



Parish news

April 2025

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

Church Services

Sun 30th March	Mothering Sunday	
9.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	St. Peter's, Greenham
11.00am	Mother's Day Celebration	All Saints, Rockwell Green
Sun 6th April		
9.30am	Holy Communion Service	St. Michael's, Stawley
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
11.15am	BCP Communion Service	St. John the Baptist, Ashbrittle
Sun 13th April	Palm Sunday	
9.30am	Holy Communion Service	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
Thu 17th April	Maundy Thursday	
7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	All Saints Rockwell Green
Fri 18th April	Good Friday	
10.00am	Walk of Witness	Wellington Baptist Church
2.00pm	Good Friday Reflections	Thorne St. Margaret
2.00pm	Stations of the Cross	All Saints, Rockwell Green
Sun 20th April	Easter Sunday	
6.00am	Sunrise Service	Yeancott Farm Bathealton
		RSVP to 07795 699737
9.30am	Holy Communion	Thorne St. Margaret and
		St. Michael's, Stawley
11.15am	Holy Communion	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
Sun 27th April		
9.30am	Holy Communion Service	St. Bartholomew's, Bathealton
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green

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 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

Email revdbarton@gmail.com

Front cover - "Spring is in the air" - photograph taken at Sunnyside Farm, Ashbrittle
 by Maurice Stanbury.

Thought for the Month

New Life

Easter is almost upon us, and the supermarket shelves are full of chocolate eggs. I wonder what your favourite is. I'm less concerned about the shape (traditional egg versus contemporary superhero) and instead interested in two other things. Is it dark chocolate (my favourite) and does it have a bonus, like some chocolate buttons hidden inside. Happy days. A late Easter this year has meant an extra-long wait since Christmas, so I hope you can really enjoy the celebrations when they come.

Your churches will be holding a number of events both in the run up to Easter and on the big day itself. There are two options for you on Mothering Sunday and reflective services on Good Friday.

Easter Day starts early and on a farm at Bathealton for those who would like a sunrise service followed by bacon butties, or you can visit one of the churches later in the morning.

You are most welcome at any of these - see details on the opposite page.

The Easter celebration

Why do we celebrate Easter? Whether you are a person of faith or not, I suspect you love this time of year when the days get longer, the temperature warmer and the countryside bursts alive once again. After the darker colder months there is new life all around us and new hope in the air. Your churches will be celebrating the story of a new life seen in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. An incredible tale that revealed two things, just how much we are all loved by God, and that there is nothing now that can hold life back.

During difficult times in life this may seem ridiculous, out of touch or hard to accept. The truth however is that hope does not stem from our circumstances, but from God's love. It is possible to experience peace amidst the storms of life and light in a dark season. God is in the transformation business and works with our imperfections, our brokenness and our lack to produce beautiful abundant new life.

This is the story we shall be celebrating on Easter Day. This is the story that we see unfolding right here in the local area with new initiatives coming to life, in our countryside, in the schools and in the pub.

We thank God for these and we invite you to join us on the journey. Happy Easter, when it comes, we hope to see you around.

A new opportunity

Do you like stories? Would you like to support our local primary school children? *Open The*

Book is a fun and interactive way of sharing Bible stories with young people

In addition to people acting out the stories and passing them onto the next generation, we will need others to make props and costumes. You are welcome to attend the meeting to see if this is something you could help with.

The idea was born out of feedback received from families who visited the local churches at Christmas. We were asked to provide opportunities for children and young people to engage with church life in ways that worked for them.

Please take a look at the *Open The Book "Find Out More"* below and let us know if you are thinking of coming along. We'd love to hear from local people who simply wish to express an interest.

This enjoyable and interactive approach to telling Bible stories has proved popular and successful in many communities. Perhaps you could be a part of a friendly team who wish to '*Open The Book*' here?

Revd Andy Barton



Open the Book

We are looking for Storytellers to go into our local Primary Schools to share Bible stories with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. As invited guests in school, our storytelling team will use **Open the Book** to prepare and present a ten to fifteen minute Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible.

Not a storyteller but would like to be involved? We are looking for people who can make props and costumes, and make the tea to support this new group.

Like to find out more?

You are invited to our "**Find out More**" meeting at Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA210JW on **Tuesday 24th April at 6.00 pm** when we will have a chance to try out **Open the Book**.

Text me, Annie Musgrove, on 07530 310795 or email: amusgrove@cantab.net

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/>

News From Stawley School

This year seems to be flying past quickly once again. The spring term is always a busy one with lots to squeeze into a short amount of time.

