



Parish news

October 2026

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

Church Services

Sun 4th Oct

10.00am	Holy Communion Service	Holy Cross, Sampford Arundel
10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
11.00am	Harvest Communion	St. Michael's, Stawley
6.00pm	Shanty Singing	The Martlet, Langford Budville

*Enjoy singing Sea Shanties over a drink with a friendly crowd***Sun 11th Oct**

10.15am	All Age Harvest Communion	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
6.00pm	The Pub Explorers	The Martlet Inn, Langford Budville

*A relaxed conversation over a drink, bring any question and join in***Sun 18th Oct**

10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Margaret's, Thorne St. Margaret
10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saints, Rockwell Green
11.15am	BCP Communion	St. John the Baptist, Ashbtrittle
6.00pm	Prayer & Praise	Email welcome@westtone.org.uk for the location

*A charismatic worship service with contemporary music, talk and prayer***Fri 23rd Oct**

6.30pm	Harvest Festival Service	St. John the Baptist, Ashbtrittle
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*Followed by a Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.***Sun 25th Oct**

10.30am	Sung Eucharist Service	All Saint's, Rockwell Green
6.00pm	BCP Evensong 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

Ashbtrittle	Charles Doble, The Old Rectory, Ashbtrittle, TA21 0LQ	01823 672365
	David Hanks, Manley House, Ashbtrittle, 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 - Congratulations to the Ker family from Kittisford Barton Farm, who won the Dexter breed championship at the Dunster Show with their home bred cow and calf. Rachael and John are seen, together with their children, Meredith (holding the calf), Torin and the winning animals, with the Dexter Society nominated judge standing behind them. Dunster Castle can be seen in the background.

Thought for the month

It is that time again. The time to celebrate harvest. Harvest Festivals abound.

St. Margaret's held their celebration at Rewe Farm – reminding us that church is not just a large expensive building with a bell! Reverend Andy led us in a short service of hymns and readings. And then there was lunch shared by thirty people from different parishes.

It was a joyous occasion; but there was a serious theme; that of the difficulties faced by the farming community in 2026. Phil White laid it out: climate change, cost and conflict. Homegrown grain yields are down because of drought. The cost of fuel to harvest grain, and vegetables has doubled because of the conflicts in the Middle East. Imported grain to fill the gap is down because of the war in Ukraine.

To illustrate another aspect of 'cost' Phil produced two fodder beets; one weighed barely 1kg, the other from the same field weighed nigh on 10 kg. Each would be fodder for cattle or sheep; the cost of growing the beets though would be the same for each regardless of size – food for thought.

Then there is climate-induced 'midge' causing blue tongue disease in cows and sheep. For some farmers this has been disastrous. There is no insurance against it and no compensation for those who have lost their animals.

The Farming Community charity

The St. Margaret's event was raising money for the Charity, "Farming Community Network", that supports farmers who need advice and support in hard times. <http://www.fcn.org.uk>

All in all, those who were at Rewe Farm had an enjoyable time thanks to hosts Sue and George Middleton. We went away, well-fed and better informed, and sobered by the over-riding thought that we need (perhaps more than ever) to support our farmers at a time of possible 'famine'.

".....I believe that farming, despite its hardships and disappointments is the most honest and honourable way a person can spend their days on earth..."

(From 'The Farmer's Creed' Original by Sir John Sinclair circa 1840; modern version by Frank Mann 1975)

Christopher Langton

Harvest Festival Lunch at Stawley Mill on Sunday 4th October



Following our Harvest Festival Service
at 11.00am in Stawley Church

£15.00 per head
(including a glass of wine)

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

Bathealton Big Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who supported our Venezuelan Breakfast in September. We raised over £250 to support in some small way the plight of people in Venezuela. Their suffering is not going to disappear overnight so if you were unable to attend but would like to donate, the International Rescue Committee, headed by David Milliband, will tell you how (<https://help.rescue-uk.org/>)

In keeping with the timely theme of Harvest, October's breakfast is doing something a little different. We are asking people, far and wide, to join us between 8.45 and 10.00 am, bringing along their favourite dish/item to share. This might very well not have anything to do with what we generally understand by the term 'breakfast'... So please be reassured - champagne is allowed as is chocolate mousse which will be my contribution. Teas, herbal teas and coffees on tap. A time together to reflect on the abundance with which we in Bathealton and beyond are blessed.

