



Parish news

July 2025

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

Church Services**Sun 6th July**

9.30am	Holy Communion Service	St. Michael's, Stawley
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
11.15am	BCP Service	St. John the Baptist, Ashbrittle

Sun 13th July

11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
6.30pm	Songs of Praise	Village Green, Sampford Arundel

Sun 20th July

9.30am	Morning Service	St. Nicholas', Kittisford
10.30am	Patronal Communion Service	St. Margaret's, Thorne St. Margaret
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green

Mon 21st July 7.00pm or Friday 25th July 10.00am**The Bible Course**

Join us as we start a relaxed and informal course delivered locally over eight sessions. For those new to the Bible who are just interested and those used to church who want to increase their understanding. Email welcome@westtone.org.uk to register your interest.

Sun 27th July

9.30am	Holy Communion Service	St. Bartholomew's, Bathealton
11.15am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
6.00pm	Evensong	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel

Thu 31st July

6.00pm Church in the pub The Globe Inn RSVP welcome@westtone.org.uk
A monthly gathering at The Globe, Appley, to enjoy good company, food, and drink. Our chats span a range of subjects about life and faith, often providing more laughs than answers.

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

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.

Front cover - 'Walk West Tone' - Kitty Hollingsworth leads the way, with her labrador Rupert, leaving Kittisford Church and on the way to Bathealton - see report p 14. Photo Maurice Stanbury

Thought for the Month

July is often the warmest month in our hemisphere. It is a time of abundant sunlight and vibrant energy. It's the time to embrace the vigour of summer and focus on growth and transformation. Do not conform, be Transformed! St. Paul's Letter to the Romans says: "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

It is easy to just go along with what others are doing without even considering how our actions are damaging our spiritual life. We hear people say, "It's a new world now. Things are different. Everyone is doing this or that." We need to question ourselves, "Am I willing to give up my spiritual life to join what people say everyone is doing?" That is what sin is, isn't it? Sin is pushing God away for the sake of conforming to the world. In Jesus' prayer in John 17:16 he prays for us and says, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." When we conform to that which is not the Christian way of life, we are going against our very being, our spiritual essence.

As Christians we believe that our lives lead us to a fuller understanding of whom we are as sons and daughters of God. This understanding gives us a new determination to live the Christian life in its fullness. C.S. Lewis wrote, "If you live for the next world, you will get this one in the deal. But if you live only for this one, you will lose them both." St. Francis of Assisi freed himself not just of possessions, but of his attachment to the world around him. Thus, he appreciated God's gifts more than anyone of his time. He had nothing, but he owned everything. He was transformed by his refusal to conform.

Like Jeremiah, we want God in our lives, but we will not fully understand the cost of Christianity until that cost becomes personal. Yet, like Jeremiah, we live for the fire burning within our bones, the fire of God's love. A world that is in darkness needs us to be its light. People are looking for hope. People are searching for a reason for living. We can give them that hope. We can give them that reason for life. We can be the Light of Christ for others. We do not have to conform to a world of darkness. We can be transformed by God. *Then we will experience all that is good and pleasing and perfect* (Romans 12:2).

John Dawer

A life well lived

Janet, Philip and Derek would sincerely like to thank all the local parishioners and beyond, for their support and love over the last three weeks following the passing of our dear Mum, Joan, aged 91 years - a life well-lived.

It certainly was a sign of the community coming together to help the funeral day on June 17th run smoothly.

From Bathealton Church looking at its best, the wonderful flowers by the flower ladies, the bell ringers, David Hugh-Smith at Bathealton Court for the use of their field, and everyone at the village hall including Dennis and Stephen for the use of their gazebos. Hilary for playing the organ so beautifully and last but not least, Ian Brierley for leading the superb service.

Thank you all.

Janet (Sharland), Philip and Derek Greenway

Stawley Bellringers Annual Outing

An enjoyable day was had by the eighteen local bellringers plus spouses, when they set off in a procession of cars for their annual outing in the first week of June.