Children have been finding out about: Ancient Greece, the weather, light and reflections, painting portraits, electrical models, making pots, writing diaries, descriptions, stories, cooking cakes, baking pizzas, and learning samba rhythms to name but a few!



As well as all this, children have been dressing up as book characters, doing sponsored walks, trips to Bristol and a residential trip to Kilve – no wonder everyone's a bit tired!

The sports teams have also been busy this term with children taking part in a rugby festival and several netball tournaments.

The new build

The main talk around school this term has been about the new school building and when will the building start. I'm really pleased to say that a contractor has now been appointed and building is due to start over the Easter holidays.

This is a really exciting project for both the school and the local community and we really look forward to inviting you all to come and look around once the building is completed.

In the meantime, we are working closely with our contractor to keep disruption to a minimum. Sincere apologies in advance to anyone this impacts.

Wishing you all a fantastic Easter.

David Stirzaker, Stawley School

Mobile Library
at Greenham Bridge
Next visits: 8th April and 6th May
9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

Gardening Club

On Sunday, March 16th, six members of the Gardening Club met at The Bishop's Palace in Wells to visit the Rare Plant Sale and view the beautiful gardens. We started with coffee and a chat in the café; the day was bright and sunny but very cold.

I think there were fewer stalls than expected but interesting none the less, and we made some purchases – not sure how rare they were though! We then moved on separately to view the gardens which even at this time of the year were beautiful. The ponds, created by the wells, shimmered in the sun and reflected the Cathedral.

The Quiet Garden, a place for reflection, was peaceful with paths winding through many silver birch trees, underplanted with grass left to grow and daffodils. A tall embankment which previously had been kept mowed, in the past five years has been left to grow. The grass is short at this time of year, but the yellow carpet of primroses and daffodils looked stunning. It left me wanting to return later in the year to view it in a different season.

Mike Parkinson



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'.

When: Monday 7th April

Savoury:
Homemade: chicken or vegetable tarragon with rice

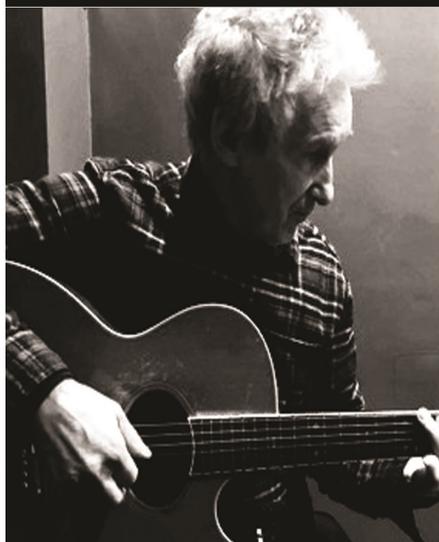
Sweet:
Homemade: cheese cake or baked cheese cake followed by unlimited coffee or a selection of teas

We will serve food from 12 noon till 2.00 pm

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

Ashbrittle Arts Presents

April 10th 7pm
St John the Baptist Church Ashbrittle



Terence
O'Flaherty



Pete
Stacey



Will
Allen

Three brilliant musicians will be playing in the church which is home to a 3800 year old yew tree that was a mature tree when Stonehenge was in use.

A MAGICAL EVENING IN A TIMELESS VENUE

TICKETS £15

Bar and Landwich will be serving their amazing
sandwiches

please email to prebook tickets
ashbrittlearts@gmail.com

or call

01823 672707

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.

*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud
- by William Wordsworth*

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

Often known as the 'Daffodil Prayer'



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday 19th April
10.00 - 12.00 noon

**Unlimited Coffee and Delicious Home Baked
Cakes available, for just £5.00.**

Please come and join us - all welcome !



Spring Coffee Morning

and
Bring and Buy

Thursday 10th April

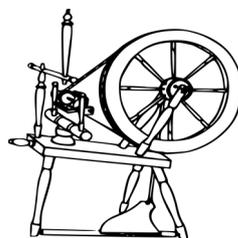
10.00 - 12 noon

The Old Rectory, Stawley

TA21 0HP

Do come and join us.

*Proceeds in aid of
Stawley Church Funds*



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: 1st and 15th April
6th and 20th May
at 2.30pm

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

GREEK BY CANDLELIGHT



A SMASHING EVENING WITH DELICIOUS
GREEK DISHES
(MEAT & VEGETARIAN OPTIONS)

£10

SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2025 AT
7PM

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

BATHEALTON VILLAGE HALL,
TA4 2AN



Bee Yourself

Beespoke Care and Support at Home

A friendly, professional service, offering-
Home Help, Companionship, Meal Preparation,
Personal Care, Light Cleaning, Pet care,
Overnight Care – Sleeping or Waking
(Respite only)

Reading, Activities, Palliative and End of Life Care.
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Helping you to stay independent
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Wellington and surrounding rural areas.