Breakfast precedes our 10.15am service - and again, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the loving atmosphere and breathtakingly beautiful flowers. Oh, and the enthusiastic singing.

If you'd like further details, please ring 07449 196673 after 5.00 pm.

Churchwarden

ASHBRITTLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Friday 23rd October at 6.30pm
with

♪♪ Village Festival Choir ♪♪
and

🔔 Stawley Bell Ringers 🔔

All Welcome



followed by

***The Harvest Supper
in the Village Hall
at 7.30pm***

(see page 8 for booking details)

STAWLEY MILL

A WIDE SELECTION OF SECOND
HAND BOOKS FOR SALE



COFFEE & CAKE AVAILABLE

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7TH & 21ST OCTOBER

10AM—12.30PM

**IN AID OF THE CHURCH
RESTORATION FUND**



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***

John Greenleaf Whittier ~ (December 17, 1807 - September 7, 1892) was an American Quaker poet and advocate of the abolition of slavery. The verses below are taken from his poem *The Brewing of Soma*, part of which was turned into the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. The final two verses of the poem hold a sense of Quaker Meeting for Worship ~ a precious message particularly at times of upheaval, fear and turmoil ~ we share them here in hope and with love.

**Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and
stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our de-
sire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and
fire,
O still small voice of calm!**

Rainfall Statistics (inches) August 2026

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2.13	2.87	0.94	1.10	2.56

Val Coots

Stawley Parish Council

The Parish Council will be meeting in Appley Pavilion at 7:30pm on Thursday 8th October. The agenda will be published on or before the 1st October on the website at <https://stash.org.uk/>.

★★★ Wellington Arts Centre Presents ★★★

ZEFFE

A NIGHT OF MAGICAL
MUSIC FROM THE BALKANS AND BEYOND

+ classic Klezmer to make you laugh and cry



@2020 Jo Kidd

DOORS OPEN 7.00 PM

TICKETS £12 ONLINE. £14 OTD. CONCERT STARTS 7.30PM

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wellingtonartscentre

SUN OCT 4TH



WELLINGTON ARTS CENTRE, EIGHT ACRE LANE, TA21 8PS

Zeffe

Klezmer and Balkan Music - Zeffe play the music of Eastern Europe, tapping into the rich traditions of the Balkans, from Greece to Bulgaria and beyond - music that makes you want to dance, laugh and cry all at the same time.

Happy times at the Pre-School



The autumn term at Stawley Pre-School is already off to a fantastic start, filled with bright smiles, new friendships, and wonderful adventures. It has been a joy to welcome both our returning children and the new faces joining our preschool family this September.

We have wasted no time getting out and about into our wonderful community. Recently, the children enjoyed a very exciting walk to the Stawley shop, practicing their independence and social skills while out in the neighbourhood.

The excitement didn't stop there. We also took a special trip to Stawley Primary School, which was a fantastic opportunity for the children to become more familiar with the school grounds. The absolute highlight of the visit was a thrilling surprise—the children managed to spot the Gruffalo himself!

Following on from our exciting discovery, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the kind lady who recently dropped off a copy of Julia Donaldson's brand-new book, *Gruffalo Granny*. It was incredibly thoughtful of her and has quickly become a firm favourite at storytime. The children have been thoroughly enjoying reading it together as they look out for the Gruffalo's latest family adventures!

As the autumn leaves begin to fall, we are looking forward to exploring the changing seasons through plenty of outdoor play, creative crafts, and seasonal activities over the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone in the parish for your continued warmth and support.