This year we visited the Honiton area, starting at the six bell tower at Dunkeswell. Next were the towers of Combe Raleigh and Gittisham, before a splendid carvery lunch at The Hare and Hounds at Putts Corner. The afternoon started at Farway church, followed by Offwell and finally Cotleigh churches.

It had proved an intensive, hardworking but worthwhile experience. Next time we may visit fewer towers and allow for an ice-cream break! Once back home, it was an early night for all.

Angela Medlycott



Summer BBQ

Ashbrittle Village Hall

on the Green

(weather permitting)

Friday 25th July 6.30 pm

Bring your own bottle

Stawley Church Garden Party and Fete

So, there I was, taking cover from the rain under the shelter at the entrance to Stawley Mill. It was ten minutes past two in the afternoon, on the first Saturday in June, and Stawley Church Garden Party and Fete 2025 was open for business. The marquees were up, the stalls were ready, tables and chairs were laid out, and the refreshments and staff were on standby. But there was just one problem: no one had turned up yet!

I needn't have worried, as soon afterwards cars started to go into the car park and people began arriving on foot. Their arrival was followed by the sound of welcoming voices coming from within the grounds, and as the weather began to improve, the numbers began to swell.

Thanks to careful planning, and the hard work of everyone involved, our visitors were able to enjoy their afternoon tea and cakes, or strawberries and cream, a shot on the Tombola, a go on 'Bat-the-Rat', the purchase of a bargain on the brick-a-brac stall, a high-quality plant, or a home-made cake or some jam, and a stroll around the beautiful gardens of Stawley Mill.



The chance to win a raffle prize - and many did!

The event raised over a thousand pounds, which will go towards the up-keep of Stawley Church.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone involved in making the event such a wonderful community occasion.

*Colin Haddrell,
on behalf of Stawley PCC*

Mobile Library
at Greenham Bridge
Next visits: 1st and 29th July
9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

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.

*"If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter,
floating a few feet above a field somewhere, peo-
ple would come from everywhere to marvel at it.
People would walk around it marvelling at its big
pools of water, its little pools and the water
flowing between.*

*People would marvel at the bumps on it and the
holes in it.*

*They would marvel at the very thin layer of gas
surrounding it and the water suspended
in the gas.*

*The people would marvel at all the creatures
walking around the surface of
the ball and at the creatures in the water.*

*The people would declare it as sacred because it
was the only one, and they would protect it so that
it would not be hurt.*

*The ball would be the greatest wonder known,
and people would come to pray to it, to be healed,
to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder
how it could be.*

*People would love it, and defend it with their lives
because they would somehow know that their
lives could be nothing without it.*

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter."

By Joe Miller



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbottle Village Hall

Saturday 19th July
10.00 - 12.00 noon

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

Please come and join us - all welcome !

Stawley Community Village Shop & Tea Room

Opening hours

Week day opening 8.00am to 5.00pm

except:

Wednesday 8.00am to 1.00pm

Saturday 8.00am to 12.00pm

Sunday 9.00am to 11.00am

The Tea Room will close 30 minutes before shop closure

The Post Office is here every Thursday 11.30am to 1.30pm

Contact us on 01823 674361 or shop@stawleyshop.com



Newspapers at Stawley Shop

Stawley Community Shop gets newspapers delivered by Smiths News, which is the UK's largest newspaper distributor, and as with many large national companies often difficult to communicate with! As an example, we had a change of delivery drivers recently as the depot had moved to Exeter and for some reason, the driver thought that the shop was in the school grounds, so left the newspapers stacked behind one of the classrooms. All is running smoothly now, but it keeps us on our toes!

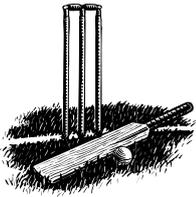
One of the first jobs that the volunteers do in the morning is check that the newspapers delivered match what it says on the delivery sheet. If not, then you log-in and let them know, remembering to get a reference number to write on the sheet. There is very little control over what arrives; usually there are enough of the correct newspapers for the orders but not always.