Please contact:
Charlotte Wakley on 07760 135980
or beeyourselfcare@outlook.com

DEVANEY CONSTRUCTION

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- FLOORS
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- DECKING
- FENCING
- GARDEN STRUCTURES
- PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

PHONE: 07594024232 or
EMAIL: Shanedevaney33@outlook.com

Primroses, Cowslips and Oxlips - beloved of the Faeries

After the hedges are flailed during the winter, one gets used to viewing an unbroken sea of brown, dead leaves, shredded bracken and mashed-up sticks and twigs. Then you start noticing something fresh and light green emerging through the debris, shyly at first then bursting through to form verdant mounds of corrugated, lightly toothed leaves. And as the days begin to lengthen, the first blooms start to appear until you have a dense dome of buttermilk-yellow or occasionally pink or brick-red.

These are Primroses and they are the real, true harbingers of better weather to come and a renewed source of joy and hope. They also belong to the realm of the faerie folk, blessing any homestead which has them growing at their threshold. In the Christian tradition they are linked to St Peter earning the old name 'Herb Peter' and in Norwegian mythology they are associated with the goddess Freya.

Primula vulgaris or the common Primrose (*Prima rosa*, 'the first rose') is a widespread herbaceous perennial plant found across Europe, from Norway and the Faroe Islands in the north down to Portugal and the tip of Algiers in North Africa, across to The Balkans, Turkey and Syria in the east. It has many regional sub-species in colours ranging from pure white (*P. vulgaris subsp. Balearica*) to red shades and pinks (*P. vulgaris subsp. Sibthorpii*) to the traditional pale yellow (*P. vulgaris subsp. vulgaris*) but always with a rich yellow eye. Its natural habitats are lightly covered deciduous woodland, hedgerows, stream banks and scrub areas preferring a moist but well drained and relatively low nutrient soil, high in humus content.

Much loved by the cottage gardener

Primroses have been a long time in cultivation and are perhaps the quintessential cottage-garden plant. Over the years, numerous strains have been developed and been superseded by more floriferous but often not so hardy or long-lived forms, culminating in the relatively recent phenomenon of the 'pot-primula', often in more gaudy hues including blues, purples and bi-colours. These are often biennial and really are grown to be discarded after indoor use.

The 'Polyanthus' which is a cultivated *Primula veris* (cowslip) x *Primula vulgaris* hybrid, has flowers that are raised above the leaves on one long stem rather than shorter, individual stems. Again, a wide range of colours have been developed over the years but often by the action of pollinating insects, the genetics of these can appear in wild stocks of primroses, often being re-

ferred to as 'False Oxslips'.

To grow Primroses and their variants successfully in the garden is extremely easy, just reproduce the conditions they like in the wild and they will just seed themselves around, like many other members of *Primulaceae* such as *Cyclamen* and *Dodocatheon*, by the action of ants. Specific colours can be increased by division, lifting as soon as flowering starts to finish, pulling the clump apart, trimming the roots and re-planting with some leaf mould and giving them a good soak, keeping well watered until established.

Cowslip (*Primula veris*) flowers a little later and is traditionally found in more open pastures, beside roads and tracks. Its common name possibly derives from old English 'cowslop' which refers to cow dung or 'Slip' which refers to the grazing meadows in which these charming wild flowers were found. With their smaller, concave butter-yellow flowers (occasionally orange or red) flowers clustered on top of a single stem, it will occasionally cross with Primroses in the wild to produce 'false Oxlips' with characteristics of both plants. Although widespread across Europe it is almost completely absent from northern counties and Scotland. And although it went through a steep decline in the last century due to changes in agricultural practices, it has seen a massive resurgence due to it being seeded into motorway and other post development landscaping schemes. A pale gold 'muscadet' like and 'mildly narcotic' country wine was traditionally made from these flowers but I've never had access to enough flowers to even make one gallon but I live in hope!

Oxslip (*Primula elatior*) Another native to the UK which is also found in parts of Scandinavia and into Russia with south-eastern Britain being the most westerly edge of its range. Much more restricted to calcium-rich, nutrient poor grassland, this plant is increasingly rare in our landscape and almost completely absent from the west of the country. Though often confused with Cowslip, it has paler 'primrose yellow' flowers held on taller stems and more spatulate leaves. However, it has been used in primula breeding programmes over many years and cultivated forms are available for the garden.

