! Please see our advert in this Parish News for our Celebration of Christmas on 20th December. We look forward to see you all soon.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas from everyone at Stawley Church.

Colin Haddrell

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for October

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
6.45	6.06	4.88	5.79	5.79

Exactly the same amount of rain as in October 2023.

Val Coots



Waterrow Village Hall



Quiz Night

Friday February the 7th 2025 6.30 pm

Waterrow Village Hall, Waterrow - TA4 2AX

Quiz Teams - maximum of 6

The meal is Chilli, jacket potato and salad with vegetarian option available. Followed as always by the excellent homemade dessert selections. Meal will be served at 6.30 pm. Please bring your own drinks.



To reserve your table please either email Liz using liz@kilbride.org.uk with your name and team size or you can phone her on 01984 623431

Priced at only £10.00 for adults £5.00 under 12s

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Rough Ramble for Rossholme

Yes, they've done it again! Thank you so much to Kitty Hollingsworth, from Thorne St Margaret, and her nephew Christian who, for the third successive year, initiated the rough ramble.

It was a misty, moisty morning on Dartmoor on Saturday 2nd November, when Kitty and Christian set off at 6.00 am to walk twenty-six miles across the moor. At this stage, they were accompanied by Kitty's brother, Tim and his other son, Robin. As the day progressed, a further fourteen intrepid walkers from this area, disappeared into the mist to trek distances across the moor from two to fifteen miles.

Every walker was sponsored or had contributed to the Rossholme School in Kenya fund. The collecting tin was well rattled in the tea shop where we gathered in the morning and later in the pub, in the village of Holne where we were all warmly welcomed.



It was in 2022 when Kitty first demonstrated her support for Rossholme by walking a marathon; last year, she was joined for the first time by her nephew, Christian Edbrooke, so this year, her third marathon trek across Dartmoor, numerous others were invited to join in. Rossholme is very grateful to her for raising significant amounts and, as she and Christian actually completed over twenty seven miles this year, we called Joyce Aruga in Nairobi who was delighted to be able to thank them personally over the phone.

Most people in this community are aware of Rossholme and contribute in various different ways, including our collecting tins in the Stawley Village Shop and The Globe pub in Appley.

This happy get together on Dartmoor proved to be such a fun day for the participants and supporters – and several dogs as well – we hope it will become an annual fund-raising event. The total raised so far is over £1760 and further donations are still coming in...thank you so much, Kitty, for initiating it!

Judy Webb

The Parish News

Many thanks to all our contributors and advertisers who have helped create another year of the 'Parish News', and of course, those of you who have so generously donated to the fund.

We have been delighted to carry advertisements and reports for the many events held in our parishes during the year. Another very busy year with lots going on.

Local talent

We have also been able to feature some superb paintings and photographs on the front cover of the magazine - a real demonstration of local talent. Keep them coming please!

Also, many thanks also to our willing band of helpers, led by Pat and David Sweet, who have distributed the magazine directly and promptly to each and every household each month.

The distribution team:

Ashbrittle Andrew and Liz Burt, Gail Britton, Pip Wilson.

Bathealton Morag Berthon, Fiona McVicar, the Bunn family, Sara Bloxham, Fiona Holmes, Jo Forrester, Michael Tarr and Janet Sharland.

Greenham Lin Colebrook.

Kittisford Penny Stanbury; John and Christine Brinkman.

Stawley Pat Sweet, Mike Parkinson and the Village Shop.

Wiveliscombe and Wellington Sue Webber; Martin and Sally Perry

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

The magazine is also available on the Stawley website www.stash.org.uk

Finally, we would like to say a special thank you to Mattt Venn of Sharper Print who has always been most helpful and has provided us with a first class service.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Avril Silk, Maurice Stanbury
and Andrew Millard*

— THE —
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

A warm welcome awaits you at
The Globe Inn this Winter

Sit back, relax and let us take care of the cooking this festive season and enjoy our special set Christmas menu, available from 30th November - 24th December (pre-booking essential).
2 courses for £24 or 3 courses for £30

Cosy up in front of our roaring fires and enjoy our weekly-changing selection of seasonal guest ales, along with delicious home-reared Appley pork and beef and locally sourced meats from Tim Potter.

POP-UP CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER 12-5PM

GRAB A LAST MINUTE GIFT OR BARGAIN STOCKING FILLER AT THE GLOBE INN'S MINI FESTIVE CRAFT FAIR.