Then our wonderful volunteer newspaper deliverers arrive to drive all around the parishes, doing this for free. Unfortunately, Smiths News do not deliver for free and the carriage charge has continued to increase. There is a standing charge which is the same for every establishment and then a percentage of sales, so if you sell less, you are charged marginally less, but for a small shop such as ours (and many others) the delivery costs take up most of the profits.

Many people now have a subscription with their favourite newspaper and use vouchers. Stawley Shop accepts vouchers and these are sorted at the end of the week on a Saturday by one/two volunteers; the retailer gets a 1p per voucher for administration.

If you still buy a newspaper (but do not order it from the Shop), please consider calling in for your newspaper and buying from us. Every little will help and of course buy something else while you are with us!

Look forward to seeing you soon at Stawley Community Village Shop and Tea Room



Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

It has been a frustrating time for both teams during the past month, with our 1st and 2nd XIs facing cancellations and abandonments in successive weeks. The weather has beaten us on two occasions, starting with the 1st XI game vs Bagborough being abandoned and on the same day the 2nd XI didn't even start vs Bishops Hull. The following week, our 2nd eleven managed a full game vs Cutcombe, but unfortunately missed out on the win on a tricky pitch. Meanwhile the 1st XI could only manage one innings between the rain delays, hitting 263 all out.

Cup games

The 1st's were unfortunately knocked out of the Davies Bishop Cup by holders Bishops Hull mid-week losing by four wickets in a close affair at Appley. However, it was a great result for the 2nd XI later that week, beating Cannington by eleven runs in the Stuart Allbut Cup. Batting first, Ashbrittle posted 118/8, mostly thanks to Rob Popplestone's 55. Then some great bowling from all four of Ashbrittle's bowlers, managed to keep Cannington restricted to 107/8 from their twenty overs. *See team photograph on p 32.*

More recent league games

In the League Action this week, things finally brightened up for both teams, with two wins. Ashbrittle 1st's were asked to bowl at Brompton Ralph, and it felt like a good toss to lose when we had them 34-3 thanks to Callum White and Steven Grant's opening spell. Brompton recovered slightly to hit 167 from 40 overs. We went about the chase aggressively, chasing the total down in just 18 overs, losing only two wickets. Wilf Embleton with the standout score of 56.

The 2nd XI also tasted victory over Minehead, after posting a healthy score of 261/5 from forty overs. Steve Priscott's 65 and Chris Hill's 67 were the standouts. Ashbrittle were able to keep Minehead down to 206 all out, thanks to Steve Priscott's five wickets along with some other tidy bowling figures.

This was followed by our successful Italian themed night, with food, cocktails and karaoke. The night was enjoyed by all.

Hope to see you all on the Club Sponsor Day on 30th June at the Appley Pavilion - enjoy some cricket and some *Loaders cider*.

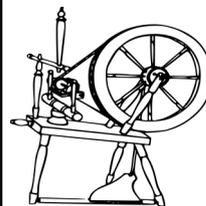
Callum Hamer

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We are a small Antiques Centre with a licensed Tearooms
and a lovely garden for you to sit in and relax.
We welcome dogs in the snug or garden and we have a large car park.
We also do TakeAway Tea/Coffee and Cakes
Email nickyjane2435@yahoo.com



Spinning and Woolcraft Group

A twice-monthly get-together at a member's house for textile crafting, chat and a cuppa

Perhaps you would like to learn to spin with us?
Or bring along your knitting, crochet or other needlework project

All welcome

If you would like to join us, please contact me
and I will add you to the mailing list.

Next Sessions

Tuesdays: 1st and 15th July
5th and 19th August
at 2.30pm

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

— THE —
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

**Soak up the summer sun at
The Globe this July**

Make the most of the great summer weather by relaxing with a cold drink in our beautiful beer garden. Or why not start the weekend by enjoying a freshly made pizza on a Friday night?

**Get your groove on in our garden marquee on
Friday 11th July at 7.30pm**
when you can chill out to country-fried acoustic
rock and pop classics from local band

Sundog Slide

while tucking into delicious BBQ food.



