



Parish news

October 2025

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

Church Services**Sun 5th Oct**

11.00am Harvest Communion Service St. Michael's, Stawley
 11.15am Sung Eucharist Service All Saints', Rockwell Green
 5.00pm Harvest Festival St. John the Baptist, Ashbrittle

Sun 12th Oct

9.30am Holy Communion Service Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
 11.15am Sung Eucharist Service All Saint's, Rockwell Green

Sat 18th Oct

11.45pm Community Lunch Appley Pavilion RSVP welcome@westtone.org.uk
 Come to a free lunch and share what matters to you about life in your local community.
 Please take a look at the invitation in this month's Parish News (*page 5.*) and drop us an RSVP.

Sun 19th Oct

11.15am Sung Eucharist Service All Saints', Rockwell Green
 12.30pm Harvest Festival Rewe Farm, Thorne St. Margaret
 5.00pm Harvest Festival St. Nicholas', Kittisford

Sun 26th Oct

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

Thu 30th Oct

7.00pm Church in the pub The Globe Inn, Appley RSVP welcome@westtone.org.uk

Sat 1st Nov

6.00pm Reflection time for All Souls St. Margaret's, Thorne St. Margaret
 All are welcome at this gentle occasion to reflect on those who we have loved and lost in our lives.
 If you would like someone to be remembered please email welcome@westtone.org.uk

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 - 'A heron and reflection' - the first prize winning photograph, at the Stawley Flower and Produce Show, taken by Gerry Webb.

Thought for the Month

Ali Dominy of Spiceland Quaker Meeting regularly contributes to the Parish News. Over fifty years ago, her father, James W. Hornby, then a Headmaster in Bristol, recorded Prayer for Today for the BBC.

I remember once flying back from Rome to London early on a glorious Sunday morning and gazing down on the Alps which were a picture of beauty as the morning sun shone on the snow-capped peaks. But it was not just the beauty of it that caught my wonder. When viewed from above the whole dimension had changed. The Mont Blanc massif was reduced to the size of a sugar lump and the Matterhorn had lost its razor's edge. The whole range seemed to be no more than sand castles which the tide had forgotten to sweep away. And then my mind flew back to childhood – to another time when I had gazed and wondered at some of these same mountains but in a different way.

Then I was gazing up at them as an aspiring mountaineer. Their towering mass reached up to the skies – and beyond. The broken rock, jagged and spiky, stood sentinel, as menacing as a wolf with bared fangs, and the glaciers spread like a floor of polished marble across the mountain face. That man should dare to challenge such majesty seemed irreverent, that he should succeed seemed improbable. But the creations of nature are not the only things which inspire awe and wonder in some but supercilious contempt in others. It all depends how you look at them – whether you look up and wonder or look down and despise.

This is the time of year when thousands of young people [are seeking or starting their first jobs]. Some will be lucky. It is easy for them to look up – they can look up and wonder at the skill of those whom they seek to emulate – they can look up at themselves though they will be unwise to do so for too long. For others – alas too many – it is hard to look up when nobody seems to want you. It is hard to look up at oneself when everybody to whom you offer yourself says “NO”. But it is one of the lucky ones of whom I am particularly concerned. John won't have any difficulty in finding a job; he is intelligent, quick to learn and ambitious: examinations he treats with disdain and interviews as fun. Academic qualifications he picks up as easily as pebbles off a beach. Life has treated him well and he seems no reason why it should not continue to do so. But this is exactly the reason why I am frightened for John.

John in his matter of fact way would insist that there are no real mysteries in life, that there is a rational answer to everything if only man would

set his mind to finding it out. But this is where John is wrong and where somebody someday must persuade him that he is wrong, though I suspect that that somebody will be either a wise wife or his own good sense helped perhaps by the bitter experiences of life. John never did like saying “I don't know” and he never did like admitting that there might be others who knew more than he did. But, as he makes his way (swiftly, I guess) up the ladder of his career, I believe that gradually there will dawn on him the most intriguing wonder of all – there is no limit to understanding; for the more John understands, the greater the opportunities for him to understand still more. The more science proves, the more glaring the things that it leaves unproved and some things there are that it will never prove.

What is love and what is it that makes two people fall in love? What is it that gives each one of us a sense to recognise beauty in the lives of others or show it in our own? What is it that first gave life to the lifeless or feeling to the unfeeling? I wonder – and it is right that I should wonder and it is right that John should wonder, for if John ceases to wonder, he will cease to respect and, if he ceases to respect, he will destroy himself as surely as the climber who disregards the sovereignty of mountains or the sailor who spurns the tantrums of the seas.