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CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Monday 23rd Dec 5pm - 11pm
Christmas Eve 4pm - 11pm
Christmas Day 12 noon - 2pm (drinks only)

Boxing Day Closed

Friday 27th Dec - Saturday 28th Dec 12 noon - 11pm
Sunday 29th Dec 12 noon - 4pm

Monday 30th December Closed

New Year's Eve 4pm til late (drinks only, complimentary nibbles)

Monday 1st Jan - Tuesday 14th Jan Closed

Open as usual from Wednesday 15th Jan 12 noon - 11pm

Food

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

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Visit our Facebook
page to see our full
Christmas menu.

Hesperantha coccinea, the crimson River Lily



When considering what to write about each month, I usually look out at my own garden for inspiration and this time was no exception. And I saw the glowing scarlet flowers of *Hesperantha coccinea* 'Major' winking back at me from the now slightly bedraggled remnants of my border.

Somehow, those silken-red and occasionally pink or white, open wide Crocus-like blooms on their long, wiry stems never fail to put a smile on my face.

This beautiful, graceful member of the Iris tribe (*Iridaceae*) was formerly known as *Schizostylis coccinea* and also by the now outdated common name of Kaffir Lily. One of around eighty species it is native to South Africa and Zimbabwe and is found (as its newer common name suggests) alongside riverbanks and in moist valley soils, spreading by underground rhizomes often forming large colonies.

In the garden, the flowers start to appear in late summer and can go on till Christmas if the weather stays mild, rising up from dense patches of slender, spear shaped, grass-like leaves. Their spreading rhizomes can sometimes almost verge on becoming invasive if they like you and they do well in clay soils. They do need fairly regular division and replanting to get the best out of them, flower-wise, and will certainly benefit from a mulch of organic matter.

Tough and hardy

Despite their southern hemisphere origins, *Hesperantha* appear remarkably tough and hardy, certainly in the south; they are almost evergreen but can get a bit straggly - don't be afraid to tidy the old, dying leaves by cutting back in late winter. It also has the very handy trait that (a bit like Alliums) the flowers stand up on long wiry stems and the foliage is often hidden by other planting and they can just be allowed to ramble through a mixed border.

When we bought our house there were many red and pink forms in profusion growing higgledy-piggledy amongst the docks and nettles; I assumed at least some would withstand the rather major building and landscaping works or that I would get around to salvaging some along with the numerous other plants to be saved. But as I watched the mini-digger start levelling I realized

with horror that most of the remaining plants were going under the bucket so I rushed round and collected what seed heads I could. I sowed the seed in trays of gritty compost, just covering them with a grit and perlite mix. They germinated in profusion in the following Spring and were left until later in the summer to prick out into 9 cm pots. And as it happened, regardless of the seeming scorched earth policy of the landscaping, up popped many of the original plants and also, amazingly, they appeared in many other spots too!

My seedlings have turned out to be mostly red but with some salmon-pinks plus a variation in height and seeming vigour - the parents were probably originally named cultivars of which the best listed for sale these days include old fashioned as well as modern selections including:

***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Major'**: a larger, more open flowered form of the standard red coccinea, a good robust form and an excellent 'do-er'.

***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Sunrise'**: a lovely salmon-pink form, sturdy and vigorous.

***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Alba'**: the standard, old fashioned white form with glowing, pure white flowers, slightly less vigorous and perhaps a little more shy to flower than the red and pink forms but still a choice plant.

***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Snow maiden'**: a more recent introduction, pale pink in the bud fading to white as the flowers mature.

***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Pink Princess'**: Pale pink flowers held on graceful wiry stems, robust and of medium vigour.

***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Jennifer'**: an exceptionally large flowered form, pale pink in colour and very robust but needs regular division to keep flowering prolifically.

John and Julie Ridgley

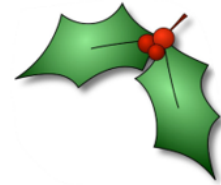
Artists Wanted!

Do you have a painting or photograph which could be used as a cover design for the Parish News? Seasonal and local images are particularly welcome. Please send hi-res images (300dpi) to Avril at AvrilSilk@aol.com Portrait format is ideal if possible.

Carols by Candlelight



Saturday 14 December 2024
7 pm



Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

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Adults £5
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Time: 11 am - 3 pm

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Deer.... at Christmas.

I can't believe it's December already. It never ceases to amaze me how fast this time of year approaches. I shan't complain as this time of the year is by far my favourite.

I had intentions of writing interesting (as far as I am concerned!) articles on deer and their habits throughout the year but the months drift past and before you know it the festive season is upon us. In keeping, therefore, with festive themes I hope you find the following trivia illuminating. It is trivia though; to be treated gently and not as unshakeable fact...

