



Parish news

July 2026

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

Church Services

Sun 5th July

10.00am	Holy Communion Service	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
10.00am	Holy Communion Service	St. Michael's, Stawley
10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green

Shanty Singing is not taking place in July; our plans for August will be in next month's edition.

Sun 12th July

8.45am	Bathealton Big Breakfast	Parish Hall, Bathealton
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Refreshments are being served ahead of the service and not afterwards this month, as the Village BBQ follows later in the day.

10.15am	All Age Communion Service	St. Bartholomew's, Bathealton
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Holy Communion with songs, stories and activities for kids and adults.

10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
4.30pm	Outdoor Church	Kittisford House, TA21 0SA

An informal outdoor service celebrating the beauty and bounty of nature.

Pub Explorers is taking a break in July and August, returning after the summer holidays.

Sun 19th July

10.30am	Patronal Service	St. Margaret's, Thorne St. Margaret
10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
11.15am	BCP Communion Service	St. John the Baptist, Ashbittle
6.00pm	Prayer and Praise	St. Margaret's, Thorne St. Margaret

A charismatic worship service with contemporary music, talk and prayer.

Sun 26th July

10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saint's, Rockwell Green
6.00pm	Taizé Reflective Evening Service	St. Nicholas', Kittisford
6.00pm	BCP Evensong Service	Holy Cross Sampford Arundel

For more information about all our services and events please visit our website westtone.org.uk or contact welcome@westtone.org.uk

Churchwardens and Clergy

Ashbittle	Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbittle, TA21 0LQ	01823 672365
	David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbittle, TA21 0LE	01823 672436
Bathealton		07449 196673.
Kittisford	Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW	07530 310795
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

Curate Reverend Sarah Rowden - Contacts: Phone 07599 336105 Email revdrowden@gmail.com

Front cover - A surprise visitor to the pond at Kittisford Barton -
 photograph Tom Lock.

Thought for the Month

As summer settles across Somerset, our countryside is once again looking its very best. Hedgerows are thick with greenery, wildflowers brighten the verges, and the familiar sounds of birdsong and buzzing bees fill the warm air. Whether you have lived here all your life or are visiting for a holiday, there is something special about this time of year in our villages.

For many, summer means holidays. Some will travel abroad in search of sunshine, while others will choose to explore closer to home. Our local area offers plenty to enjoy without travelling far. From peaceful walks on footpaths and lanes to days spent on our local coastline, there are countless opportunities to make the most of the season. A quick scan through the many events being promoted in this month's Parish News reveals many wonderful occasions to meet neighbours and visitors alike.

Added excitement

At the same time, another event is capturing our attention: the World Cup. Are you like many supporters following the action, cheering on your favourite team and gathering with friends and family to watch the matches? Even those who do not usually follow football can find themselves caught up in the excitement that such a major tournament creates. Especially if a favoured team progresses through the competition.

It can be a pleasure when an international event brings the community together. A World Cup match shown in the local pub can spark conversations between people of different ages and backgrounds. Children kick footballs around village greens, dreaming of scoring the winning goal, while adults discuss the latest results over a pint or a cup of tea.

The contrast between our peaceful countryside and the excitement of a global sporting competition is striking, yet the two do complement each other. The tranquillity of village life offers a welcome balance to the drama unfolding on television screens around the world. Stepping outside to enjoy sunset over rolling fields can be just what is needed after a stressful match or other global event of concern. Likewise, stepping into one of your local churches on any day of the week can offer a cool and tranquil place to calm body, mind and soul.

As we enjoy the weeks ahead, I hope you can make the most of everything that this summer has to offer: the beauty of our countryside, the pleasures of a well-earned holiday, and the shared excitement of the World Cup. Together, they remind us how local and global experiences can enrich our lives.

Revd Andy Barton 3

The Bathealton Big Breakfast

It was really heartening that so many people of all ages joined us for our first ever Bathealton Big Breakfast. Two types of breakfast were on offer - a traditional English breakfast and a Caribbean breakfast accompanied by fruit juices, unlimited teas and coffees, toast and a variety of breads, fruit and yoghurt. The majority of our guests plumped for a Caribbean breakfast which was very pleasing. From the kitchen, there was a continuous sound of enlivened conversation.

The breakfast was free, though if you were able to make a donation, that was gratefully received. It was hard to anticipate the number of diners so there was a slight delay in the eggs department - but that will be rectified for our next adventure!