And now a prayer:

O holy wisdom of God, enlighten all men of science who search out the secrets of your creation, that their humility before nature may be matched by reverence towards you. Save us from misusing their labours, that the forces they set free may enrich the life of man, and that your name may be hallowed both in the search from truth and in the use of power.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday 18th October
10.00 - 12.00 noon

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

Please come and join us - all welcome !

Resilience

During the night of Thursday 28th August it finally broke. Months of hot, dry weather with temperatures nearly hitting 30°C finally ended. Blessed, heavy rain and a damp, drizzly morning to follow - bliss! No more cracked soil, parched fields and blistering heat. And with the drought broken, we will move on and prepare for the winter.

But, for a couple of weeks at the end of August, myself and Nick Jones were working at a beautiful place called Greencliff in North Devon. Eighty-five acres of land stretching back from the cliffs looking out towards Clovelly and Lundy Island. Absolutely idyllic with the sound of the surf breaking on the beach below.

We were digging ponds, scraping turf and creating banks to break up the flat fields of grass. The fields crackled as we moved over them. It felt like southern Spain or Portugal. The temperature hit 28° and we needed a lot of cold drinks to keep going. The digging revealed about 4" of top soil, then clay and stone subsoil; almost no organic matter and the soil turned to dust and blew away in the stiff, offshore winds. Sheep and cattle stood in brown, parched fields all around with almost no shade or food. At the Dunster Show the week before, most of the livestock had to be removed from the showground at 3.00 pm because the vets advised that they were at risk from the heat. 2025 looks like being the hottest UK summer since records began.

We are not adapted

The Celts among us are not adapted to these conditions - freckles spread and skin burns; but the land is ill-adapted too. The soil in many of the fields is thin and heavily compacted. Hedges are cut short and field trees die out in the open. There is little shade and little organic matter to hold water. During our digging over seven days we found no more than a couple of earthworms. And once the rain does come, it often cascades off the hard, sloping ground and floods into our towns.

Meanwhile, over at our rewilded site near Roborough, nine Red Devon cattle browsed contentedly on willow and oak. They sat in the ponds when they were too hot or in the shade of the billowing hedgerows and trees. The ground there is soft and spongy, full of worms and moles. The grass is damp and green and when it rains the water sinks in and fills up the ephemeral ponds. The air is relatively cool and moist because of all the shade and vegetation and the increasing organic matter and root masses in the soil hold water through summer.

We need to grow food, and farming our land is the way to do it - not growing protein in labs or vegetables in hydroponic systems. But rainfall

is increasing and temperatures are climbing. A bare landscape and cities full of concrete, tarmac and hard roofs are not going to cope. We need what they call "resilience" in our landscape. What this really means is loose soil full of organic matter and worms; field trees and lots of hedgerows providing shade and fodder for the livestock; more banks across slopes and less drainage. I have no idea how we can do this on a large scale. The supermarkets control our food industry, and agrochemical and farm machinery suppliers manipulate our food growers. All we can do is what we can on any land we control or have influence over.

Climate change is happening and it's happening now. We know what needs doing to curb the worst effects. We just have to get on and do it.

Recommended reading: 'From Dirt to Soil' by Gabe Brown

Nick Benge

Rainfall Statistics (inches) for August 2025

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2.20	2.13	2.8	0.94	1.10

Three-quarters of August's rainfall arrived in the final four days, otherwise it would have been a dire picture. Until the downpour on 28th August there had been just under 0.3 inches of precipitation.

I am glad we did not have to record the driest month since local records began in 2000.

Val Coots

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.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

You are invited to a

Community Lunch

Come for a free lunch and share what matters to you about life in your community. A chance to meet one another over a meal and hear a range of views about the joys and challenges of rural life locally



11.45am Saturday 18th October 2025

Appley Pavilion, Appley Cross,
Stawley, Wellington, TA21 0HH

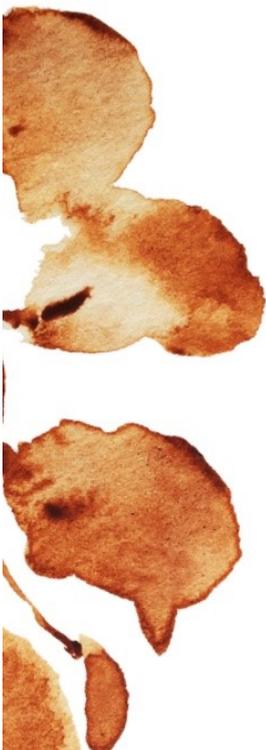
RSVP by 11th October if possible

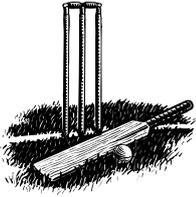
Revd Andy Barton, West Tone Benefice

welcome@westtone.org.uk

01823 924007

All are welcome





Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

As the 2025 Season comes to a close, we'd like to express a huge thank you to all of our volunteers, players and sponsors for their support this year, in what was an overall successful year for the club.