John Ridgley

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for February 2025

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
4.37	3.86	0.59	8.35	3.11

Val Coots



SPRING INTO SPRING

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2025

10AM TO 12PM
APPLEY PAVILION
TA21 0HH

| **CRAFTS*** | **SCAVENGER HUNT WITH PRIZE*** |
PLANTING* | **FACEPAINTING** |
BISCUIT DECORATING | **CAFE** |

*included in entry

£5 PER CHILD

Under 2s go free

ALL PROFITS GO TO STAWLEY PRESCHOOL

Broadband - Your Choice

After more than seven years we are close to getting fibre broadband into some of our properties. We live in a “rural remote” area which means it is not commercially viable for companies to provide fibre broadband to us without a hefty subsidy.

This is illustrated by the fact that in 2020 Openreach gave Stawley Parish Council a quote to connect one hundred and nine properties in Stawley and Ashbottle for £285,000 (£2,615 each). Both Gigaclear and Airband took on the challenge but failed to fulfil their contracts in our area.

We now have a company called Technological (based in Dulverton) with a successful track record who are expanding their network south from Waterrow using government funding provided through Building Digital UK (BDUK). They have already reached Hagley Bridge.

Meetings have been held in Bathealton and Kittisford for the residents who will benefit first from that expansion. A number of questions have arisen which are answered here together with a comparison of Starlink or a mobile link, which many already have, and fibre broadband.

What can I expect from a fibre link?

Fibre to the property (FTTP) is just that; an optic fibre that is brought to your property. Openreach and most other providers do this by taking the fibre along poles. This means that they are subject to falling trees and high winds. The fibre being delivered by Technological will be 700mm underground through fields and gardens; placed there by moling equipment.

Will I be able to keep my landline number?

Yes, but it will cost about £6 per month with a company such as Vodafone. You could, of course, keep your landline with your current provider.

I already have Starlink or a mobile link; what are the advantages and disadvantages of fibre?

Advantages:

- **Faster speeds:** Fibre optic cables transmit data at significantly higher speeds than satellite or mobile connections.
- **Higher reliability:** Fibre networks are less susceptible to weather interference and other disruptions than satellite or mobile connections. Underground fibre is not subject to falling trees.
- **Lower latency:** Fibre connections have minimal delay, crucial for BBC iPlayer, Netflix, online gaming, video conferencing, and other real-time applications.

- **More affordable:** Technological will charge you £40 per month against £75 for Starlink so you will save £35 per month. So after nine or ten months you will have saved enough to write off the payment you made for the Starlink terminal. Mobile 4g connections may be cheaper but are less reliable and have a much lower speed and poor latency.

How long do I have to sign up for?

The first contract is for twelve months at £40 per month.

Why should I register my interest now?

Basically we, in some of the area covered by the Parish News, are in a race. Technological will prioritise areas within which residents have expressed an interest in joining the network. If we all express an interest in joining the network it is more likely that they will come to us before other areas they can move their network into. If there are no expressions of interest they will push into other parishes.

Secondly, if past decisions are anything to go by, central government can pull funding from BDUK at a drop of a hat. We don't want to miss the current opportunity; speed is of the essence.

Finally if you don't register an interest, and then apply for the voucher that will be offered when fibre is coming to you, it will be too late. Once the network has passed your property and moved on over the fields you may be able to join the network but at a much greater cost to you.

I have other questions.

Technological have FAQs at:
<https://www.technological.co.uk/project-faq/>
or contact Technological at:
info@technological.co.uk

How do I register an interest in getting fibre broadband?

Go to: <https://www.technological.co.uk/> and click on the button “Register Interest”.

*Paul Musgrove, Chairman, Stawley Parish Council
and Phil Broad, Chairman, Bathealton Parish Council.*

Stawley Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for residents of Stawley will be held in the Apple Pavilion at 7:30 pm on May.