Becky Alder, Pre-School Manager

Mobile Library

at Greenham Bridge

Next visit: Tuesday 6th October
9.50 - 10.10 a.m.

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.

Coffee Morning



'Bring and Buy'

at

Church Cottage, Stawley

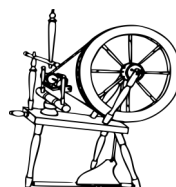
on

Thursday 22nd October

10.00 - 12 noon

in aid of Stawley Church

Do come and join us



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: 6th and 20th October
3rd and 17th November
at 2.30pm

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

— THE —
GLOBE INN
APPLEY

A wickedly warm welcome awaits you
at The Globe Inn this October

Eat, drink and be scary at our
Hallowe'en Spooktacular
on Saturday 31st October

Get your graveyard gladrags on and join us for a
hellishly hip and happening fright night from 7pm til late.

Dance the night away with our spooky silent disco.

Plus, there will be prizes for the best fancy dress .

Open

Wednesday to Saturday 12 noon - 11pm
Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Food

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

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

☎ 01823 673147

✉ stuardurston@hotmail.co.uk

📌 The Globe INN Appley



Grand Opening of the Ashbrittle Boules Cour



Thank you to everyone who came to the Ashbrittle Boules Court opening. Special thanks to the wonderful musicians Paul Jaques, Gail Britton and Hazel Jones.

The event was very well attended with young and old alike playing throughout the afternoon. Special thanks were given to Charles Doble for the use of the land, Somerset Association of Local Councils for generously funding the project and Ashbrittle Arts for support with the opening event.

Thanks were also given to a small group of local volunteers; Geoff Skinner, Tim Hayward, Michael Fairfax, Philip Wilson, Rob Simpson and Paul Leyland who were involved with the planning and construction.

It is hoped that alongside playing boules it will be used as a place to meet and gather. Please do bring your own boules set as storage on the site is difficult.

Paul Leyland



ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

HARVEST SUPPER

**Friday 23rd October
7.30pm**

£10 per head BYO drinks

To book contact:

**John Dawes 01823 672204 or
Pat Gainey 07701 276656**



Coffee, Cake and Chat

Ashbrittle Village Hall

Saturday 17th 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 !



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



All are very welcome!

Bathealton Big Eclectic Breakfast

♥ Bathealton Village Hall ♥



Sunday
11 October



8.45-10am

Please bring your favourite
(not necessarily breakfast) dish to share.



Please ring
07449196673
to confirm
your attendance.



You are also very welcome
to 'share' our simple but
moving church service
at 10.15am.



Food ♥ Friends ♥ Community ♥ Faith



CHILLI BY CANDLELIGHT



AN EVENING OF DELICIOUS
MEXICAN-INSPIRED FOOD



ONLY £12 PER PERSON
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

17 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7PM
BATHEALTON VILLAGE HALL, TA4 2AN



CHIPSTABLE

FUN RIDE

SUNDAY 4TH 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 ♥

Stawley Community Shop & Tea Room



Opening hours

Weekday 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

Congratulations

We are proud to announce that, following a recent inspection, we have maintained

LEVEL 5 FOOD HYGIENE

You can be assured that our Shop and Tearoom will provide you with
the freshest produce possible.

So why not pop in and have a cup of freshly brewed Mr Miles tea or coffee with a cake,
scone or teacake.

Plain and toasted sandwiches are also available, made to your requirements.

You will always find a friendly face and very likely someone to chat to !

Did you know?

We stock bags of logs and kindling, and firelighters

All you need to keep your fires going
as we move into Autumn

And in case you're still up for a barbeque
we have locally produced charcoal, too

APPLEY PAVILION

Ceilidh

FRIDAY
9TH
OCTOBER

DANCING STARTS

7.30



Food included in the ticket price

£20

A TICKET

To book tickets



EMAIL

kristy.popplestone@outlook.com



WHATSAPP

07878939024



APPLEY PAVILION, TA21 0HH

APPLE PRESSING DAYS COMING UP SHORTLY



APPLE DAY AT APPELEY PAVILION!