Our 1st XI put up a valiant effort in their Division 1 Title Defence, finishing in second place in the league, to newly promoted side, Watchet. Watchet was also the only team between the 1st XI getting their hands on another piece of silverware, via the West Somerset League Cup.

In summary, a second place finish in the League, alongside runners up in the Cup, has been a strong showing considering the difficulties the club have faced with player availability.

For the 2nd XI it has been a frustrating and difficult time, but they still managed to end on a positive note. Having to cancel multiple games was always going to be somewhat detrimental to the season, however they did not let that disrupt the games they did manage to play in.

Needing the full 35 points from the final game to guarantee safety was the fact of the matter. And 35 points were well deserved come that final run being hit, and the confirmation of another season in Division 3 locked in for 2026.

Youth Programme

It was also an extremely positive year for the club with the restart of our Youth Programme. We were able to provide a number of training sessions to mostly new-to-cricket children, and help them to develop knowledge of the game, skills, and new friendships and relationships at the club. It was really amazing to see the kids progress and improve week by week, and to see some youth players coming to support the adult teams in their fixtures.

We currently have plans to put a team into a local youth league next year, but this is to be confirmed before the start of the 2026 season.

We'd like to say a personal thanks to our Main Club Sponsor, Fenton Farm Eggs, for their continued support, along with Fox Brothers Ltd for sponsoring our Social Media Channels, and all match ball and player sponsors for providing highly valuable exposure and financial support to a local club.

From everyone at Ashbrittle Cricket Club, thank you for your support for 2025. Bring on 2026!

Up The Brittle!

Callum Hamer

News from the Parish News

A tribute to Morag Berthon who has had many years of involvement with the Parish News.

Decades ago up at Hellings, production of the Parish News was a real family affair. The kitchen table was the site of great activity when the magazine was put together, using an inky old Roneo duplicator, turned by hand. Morag's husband Graham, then drove around the parishes taking the magazines to their delivery points.

After Graham died, Morag carried on the good work and has been the organiser for the delivery around Bathealton. She's now handing over that responsibility to Nerys Gibb who has kindly taken this on.

Many, many thanks Morag!

Jo Forrester

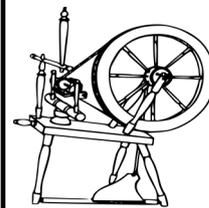
Donations this month received from:

Helen and Tom Lock
Annie and Nick Benge

Thanks for your kind donations. Donations may be left at Stawley Shop or sent directly to the Treasurer.

Details inside back cover.

Andrew, Avril and Maurice



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: 7th and 21st October
4th and 18th November
at 2.30pm

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



APPLE PRESSING DAY



SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
APPLEY PAVILION, TA21 0HH

FREE APPLE PRESSING, £5 FOR USE OF PASTEURISER
TEA & COFFEE SERVED FROM 10.00 am
BANGERS & MASH SERVED 12-2.00 pm

Proceeds from refreshments: Appley Pavilion
Equipment hire: Brendon Orchards, Wiveliscombe

WELLINGTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

OPEN DAY

Saturday 11th October
11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Do you know what services our local hospital provides?

Have a tour around the facilities
Talk to staff

Refreshments available

Stawley Flower and Produce Show 2025

Following the great heatwave of July and August torrential showers restored some vigour to our gardens. This was just in time to boost the quality of produce at the annual Stawley Flower and Produce Show held at the Pavilion on Sunday 7th September.



Admiring the flowers on display.

The Pavilion Committee worked tirelessly to provide delicious cakes and Pimms Cocktails while the Wiveliscombe Ukulele Band serenaded us all. The event was really well supported and a happy afternoon was had by all. There was a record number of forty seven exhibitors and one hundred and fifty eight entries.

John Hannon introduced the prize-giving by announcing that it was fifty one years since he married Angie and this was met with great applause, much to Angie's embarrassment!

The children's entries never fail to delight with their imagination. The winner of the Junior Rossholme Cup for the cover of the 2026 programme went to Madison Bell, granddaughter of John and Angie Hannon.

