

ASHBRITTLE GREENHAM STAWLEY BATHEALTON KITTISFORD



# Parish news

September 2026

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

## Church Services

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

|         |                        |                                |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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     |
| 6.00pm  | Shanty Singing         | The Martlet, Langford Budville |

*Enjoy singing Sea Shanties over a drink with a friendly crowd.***Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

|         |                                                                               |                                    |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10.15am | All Age Communion Service*                                                    | St. Bartholomew's, Bathealton      |
|         | <i>Holy Communion with songs, stories and activities for kids and adults.</i> |                                    |
| 10.30am | Sung Eucharist Service                                                        | All Saints, Rockwell Green         |
| 12.30pm | Harvest Celebration**                                                         | Rewe Farm, Thorne St. Margaret,    |
| 6.00pm  | The Pub Explorers                                                             | The Martlet Inn, Langford Budville |

*A relaxed conversation over a drink, bring any question and join in.***Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

|         |                        |                                   |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10.30am | Sung Eucharist Service | All Saints, Rockwell Green        |
| 11.15am | BCP Communion          | St. John the Baptist, Ashbtrittle |
| 6.00pm  | Prayer and Praise      | St. Andrew's, Wiveliscombe        |

*A charismatic worship service with contemporary music, talk and prayer.***Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

|        |                           |                             |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6.30pm | Harvest Festival Evensong | Holy Cross Sampford Arundel |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

|         |                            |                             |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10.30am | Harvest Festival Eucharist | All Saint's, Rockwell Green |
| 6.00pm  | Harvest Festival Service   | St. Nicholas', Kittisford   |

**\*Preceded by 'Breakfast with a difference' in the Village Hall from 8.45 am (see p 6 for details)****\*\* Harvest Celebration at Rewe Farm on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm followed by lunch. If you wish to join us for lunch, please inform Christopher Langton at [langtonc4@gmail.com](mailto:langtonc4@gmail.com)**

## Churchwardens and Clergy

|                    |                                                       |              |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Ashbtrittle</b> | Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbtrittle, TA21 0LQ | 01823 672365 |
|                    | David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbtrittle, TA21 0LE      | 01823 672436 |

|                   |  |               |
|-------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Bathealton</b> |  | 07449 196673. |
|-------------------|--|---------------|

|                   |                                                 |              |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Kittisford</b> | Annie Musgrove, Meadow Farm, Greenham, TA21 0JW | 07530 310795 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|

|                |                                                |              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Stawley</b> | 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](mailto:revdbarton@gmail.com)

**Curate** Reverend Sarah Rowden - Contacts: Phone 07599 336105 Email [revdrowden@gmail.com](mailto:revdrowden@gmail.com)

|                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Front cover</b> - Early morning flights over Greenham - photo Rachel Oliver. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Thought for the month

### Looking ahead together

For many who live in rural farming communities, the countryside is more than a beautiful backdrop to village life. It is our workplace, our landscape and part of our shared identity. As we enter what is traditionally the harvest season, we are all aware that this year farming has been challenged by drought and disease, bringing uncertainty and pressure to those who work the land.

Dry weather places enormous demands on farms. Water is precious, crops can struggle and livestock affected by the lack of reliable grazing are already using up precious winter feed stocks. Alongside this, the presence of Bluetongue disease is bringing its own worries. Spread by midges, it affects both cattle and sheep. Infected animals are more susceptible to other illnesses and can become infertile.

Much of this pressure is unseen, and it is easy to forget just how much depends on the success of our local farms. So, what can the rest of us do? Buy local, reduce waste, save water, and appreciate the work behind the food that reaches our tables. Be mindful around footpaths and fields, keep dogs under control and follow signs or temporary restrictions when necessary. Small actions can make a genuine difference.