The breakfast precedes our service at St Batholomew's Church - in view of how lovely it is to eat in a leisurely manner and not have to sprint across the road with one's mouth full to slip into church on time, we have made minor changes. If you prefer to simply join us for food, there is no need to feel under any pressure to join us in church.

Sunday 12th July

Breakfast - and there will be two types of breakfast on offer again - beginning at 8.45 and ending at 10.00 am. (see ad on p 4)

Our All Age Service commences at 10.15am

Coffee and cake (for those who can manage even more food) are served after church.

We would love you to join us as guests, friends, or even volunteers.

If you are able to let us know in advance, that would be great. A text message or call to 07449196673 is perfect.

Warm regards.

Churchwarden, St Batholomew's, Bathealton

News from the Parish News

Many thanks for the recent donations from:

Ashbrittle Parish Council

Pat Gainey

Val Coots

Colin and Annette Haddrell

Anonymous donors at the Village Shop

Donations may be left at the Village Shop, sent directly to the bank account or to our treasurer.

Details inside back cover

Avril and Maurice

Meeting for Worship Quaker

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*

Simple gifts ('Tis the gift to be simple) -

Listen to the music <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/z2qyn9q>

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

**When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.**

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and learn to say:

**When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.**

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of 'me',
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real.

**When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.**

Mobile Library
at Greenham Bridge
Next visit: 14th July
9.50 - 10.10 a.m.



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 July

We will serve food from 12 noon till 2.00 pm

Main course

Home-made: Chicken Chasseur or Bean and Mushroom Chasseur with creamy mashed potatoes. Mixed salad

Sweet:

Home-made: Summer Pudding and vanilla cream or Cream Horns.

Unlimited Cafetiere of Coffee or a selection of teas - all for £9.00.

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

WEST TONE BENEFICE
A family of seven village churches where people encounter God and care for others
Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Kittisford, Rockwell Green, Sampford Arundel, Stawley and Thorne St. Margaret

BATHEALTON BIG BREAKFAST

Bathealton Village Hall

COME JOIN US FOR A **FREE** SUNDAY SPREAD IN FRIENDLY COMPANY.

SUNDAY 12 JULY 8:45AM

ALL WELCOME. VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

ANY QUERIES CALL **07449196673**

STAWLEY FESTIVAL

2026

Sunday 5th July 2-5pm

**MOLLY LOCK | 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

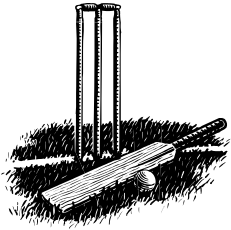
Pre buy tix:



Proceeds are equally split between FOSS and Stawley Preschool.

FOSS - Charity number: 1107306

Sorry, only Assistance Dogs are permitted at the Pavilion.



Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

This month has been a great month of cricket for the senior and youth setups!

The 1st XI have made it to the Quarter Final of the Baker Cup, after an astonishing and dramatic win over the Taunton Deane 1st XI. Although they play five divisions higher than Ashbrittle, Luke Williams' stunning 93, and Callum White's quickfire 40 not out, got the boys over the line for the win. They face another test in Wembdon 1st XI in the next round on Monday the 22nd June.

They have also recorded wins over Watchet and Over Stowey, with Luke Williams the consistent batter in every game. He hit a quite ridiculous 166 not out from just 92 balls against Watchet. He is currently leading all batting records for all West Somerset Divisions!

The 2nd XI have also had two brilliant wins over Wiveliscombe and Over Stowey, with some fantastic performances all round. Rob Hill hit a brilliant 126, and some handy contributions with the ball from Reuben Podbury taking three wickets have been standouts.

Our Youth Setup have enjoyed some fantastic games of cricket, with clear development from all to see. Every player has excelled in their skills, and their attitude to getting better has been a huge credit to them.

Callum Hamer

Appley Pavilion Chair Report for 2025/26

We continue to host Tai chi, Pilates and Pre-School regularly, together with the Cricket Club during the summer season.