Mandy and Stuart from The Globe had donated a new trophy which was a magnificent glass globe so many thanks to them for their support. Congratulations to Liz Burt who won the Cothay Cup for the most points of the day.

The other trophy winners were:

Vegetable Award to Chris Clapham
Fruit Award to Liz Burt
Flower Cup to Pippa White
Produce Award to Liz Burt
Cookery Award to Alex Paterson

Croft Award jointly Liz Burt and Maddie Poppins

Art Award to Maggie Watts

Photo Shield to Gerry Webb

Rossholme Cup jointly to Maddie Poppins and Robyn Farmer

Chairs Cup jointly to Alex Paterson and Gordon McKenna

Globe Award to Kate Holloway

Children's Awards Rossholme Junior Cup to Madison Bell, Special Prize to Ivy Enticott for her delightful marshmallow sheep.

After the prizegiving Chris Clapham auctioned off the produce which made £73.00

My sincere thanks go to the judges Ann Heard and Lesley Garner; to the Tiverton Agricultural Society for their generous sponsorship of £100, to Anna-Lisa De'ath, Alex Paterson, Pat Sweet and to Penny Stanbury for supplying the judges and organisers with a delicious lunch as well as all the other helpers who made the day possible.

As I announced at the show, I am standing down as organiser and am delighted to let you know that in 2026 the show will be run by Alex Paterson and Alesha Naranjit with Anna-Lisa continuing to look after the score board. In their capable hands I am quite certain that the show will go from strength to strength. By way of introduction for those who don't know them, Alex is the daughter of Nigel and Ann-Marie and is to be married in Stawley Church in the autumn while Alesha is a resident of Kittisford and a regular contributor to the Parish News.

Suzette Williams, chairman of the Pavilion Committee, would like to thank all the helpers in the kitchen, (*see photo on opposite page - left to right*) Freya, Phoebe, Lucy, Kristy, Kath, Suzette, and Isobel.

Thanks also to those who donated prizes for the raffle, the Wiveliscombe Ukulele Band and special thanks to the Taunton and Banwell Harriers for the loan of their marquee. £350 was made for the Pavilion funds.

We thank you all for coming and look forward to a new and exciting show in 2026.

Sue Jacoby

Stawley Parish Council

The Parish Council will be holding a meeting on the 7th October at 7:30pm in Appley Pavilion. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The agenda will be published on or before the 1st October on the Parish Website at <https://stash.org.uk/>.

Stawley Community Village Shop & Tea Room

Opening hours

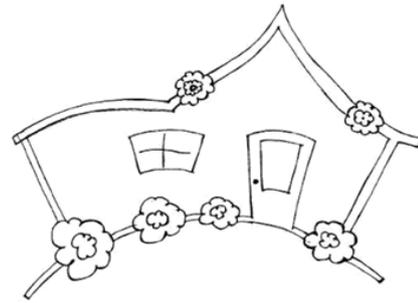
Week day opening 8.00am to 5.00pm

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

Cake delivery

Our new local supplier of cakes and tray bakes and the very important Eccles cakes started at the beginning of September and are selling well.

The new day (Wednesday) for bread and pastry delivery from Glenmore hasn't seemed to pose a problem for anyone; you just have to remember we close at 1.00pm. Remember you can make "one off" orders by phoning the shop or emailing us (details above) by Monday morning for delivery on Wednesday.

New to the shop recently, we have some zero alcohol beer for sale and some vegan frozen sausages are in the freezer, we also have alternative coffee whitener if you are not keen on the dairy!

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



Stawley Flower and Produce Show kitchen helpers - see full report on page 8.

Guessing the Future

Do you watch the weather forecast on TV? Of course you do - it gives you something to moan about when they get it wrong. Which often seems to be the case? Yet we go on watching and we make plans accordingly.

They remind me, in a way, of all those prophets saying what joy or disaster is coming our way. All those promises of wealth that the sound economy will give, or Private Fraser in 'Dad's Army' - "We're all doomed!" Who do we believe? Here's a poem called "Weatherman":

Weatherman

Dark suited with tie to appear on TV,
with myriad of symbols for watchers to see,
while women who forecast wear colourful clothes
maybe to be cheerful when black clouds arose:

Atlantic storms racing to tear at our shores
when powerful winds will push trees to the floor,
lash rain against windscreens, flash floods on the
roads,
and threaten the tiles on both shops and abodes.

The weatherman speaks and we hear to believe
so know how to live, whether stay or to leave
because it's unsafe if bad tales come our way,
or if in the sun on a beach we can stay.