### Good communication - the key

Just as importantly, we can talk to one another. A strong rural community is one where people feel able to share concerns, ask questions and offer ideas. Farmers may have knowledge and experience that others can learn from, while villagers may have practical skills or simply a willingness to help. Conversations in the lanes, at village halls or over a garden wall can sometimes lead to support that might be just what is needed.

Whilst none of us can predict exactly what the coming seasons will bring, or what challenges we will all face in life, we can choose how to respond. By listening, communicating and supporting one another, we can strengthen the community that surrounds our farms and one another.

Regarding communication, I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts and ideas about how the local churches can be places where everyone feels welcome, valued and able to benefit from what we offer. I have received many responses to our recent feedback survey and have benefited from face-to-face discussions, like one held in Bathealton only last month.

The congregations are small and need the wider community's generosity of time, money and skills. Thank you for being part of the

conversation about building a future in which our local churches remain open, relevant and available to everyone of all ages and backgrounds. I look forward to sharing more about the changes we are currently planning as soon as possible. Always open to hearing from anyone, I welcome people to touch base with me at any time; please see my contact details on the opposite page.

The future of our churches and our countryside belongs to all of us. Let's keep talking, keep sharing and keep looking forward - together - to a healthier, more resilient and hopeful future for all in our villages and, importantly, the generations who will follow.

*Revd Andy Barton*

## Kittisford Harvest Festival

**Sunday 27th September at 6.00 pm**

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

**Light refreshments after the service**

**Collection for Farming  
Community Network charity**



Contact Annie Musgrove for further information

*[amusgrove@cantab.net](mailto:amusgrove@cantab.net)*

## Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on  
**14th October 2026**

To place an order, please email:-  
*[judy.milne@btinternet.com](mailto: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 Produce and Flower Show

Just a reminder to fill out your entry forms and join us next week. It has been a daunting year for many of us gardeners due to the sustained droughts. Some of our crops and flowers may hardly seem show-worthy but don't let that dissuade you! Who knows, your tiny potatoes or non-uniform beans might be winners!

This show is not about picture perfect items, it is the fun of joining your community in friendly competition, celebrating our successes, commiserating over our hard times and of course, tea and cake.

Entry forms are online at [tinyurl.com/stawleyflowershow2026](https://tinyurl.com/stawleyflowershow2026) and there are some paper copies at the Stawley Village Shop, if needed. We look forward to seeing your garden harvests, kitchen creations and craft that you have nurtured and created in 2026.

Also, many apologies to all for the misattribution of the programme cover art: the wonderful drawing was of course done by Madison Bell.

Lastly, a reminder to those with trophies to return them to the Stawley Village Shop before the show. Please email Alex when you've done so at [alexpaterson934@gmail.com](mailto:alexpaterson934@gmail.com).

We hope to see the entry forms filling up over the next few days and look forward to seeing you from 2:30pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at the Appley Pavilion.

*Alesha Naranjit*

## 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*



*Spiceland is open for  
Heritage Day on  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
2 – 5.00 pm*

**Burial Grounds and Meeting House  
Open to the public**

**You are welcome to bring your own refreshments to enjoy in the peaceful surroundings of the grounds**

## STAWLEY MILL

**JOIN US FOR**

**BOOKS & BISCUITS  
COFFEE & CAKE**



**1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

**2ND & 16TH SEPTEMBER**

**10AM—12.30PM**

**IN AID OF CHURCH RESTORATION FUND**



**Coffee, Cake  
and Chat**

**Ashbrittle Village Hall**

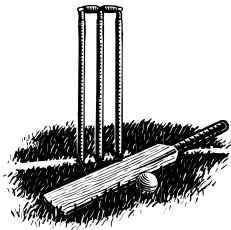
**Saturday 19th September**

**10.00 - 12.00 noon**

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

*Please come and join us - all welcome !*





## Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club

### 2026 Ends with Silverware!

In what has been a great year for the club, challenging on all fronts, the 1st X1 ended their season with the Division One title (*see photo on the opposite page*).