The pavilion remains the community hall for the area and designed to accommodate various events and activities for ALL, with its amazing outside space and ample car parking area. It can accommodate large social gatherings like we had this year, including the twentieth birthday celebrations for the Appley Pavilion which included a hog roast and band evening with over one hundred people from the local area attending, fund raising breakfasts, Stawley School music festival, Children's SW Hospice bike ride, family rounders party, birthday parties for all ages, Stawley Flower Show, Community Apple Day, presentation evenings, Halloween party, funeral wakes, church

meetings, hen party, Christmas play, children's Valentines disco, Quiz night, Easter bingo and various meetings - a very suitable space for all.

We continue to push for 'out of user group hirings' as this is what enables us to continue to fund a cleaner once a week, window cleaner once a month, someone to maintain the car park area and a maintenance person for the Pavilion to keep it up to a good standard but there are still plenty of things on our list to do. None of this would be possible without our dedicated voluntary committee to keep things on track and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Pavilion for keeping things tip top!

And more thanks

Special thanks to Kath, Lucy and Lorraine. And for the outside field work a big thank you to the Cricket Club for their continued help in keeping the grounds up together, especially Mark White who spends hours keeping it up to such a high standard.

With such uncertain times for many at this time we need to do our best to keep bookings ticking over as much as we can and offer good deals to keep the rentals coming in; to help with this we now have our website up and running and this has helped with hire enquiries and bookings as you can see the bookings calendar on there and all information and we always appreciate a positive review!

Take a look at <https://appleypavilion.co.uk> Thanks to Sam Sheikh and Lucy for sorting this including an email address for the Pavilion info@appleypavilion.co.uk

If you feel you could help out the Pavilion in any way through volunteering please get in touch, it would be greatly appreciated.

This just leaves me to say thank you to all of the committee members who have supported me this year as it was a little trying at times and lets make the 22nd year at Appley Pavilion an even more successful one.

Thank You.

Suzette Williams

Rainfall Statistics (inches) May 2026

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2.09	3.39	3.98	0.83	1.69

A fairly dry month but I'm sure that there will have been a 'catch-up when next month's figures become available.

Val Coots



Waterrow Village Hall BBQ

Saturday July 18th 2026 - 12.30pm

Free picture quiz
with prizes and fun
kids activities

Summer

BARBECUE



Great food range and homemade dessert selection.

Bring your own soft/alcoholic drinks.

Entry just £12 for Adults and £6 for Under 12s

Get your tickets from Liz at St Andrews café on Thursday Mornings or call Sarah on 01398 361202

Blake

BESPOKE INSTALLATIONS



Design - Manufacture - Installation

Custom cabinetry from kitchens to gun rooms

info@blakebespoke.com

07952 805776

Manufactured in Waterrow



Open Garden and Outdoor Church at Kittisford House

Sunday July 12th

Open Garden 2.00pm til 4.00pm

Garden Entry £5



Outdoor Church 4.30 pm

Everyone is welcome to join the congregation of Kittisford Church in this informal outdoor service to celebrate the beauty and bounty of nature.

.....and afterwards, from 6.00 til 8.00 pm

Come and enjoy delicious, freshly made, wood-fired pizzas. **£10 a pizza**. ALL Proceeds going to support St Nicholas Church, Kittisford.

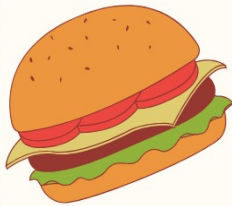
Come and join us, as you are able, at Kittisford House, TA21 0SA

Pizzas ONLY available by pre-order by July 10th to Paul Musgrove on *musy@cantab.net*

— THE —
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

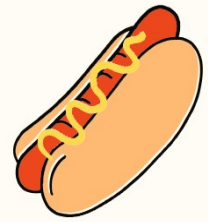
Chill out this July with a cold drink in our beautiful beer garden,
or kick off the weekend by enjoying a freshly made pizza on a Friday night.

Get your groove on in our garden marquee on
Sunday 19th July
when you can chill out to country-fried acoustic
rock and pop classics from local band



Sundog Slide

while tucking into delicious BBQ food.
Music starts at 3.30pm, BBQ from 4pm.



**PLANNING A PARTY OR FAMILY
GET-TOGETHER THIS SUMMER?
DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A SPACIOUS
MARQUEE IN OUR
GORGEOUS GARDEN WHICH YOU CAN
HIRE FOR PARTIES AND PRIVATE
EVENTS.
GIVE US A CALL FOR MORE DETAILS.**

*Let's
Party*

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

📍 Appley, Stawley, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 0HJ

☎ 01823 673147

✉ stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk

📍 The Globe INN Appley

Full Fibre Broadband Update July 2026

We finally achieved something that has been a long time coming... Appley Cross and our Fibre Cabinet at the School is now connected to the rest of our network via Waterrow! For a long time, it felt that Appley Cross might remain an fibre island for eternity, so those few hundred metres felt harder than anything we have built to date.