For weather is life,
the tempests of strife,
or hotness of sun
helps passions be fun,
the deluge of flood
turns thought into mud,
or dark snowy chill,
death freezing the ill.

The weatherman comes as a prophet to warn,
a voice in the conscience, advising since born
for leadings of life into pastures of love
when touched by the warmth that descends from
above,

or threatens the sky with the angers of hate
to darken the mind into dangerous state:
helps watchers respond to the story as told
to change or maintain as the days may unfold,

thus we all react to the lessons we've learnt,
so we never freeze, we don't ever get burnt.

Martin Perry

Lunch Club

Our August lunch club broke new ground. Instead of a speaker we had a display of our own art and craft work. This proved very popular and many of us were astonished at the wealth of creativity and talent within our group - from painting to wood work to quilting and cake decoration and more besides. I hope this might become an annual event.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 30th October at 12.00 noon. The 'entertainment' is not yet finalised but you can be assured of good company, good food, some laughs and possibly an opportunity for some mental agility. I hope you will join us.

We are open to anyone living within our parishes or who has local connections. Please let me know if you would like to come.

My contact details are email *harling-delia@gmail.com* or telephone 01823 672203.

Delia Harling



Harvest Festival Lunch

at Stawley Mill
on
Sunday 5th October

Following our
11.00 am Harvest Festival Service
at Stawley Church

£10.00 per head
(including a glass of wine)

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

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on
Wednesday 8th October

To place an order, please email:-
judy.milne@btinternet.com or contact
Judy or Michael Milne on 01823 672205 by the
Monday before the Wednesday delivery
New members always welcome

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

We are giving it another go!

We hold a monthly get-together as a self-directed group to do whatever 'arty' or 'crafty' project takes your fancy

**Painting and Drawing - Mosaics - Textiles
Crafts - etc.**

Come and meet some local art and craft enthusiasts, see what's going on and tell us about your favourite craft

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

**Meetings will now be on the 2nd Thursday
afternoon each month**

**9th October and 13th November
2.00 - 4.0 pm**

If you are interested in joining us, contact me by email below to be added to the mailing list:

HOLYWELL ANTIQUES & LICENSED TEAROOMS

THE HOLLOWAY, HOLYWELL LAKE, WELLINGTON, TA21 0EJ
01823 976551/07710265605
OPEN THURSDAY – SATURDAY
AND THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
9.00 – 4.30



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



VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

Thursday, October 30th at noon

WHIZZ FOR ATOMS!

For your edification and delight,
Pauline Wood will conduct a scientific quiz.

(No, you cannot play with the bunsen burners or mercury!)

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



Full Fibre Broadband Update

Rain - a very welcome change to soften the soil, even if each morning we don't know if we need coats and jumpers (and sweat) or shorts and T Shirts (and sometimes get wet).

Having connected Kittisford as far as the Mill we jumped back to our Bathealton build and have made great progress down from Kittisford Farm to Yeancott. We've just completed the duct runs behind the Village Hall ready to start the drops into those houses signed up, as well as a Free Connection to the village hall for community use.

We will be returning to complete the remaining properties in Kittisford before long but for the next few weeks our focus will be on the centre of Bathealton. To aid progress there, we will have a Horizontal Directional Drill rig on site this coming week. This is another tool in the trenchless arsenal and involves a drill rig with the ability to steer the drilling head up, down or left and right as it progresses underground. Once drilled, a pipe can then be pulled back following the same path.

The advantage of drilling is the ability to overcome complex changes of levels, without large, deep excavations as well as the ability to avoid other utilities. In Bathealton, we'll be attempting four shots around Bathealton Court which will give us a duct route to reach nearly every property in the village, as well as onward routes towards Poleshill and North of Bathealton once we are in a position to progress those areas.

Appley residents

Residents of Appley who have registered with us, will be receiving their Voucher paperwork in the coming days. As before, this consists of a Fibre Order Acceptance document from Technological (for electronic Signature) and a confirmation/validation email from the BDUK Funding Platform to confirm your Gigabit Voucher application. The latter frequently ends up in spam / junk, so if you receive one, please check for the other.

The Voucher scheme is also still active for any remaining residents in Bathealton and Kittisford who wish to sign up. At the current time we've been notified by BDUK that funding must be claimed and our projects completed by April 2027.

Jim Weir, Technological Services

Mobile Library
at Greenham Bridge
Next visits: 21st October
and 18th November
9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

Kittisford Harvest Festival

Sunday 19th October at 5.00 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us in a service of celebration.