A confirmed agenda will be posted on the website at <https://stash.org.uk/> from the 27th April.

www.technological.co.uk/ex16

Full Fibre Broadband

Free Connection using UK Gigabit Voucher

Register Interest Now

Funding Available

BASIC BROADBAND

40Mbps

Symmetrical Service

£40 a Month

- No Connection Charge*
- 40Mbps Download
- 40Mbps Upload
- Unlimited Usage
- 12 Month Contract
- Wireless Router
- Optional Phone Service

Inc VAT (*with Voucher)

ULTRAFast

300Mbps

Symmetrical Service

£75 a Month

- No Connection Charge*
- 300Mbps Download
- 300Mbps Upload
- Unlimited Usage
- 12 Month Contract
- Wireless Router
- Optional Phone Service

Inc VAT (*with Voucher)

Find out more & sign-up online
info@technological.co.uk



Funded by
UK Government



TECHNOLOGICAL

Country Matters

The disappearing hedge

Hedges are the most widespread semi-natural habitat in the UK. Many of us enjoy walking along hedgerows, foraging for berries or nuts and observing wildlife. Hedgerows are a vital source of food for many species, are important as navigation aids for bats, provide safe movement for species such as the hazel dormouse and are an essential habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, lichen, fungi and invertebrates. Hedges shelter crops from the wind, shade livestock from the sun, provide habitat for vital pollinators and some are still laid to contain livestock.

Often less obvious is the way hedges encourage surface run-off to percolate into the ground, recharging groundwater under crop fields and pastures making them more resilient during drought. This reduces flooding, soil erosion and the amount of pesticides and fertilizers washed into our watercourses. Studies have found that farms with healthy hedgerows surrounding smaller fields are less likely to have outbreaks of TB in cattle, independent of other factors.

Ancient hedges

Some of Somerset's hedges have existed since the Bronze Age (perhaps in the manner of Trigger's broom or Theseus's Ship). Many were planted in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. However, during the second world war, when U-boats prevented food imports, hedges were removed across the country to free as much land as possible for food production. Up to half the country's hedges were removed in the following decades due to government incentives set up during the war. By 1997 losses slowed and it became an offence to remove a hedge without legal permission. Yet our old hedges are still disappearing.

This is largely due to mismanagement. A mismanaged hedge gets thinner and gappier until it disappears or, conversely, it transforms into just a line of trees (which is often less permanent than hedgerows and less useful to wildlife). The first occurs when it is trimmed persistently to the same dimensions, the second when it is left to mature without intervention. So, what's the best way to ensure we can pass thriving hedgerows to the next generation? At first the options seem many and varied (trim, coppice, lay or refrain from intervention) but historically these techniques were best used in combination.

A newly planted, laid or coppiced hedge was trimmed every year for five years to promote dense growth. It was then trimmed less frequently, often every three or four years. This saves on time, money and effort while increasing food production and decreasing disturbance of wildlife. Each trim would be higher and wider. The expansion allows

the hedge plants to progress naturally through their life cycles, maintaining structure, maximising lifespan and increasing the resources provided. Even a 10 cm increase in height and width is useful and would take around thirty years to gain a metre in a three year cutting rotation, or a decade if cut every year.

Historically, the cutting rotation would continue until the hedge got too tall to trim with hand tools. It would then be "let up" (left untrimmed) for a number of years before coppicing or laying (called "rejuvenation") which would occur in this system every thirty or forty years. Rejuvenation is done to move plants back into a "younger" stage of life where they maintain the bushy aspect necessary for a hedge; it also extends lifespan. It is generally recommended not to rejuvenate more than 5% of a hedge or hedges in any one year.

Alternatively hedges can be managed without trimming using the "lay-leave-lay" approach in which they are left untouched for a period of ten to twenty five years then laid or coppiced.

Knowing what life-cycle stage your hedge is at will allow you to decide which technique to use when. The following website has a Hedgerow Management Scale that can help you decide where to start and is a good source of information: hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/hedge-structures.

Hedges are an important living connection to the history and culture of a place and provide invaluable resources for humans and wildlife. Now that I know about the disappearing hedge I see it everywhere. Now I hope you will too and that you are moved to rescuing this often overlooked and extremely valuable part of our countryside.

Alesha Naranjit and Frazer Higgins

STAWLEY MILL

JOIN US FOR
BOOKS & BISCUITS
COFFEE & CAKE



1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

2nd & 16th APRIL
10AM—12.30PM

IN AID OF CHURCH RESTORATION FUND



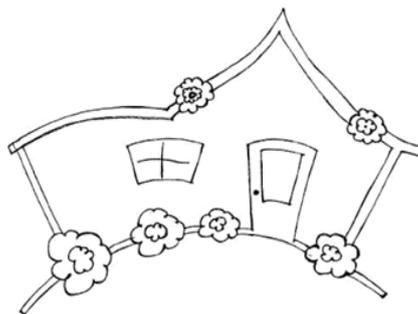
Stawley Community Village Shop & Tea Room

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 12.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am



The Post Office is here every Thursday

11.30am to 1.30pm

Contact: 01823 674361 or email shop@stawleyshop.com

News from the Community Shop

The Community Shop has now been running for three months and we would like to report all is going well and thank our many customers for shopping with us.