The 2nd X1 continue their pursuit of promotion to Division 2, after their run of fine form in the league recently. After wins over Wiveliscombe and Buckland St Mary, they head into their final two games of the season, both versus Over Stowey. Two wins would be hopefully enough to secure yet another promotion, this time up to Division 2.

The 1st Team have enjoyed a brilliant August, with wins over Over Stowey, Bridgetown and most importantly, Crowcombe, which gave us the required points to be crowned Division One winners again! After winning the league in 2024, and narrowly missing out in 2025, the team have shown great resilience to bring the trophy back home.

The 1st X1 finished their season with a resounding win against Watchet, and have wrapped up their successful season, having only one loss in the league.

But all is still to play for with our 2nd team. We'd love to see a big crowd for their home game on the 12th of September at Appley, to try and get the boys over the line in what would be a huge day.

Thank you to all supporters for helping the team as the 12th man week in, week out, this year. It's massively appreciated by the players and the club.

*Callum Hamer*

### Bathealton Big Breakfast

Your presence is requested for breakfast with a difference from **8.45 to 10.00 am on Sunday 13th September**. We will be 'enjoying' a Venezuelan breakfast in solidarity and compassion with the families of the 6,500 people who have perished in the earthquake and the 1.8 million people whose lives are in chaos and who are desperately in need of humanitarian aid. We will be making a collection for the UNICEF disaster fund and we would really appreciate your support. It is hard for us to begin to imagine how people in Venezuela are coping with such devastation. So

do please come along and join in our gesture of caring.

So food is not wasted, please could we ask you to ring or text 07449196673 to confirm your attendance by Friday 11th September. Help in the kitchen is always appreciated. Thank you for your kindness and support.

*Churchwarden, Bathealton PCC*

## Harvest Festival Lunch at Stawley Mill

on  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October



Following our Harvest Festival at 11.00am  
at Stawley Church

£15.00 per head  
(including a glass of wine)

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

### Rainfall Statistics (inches) 2026

| June | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|      | 2.09 | 3.39 | 3.98 | 0.83 | 1.69 |

| July | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026  |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|      | 0.50 | 4.25 | 3.03 | 0.98 | 0.025 |

July's rainfall had to be estimated! Our guess may be a bit on the generous side as the smidgens in the rain gauge dried up whilst we were attempting to get them out. Yet another trip into the archives revealed that there hasn't been a month as dry as July 2026 since local records began in 2000. April 2011 came closest with 0.38 inches recorded. After seven months the rainfall total for 2026 is a mere 18.6 inches.

*Val Coots*

## Congratulations to the Winners of the West Somerset League Division One



### The Ashbrittle, Stawley and Clayhanger Cricket Club First X1

*Back row: Ed Howard, Will Barrington, Oliver Edwards, Ollie White, Mark White, Wilf Embleton, Pete Woodbury.*

*Front row: Arley White, Rob Williams, Luke Barrington, Luke Williams, Callum White, Finley White.*

### For Sale

#### **Two Whoosh electric bikes: £300 each**

Dutch style, 26" wheels, 15 AH battery, chain drive, 7-speed Shimano derailleur gears, adjustable handlebars, disc brakes, front suspension, Kevlar tyres, 50 cm steel frame.

Also, **Norlett Tillermate Rotavator**. Full working order, very reliable Briggs & Stratton engine. Reverse gear. £50 o.n.o.

**Contact:** Mike Parkinson, 07891 247021 or [mike.parky3@gmail.com](mailto:mike.parky3@gmail.com)

### Mobile Library

at Greenham Bridge

**Next visit: Tuesday 8th September**  
9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

## Rossholme Relay 2026

Collectively, we are aiming to travel **6,950 km** — the distance from the original Rossholme site in East Brent, Somerset to the Rossholme Kenya site in Kiambu, Nairobi.