Light refreshments after the service



Contact Annie Musgrove for further information
amusgrove@cantab.net



Bathealton Village Hall

POP UP CAFÉ

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

The next 'Pop - Up' will be on
Monday 6th October
12noon - 2.00pm

Main course

Homemade: Somerset Casserole with roasted vegetables, or Vegetarian Casserole, with crusty bread and butter

Sweet

Homemade: pumpkin pie with ice cream or cream.
Celebration Cake

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.

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

Rough Ramble for Rossholme 2025

Back in 2022, I walked twenty six miles on Dartmoor at the end of the summer to raise funds for Rossholme School in Kenya (I got chatting to Judy Webb over a cup of tea and found myself volunteering to do something mad to raise money for this wonderful charity; I suspect many local readers will know this feeling!)

The following year, I bumped into Judy sometime in October, and she told me that Rossholme had been given the opportunity to buy the land the school stands on and thus make its premises safe for ever – the only snag was that this needed swift fundraising as £25,000 needed to be raised by the end of the year. I had a quick think about who I could ask to embark on another walk at short notice (they had to be willing and able to walk twenty six miles over rough and hilly terrain in winter, some of it in the dark; if they had the capacity to keep me safe and possibly carry me over their shoulder if necessary, so much the better!) and I chose my nephew, Christian, seventeen stone of solid muscle, cheerfulness and ‘can-do’ spirit, wrapped up in a neat 6ft 4ins parcel – perfect!

Raising £2000

We had a great day out, starting and finishing in the dark with our headtorches on, and raised somewhere in the region of £2000 towards the grand total. Someone’s comment that we should make it a mass participation event next time stuck in Judy’s and my mind, and so the Rough Ramble for Rossholme was born. Last year we were joined by assorted Ashbrittlers walking a half marathon, led by Nigel Paterson, which made the whole event even better (more people to celebrate with in the pub afterwards!).

The question I get asked most often is ‘Why do you do this event in winter? Wouldn’t it be easier in summer when it’s warmer and lighter?’ Well, yes – but where’s the fun in that?!

The walking route centres on the village of Holne, near Buckfastleigh, where there is an excellent pub called The Church House Inn, as well as a useful shop and tearoom. Walkers can choose to go on the southerly fifteen mile route via Scorriton and the Avon Dam, or the northerly eleven mile loop via Dr Blackall’s Drive, Dartmeet and Huccaby. These two can be glued together to make the full twenty six mile route, although this is not recommended for the faint-hearted, unprepared or inexperienced! This year sees the introduction of a new ‘Little Ramble for Rossholme’ route, which is a moderately hilly five and a half miles following the River Dart to start with and then returning over Dr Blackall’s Drive.

All routes are self-guided (no extra signs out over and above the existing footpath/bridleway signs) so any groups taking part will need at least one capable map reader. All routes can be shared via a link to the OS Maps app or by GPX for other apps. And if you like good old fashioned dependable paper maps, I’m happy to help with route plotting that way too!

Support a good cause

There are two ways to support this event. You can stay at home in the warm and show your support by donating via the Rough Ramble for Rossholme sponsorship link www.justgiving.com/page/roughramble; you are also welcome to sit at the pub or tearoom and cheer any passing walkers on, of course!

If you would like to participate in the walk, then please find yourself a group of friends or family to join you and get in touch with me at walkwesttone@icloud.com to get the maps you need. All we ask is that you share the fundraising link widely and ask people to sponsor you (or your group could all donate a virtual ‘entry fee’ instead, if you prefer that approach).

Please help us to make **15th November 2025** an outstanding fundraising day for Rossholme School in Kenya – I’d love to hear from you if you’d like further information.

*Kitty Hollingsworth
walkwesttone@icloud.com*



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Bute Voices Come to Kittisford

Bute Voices is a young vocal octet formed in 2024 by students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, with members from across Wales, England and Scotland. We first came together through a shared love of harmony and choral singing – and have been making music as friends ever since.



We enjoy singing everything from classical works to contemporary and popular songs, often creating our own arrangements. Part of the adventure has been seeing where our voices take us – sometimes into formal concert settings, sometimes into festivals, and sometimes into more informal community spaces. Highlights so far have included the International A Cappella School in Tetbury, the Brecon Choir Festival, and an International Women's Day concert at our College. Each performance has brought new experiences, new friendships, and the joy of sharing music.

This summer we were especially delighted to sing at Brecon Cathedral, with a programme reflecting our hometowns and featuring new pieces written and arranged by ourselves and fellow students. It reminded us how special it is to bring together different voices, traditions, and ideas in one shared space.