Sunday October 11th.



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

(Enquiries: 01823 672179)

Village Oil Group

The next oil delivery is due on
14th October 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

News from the Parish News

Many thanks for the recent donations from:

Joyce Whittaker
Anonymous donors at the Village Shop

Donations may be left at the Village Shop, sent
directly to the bank account or to Pat Sweet, our
treasurer. Details inside back cover

Avril and Maurice

Lunch Club

In August we had no official speaker, but participants were invited to bring in memorabilia from their own families. Contributions ranged from a full scale lion pelt complete with head and snarling teeth to a silver thimble. Some people gave a short talk to everyone about their items, others chose to talk individually to interested bystanders. It felt a very comfortable occasion with most people moving around and finding out more about each other. Followed, of course, by a 'Jackie special' lunch.

Next meeting

Our October meeting will be on Thursday 29th October, 12.00 noon. The speaker will be Michael Fairfax who will talk about the recently opened Ashbrittle boules court and explain the rules of the game. There then be an opportunity to go outside for a spot of personal tuition and a chance of a game or two.

If you would like to join in, please let me know. I need to have numbers by Monday 26th October, so Jackie White can know for catering.

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

Delia Harling

Community Radio for the
10Parishes and Beyond



**Broadcasting 24 hours a day
on FM radio and the Internet.
For the people by the people.**

Contact The Presenter Live :

Email : studio@10radio.org Text : 07786202240

Message the Presenter via 10radio.org
or via the 10Radio App

Bathealton POP UP CAFÉ



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

Bathealton Village Hall

Monday 5th October 2026

We will serve food from 12 noon till 2pm

The menu consists of :

Savoury:

Home Made: Lasagne with Veg

Sweet:

Apple pie with Custard

Unlimited Cafetiere of Coffee or a selection of
teas. All for £10.00

Why: make new friends or catch up with old: the
new are silver and the old are gold
If we don't know you're coming you may be dis-
appointed - please text or leave a message on
07980 994082

**This is not for profit and is a fundraiser for
Bathealton Village Hall**

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 enthusi-
asts, 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:

**8th October and 12th 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:

Pauline pjw200355@gmail.com



While renovating Dishwell Farm, Gen Johnson found this photograph of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, 1896, hidden in a cupboard.

"B. E. Enticott" is written on the bottom of the frame... possibly the legendary Bertha Enticott of The Globe!





VILLAGE LUNCH CLUB
ASHBRITTLE VILLAGE HALL

Thursday, October 29th at 12.00 noon

MICHAEL FAIRFAX
BOULES!

Hear about the recently opened Ashbrittle boules court.
Learn how to play this delightful game and have a go.





BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Delia Harling 01823 672203
harlingdelia@gmail.com





WINTER EXHIBITION



GREENWAYS STUDIOS
ASHBRITTLE .TAZIOLE



November 14th & 15th, 21st & 22nd
open 11 - 4

Bathealton — VILLAGE HALL — Christmas Fair with a difference



Saturday
14 November



11am – 3pm



Bathealton
Village Hall

Make your Christmas giving special
with some of our lovely items on sale.



Books



Jams &
Preserves



Cakes &
& Treats



Crafts &
& Gifts



Local
Produce



Decorations
& More

Refreshments and Indonesian lunch



Tables available :
Please ring 07449196673

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME



Stawley Flower and Produce Show 2026

Despite challenging growing conditions this year, the local community came together to exhibit a beautiful array of produce, flowers, baked goods, art and craft; with a record 159 entries across 46 categories. It was great to have so many families taking part and a joy seeing all the talent exhibited at the show, be it vegetable carvings, photography, needlework, art, cookery, flower arranging or gardening.

People perused the diverse entries in the hall before enjoying cream teas and Pimms to the melodious voices of the Jems. After the prize-giving, announced by John Hannon, and a prize raffle, the day ended with the usual enthusiastic auctioning of entries by Christopher Clapham.