Participants can travel by any means — running, walking, cycling, rowing, scooter, skateboard, and more. We are raising funds to help replace two temporary corrugated iron classrooms with permanent learning spaces.

Confirmed walks already include California, Cheltenham, Dartmoor, Wellington, and East Brent. If you are interested in joining, please contact Judy at [judy@rossholme.co.uk](mailto:judy@rossholme.co.uk) or Nick at [nick@nickgriggs.com](http://nick@nickgriggs.com)

**WHEN** 26/27 September 2026 or a few weeks either side.

**WHERE** Anywhere through an existing event or your own route.

**WHO** Absolutely anyone, young or old. All are welcome.



For full details visit [rossholmeinkeny.org](http://rossholmeinkeny.org)

## Somerset - a haven for bats

September is here. Twilight is arriving earlier and the nights are still warm: the perfect time for a bat walk. Autumn is a very important season for bats in the UK. They are feasting on insects to store energy for their long hibernation during the cold months from October to March. All UK bats are insectivorous but they have different prey preferences and hunting styles. Pipistrelles hunt midges and mosquitoes which they catch and eat in flight; Lesser horseshoe bats will eat midges, spiders, moths, wasps and beetles sometimes grabbing them from trees and taking larger prey to feeding roosts (like a nearby church or tree) to eat at leisure; and Daubenton's bats hunt over water, sometimes grabbing prey from the water's surface with their feet or scooping it up with their tails.

Autumn is also the main breeding season for most bat species, though mating can occur throughout warmer winter periods for some species. The females then store the sperm throughout the winter, only becoming pregnant the following year when the weather warms up. Each normally has a single pup in summer which is nursed for four - six weeks until it can forage on its own.

There are eighteen species of bats in the UK and they make up almost a quarter of our land mammals. Some species such as the Common pipistrelle and Brown long-eared bats can be found throughout much of the UK mainland; others are limited to south of England and Wales, while our largest and only non-breeding bat species, the Greater mouse-eared bat, is currently represented by just two individuals in Sussex.

### A highly populated county

We are lucky to have sixteen of the seventeen breeding bat species here in Somerset. Ranging from the tiny pipistrelle (weighing about the same as a 20p coin) to the second largest UK bat, the Noctule (which can weigh as much as a small egg). Our local parishes, chequered with pastureland, ancient woods and scrub interwoven with streams and scattered with ponds and barns and old houses, offer ideal bat habitat: the perfect places to enjoy a bat walk.

*Alesha Naranjit*

**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](mailto:AvrilSilk@aol.com) Portrait format is ideal if possible.

# BAT WALK AT KITTISFORD CHURCH

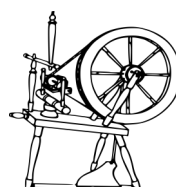
**Wednesday 23rd September  
at 7 pm**

Come and join our bat walk and learn more about bats in and around Kittisford Church

**Pasties and drinks to follow**

Donations to Kittisford Church  
More details: [amusgrove@cantab.net](mailto:amusgrove@cantab.net)

***Supported by the  
Bat Conservation Trust***



## Spinning and Woolcraft Group

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

Perhaps you would like to learn to spin with us?

Or bring along your knitting, crochet or other needlework project

**All welcome**

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

### Next Sessions

Tuesdays: 1st and 15th September  
6th and 20th October at 2.30pm

Contact Pauline on 01823 672222 or  
email [pjw200355@gmail.com](mailto:pjw200355@gmail.com)