Some of you may have noticed our recent call for volunteers, even if you can only spare three hours every now and then, it would be much appreciated. You will be given full training and several shadowing sessions to introduce you to shop procedures. It really is a great way to meet people. However, we may be forced to close on an "ad hoc basis" due to our shortage of volunteers, so look out for our Facebook page or any notices so you don't get caught out!

Great Value

We would also like to sing the praises of our Community Shop's great value sandwiches, coffee/tea and cake. Our sandwiches can be made to order, you just have to phone and let us know what you would like; your own combination can be ordered in the shop or ready-made can be picked up from our chiller. We had a great review from Gamlin's Farm Caravan site on Facebook recently, many thanks!

The Shop stocks locally made cakes and tray bakes and delicious Eccles cakes. Our prices mean that you can still get a coffee and cake for around £5.00 whereas at Costa Coffee it is £4.00 for just a coffee!

Fruit and vegetables

Unlike many convenience stores and village shops we do stock a wide range of vegetables and fruit, all organic from Riverford, Devon, which come in fresh on a Monday. We would really like to be able to keep this service going but rely on our customers to buy regularly. Many thanks to those of you who do.

REMEMBER: Your money spent at Stawley Community Village Shop will go towards the profits that can be given back to the community.

— THE —
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

A warm welcome awaits you at The Globe Inn this April

Join us on Easter Sunday for a delicious home-cooked roast. Choose from succulent beef, lamb, pork or a veggie option, with a selection of vegetables, crunchy roasties, Yorkshire pud & gravy. Then finish your meal with one of our mouth-watering desserts.
£15 for a main course, £20 for a main course and dessert.

Booking is essential



Pizza Fridays are back!

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



Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ



01823 673147



stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk



The Globe INN Appley

Open

Wednesday to Saturday 12 noon - 11pm

Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Food

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

Pizza night every Friday 6pm-9pm





Join us to celebrate

APPLEY PAVILION'S 20TH BIRTHDAY

Band ~ 'Twisted Vinyl'

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Saturday 10th May 2025
From 7pm

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Charlotte - 07966 939093

Lunch Club

In February we were very pleased to welcome our neighbours from Ashbrittle Stud. James Rowsell, owner, gave us a fascinating talk about the origins of the stud and a flavour of the excitement of producing potential and actual winners. Ginnie, the stud manager, talked about the day to day running of the stud and seasonal nature of the work involved. Very many thanks!

Our next Lunch Club is on Thursday 24th April at 12.00 noon. The speaker will be Pauline Wood, our hard working treasurer. Her topic will be the 'Akond of Swat, the Story of a Narrowboat', which she and her husband are restoring in their 'spare time'. It has an intriguing history and Pauline has been 'hands on' in the project.

If you would like to join us, please let me know. My contact details for booking are: email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Looking ahead, in August we are planning to have a display of art and craft work which is being undertaken by members of our group. There is a surprising number of us! Nearer the time there will be more details. The idea is just to enjoy what we are producing and share our interest with others. No competition, no prizes.

Looking even further ahead, the Christmas lunch club has been booked for Thursday, 18th December, 12.00 noon. I hope you will be able to join us.

Delia Harling



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New members always welcome

Nunc Dimittis

Part 2 *A chain of understanding*

Last month, I offered a soliloquy around the words of Old Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* without their haunting musical accompaniments. Just as you can instantly listen to that music on www, so too can you find explanations of unfamiliar ideas. With this facility in mind, I give below about 70 words or phrases which follow a logical, but not the chronological, route of my understanding of what was needed for human behaviour to evolve as it has.

If you choose to begin following even a limited selection, be warned that such an interest may lead you to lines of thought that most people consider to be unfit for civilised discussion – they are taboo. Yet, we naturalists feel obliged to shine light into dark corners, however unacceptable to public opinion what we find in them may be.

Travel well.