We started moving customers from the Waterrow Cabinet over to the Appley Cross Cabinet last week, some smoothly, some with a few minor issues (thank you for your patience) and we'll continue moving small groups across over the coming weeks.

Since our last update, we've been able to connect the properties around Kittisford Barton, with a few more to work towards at Beardsley Farm, and hopefully by the time you read this the Globe Inn will also be live.

As we've mentioned before, our current challenge is the route towards Ashbrittle, and we've made some good progress on agreeing a route, with hopefully more news to follow there soon... residents in Ashbrittle will have started to received their Voucher applications and Fibre Order paperwork with more to follow, so please watch your inbox!

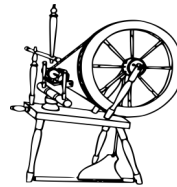
Our BDUK deadline of August 2026 looms, when we need to include any properties within the voucher scheme for the final time (individual applications will continue, this is just for inclusion within an approved project). We've not been able to find a viable route to continue into Greenham, so our primary aim will be to include any properties who have shown interest and directly bordering our current planned build areas. If you are interested, now is the time to register your interest with us.

It would be remiss not to mention SpaceX and their IPO share listing this month, not least making Mr Musk a Trillionaire (on paper), it is also showing to be a colossal shift towards risk on Tech shareholdings; you can't question the ambition - targeting the entire global telecoms market for a company that is losing billions a month is going to be one to watch... Unfortunately Starlink customers are going to feel the most pain as a public company and shareholders demanding returns... after a flurry of promotional deals in the run up to the IPO, Starlink customers are going to see more of the recent price increases, equipment rental charges, and tariff changes. As the only business within SpaceX generating cash, Starlink is going to be sweating those customers as hard as they can!

Meanwhile, Technological (who've not increased pricing for seven years) will soon be roll-

ing out our package upgrades and the only thing going up will be the speeds we offer! Once everything is in place, we'll be in touch with existing customers to explain their options, but we think you'll be pleased to stay with your local fibre service provider.

Jim Weir, Technological



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 July
and 4th and 18th August
at 2.30pm

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



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday 18th 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 !

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

Stawley Church Fete and Garden Party

The British weather certainly played its part at this year's Stawley Church Garden Party and Fete – unfortunately rather more enthusiastically than anyone had hoped. Fortunately, organisers had planned for wet weather, a decision that proved invaluable as rain fell steadily throughout the afternoon.

Despite the challenging conditions, visitors arrived in good spirits and enjoyed sheltering in the marquee, which was packed with tempting stalls, while the tea tent provided a warm and welcoming refuge in Penny's beautiful garden.

The cream teas were especially popular and nearly exhausted the supply of jam. The raffle, expertly conducted by John Hannon, generated plenty of excitement, while a number of surplus cakes found eager buyers at auction. Many visitors left laden with plants, bottles and homemade treats, with some even taking away a cream tea to enjoy later.



The bottle stall proved very popular, supervised by Clive Wall and Sam Lacey

On behalf of the PCC, heartfelt thanks go to everyone who contributed to the event, whether by helping beforehand, working on the day itself or assisting with the clear-up afterwards. Special appreciation is due to the team of volunteers at Stawley Community Shop & Tea Room, who kindly acted as a collection point for stall donations and made a generous contribution to the bottle stall. Several shop volunteers also lent their time and energy during the fete, helping to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

Two memorable images from the day remain. The first was the tea tent roof briefly taking

flight over Penny's rose bushes during a gust of wind while the site was being dismantled. The second was the sight of the dedicated tea ladies huddled around the tea urn at the end of the afternoon, using its remaining warmth to thaw cold hands after a long day's work.

A very special thank you goes to Penny for once again opening her home and garden to host this much-loved community event.

Despite the weather, the fete was a great success and raised £1,315 for Stawley Church. More importantly, it brought together friends, neighbours and visitors for an enjoyable afternoon of community spirit, good humour and generous support.