**LE GRANDE OPENING**

## **Ashbrittle Boule Court**

**3 pm Saturday September 5th 2026**

**next to the village hall**

**Baguette, cheese & a glass of wine served**

**Music will be supplied by  
a band of wonderfully talented  
local musicians**

**Berets, strings of onions & Breton shirts encouraged**

**Funding very gratefully received from  
Somerset Association of Local Councils**



## **Full Fibre Broadband Update**

### **Public Meeting for Ashbrittle and Surrounding Areas**

**15th Sept 7.00 pm @ Ashbrittle Village Hall.**

**All Welcome to come and learn about our fibre  
build plans and get answers to any questions  
you may have.**

It's been challenging to write an update for the last couple of months, as so much of our activity has been sporadic! A combination of network damage (a farmer seeking water, National Grid randomly placing a pole, and a rat) keeping the team busy with repairs. We have also had some complex build to reach a few remaining properties around the network to complete the Kittisford and Beardsley areas, the very dry ground, some stubborn rock, plus Summer Holidays. Additionally, ongoing route discussions, have kept progress towards our wider aims somewhat slower than hoped, but progress has been made!

We've inched further from Appley Cross towards Ashbrittle, having exited the school site and headed out in a long loop bypassing Tracebridge (now served by Openreach), with discussions continuing with the remaining landowners to reach the centre of the community. From there we'll build around the village plus spurs to reach those properties not bordering the surrounding farmland.

### **More connections in the autumn**

Hopefully, once all consents are in place we can rapidly build out and start making connections in the autumn. We concluded discussions with BDUK, the government funding body, to remove the properties in Tracebridge and reallocate some additional properties on the perimeter of the planned build. This includes Bishops Barton and Meadland Farm towards Greenham, and Burrow Farm beyond Ashbrittle plus properties around Ramsey Farm. These additional properties may seem somewhat random but the eligibility criteria are very strict as the Gigabit Voucher scheme enters its final stages. We could only include properties with a realistic prospect of being connected within the previously agreed funding limits.

Unfortunately, properties outside of these additional inclusions will not be connected under the current Voucher Scheme and must wait further interventions. Some are included within Openreach's Type C Framework contract under Project Gigabit but not all, and even those included may be descope prior to Openreach build over the next four years. There is even the chance that we can reach Meadland and Bishops Barton;

we may even be able to reach Appley Pavilion and provide our fibre service for the community use there... fingers crossed.

### **Final deadline**

The final deadline for ALL voucher applications will come round early in 2027, so we would encourage anyone with interest in being connected to register with us promptly and not miss out on the funding opportunity.

At its simplest, agreeing a Voucher and Fibre Connection only commits you to a twelve month contract after which the infrastructure can remain in place, having cost your property just twelve monthly payments of £40 for the broadband service. Having fixed line Fibre Broadband is definitely a must have, if you ever look to sell and maximise the sale-ability of your property.

Those not signing up, we always leave capacity to add you in future, but the final cost to reach you could be considerable depending on distance / challenges.

We've also continued to work on generating interest from Williams Farm, Clayhanger back towards Ashbrittle and would welcome contact from any properties in that area.

*Jim Weir, Technological*

## **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:  
10th September and 8th October  
2.00 - 4.00 pm**

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

Pauline [pjw200355@gmail.com](mailto:pjw200355@gmail.com)

# Full Fibre Broadband for Ashbrittle

## *Public Meeting*

*Ashbrittle Village Hall*

*Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept*

*@ 7pm*

We warmly invite you to join us to learn about our scheduled plan to extend our **Full Fibre Network** to **Ashbrittle & Surrounding Areas**.

Understand how the  
**UK Gigabit Voucher Scheme**  
works & our successes connecting  
other underserved communities.



Funded by  
UK Government



TECHNOLOGICAL

## Lunch Club

In July we experimented with a new format for the lunch club. Our own take on 'Desert Island Discs'. Our subject was our own regular, often unseen, tea and coffee maker Maggi Watts.

What an interesting and varied career she has had, always willing to 'have a go'. She was never daunted by lack of experience, successfully driving ambulances, cleaning swimming pools, child minding large groups of children, building walls, tiling floors and working in the world of high finance. Acting sound engineer Paul Jacques managed the musical element and we learnt of Maggi's very varied musical tastes.