Singularity → Big Bang → space-time and mass-energy → subatomic particles → formation of lighter elements → supernova → formation of heavy elements → Brownian motion → heat → energy → valency → Planet Earth → inorganic chemistry → complexity → diversity → organic chemistry → transmissible instructions → RNA and DNA → length and stability of molecule → origin of sex → chromosomes → origin of life → photosynthesis → heterotrophy → need for movement → nerves → trophic levels → ecosystems → ecological restrictions → natural selection → cell membrane → prokaryote → polyphyletic origins of eukaryote → multicellularity → coelom → Cambrian evolutionary explosion → ascidian larva → pedomorphism → hollow dorsal nerve cord → depolarisation of ionic tension → nerve impulse → chordates → vertebrates → teleosts, drying rivers → swim-bladders and lungs → terrestrialism → amnion → mammal-like reptiles → tree-shrews → primates → simians → bipedalism → hominids → ~~Homo sapiens~~ → population crash → impoverished genotype → cerebral neocortex → intelligence and language → Ancient Greece → Augustin of Hippo → Baruch Spinoza → Charles Darwin → J S Mill → Karl Popper → Niko Tinbergen → Charles Elton → Steven Mithen → Eric Berne → Robin Dunbar → Isaiah Berlin → W D Hamilton → Robert Axelrod → Frans de Waal → E O Wilson → etc.

Martin Jacoby

Who, or why, or which, or what,
Is the Akond of Swat?
- Edward Lear

VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, April 24th at noon

RESTORING 'THE AKOND OF SWAT'

Pauline Wood will tell us about the narrow boat she and her husband have been restoring in their 'spare time'.

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

Who, or why, or which, or what,
Is the Akond of Swat?
- Edward Lear

Who, or why, or which, or what,
Is the Akond of Swat?
- Edward Lear

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What3Words: surreal.stolen.offerings

Bathealton Parish Council

AGM and quarterly meeting minutes Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 19.30

Present: Phil Broad (**PB**) Chair, Steve Cottrell (**SC**), Jess Bunn (**JB**), John Ridgley (**JR**), Adele Broad (**AB**) and Sarah Eustice (**SE**)

Apologies: Dave Mansell (**DM**)

Declarations of interests: None declared

AB: requested Meeting/AGM be recorded, for transcription, due to recent hand surgery. All agreed.

AGM

PB: gave a verbal summary of parish council activities over the 2024/25 including the cuts to pathways and grave yard maintenance grants. The parish council supported local charities, reviewed planning applications and future funding support for the defibrillator.

Election of parish council posts

PB: has agreed to continue as chair for next twelve months.

AB: has agreed to be treasurer and note taker for next twelve months.

Quarterly Meeting

Previous Minutes: no matters arising. Minutes as published in the Parish News.

SE: requested the Parish Council write to the Somerset County Council's highways department, following a serious accident that occurred on 12.2.25 at Spring Grove cross road, which included two cars and injury to one adult and two children, one of whom involved an admission to hospital. The letter will highlight safety concerns pertaining to vehicle speeds, restricted visibility and the adequacy of signage. Parish councillors were informed that local residents using this crossroad have seen and experienced numerous incidents and near misses over many years. **Action PB** to write to Somerset Council regarding this matter

PB: had sent an e-mail to the Somerset County Council's highways department ten months ago following reports by residents of vehicles passing through Bathealton village at unsafe speeds.

Given that young children and disabled residents live in the village, PB requested speeding restrictions signage and/or speed slowing measures be introduced. To date no response received from the department.

The Parish walk in September 2024, attracted about twenty walkers. Starting and ending at the village hall. Many thanks to **SC** for organis-

ing and facilitating this successful event, and thank you to Hilary for providing post walk refreshments.

Planning Application

Applications 03/24/0003/4/5 for construction of farm buildings. Members of the parish council have unanimously objected to this application. Reasons for the objections have been submitted to Somerset County Council planning web site. It was highlighted that the planning notices associated with this planning application were not visible from the road.

Questions were asked about progress with The Blackberry Barn planning application. Nothing to report at present.

Financial Matters

Account balance as at 4.3.25:

£1557.12 including

Payments approved :

Parish News £100.00

AB (Minute taking Fee) £50.00

Awaiting refund of £151.20 from The Heartbeat Trust, due to duplicate overpayment 2024/25.

Parish Council financial plan for 2025/26

- Continued funding of the Heartbeat Trust defibrillator, located at the village hall
- Discontinuation of Heartbeat trust VETS scheme funding
- Continued maintenance/upkeep of the church grave yard.
- Village hall hire
- Parish council indemnity insurance: AB to contact other insurance providers which meet the needs of the parish council. This can only be done two months before the expiry date of current policy which ends in Sept 25
- Annual contribution to local Charities/good causes
- Precept: This will be increased to £2000: this was passed unanimously at the last meeting

Bridle ways and footpaths

The loss of the footpath grant has limited the scope to support requests for clearing hedgerows, bridleways and footpaths.