Above all, what matters most is connecting with those who come to listen – and we're especially looking forward to being with you in Kittisford this December:

Saturday 6th December, 6.00 pm – Choral concert at Kittisford Church

Sunday 7th December, 12 noon – Community singing workshop at Kittisford House Barn

Sunday 7th December, 3:30 pm – Choral Evening at Kittisford Church

For more information and to book your place at the Choral Concert and/or Singing Workshop contact Paul Musgrove on musy@cantab.net

Jack Irwin, Bute Voices @ButeVoices

Gardening Group

On Wednesday 10th September twelve hardy souls made the trip to Lytes Cary Manor near Somerton, which is owned by the National Trust. Unfortunately, the weather was not good but could have been worse!

The visit was organised by Angela Medlycott and our thanks go to her for the arrangements and for organising a guided tour of the gardens by Sam, the head gardener. He runs the gardens both at Lytes Cary and at Tintinhull.

The house is a 15th century manor and was the birthplace of Henry Lyte, an Elizabethan herbalist who translated a Dutch herbal of 1564 and published it in English in 1578. In the 19th century it was used as a tenant farm but was bought by Sir Walter Jenner in 1907. He restored it to its former glory and added a new West wing in the Arts and Craft style. There is a small chapel, which was originally built as a chantry. Many of us went round the house as well as the garden.

Major refurbishment

The gardens are undergoing major refurbishment. They are not copying the original planting, but are being given a more sympathetic scheme with many climbers made to grow over the garden walls and on the facades of the buildings. The Yew topiary on the entrance path is being restored to its original form, which is an avenue of large domes which have been neglected over recent years. To do this they have cut off the top half and they are now growing up from the base.

As with other gardens that we have visited this year they have had to fight against the scourge of bindweed, which was neglected during the Covid outbreak, and have now almost eradicated it.

The gardens themselves are divided into separate "rooms". There is a formal sunken garden outside the West wing with distant views of the countryside. Numerous borders are being restored and extended. Despite the difficult conditions this summer the borders were looking colourful with some attractive colour combinations.

Having dodged between the rain showers we repaired to the café for a cup of tea. Well worth another visit at a different time of year.

Freda Parkinson

Strange goings on in the clock tower.

The clock winders of Ashbrittle appear to have recruited some new young apprentices.

Investigating why the clock had stopped at two o'clock this week, the winders were surprised to discover new inhabitants at the top of the tower. Nestled in, just below the clock's pendulum, was a family of baby squirrels. How they got there remains a mystery as the tower was sealed some time ago to stop jackdaws entering. It has been decided that they should be left undisturbed until they can hopefully find their way out and find a more appropriate tree to call home.

So for some there will be a welcome silence in Ashbrittle with no hours being struck. We look forward to returning to duty sometime in the near future.

Paul Leyland

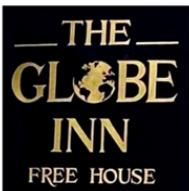
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Hooray for Hazelnuts, a celebration of Corylus!



For the first time in quite a few years I find myself in the joyous midst of a healthy harvest of hazelnuts! I had despaired of finding more than the odd handful, here and there, where the grey squirrels had missed them. I had become so

used to seeing green shells and husks broken and empty on the ground below a promising bush, well before any ripening could begin, that I had almost forgotten how sweet and milky fresh cobs could taste straight off the tree. I have been contemplating buying three or four cultivated 'Cobnuts' (rounded fruit) or 'Filberts' (elongated fruit) varieties for planting in my garden but having previously seen crops stripped almost overnight by crafty cunning squirrels, it seems I will have to build a netted fortress around them to keep them safe. I began to feel that maybe it was going to be more bother than it is worth, but this autumn's relative glut of wild nuts has put me in a more positive frame of mind.

Boyhood memories

When I was a boy, during the period from early September to early October, hazelnuts were abundant in the hedgerows and most rambles, cycle trips or fishing excursions were punctuated with spells of gathering and inevitably my pockets were usually stuffed. These would be emptied into jars and boxes under my bed; a pocketful would be accompanying me pretty much wherever I went. My mother's greatest concern was the continuous cracking of them with my teeth - 'Use the nutcrackers!' she would often yell. But if I was eating hazel kernels then I wasn't eating sweets, so it was one kind of dental risk exchanged for another as far as I was concerned!