Our next Lunch Club is on Thursday 24th September at 12.00 noon. Our speakers will be Judy and Gerry Webb. This time their topic will be their recent trip to India. As ever, we can expect an interesting, slick and informative presentation. Highly recommended!

If you would like to join us, please let me know by Monday evening, 21st September so I can tell Jackie White, our cook, how many people are coming.

My contact details are - telephone 01823 672203 or email [harlingdelia@gmail.com](mailto:harlingdelia@gmail.com)

*Delia Harling*

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# Bathealton's Brilliant Quiz Night

Quiz Hostess: Akula Agbami

Saturday 26 September 2026

7pm

£5 per person

Bathealton Village Hall

TA4 2AN

Nibbles!

Prizes!



VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB  
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL  
Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon  
**A PASSAGE TO INDIA**  
Judy and Gerry Webb  
We look forward to an interesting and informative presentation  
from two seasoned travellers!  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL  
Delia Harling 01823 672203  
harlingdelia@gmail.com



## Stawley Village Shop and Tearoom Volunteer Barbecue

The annual summer celebration for our wonderful shop volunteers was held on 8<sup>th</sup> August in the beautiful garden at Greenham Hall, very kindly hosted by Caro Ayre.

We had a lovely and not too hot afternoon and early evening sharing delicious food, with good company, and finished the event with an extremely interesting tour of the Hall (*see photo on the back cover page*).

A big thank you to everyone who was involved in organising the event, including the cooks, and with special thanks to Caro for hosting us.

### Second year as a volunteer run organisation

Stawley Shop and Tearoom, now in its second year as a wholly volunteer-led organisation, continues to thrive with great support from our manager Vikki, and the volunteer team.

We always welcome new volunteers, so do come and join the team if you are not already one of us.

Well done all!

*Pauline and Kate, SCA*

**CHIPSTABLE FUN RIDE**  
SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
WOODLANDS FARM, BATHEALTON, TA4 2AH

Long 12 MILES Short 5 MILES  
THROUGH FIELDS & TRACKS, JUMPS OPTIONAL

**PRE BOOKING**  
ADULTS £20  
16 AND UNDER £15  
11 AND UNDER £10

**ON THE DAY**  
ADULTS £23  
16 AND UNDER £18  
11 AND UNDER £13

RIDERS UNDER 14 TO ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT  
START TIMES BETWEEN 10AM -12PM  
PRE BOOKING PREFERRED  
PLEASE EMAIL TO BOOK  
kate123allibone@hotmail.com  
or 07772541847

ROSETTES TO ALL  
CAT DOWN PHOTOGRAPHY  
HOT & COLD REFRESHMENTS  
FIELDS  
TRACKS  
MEMORIES



### TWO BEDROOMS TO LET IN LOVELY STYLISH COTTAGE

Idyllic rural location

Ten minutes from Wellington, twenty from Taunton and Tiverton

Waitrose and Lidl nearby

Shared use of living room and kitchen.

Car parking available

Free TV with Netflix and Prime

The double bedrooms are light and sunny and each has a lovely view

Each bedroom has its own shower room and toilet

Landlady is living between London and Somerset during the winter months

£700 per calendar month including bills

**Contact: 07840355834**

# Stawley Community 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](mailto:shop@stawleyshop.com)**

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## WE TRY TO KEEP IT LOCAL !