Open

Wednesday to Saturday 12 noon - 11pm

Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Food

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

Friday Night Pizzas will resume in the April



Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ



01823 673147



stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk



The Globe INN Appley

Deer - the summer season

It always strikes me how stupendously fast the year seems to go. I'm sure I'm still thinking sub-consciously that we've only just started 2025 and yet here we are already half way through it. Anyway, I digress. On to deer things...

This time of year (June/July) the roe deer are getting ready for the rut which typically starts once the female deer is in oestrus: i.e. she's ready to mate. This normally occurs mid-July to mid-August with the peak activity at the beginning of August. It is not guaranteed though and sometimes the rut period can be short and sometimes longer. Anyway, the male, having potentially fought off all comers, chases the doe around and around and eventually persuades her that he is 'the one'. Once she is pregnant her body delays the onset of the growth of the baby until January. It's truly remarkable and the roe doe is the only known species that does this.

Along with roe deer other deer species will have had their young in May/early June too. By the time you read this the youngsters will be tottering around at their mother's heel. It is at this time of year that the young deer will often be lying up in the grass ostensibly on their own. I mentioned in a previous article that if a person comes across a young deer it can look to all intents and purposes that they have been orphaned. This is rarely the case. Usually the mother is somewhere near by feeding and sadly good natured humans will interfere and take the young deer away thinking they are doing it a favour. Please, if you spot a young deer on its own, leave it be.

Red deer sightings

There have been lots of sightings of red deer around here so far this year – I've even had some astonishing footage on trail cams in various woodlands of red deer stags going about their business. They truly are magnificent animals. How they can run nimbly through woods with a giant amount on natural scaffolding on the tops of their heads and not keeping bashing themselves on tree trunks is beyond me. I find it difficult enough clambering through woods and not falling over and I don't have the Eiffel tower sat atop of my bonce! The male red deer will have 'cast' (i.e. shed) their antlers in early Spring and by now will be sporting a fast growing new set

If you are fortunate to see a red stag around this time you may notice that the antlers appear to be covered in velvet. This is the natural covering the antler has whilst it is growing. Eventually once the antlers are fully formed this stops growing and the blood supply to it ceases, at which point it starts to strip away from the hard antler underneath. The male deer then rub their heads on

trees and saplings in order to remove the strips of velvet. Whilst this is happening the deer is 'in tatters'. You can see the sapling damage on the edges of woodland and see how the bark has been frayed about 2-3 feet off the ground.

More ticks seen

On a more serious note, if you have been walking out and about you may have noticed that ticks this year have been, it seems, of biblical proportions. These tiny arachnids are one of the few living things that I wish didn't. In all the years we've been here I don't recall ever seeing so many as this year. Anyway, there is a bit of a rumour that because deer numbers are greater now than ever, the tick burden is therefore much greater. This is actually not the case and there has been plenty of scientific study to show that dense populations of ticks are more to do with environmental factors rather than because there are large populations of deer. Deer do carry ticks (like most creatures – birds, other mammals etc) but rather incredibly there is evidence to suggest that ticks that harbour the Lyme Disease bacteria and then feed on deer actually become neutralised by ingesting the blood of the deer.

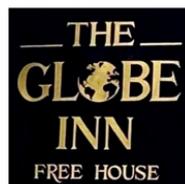
In other words, a tick that feeds on a deer, then falls off to live and eat another day, is potentially 'cured' of the Lyme's bacteria. If you are interested in this (and I promise I haven't just made all that up!) let me know and I can point you in the direction of some superb studies. As an aside, in all of the deer that I have culled this year, none has had an abnormal tick burden.

Saying that, if you are walking around in the woods and fields it's worth making sure that you either wear long trousers or check yourself when you get home! Ticks will not 'jump' onto hosts as they walk past but will use a pair of their outstretched legs whilst they cling to some foliage to hitch a ride on the new host. Grim little creatures they really are.