Lesley Garner, John Ridgley and Julie Ridgley definitely had a challenging task judging the varied entries. Many congratulations to all of this year's winners with special mention to our trophy winners (*see photo on the back cover of the magazine*).

Cothay Cup (for the most points of the day):

Sue Jacoby

Vegetable Award: Christopher Clapham

Fruit Award: Sarah Burns-Cox

Flower Cup: Robyn Farmer

Produce Award: Sue Jacoby and Liz Burt

Cookery Award: Ann Enticott

Croft Bowl: Annie Benge, Kate Holloway and Pam Hasell

Art Award: Alësha Naranjit

Photo Award: Ann-Marie Paterson

Rossholme Cup: Edith Lock

Globe Inn Award: Tom Lock

Chair's Cup: Sue Jacoby

Fun Award: Alex McKenna

Rossholme Junior Cup: Edith Lock

Such a wonderful day would not have been possible without those of you who filled the tables with your entries despite drought and hungry wildlife, and to everyone who attended. Many thanks also to: Sue Jacoby and Anna-Lisa who guided us through our first year organising the show; everyone who helped 'backstage' with organisation and set up; those at the Appley Pavilion for use of the hall and the day's delicious refreshments; the judges, auctioneer and prize-announcer; Penny Stanbury for providing a wonderful judges' lunch and the Stawley Village Shop for being the pick up/ drop off point for programmes, entries and trophies. We are also grateful for the wide adoption of the experimental online entries option which made organising substantially easier this year.

While many local flower and produce shows are dwindling across the country this one remains a true community supported affair. We hope to see you at next year's show.

Alësha Naranjit and Alex McKenna

Stawley Ringers -September Outing

The ringers and their various 'other halves' enjoyed a sunny September afternoon disturbing the peace of four quiet Quantock villages. We visited and rang the bells at the churches in Staplegrove, Combe Florey, Broomfield and Durleigh. The outing was led by Laurence who organised us all, by hook or by crook, and put us through our paces ringing-wise. Taking part were Nigel (our time and motion man), Maurice and Penny, Sarah, Susan, Angela, Shelley, Jeremy, Alex, Tansy, Lola, and Richard.

Combe Florey stood out as the most interesting church, built in local stone that had faded to attractive shades of pink. Inside was an unusual tomb of a cross-legged knight accompanied by two females, his dog and four puppies! We enjoyed the bells too!

Refreshments at Fyne Court topped up our energy levels for the final two towers. We were joined by our latest ringing recruits, Jon and Chris Brinkman and finally assembled for a delicious pub supper at the Malt Shovel near Cannington.

If anyone living locally might be interested in joining our merry band, we would love to hear from you. If so, contact Nigel on 07795 664043.

Angela Medlycott

Bathealton Parish Walk

Come and explore part of the wonderful hills and dells of Bathealton

Lead by Steve Cottrell:

Start at Bathealton Village Hall 2.00 pm

on Sunday 4th October 2026

Families and well behaved dogs welcome.

Friendly walk

Bring your wellies and have a great time

PICARO



Sebastian Tesouro – Louise Lawrence – Ben Modley – Alfie Weedon

Tangos, Gypsy Jazz, Brazilian music and more

St Luke's Church – Langley Marsh – TA4 2UJ

7.30pm Saturday 10th October – doors 7.00

£15 (accompanied under-12s free)

Ticket in advance from

Secret Island, North Street, Wiveliscombe

or TicketSource

<https://www.ticketsource.com/null/t-oevpylk>

Further info: 07925 223842

Picaro

A celebration of South American Music drawing on Andean folk, Afro-Brazilian Baiao, Argentine Tango and more. Picaro re-interprets the traditional songs that honour South America's cultural heritage - its passion, resilience and joy - music that transcends borders and brings people together, taking you on a musical journey across mountains, rain forests and bustling cities.

Fibre Broadband - Update

Having inched further forward in our last update, this month it is more an inch left and an inch right - possibly leaving us in the same place, I'm not sure.