Annette Haddrell

Ashbrittle Art and Craft Group

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

**Next meetings:
9th July and 13th August
2.00 - 4.0 pm**

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

Pauline pjw200355@gmail.com

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on
12th August 2026

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

Stawley Mill



OPEN GARDENS

2pm Saturday 18th July



**Cream Teas
and Cakes**



£5 Entrance

CASH ONLY

All Proceeds to the Church

Treble's going – treble's gone!

The familiar call at the beginning of a ringing session

Dawn broke on Monday 8th June to an overcast drizzle, but the sun shines on the righteous. And so the Stawley, Ashbrittle and Kittisford Bell-ringers arrived at 10.30 am together with the sun, at Brompton Ralph, for the start of a day trip around church towers on the edges of the Brendon and Quantock hills. Bells were rung up and down in rounds, call changes made, method applied and all too soon it was time to move on to the next stop, Stogumber.

The wacky races-like procession of cars navigating the narrow lanes was delayed and redirected by a Police road block, but received a friendly welcome from Sarah Jeans as we rang at Stogumber, followed by a picnic lunch sitting in the churchyard. The Stogumber bells proved to be quite a challenge, with the tenor bell weighing one tonne!



Much needed rest and recuperation after ringing the heaviest set of bells of the day.

Refreshed, the next destination was Bicknoller, followed by West Quantoxhead, with approaching forty minutes of ringing at each. The next stop was for a cream tea at the delightful Chantry, near Kilve and close to the sea. We all rose to the challenge of devouring scones and clotted cream, fortifying us for the short drive to the final tower and ringing at Holford, on the North side of the Quantocks. A drive over the top of the Quantocks then saw nineteen of us (ringers and groupies) gather at the Carew Arms in Crowcombe for a celebratory supper.

The joys of such a day out are many and varied: visiting churches and villages that are equally as remote as we are; ringing bells that spanned in age from 1420 to the present day; grappling with variable handling characteristics; appreciating the glorious countryside in which we live. But above all, it is the company that makes

these days out memorable and such fun.

Thank you to Laurence, Nigel and Angela for organising, and the next day trip out is already planned for Monday 14th September.

*“Feet together, Eyes wide, Ears open,
Tongues tied”*

Notice in the ringing chamber, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brompton Ralph.

Jeremy Robbins

Pond Ponies

The bushy gorse and springtime heather beneath blue sky of Sunday weather, on earth and stony path we're treading, toward some woodland slowly heading

with new green branches silent hanging through which come shades and sunbeams landing upon a pool, still, brown, and murky, with background birdsong clear and perky:

beside the water, in the shadow, a band of horses, moor and meadow the realm for wild and daily roaming, now to the pond their thirst comes homing,

to stand with necks to water bending their spirits to the quiet lending, as foal attached to mother suckled, and horse to horse were instincts buckled:

we stopped, we watched, some photos taking but not disturb, their rest time breaking – then on we walked, were barely noticed by them on their refreshment focussed

as if were people lost in praying, left world behind, in heaven staying.

A poem inspired by a walk on the Quantocks.

Martin Perry

Artists always 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.

SUMMER EXHIBITION



GREENWAYS STUDIOS

ASHBRITTLE TA21 OLE

JULY 2026

11TH - 18TH

SATURDAY

4^{PM} - 7^{PM}

OTHER DAYS

11^{AM} - 5^{PM}



LOUISE BAKER . BARBARA ROLL

www.greenwaysstudios.com

Route 1 - an opportunity to help children



As we head towards summer, it is easy to be drawn into thoughts of lazy holidays and family get-togethers. But you might be looking for something else, a way of giving back to your community and the children of Somerset.

The number of children coming into the care of

the Local Authority is at its highest level ever – at over seven hundred. As a result, Routel is seeing an increase in the number of children who are asking for an Independent Visitor.

What is an Independent Visitor?

An Independent Visitor (IV) is a volunteer who makes a commitment to one child in care. They visit the child once or twice each month to build a trusting, supportive relationship and friendship that can sometimes last many years. The visits might involve going out for coffee and a chat, having a picnic, or going for a dog walk. The relationship can bring life-changing experiences and opportunities to a child or young person – and their IV!

Here's what one of volunteers said: "I have been a volunteer with Routel for five years now. Supporting a child in care has been one of the most rewarding things I have done. Last week I had the privilege of taking my young person to the beach for the first time. The joy on their face will remain with me always."

It sounds rewarding but too difficult for me...