The word 'deer' has interesting beginnings. The Old English word *dēor* referred to wild meat. Many Germanic languages also have similar sounding/spelling versions of this. In much the same way the word venison (derived from the Latin word *venari* – to hunt) also refers to wild meats specifically from deer, boar, hares and so on. These days I and most others use the term venison when referring to meat from the deer family.

A long standing source of food

Venison (deer meat) has been eaten for many centuries (since pre Ice age by most accounts). Fast forward 10,000 years and the Saxon lords would take their friends hunting as would the Normans. That uber famous Norman, William the Conqueror, was well known for taking over and creating hunting estates (once he'd dealt with Harold and his cronies). These estates or forests were large expanses of land where he and his chums could hunt deer and other prey. The New Forest being one of his more modern creations. The native deer within these forests – red and roe deer – were clearly not enough so fallow deer were re-introduced to the UK.

These hunting places were often later referred to as Chases (chase being derived from the old French work *chacier* – to hunt). As an aside, it's interesting how many place names have the word 'chase' in the title. Cranbourne Chase being a relatively local one.

Later on the forest or hunting park was enclosed by a fence called a pale. Actually, around this time many fortified places were also enclosed by fences called pales but discussing the etymology of fortress terminology is beyond the scope of this article. Back to hunting grounds - everything outside the fence was subsequently 'beyond the pale'.

So once the animal was caught and dealt with the meat would be served to the notable folk – the lords and their pals. The lesser humans, servants and the like, would be allowed the scraps from the table. These scraps and offal were

known as the 'umbles'. They were often gathered together and made into a pie: hence 'umple pie'.

Anyway, a lot of venison was eaten at Christmas. For many European countries the historic meat of choice at Christmas was venison, deer in particular. Actually, prior to the introduction of turkey, over the last 100 years or so, the main Christmas meats in the UK for those that could afford it were beef, venison (deer) and goose.

Changing tack and moving away from actually eating deer, it's worth considering that one of the most famous of all named animals in history, particularly during the festive season, is a deer. Rudolph has been pulling the Christmas sled since 1939. Not quite sure when he enlisted all the others – Prancer, Dancer, Donner and Blitzen *et al*, but Rudolph and his red, red nose is a staple character in our Christmas heritage.

Actually before Rudolph was named, Santa Claus has had reindeer pulling his sled since 1821, according to an anonymous poem published in New York.

If we delve further back into history, many of the Christian traditions of the Christmas festive period borrow heavily from older pagan rituals. For example, one of the Norse traditions has Thor having his hunting chariot pulled by goats that magically turn into reindeer (the Norse term 'reindeer' allegedly meaning horned animal). In fact, many Eastern European, North American and Scandinavian 'pagan' mid-winter traditions feature celebrations involving reindeer.

Coming back to the present, one only has to go into any book shop and see how many Christmas cards have deer on the front of them. Even in the UK we have a reindeer herd in the Cairngorms, although I've not seen these yet.

Anyway, I hope you found the article light hearted and interesting. Comments gratefully received although there won't be any prize offered for naming all the reindeer pulling St Nick's sled...

Have a lovely and restful Christmas.

Anthony Weeks

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ADVANCE NOTICE

January Lunch Club

Ashbottle Village Hall

Thursday 30th January 12:00

'Having a lovely time - wish you were here.'

Ken Atherton relates the mostly amusing, although sometimes sad, hand written contents of postcards sent from Blackpool since the beginning of the 20th century.



Coffee, Cake
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Saturday 8th February

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Bathealton Village Hall

Nibbles and Prizes

Gardening Group

A small group of members visited Sanders Blue Diamond Garden centre earlier this month, kindly arranged by Pat Gainey. It appears that it was already in the Christmas mood. Singing reindeer?

This is what Pat said about the trip:

'Four of us so we went in one car, which was good fun on the journey. We managed to get some Christmas shopping done despite the singing reindeer and the Christmas music in every department. We had a very nice lunch, a bit more shopping, then an enjoyable journey home'.

I get the impression that a visit without the music would have been good!

Freda Parkinson

Pre...

Pre... Just a little prefix. But, in its way, it packs a punch. It's about all that should happen before a main event. Without a "pre" happening, then many things wouldn't take place; or, if they did, how they are experienced could be very, very, different.

As you read this, we are in the pre-Christmas season in which we pre-prepare for the festivities. If we don't pre-prepare, then the pre-dilection of family and guests for turkey, Christmas pudding, presents and mince pies will go unsatisfied.