Many of our staple products come from local suppliers:

Eggs from Fenton's Farm, Holcombe Rogus

Milk from Chew Valley Dairy

Apple juice from Redhill Farm

Bread, pasties and quiches from Glenmore Bakery in Somerset

Remember, you can order weekly from Glenmore by Tuesday, for delivery on Friday morning. Come in and have a look at the product list

## Did you know?

We also carry a number of luxury food items:

Locally produced honey

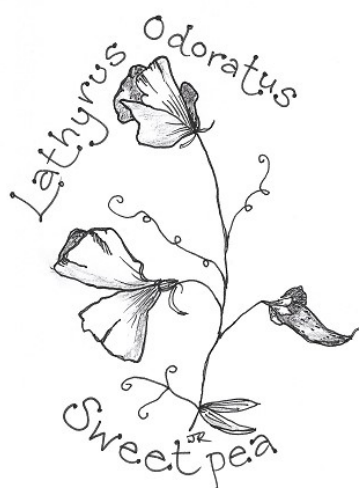
Waterhouse Fayre jams and pickles

Mary's Loaf cakes

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## Sweet Peas

### The fleeting jewels of summer



**“I consider the growing of Sweet Peas as one of life’s essentials”** Monty Don’s words in a recent edition of *Gardeners World* and I agree with him. Despite their perceived ‘old-fashioned-ness’ Sweet Peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*) are still widely grown

for their delicate beauty and unparalleled scent. When cut almost daily, they will provide a glorious, if somewhat ephemeral perfume and jewel-like presence to your home. The sheer joy and delight that you provide in presenting someone with a freshly picked posy is reason enough for finding the space and time to grow them.

It may seem odd to be writing about sweet peas now, as they begin to fade; particularly in a summer like we’ve had this year. And last year I had appalling disasters; rodents destroyed my first couple of sowings and some herbicide residue either from nearby field-drift or in some compost saw to the rest! But now, standing and looking at my ‘row’ whilst picking the last few blooms, I can say that I’m very pleased with how they’ve performed, despite the heat. We have had countless bunches to brighten our table and give as gifts since early June, but despite decent preparations, regular dead-heading and plenty of water (mostly recycled ‘grey’ water which, like runner beans, they seem to relish) the constant heat and drying winds are finally bringing the show to a close. I am now selecting out and picking the fattest, ripest seed pods for next year’s display.

Saving your own seed, year on year is a good idea; seed is not cheap to buy, fresh seed germinates so much quicker and grows stronger. I have always grown a mix of colours; old fashioned (Heirloom) scented and ‘Spencer’ types with a few ‘bi-colours’ like ‘Cupani’ mixed in and I always get a good variation through self-saved seed. There are notable things to add however; after years of observation, certain colours and larger flowered types do quite quickly dwindle out of the mix. I rectify this by choosing a few new varieties every couple of years and adding them to my seed mix.

Thinking back to my Highgrove days, it was very much one of the first jobs done into the new

year; soaking and sowing the sweet pea seed. Quite a large volume of seed was sown and it was always a rather fraught process, getting the seedlings to a size where rodents were no longer interested. We used to sow three to five seed per 9cm (square) pot in an open, gritty compost; these would fit into a propagation bench with higher sides over which we put sheets of glass, in one of the cool greenhouses. This would give enough protection for steady germination and unforced growth. Once large enough, the glass lids come off and a few weeks later, the young plants were ‘pinched out’ to 3-5 buds to encourage side-shoots and placed into covered, outdoor cold frames. Sweet peas are totally hardy and being forced by too much heat and low light levels is the worst thing you can do for them; cooler conditions will encourage strong, sturdy root systems giving a rapid take-off on planting out in late April or early May. You can sow your seed up till April and they will catch up but the old-fashioned way was to sow earlier for better, stronger establishment and earlier blooms.

### Good ground preparation essential

Ground preparation prior to planting out is key; if you grow in rows, dig a trench and fill with rough compost or manure - anything that will hold moisture and keep the soil cool as well as providing an extra boost later in the season. A little pelleted chicken manure can be added to this mix. Supports, whether grown in ‘wigwams’, in rows or other structures, really need to be in place before planting. I use some canes but prefer ash or willow poles (which bend well into arches and tunnels) and hazel pea-sticks; using twiggy material right down low does away with any need to ‘tie-in’ material when young. Plant out from pots around 6-8 inches apart and water in well. Slug damage can occur so check regularly. Inclement weather can slow down establishment but providing they are strong, bushy, well-hardened plants they will shoot away as soon as it improves. Mulch to keep them cool and moist at the roots and stay on top of watering and dead-heading as summer progresses; if you take your eye off the ball they will very rapidly go to seed and produce no more flowers.