Our youngest volunteer is nineteen and our oldest is over eighty! Some have experience of being with children, but many don't. If you are kind, fun and reliable then we can support with the rest. There is extensive, free training which is delivered face-to-face – no Zoom breakout rooms for us! And once trained there is ongoing support.

Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills. Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability.

For more information about Route1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors, you can contact us by emailing: route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk, calling 01749 822801 or visit our website www.route1advocacy.co.uk

Lunch Club

A bumper number of participants joined in the May lunch club. Our speaker was Pauline Wood who gave us a carefully researched history of the rise and fall of canals, particularly our local canal, visible between Greenham and Tiverton; once a vital part of our industrial history, but now used almost entirely for leisure activities. Many thanks to Pauline, our mover and fixer in many things local and voluntary.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 30th July, 12 noon in Ashbrittle Village Hall. Once again another local mover and fixer who at this stage remains anonymous. She may not be known to so many Lunch Clubbers, as she is generally beaver-ing away behind the scenes on teas and coffees, but she will certainly be known if you are a regular customer at Stawley shop. She has had a most extraordinary and varied career and will be the subject of a 'Desert Island' style interview, scattered with music of her choice.

If you would like to hear more, please join us by booking with me.

My contact details are - telephone 01823 672203 or email harlingdelia@gmail.com

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ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

Thursday, July 30th at 12 noon

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West Field Wood Update

The site has been full of spring colour. Bluebells were abundant beneath the trees in the ancient woodland, while the main surface area of the field was a stunning carpet of buttercups, dotted with many other wild flowers including purple clover, bugle, speedwell and cuckoo flower – pushing through where once sheep would have eaten them back.

Tree establishment continues to exceed expectations – they are now between fifteen and thirty months old, with remarkably high survival rates. We've recorded just a handful of losses.

This year maintenance work is increasingly focused on targeted weeding where vigorous growth is beginning to compete with young trees, particularly where, in many cases, we were surprised to see grasses pushing up above the tops of tree guards.

Deer browsing is also turning into a bit of a challenge. There is evidence of damage on probably hundreds of those trees which are protected only by shorter guards. Though they may well recover, deer pressure will need to be monitored closely whilst the trees are still vulnerable to their chomping, and then just when we will come “out of the woods” the next threat will be ring-barking by squirrels. This can devastate a young woodland.

Grassland management also featured during the visit. Following recent mowing, several hours were spent raking and clearing cuttings by hand – a bit old school but it saves the costs of mechanised equipment. A further cut ahead of our Summer campout is being considered.

During this visit, discussions with local nature recovery expert, Nick Benge, covered some interesting ideas for the future. In particular, he recommended introducing yellow rattle, a native hemi-parasitic plant that helps suppress vigorous grass growth and can create space for a wider range of wildflowers to flourish. We'll be researching this further, but it looks as if it could offer long-term benefits for biodiversity while reducing mowing requirements.

We also discussed beekeeping with Nick. A local beekeeper wants to put some hives on our field, but we have learned that honey bees might compete with wild pollinators for the resources offered by our field and its surrounding area. We're keen to host bees and have said yes, and think a bit of further research will help determine the most appropriate scale for any beekeeping activity.

Work also continued in clearing paths through the wooded area, making minor repairs and general maintenance – all to help keep the site accessible and thriving.

Planning is now underway for the August campout (weekend of 1st August), which promises to be another opportunity for friends of Wood Could Should to see the progress of the project firsthand and, of course, help with maintenance for those who are keen!

Lawrence, Kiran, Adam and the rest of the Wood Could Should team.

Guest Editor next month



We welcome back Julia Swan who will be our guest editor for the August issue of the Parish News.

Julia will be known to many of you. We are delighted that she continues to take an ongoing interest in our local area.

Maurice and Avril

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Tom

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Rob Van Loo, Utrecht

"Lovely little shop & very friendly shopkeepers. Very tasty scones and coffee. Have thoroughly enjoyed our visit."
Carly & Ross, South Molton

"What a nice shop! We are cycling from Harwich to Land's End. Having a great time, beautiful country. Thanks for the drinks an excellent cake."
Saskia & Frann, The Netherlands

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Bathealton Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 16th June 2026

Attendees: Philip Broad (Chair/Treasurer) – PB, Jessica Bunn – JB, Stephen Cottrell – SC, Akulah Agbami – AA, Dave Mansell – DM.