When I came to think of it, this little prefix, so small and seemingly quite insignificant, is rather like an old chest. There it sits, usually ignored, rather dull and battered in appearance. But, open it up. Out fall great treasures of all sorts, beautiful to look at, valuable in meaning and worth. Life takes off in a new unimagined way.

Pre stands for fore-knowledge, and so guides any planning and preparation. We know those whom we will see, their tastes and preferences. We are aware of what will please or annoy, and so what will make an occasion a success or failure. If you fail to remember – or just ignore – that cousin Hettie is a committed vegetarian, then she will have turkey and bacon on her plate, and you, egg on your face! Pre-planning and pre-knowledge! Problems avoided! Or at least, catered for!

But this *pre* thing operates at every level and in all sorts of ways. When our Creator anticipated beings on a planet with a minds of their own, he could have done things differently. By allowing different ingredients in our world's larder, he could have pre-determined our likes and choices. Example: programme us to have no need or taste for alcohol and no resources to pro-

duce it. Therefore, no pubs, no champagne for celebrations, and no drink-driving etc.

But part of his pre-paring was to make possible – knowing how we would get things horribly wrong – for his Presence to move among us as one of us. That is Jesus, of course. Everything was pre-paring, with our involvement, for his arrival, life and achievements. In doing so, he was also pre-paring us to receive him into our hearts, our hopes and our benefits.

That is what Christmas is all about. What we prepare for ... pre-ceding Jesus coming to us in our here and now.

Happy Christmas.

Martin Perry

Lunch Club

In October our lunch club speaker was local resident Alec Medleycott who gave us a fascinating talk about his time in the seventies in lawless Angola, prospecting for diamonds. I hope there will be a follow up talk in due course...

Our Christmas lunch club will be on Thursday 12th December at 12.00 noon. In addition to all the usual Christmas extras our speaker will be Antony Weeks whose subject will once again be deer, both local and further away. He assures me that he will be bearing in mind the upcoming festivities and giving us a Christmas flavour. Maybe he can once and for all tell me how reindeers fly, given their enormous antlers.

If you would like to be included please let me know as soon as possible. Numbers will be limited as no one enjoys being too tightly packed in the hall.

After Christmas the next lunch club will be on Thursday 30th January, The speaker will be Ken Atherton and his subject will be 'Having a lovely time wish you were here'. It concerns the mostly amusing, although sometimes sad, hand written contents of postcards sent from Blackpool since the beginning of the 20th century.

My contact details for booking are: email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Delia Harling

News from the Parish News

Donations received from:

Paul Leyland

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

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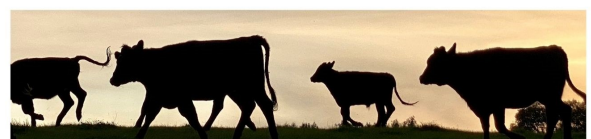


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Defibrillators and The Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

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

Parish Councils

Ashbrittle - Chairman Charles Doble 01823 672365 or 672618 Email: charles@greenandcarter.com

Bathealton - Chairman Philip Broad 07584 657106
Email: philip.broad1@outlook.com

Stawley - Chairman Paul Musgrove 01823 672627
Email: stawleypc@stash.org.uk

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field
– to book, ring Suzette Williams on 01823 672266
or email: 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 when they should be in Microsoft 'Word' format, as this saves a great deal of typing!

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

Editors: Maurice Stanbury 01823 672216 and Avril Silk 01823 672131

e-mail address: ashparishnews@gmail.com

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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December

2nd	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Pop-up Café - Bathealton Village Hall
4th and 18th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
12th	12 noon	Christmas Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall
13th	7.00 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner at Kittisford House
14th	9.30 - 12 noon	Wiveliscombe Craft Market
14th	7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight in Bathealton Village Hall
21st	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall

January 2025

6th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Pop-up Café - Bathealton Village Hall
8th and 22nd	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
18th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
30th	12 noon	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

February

7th	6.30 pm	Quiz night in Waterrow Village Hall
8th	7.00 pm	'Bathealton's Brilliant Quiz Night' at the Village Hall
14th	7.00 pm	Kittisford Pudding Club at Springers, Kittisford
28th	7.30 pm	Quiz night at the Appley Pavilion

May

10th		Appley Pavilion 20th Birthday Celebrations
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'Furl the mainsail' - see p 9.

Next Deadline Date: Friday 17th January 2025

Editors: Maurice and Avril