Gathering nuts has always been a seasonal staple for me but there have been increasingly years where either I haven't had time or no (or very few) nuts can be found. So good at finding nuts was I that I was tasked with gathering as many as I could find at Highgrove on the estate and home farm for the then Prince of Wales (now King Charles) to take up to Scotland in order to feed the Red Squirrels at Birkhall (Balmoral) - I believe there is some television footage of the Prince hand-feeding the nuts I had gathered to the semi-tame Squirrel Nutkins in the garden there.

So, to find that the large *Corylus avellana* (common hazel or cobnut) at the end of the garden

which over-hangs the road was laden and appeared to be ripening with little or no signs of raiding parties from pests was very exciting and subsequent cascade of nuts, blown ripe from their husks, has had me scurrying out whenever I can to collect them before they are carried off by creature or storm rivulet or crushed to paste by passing vehicles- It just goes to show that there are some positive advantages to an autumn gale...

The other species of hazel found in the UK is *Corylus maxima*, the 'Filbert'. They tend to have larger, rounder leaves and longer, pointed nuts fully enclosed in an elongated husk (Involucre). This species has a range from central Europe to south west Asia and in many places overlap with *Corylus avellana* which is found more in northern Europe into western Asia. The centre of commercial hazelnut growing is in a particular region of Turkey where both species meet, producing somewhere in the region of 75% of the world's total crop. The nuts themselves are rich in protein and unsaturated fat as well as numerous essential trace elements and minerals essential for health.

Symbiotic relationships

Corylus, as part of the genus *Betulaceae*, contains around fourteen species, many from Asia and North America. Apart from *C.avellana* and *C. maxima*, very few are grown in the UK except in botanical collections. Native hazels have one of the highest proportion of symbiotic fungi species associated with it of all native woodland trees, many being specific to hazels alone. There have been many hundreds of named commercial cultivars listed over the years, originating in many parts of Europe and many more from Asia; in terms of ornamental cultivated varieties, the 'Contorted' or twisted hazel (*C.avellana* 'Contorta'), the Purple-leaved hazel (*C. maxima* 'Purpurea') and the Golden Hazel (*C. avellana* 'Aurea') are staples of our gardens.

There is much, much more to the hazel so I feel a 'part two' of this piece coming on where I look at its importance as a building material and its cultural, historical significance. And maybe a few cooking references. In the meantime, where did I put those nutcrackers??

John and Julie Ridgley

Kittisford Christmas Dinner Thursday 11th December

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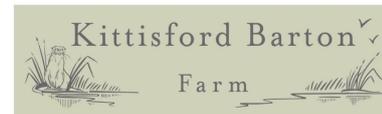
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Defibrillators in our Community

Would you know what to do if someone in your household had a Heart Attack/Cardiac Arrest?

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of premature death. In cardiac arrest the heart's steady rhythm is often replaced by disorganised electrical activity called ventricular fibrillation (VF). The sooner VF is treated by an electrical shock (defibrillation), the greater the chance of the person's life being saved. Immediate action by members of the public can save many lives.

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:
gwil.wren@somerset.gov.uk

Community Halls

Appley Pavilion and Recreation Field

– to book, call 01823 672266 or email:-
Lucy Williams *info@appleypavilion.co.uk* or book
online at *https://appleypavilion.co.uk*

Ashbrittle Village Hall

– to book, ring Pat Gainey on 01823 672760 or
07713 276656

Bathealton Village Hall

– to book, ring Tilly Willis on 07961 970743

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

Distribution: Pat Sweet 01823 672380

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

1st and 15th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
6th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Pop-Up Café in Bathealton Village Hall
9th	10.00 - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning at Church Cottage, Stawley
12th	10.00 - 3.00 pm	Apple Pressing Day at the Pavilion
18th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
24th	7.30 pm	Ashbrittle Harvest Supper in the Village Hall
30th	12.00 noon	Ashbrittle Lunch Club in the Village Hall

December

5th - 7th		Exhibition at Greenways Studio, Ashbrittle
6th and 7th		Festival weekend at St Nicholas Church, Kittisford
6th	7.00 pm	'A fabulous evening of Delicious Curries' in Bathealton Village Hall
11th	7.00 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner at Kittisford House
18th	12 noon	Christmas Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall
19th	7.00 pm	'Carols by Candlelight' in Bathealton Village Hall
24th	4.00 pm	'Carols and the Christmas Story, especially for children' - at the Church of St Nicholas, Kittisford



Back row - Trophy winners in the adult classes at the Stawley Flower and Produce Show, together with the children who won awards in their own competitions.

Next Deadline Date: Friday October 24th 2025

Editors: Maurice and Avril