Defibrillator

Thanks to Alex, for undertaking a monthly check of the battery and pads. The discussion regarding retention of the defibrillator for local residents also highlighted the important for people using and hiring the village hall; it is also included on the village hall insurance policy.

Graveyard upkeep

A discussion took place regarding the rewinding of parts of the graveyard. JR highlighted some of the practical issues involved in rewinding. This matter will be discussed further at the next meeting. Thank you to Denis and Chris for clearing the undergrowth around the yew tree.

Installation of Fibre/Broadband for the Bathealton area

Many thanks to Jim Weir and colleague from Technological, who delivered an informative talk to a public meeting, including a Q&A session on 26.2.25 at Bathealton village hall.

If you missed the meeting, find out more and sign up on-line.

PB Thankyou to **DM** for a written update/information and response to the agenda, which was read out at the meeting. This covered a number of issues including :

- progress with the Fibre Broadband scheme.
- Somerset council financial position including proposed parking charges for Wiveliscombe and Milverton car parks.
- Progress with bus route, linking Wiveliscombe/Milverton/Wellington.

Action PB to invite DM to the next Bathealton Parish council meeting.

Phosphate credit scheme

PB: has been informed by a local contractor involved in the installation of septic tank upgrades, that priority is currently being given to properties/developments in the river Parrott and Brue catchment areas. PB to contact Somerset Council to seek clarification as to when funds will be released for the river Tone Catchment area which include properties in the parish of Bathealton.

AOB : Large fallen tree branch on the bench, near Cobhay farm. **Action PB** to clear

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th June 2025 7.30 pm at Bathealton Village Hall.

Adele Broad, Minutes Secretary

Bathealton Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Monday 19 May 2025
7.00 pm

All welcome
Bathealton Village Hall

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Anyone who has used the hall in Ashbrittle in recent months will have noticed a lot of damp issues. This is not a recent problem and has been apparent for a number of years.

The committee decided we should determine the root of these problems and accordingly commissioned a full condition survey report.

We have just received this report highlighting all the issues, which are numerous. Damp is infiltrating the building, which is not unusual in many old properties, from the roof walls and floor. The projected costs to rectify these problems are enormous.

It is difficult to see a way forward with any prospective renovations at present but we will continue to keep the hall operating and do all we can to prevent further deterioration.

Jon Dawes - Chair

News from the Parish News

Many thanks for your kind support and excellent response to our recent appeal. We will publish a full list of recent donors in the May issue.

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Andrew Millard, Treasurer

Jo Clarke FHT ITEC IHBC APNT

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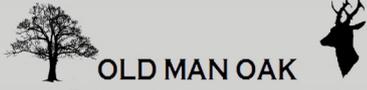
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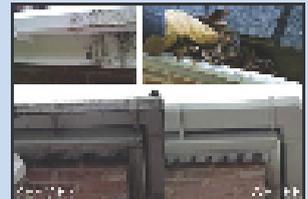
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Ashbrittle Village Hall, on outside wall
blurts.flats.crouching

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

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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

Somerset Councillors

Cllr Dave Mansell – 01984 623823 or email:
dave.mansell@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Gwil Wren – 01823 400657 or email:
gwil.wren@somerset.gov.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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

2nd and 16th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
7th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Pop-up Café - Bathealton Village Hall
15th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
10th	7.00 pm	Ashbrittle Arts presents 'A Magical Evening' in Ashbrittle Church
26th	9.30 am - 12 noon	Wiveliscombe Craft Market
26th	7.00 pm	Greek by Candlelight in Bathealton Village Hall
27th	9.00 - 12 noon	The Big Breakfast at Appley Pavilion

May

10th	2.30 pm onwards	Plant Sale at Hellings, Bathealton
10th	From 7.00 pm	Appley Pavilion 20th Birthday Celebrations

June

7th	2.00 - 5.00 pm	Stawley Church Garden Party at Stawley Mill.
21st		'Walk West Tone' - walking, music, flowers with tea and cake!

August

10th	10.00 am start	Waterrow Tractor Run
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September

7th	2.30 - 5.00 pm	Stawley Flower and Produce Show at Appley Pavilion
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October

12th		Apple Pressing Day at the Pavilion
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December

18th	12 noon	Christmas Lunch Club
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SUNDAY, 27TH APRIL

9am - NOON

In aid of the Pavilion and A.S.C Cricket Club

ALL WELCOME

Appley Pavilion, TA21 0HH

Next Deadline Date: Friday April 18th 2025