Apologies: Sarah Eustice

Note Taker: Adele Broad

Minutes of Previous Meeting – 24th March
The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Councillor Report – Dave Mansell (DM)

Local Elections 2027: Preparations are ongoing. The Somerset County Council (CC) is currently working on balancing its budget, focusing on internal savings rather than frontline cuts.

Budget Consultation: An online consultation for the CC's next financial year will be launched, with alternative arrangements for residents without digital access.

Financial Officer Vacancy: The County Council is still seeking to appoint a financial officer following the withdrawal of a previous appointment.

Community Networks: Parish Councils remain underrepresented in local community network meetings. The next meeting will be held at Wivey Rugby Club in July, coinciding with their AGM.

Car Parking: Progress continues on the car parking project, pending public consultation.

Planning Applications

Two planning applications within the parish were noted. Councillors were asked to review them individually and report any concerns.

Financial Matters

Invoices for Payment: One invoice is pending from IED. Awaiting request.

Financial Position: The council remains within budget.

2026/27 Budget: The next meeting will focus on setting the annual budget. Current funds available: £4,302.40.

Annual Audit: Completed by Iain McVicar. The council expressed gratitude for his continued support.

Ongoing Support and Contributions

Continued support confirmed for IED, based at the Village Hall. Support confirmed for "Bathealton Parish" apple pressing event on 26th September 2026. PB and Dennis to coordinate arrangements.

Village Hall Donation: The council will continue its annual donation to the Village Hall for use in hosting council meetings and community events.

Graveyard Upkeep and Maintenance

Maintenance to be reviewed annually.

Question raised regarding financial or practical contribution from the Church towards upkeep. To be followed up.

Footpaths and Signage

Ongoing monitoring to occur during the annual parish walk.

Damaged footpath signs or broken stiles should be reported via the County Council website.

Known Issues:

Missing Fingerpost at Spring Grove Crossroads: Sign has been missing for six years. SC to obtain quotes for replacement.

Roads and Potholes

Some pothole repairs and resurfacing work has been carried out recently. Residents and councillors urged to report any new or recurring potholes via the County Council reporting system.

Parish Walk

Scheduled for **Sunday 4th October 2026 at 14:00**, starting at Bathealton Village Hall. SC and PB to finalise the route and circulate details in advance.

Any Other Business (AOB)

AA: Requested a donation towards repairs for water damage at the church. A 'specific named' donation of £500 was approved, PB noting that the Parish Council has already contributed to churchyard maintenance. It was also acknowledged that the Church and Parish Council share an ongoing interest in supporting the wider community and parish responsibilities. PB noted that the 'named donation' represents more than half of the parish precept and advised that, should the required funds not be raised for the repairs, the donation would need to be returned to the Parish Council. JB highlighted that this donation would limit the charitable donations that we could realistically make during the current financial year. SC mentioned substantial donations made by families (due to bereavement) and that this monies was donated for the upkeep/repairs of the Church.

JB: Raised concern that Bathealton is a designated conservation area. Noted that a cottage renovation involved removal of a chimney stack without planning permission and failure to replace it "like for like" in terms of appearance. Continue to follow up with the relevant authorities.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th October 2026 at 19:00

Philip Broad, Chairman



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Gardening Club

A Note from a New Member

As a relatively new face in the club myself, I've quickly realised just how incredibly important groups like this are for our villages. Beyond just a lovely afternoon out, gardening clubs play a vital role in bringing the community together and fostering local involvement. They are the perfect hub for enthusiastic "plant talk," where we can swap fresh ideas, share seasonal tips, and learn more about supporting local biodiversity in our own backyards.

It is never about having a "perfect" garden; it is entirely about the joy of sharing ideas, passing on knowledge, and learning from one another's successes and slip-ups alike. There is something heartwarming about the generosity of neighbours opening up their beautiful private spaces for us to explore, and we owe a massive thank you to everyone willing to open their gardens and share them with us. It is also great to see the passion that goes into organising each unique garden visit.

To keep things beautifully simple and collaborative, we operate as a cooperative, "Run-Your-Own" club. Because we no longer have a formal central coordinator, members chip in to plan outings and share the load, keeping it a relaxed, shared community of plant lovers. We are always delighted to welcome new faces, whether you are a seasoned horticulturist or a complete beginner. There is no formal sign-up required; just keep an eye out for our upcoming dates here in the Parish News, or tap any member on the shoulder for a chat around the villages - we would love to have you along.