Growing for exhibition and showing is rather more technical and requires very specific variety selection as well as special treatment. I can appreciate the aesthetic beauty and absolute skill needed, but it’s not for me! I’m happier amongst my mix of colours, sizes and scents; even when the stems get really short, I can still find a little egg-cup or pot to fill with those last few fleeting jewels of summer.

*John and Julie Ridgley*

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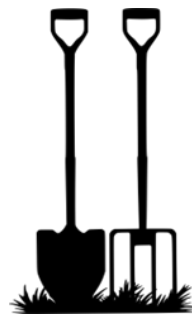
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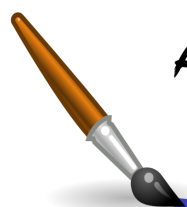
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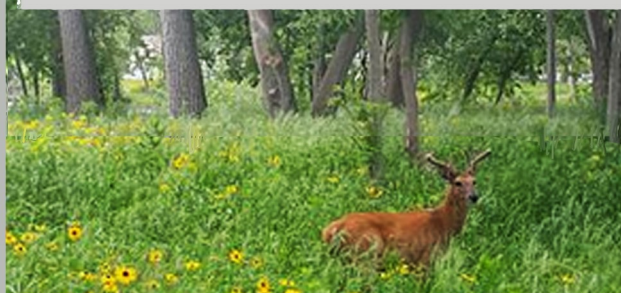
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*blurts/flats/crouching*

**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**

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The content of any advertisement is solely the responsibility of the commissioner.

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### Parish Councils

**Ashbrittle - Chairman** Charles Doble 01823 672365 or 672618  
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**Bathealton - Chairman** Philip Broad 07584 657106  
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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](mailto: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.

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**Distribution:** Pat Sweet 01823 672380 or 07714 545906

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### **September**

|              |                   |                                                   |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd and 16th | 10.00 - 12.30 pm  | Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill |
| 5th          | 3.00 pm           | 'Le Grande Opening' of the Ashbrittle Boule Court |
| 6th          | 2.30 - 5.00 pm    | Stawley Flower and Produce Show                   |
| 7th          | 12 noon - 2.00 pm | 'Pop-up cafe' in Bathealton Village Hall          |
| 19th         | 10.00 - 12 noon   | Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall  |
| 24th         | 12 noon - 2.00 pm | Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall             |
| 26th         | 7.00 pm           | Quiz night in Bathealton Village Hall             |

### **October**

|      |                    |                                                                                                                                    |
|------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3rd  | 10.00 - 4.00 pm    | Apple pressing at Bathealton Village Hall                                                                                          |
| 4th  | From 10.00 am      | Fun ride at Woodlands Farm, Bathealton                                                                                             |
| 11th | 10.00 - 3.00 pm    | Apple Day at Appley Pavilion                                                                                                       |
| 17th | 7.00 pm            | Chilli night in Bathealton Village Hall                                                                                            |
| 23rd | 6.30 pm<br>7.30 pm | Harvest Festival Service in Ashbrittle Church, followed by the Harvest Supper in Ashbrittle Village Hall. More details next month. |

### **November**

|                              |                |                                                   |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 7th                          | 7.00 pm        | Ashbrittle Hall AGM                               |
| 14th, 15th,<br>21st and 22nd | 11.00 - 4.00pm | Winter Exhibition at Greenways Studio, Ashbrittle |



*The Stawley Shop volunteers enjoying their summer BBQ at Greenham Hall  
by kind invitation of Caro Ayres*

**Next Deadline Date: Friday 18th September 2026**

**Editors: Maurice and Avril**