Anyway, hope you've enjoyed reading the above trivia – any questions, comments or whatever, please don't hesitate to email me at antonyweeks@btinternet.com

Antony Weeks

Church in the Pub



Each month the local church gathers at Appley in The Globe Inn, to enjoy good company, food, and drink. Our chats span a range of subjects about life and faith, often providing more laughs than answers.

All are welcome 7.00pm last Thursday of the month, please help us prepare by telling us you are coming.

Email welcome@weststone.org.uk Call 07795 699737

STAWLEY FESTIVAL

2025

Sunday 6th July 2-5pm

**LIZZIE MERRICK | RADIO SUNSET |
KARL FICAROTTA + OPEN MIC**

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

Appley Pavilion, TA21 0HH

Adults £5 (18+)

Kids £2.50 (1+)

Family Ticket £15 (2 Adults & 3+ Kids)

For more details on signing
up for open mic or stalls
email – stawleyfestival@gmail.com

Pre buy tix:



Proceeds are equally split between FOSS and Stawley Preschool.

FOSS - Charity number: 1107306

Sorry, only Assistance Dogs are permitted at the Pavilion.

www.technological.co.uk/ex16

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UK Government



TECHNOLOGICAL

Full Fibre Broadband Update

As previously noted, our plans were submitted to BDUK, the government agency tasked with funding broadband delivery, way back in April prior to the closure of the Voucher scheme for new projects. Our plans are then subject to commercial assurance and scrutiny which they passed both these stages by 24th April and entered the "Final Approval" stage.

Historically, this is a tick box exercise by senior management to activate the project, and has generally been completed within about a week. For example our project for Stawley and Kittisford entered final approval on 14th Feb and was approved on 24th Feb.

Since May we have been requesting updates on the status of this project and final approval, with various responses including "there's a backlog", its a "resource issue but being resolved", but last week this changed to:

"...yesterday the Government announced the outcome of the spending review.

The review has taken time and resources of all departments including BDUK and we are now working on the outcome of that review to establish exactly what it means for our programmes. Whilst Rachel Reeves confirmed funding is committed, as you can appreciate, we now need to see what that means in real terms for all our programmes including vouchers."

This is a confusing statement, as the current committed funding for BDUK Voucher projects falls outside of the scope of the Spending Review 2025 (which covers from 2028-2030). As our Appley and Ashbottle project was allocated build primarily in 2026 with a maximum of twelve months to complete the build, the likelihood of any of the project claims entering financial year 2028/2029 is remote.

We have escalated this further this week and received even more ambiguous responses.

"regarding the specific GBVS proposal, we will be in contact when we have more information on the impact of the Spending Review on our programmes, which we now anticipate will be within the next few weeks."

It is unclear what BDUK are driving towards here, as funding should be ringfenced due to the previous contract failures covering your communities. We will continue to escalate this as to why the Spending Review has any impact on day to day

decision making within an Executive Agency, it the meantime we would urge residents of Appley and Ashbottle to contact their local MP, Rachel Gilmour and the Minister responsible for BDUK, Sir Chris Bryant, to ensure your communities do not miss out on this funding and get placed back in the long queue of those rural areas waiting for broadband improvement.

*rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk
chris.bryant.mp@parliament.uk*

In the coming days we will email all those registered with us in Appley and Ashbottle affected by this issue with some suggested information points to structure your communication with the local MP and Minister.

We would hope that, with collective pressure, BDUK will resolve this quickly and sensibly.

Current activity

In the meantime our build for Stawley, Kittisford and Bathealton continues with no impact on voucher funding for these areas.



Cable laying at Stawley Wood, just before the maize was drilled.

Jim Weir, Technological

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for May 2025

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
6.22	2.09	3.39	3.98	0.83

Another fairly dry month, although not a new record. May 2020 still holds on to its title as the driest May since 2001 with a recorded rainfall of 0.24 inches.

Val Coots

Red Wine Supernova (IRE)

2021 Bay Mare

By: Kingston Hill (GB)

Ex: Another Tonto (IRE)

By: Definite Article (GB)



Have you ever been interested at the thought of becoming a racehorse owner?