Evening Visit to Rose Cottage, Appley

On Friday, 8th May, members were treated to a wonderful evening wander through the beautiful garden at Rose Cottage in Appley, kindly hosted by Mike and Freda Parkinson. What makes this space so special is how perfectly they have kept the garden in character with the historic age of the property, creating an atmosphere that feels incredibly timeless and authentic. Walking around the stunning garden and chatting with drinks and nibbles in hand was the perfect way to spend a Friday evening. A massive thank you to Mike and Freda for opening up their beautiful garden and being such lovely hosts.

May Outing: Burrow Farm Gardens, Dalwood

On Tuesday, 26th May, the club made a welcome return to an old favourite, Burrow Farm Gardens in Dalwood, beautifully organised by Brenda Rayment. It turned out to be an absolute scorcher, with thermometers clocking a sweltering 31°C! Yet, despite the heatwave, the 13-acre garden was

well worth the visit and the shade was greatly appreciated.

The estate has a lovely history. Originally a working dairy farm, it was transformed over the course of fifty years by Mary Benger. Starting with little more than a muddy field, she created one of East Devon's finest independent gardens, loved for the way its natural landscaping flows seamlessly into the surrounding countryside.

We spent a very pleasant late morning to early afternoon seeking out the shady pathways and exploring the varied plant collections. The woodland areas were full of colour, with the *Rhododendron* and azalea specimens lighting up the dappled shade in soft apricot tones, crisp whites, and fiery oranges. A beautiful *Cornus kousa* (Kousa dogwood) also caught our eye, completely covered in elegant, pink-flushed bracts (a personal favourite!)

Down in the cooler, damp zones, the stream and bog gardens offered a lush, refreshing escape. While the intense heat and sunshine kept most of us from walking the full stretch of the wildflower meadow, it was still a beautiful sight from a distance. The grass area was bright with buttercups and dotted with wild orchids showing off their intricate, deep pink and purple patterns.

To round off the afternoon, some of our members enjoyed a lovely lunch at the garden tearoom, while a few others set up their own picnics in the shade of the trees. A huge thank you to Brenda for putting together such a brilliant and beautifully warm day out for us all.

Visit to Church Cottage, Stawley

On Wednesday, 10th June, we gathered at Church Cottage in Stawley for a wonderful evening visit kindly hosted by Sue and Martin Jacoby. We were greeted with a lovely glass of bubbly as we arrived.

It certainly wasn't a warm summer night for June, and we were all keeping a very anxious eye on the clouds, worried that the weather might turn on us. Thankfully, the rain held off, allowing us to spend the first part of the evening wandering around and enjoying their lovely, large cottage garden.

As the chill set in, we headed indoors to warm up and tucked into a yummy "Bring and Share" finger food supper, provided by everyone who came along. Our glasses were also kept topped up, making for a good social and happy evening. The cooler weather outside certainly did not dampen our spirits, and the house was filled with plenty of chatter and laughs.

A massive thank you to Sue and Martin for opening up their beautiful garden and home, and for hosting a fun, collaborative evening for us all.

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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 0793 934 7891
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

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

Distribution: Pat Sweet 01823 672380 or 07714 545906

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

1st and 15th	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
6th	12.00 - 2.00 pm	'Pop-up cafe' in Bathealton Village Hall
11th - 18th	See ad on p. 15	Summer Exhibition at Greenways Studio, Ashbrittle
12th	8.45 - 10.00 am	Big Breakfast at Bathealton Village Hall
12th	From 2.00 pm	Open garden with pizzas and outdoor service at Kittisford House.
18th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
18th	From 2.00 pm	Stawley Mill Open Gardens
25th	2.00 - 5.00 pm	Cosmetic making Workshop in Bathealton Village Hall
25th	7.00 pm	Film Night in Bathealton Village Hall
30th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

September

6th Stawley Flower and Produce Show

October

11th Apple Day at Appley Pavilion

17th Chilli night in Bathealton Village Hall



Pam Hasell draws the winning ticket at the Stawley Fete, actively encouraged by John Hannon, the raffle organiser. Some super prizes helped keep everyone's spirits high on a wet afternoon. Full report on p 12.

Next Deadline Date: Friday 24th July 2026

Editors: Julia and Avril