Red Wine Supernova is a 4-Year-Old Bay Filly by Kingston Hill and could be just the one you have been waiting to get involved in. She is a half-sister to Moroder, who is an eight-time winner in the UK and recently won the valuable Grimthorpe Chase at Doncaster, for a second time running.

She has had just the one run in an Irish point-to-point and looked to be travelling like the winner, before unfortunately falling at the second last fence at Monksgrange on 30th March this year. Trainer Colin Bowe, whose horses we have done very well with previously, is very sweet on her and jockey Barry O'Neill loved her attitude throughout.

The Irish point-to-point website said the following about her:

“Making progress to dispute the lead before halfway, this Kingston Hill bay had still yet to be asked a question when crashing out at the penultimate obstacle.”

We are looking to set up a syndicate of eight shares at the cost of £12,200 + VAT per share which covers the purchase of the horse (and all associated costs, vetting, agents fees & transportation from Ireland etc.) This will also include all training fees up until the end of October 2025. We would also be open to discussion of the idea of smaller shares available if this is something that may interest you.

If you would like any further information, please do get in touch:

Email: david@davidpipe.com or phone: 01884 840715



JOIN THE HUNT!

BATHEALTON SAFARI SUPPER



Trek from course to course with us on Saturday 9 August
Starting in the Village Hall at 6.30pm
£15

Please book your places by calling 07980 994082

STAWLEY FLOWER and PRODUCE SHOW
APPLEY PAVILION
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
2.30 pm
Pimms and puddings and traditional cream teas
Wivelele -Wiveliscombe's Ukulele Band

Walk West Tone

Well! What a wonderful day was had by all who took part!

In a nutshell - the weather was kind; the route was well planned; the churches were beautifully decorated; the cakes were amazing; the choir singing was both fun and inspiring; the bell ringing was a ding dong; the participants were cheerful and chatty.

To be more specific - Walk West Tone was the inspiration of Rev. Andy Barton who envisaged a community walk of some thirteen miles through the beautiful countryside connecting the eight churches in the benefice. People gathered at Rockwell Green church at 9.30 am and led by Long Limbed Kitty set off through the fields, over the A38, to arrive at Sampford Arundel. Bells were rung at both churches and the local choir sang to and with the walkers. Lovely Ladies had prepared cakes and cooling drinks which were much appreciated. There was a brief gentle shower of Heaven-sent Refreshing Rain, before the sunshine reappeared and the walkers enthusiastically set off through shady woodland paths to Thorne St Margaret. Here different Lovely Ladies had baked and brewed and also brought to the church beautiful bunches of fragrant sweet peas. It was a lovely welcome.

The Very Tall Bishop addressed the many people who had walked the miles before departing to abseil down another church tower,

Rev. Andy explained the next part of the route along the abandoned canal to Greenham church. More people joined in. Water, beer, snacks and potted history were provided by Churchwarden Charles. And there was singing on the sunny riverbank. Then, much refreshed, the ever growing group stomped through field and farm to be welcomed into Kittisford to the sound of the four church bells being rung by the local team. More jollifications ensued, then off wending their way up hill and down dale to Bathealton went the intrepid walkers, oblivious perhaps of the two steep hills that were to be surmounted before finding Stawley and Ashbrittle...

At Stawley church the choir and the ringers vied with each other for the glory of receiving the walkers first. It was decided that distant bells ringing and immediate churchyard choir singing accompanied by the Vivacious Blond Organist would suit - so no daggers were drawn!

More delicious refreshments and floral decorations were provided by yet another, the eighth, team of Lovely Ladies and the by then a little bit footsore hikers went on to bravely attack the Chackeridge mountain.



Tired but happy, having reached Ashbrittle Church, their final destination - photo Laura Perkins.

More bells and more delightful singing, a quick peep at the famous yew tree and a group photograph ended the day's challenge with many smiles, happiness, laughter and grateful thanks to the Enthusiastic Organisers. It really had been a splendid and well supported outing. Children and dogs had been beautifully behaved and all age groups well represented.

And finally, last but certainly not least, came the sausage sizzle, Pimms, beer, nibbles and more delicious cake in the sunlit evening in Greywalls garden.

The heartfelt consensus was that "We must do it again next year"

The idea had been "to encourage people to come out and talk to each other and meet people from their community - hoping the walk would help people make new friends, as well as reconnect and share good experiences with old ones."

Well done and enormous thanks to Kitty and her Support Team, to Andy, to all the Lovely Ladies, Singers, Ringers and everybody who came along and made it such a special day.

Angela Medlycott

Some interesting extra facts from Kitty:

- Number of walkers overall: 52
- Number of steps to cover the full route: 25,000 ish
- Oldest/youngest to cover the full distance: 79 / 15 months
- Number of sausages sizzled: 60
- Number of times Big Toby the Black Lab got stuck in a gate: 6
- Oldest spectator/supporter at a church: 90
- Number of smiles seen on route and thank you's to be said: INFINITE!!



Waterrow Village Hall Summer BBQ



Saturday July 12th 2025 -12.30pm

Waterrow Village Hall, Waterrow - TA4 2AX

A great way to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon with:

- A range of BBQ dishes and Vegetarian options*
- A selection of tasty salads and sides*
- A wide variety of homemade desserts*
- Soft drinks are provided, tea /coffee/ squash*



A free prize picture quiz is included in the price!!!

Please bring your own alcoholic / preferred soft drinks.

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

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

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

The Bathealton 'Pop-up' Café

Community Radio for the
10Parishes and Beyond

The first 'Pop-up' started post COVID in September 2023 with soup, hand crafted sandwiches and a selection of cakes with fresh coffee and tea.

It was a way of reaching out to the isolated and lonely of the ten parishes which was relaxed and personable while also raising some funds for the village hall.

However, it all came to an abrupt halt when the hall kitchen floor collapsed in December 2023. The floor had to be completely replaced and the opportunity was taken to upgrade the kitchen facilities, all done by a team of willing volunteers.

The 'pop up' reopened in September 2024 with a new look and a new menu. All the ingredients on the menu are now home cooked, baked or crafted using locally sourced produce.

When it re-started it was run by Adele and Denise – with Phil as a silent support. However, due to an unforeseen incident Denise needed to become a silent supporter with Susan Webber and Phil Broad stepping in to become valued members of the team.

Our aim is to provide good quality home cooked food in a relaxed atmosphere where people can meet and connect, at a good price that people can afford, (and gift extra to the village hall specially if they wish).

What I have learned through this experience is that I love meeting and chatting to people, I really enjoy cooking and baking so carrying this out in the place I love is a win win!

Over the next couple of years I would like to use the outside areas for coffee and cakes during the summer.

Keep an eye out in the parish magazine for the menus as they are devised.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Adele Broad

News from the Parish News

Thanks again, for your kind support.

Donations received from:

The Greenway family
Colin and Annette Hadrell
Anonymous in the village shop

Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer. Details inside back cover.

Andrew Millard, Treasurer



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POP UP CAFÉ
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our 'Pop up'.

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old friends or meet new ones.

The next 'Pop - Up' will be on
Monday 7th July
12noon - 2.00pm

The menu consists of :

Main course
Homemade: quiche Lorraine or vegetarian
quiche, with salad and new potatoes.

Sweet
Homemade: Apple cake with Cream

Unlimited Cafetiere of Coffee or
a selection of teas. All for £9

*You can reserve a place by calling Del on
07980 994082 or just pop in.*



A Summer Celebration

with John Young and the Village Festival Choir

Bring your own picnic (drinks available) to the beautiful gardens at Stawley Mill

Saturday 12th July at 5.00pm

Plenty of singing and participation: Rounds, Songs, Anthems, Poems... and please bring something to sit on.



VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL
Thursday, July 31st at noon
SMELLS LIKE A SPANIEL



I promise they will have had a swim in the river before I bring them!

MAURICE STANBURY will explore some of the other activities which spaniels undertake which depend on their special qualities, of which a good nose is paramount.

You will know many of them, but I promise, not all!



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



Lunch Club

During our May lunch meeting we were treated to an illustrated talk from Anne-Marie and Nigel Paterson, regulars at our lunch club. They had recently returned from a gruelling walking and climbing expedition in Chile.

They were full of excitement about the wonders they had experienced, minimised the hardships and are now ready for the next adventure. Thank you for telling us something about the other side of your life, away from everyday Ashbrittle.

Smells like a spaniel!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 31st July - NB the 5th Thursday in the month. Our speaker will be Maurice Stanbury - another well known local - who will be talking about spaniels and their special abilities, particularly their scenting abilities and training programmes.

Weather permitting, we plan for an outdoor demonstration of human and dog skills.

Booking essential - my contact details for booking are: email harlingdelia@gmail.com or telephone 01823 672203.

Delia Harling

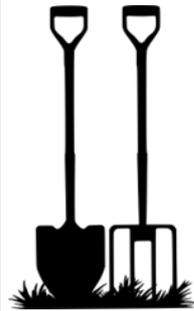
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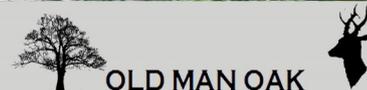
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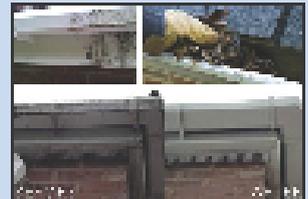
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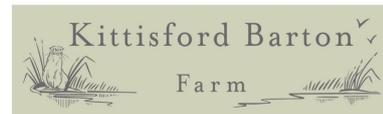
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DIAL 999 FIRST

But, there are four defibrillators within our community which are easy to use with verbal and visual instructions and available to anyone. They are permanently located at these places and can be found using the // What3words codes below.

Ashbrittle Village Hall, on the outside wall.

blurts/flats/crouching

Bathealton Village Hall, on the outside wall.

relatives.widgets.rolled

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

Stawley Village Shop, on the outside wall

messaging.servers.quaking

Each one can be removed and taken to where it is needed. **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

Police Beat Team PCSO Brianna Whelan

Tel: 07761 405460 or 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*

Somerset Councillors

Cllr Dave Mansell – 01984 623823 or email:

dave.mansell@somerset.gov.uk

Cllr Gwil Wren – 01823 400657 or email:

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Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

Becky Alder Pre-schools Manager - Swallows,

Sampford Arundel 01823 672342 Mon/Tuesday.

Stawley Under Fives 07707 416871 Weds/Thurs/Fri

Parish News information

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. Please send items for publication by email *ashparishnews@gmail.com* preferably as attachments in Microsoft 'Word' format.

Advertising Our rates are £2.00 per month for a small box, £4.00 for a quarter page, £8.00 for a half page and £16.00 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

Bank details: Account Name: The Parish News, Sort Code: 30-98-45. Acc. no. 01828373

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

2nd and 16th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
6th	2.00 - 5.00 pm	Stawley Festival at the Appley Pavilion
7th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Pop-Up Café in Bathealton Village Hall
12th	5.00pm onwards	A Summer Celebration of music and singing at Stawley Mill
19th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
25th	6.30 pm	Summer BBQ at Ashbrittle Village Hall
31st	12.00 noon	Ashbrittle Lunch Club in the Village Hall

August

9th	6.30 pm	Safari Supper starting at Bathealton Village Hall
15th	6.00 pm	Ashbrittle Arts AGM - Greenways Barn
30th	9.00 - 12.00 noon	End of season - Big Breakfast at Appley Pavilion

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 in Ashbrittle Village Hall
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Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club - Second XI



Back row - left to right. Leon Westcott, John Barker, Charlie Cooper, Steve Priscott, Rupert Gabriel, Carl Westcott, Chris Hill and Peter Woodberry.

Seated - left to right. Vice captain Rob Popplestone, Captain Mike Hill and Ellie Popplestone.

Next Deadline Date: Friday July 25th 2025

Editors: Maurice and Avril