While connections continue in Clayhanger, thanks to lots of positive interest and landowners making fast and helpful decisions - and being amazed when we got through their "very tough" ground - six hours to dig a hole for a gate post, six minutes for us to plough. We've also had some productive discussions around how to unlock the Ashbrittle puzzle.

Our Village Hall meeting started with a fairly sparse attendance, but the audience doubled and the end mood was very positive with an ambition to get neighbours engaged. I thoroughly enjoyed Saturday's Coffee and Cake morning (I'll certainly make a note of future dates!) and met many more interested and interesting residents. The overriding question from both events was when; the answer is as always fairly complex, but it looks like positive interest for much of the north side of the village, with just one landowner needed to create a viable route as such. That will be our immediate aim, while work continues on how to tackle the remainder. Hopefully we can make a start in early October as soon as our current plan in Clayhanger is complete.

I'm aware there are properties outside Bathealton eagerly awaiting progress; we've not forgotten you I promise! We will try to provide an update on our timescales and some of the hurdles in due course. In an ideal world we would be able to progress faster, unfortunately some challenges take a lot of focus, negotiations and patience, while others just need the perfect combination of resource, weather, demand and intent.

As we always mention - 'Demand means we Build', however historically it is always the furthest property that is most keen and the easiest the least interested! There does now feel to be a far more positive momentum than we've had in recent months!

The wider industry

In the wider broadband industry, there have been some developments that might be of interest to the local reader: Firstly, Airband, the company originally contracted to provide fibre internet to the wider area went into administration some time ago, with debts around £427M. The customers and network assets were sold the same day to another network provider Voneus for £4.6M, yes those are **not** misprint numbers. Airband claimed network coverage of some 440,000 properties (175k via Fibre and 265k via Wireless technology) but in reality, had less than 32,000 customers -

take-up of less than 8%. The equity owner has written off all value and the banking consortium (HSBC) is scheduled to receive just £4M from the £81M owed.

There are two important factors to highlight here - we are often asked what would happen should Technological go bust - our answer is always that another operator would purchase the assets and customers and maintain service. That is what has happened in the above example, however the main difference is Technological isn't funded by debt. All our growth is organic and funded primarily via cashflow. So while we are a small Micro operator, we are sustainable for the long term and profitable.

The second event of interest was from Starlink, following their recent IPO and public shareholder pressure to constantly improve earnings, Starlink has started to clamp down on what they term "breach of terms", basically either heavy usage on a residential contract or their identification of a residential contract being shared across multiple properties. Both situations result in the service being throttled to 10Mbps with a requirement to upgrade to a priority business plan - at a substantially higher cost, often ten times the monthly cost. Something to watch out for if you are a heavy user or share your connection!

Jim Weir, Technological

Gardener For Hire

RHS ♡ 25 yrs exp



* fuzei@posteo.uk

* 07443 962 646

Full Fibre Broadband *Free Connection with Gigabit Voucher*

Register Today as we aim to expand
Ashbrittle and the Wider Area

Now with even Faster Speeds!

BASIC HOME

80Mbps

Symmetrical Service

£40 a Month

- No Connection Charge*
- 80Mbps Download
- 80Mbps Upload
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Wivey Cares - update

We have, finally, recovered from the Open Gardens weekend in June and huge thanks must be given to our local volunteers John and Julie Ridgley, Kate Harris and Shelley Ward for their help. They braved the elements, stewarding gardens and selling plants together with an army of other helpers.

The Saturday was a total wash out, but still the visitors kept coming with some returning on the Sunday to view the gardens again in drier conditions. The garden owners were buzzing for weeks before and after and even managed to organise their own private tour. We sold out of wristbands so had to resort to putting stickers on people; we estimate there were well over two hundred and thirty visitors. We raised just over £3500 plus a generous donation of more than £500 from Tamara, one of our micro-providers, who endured a very public head shave on the Sunday in aid of Wivey Cares and Cancer Research. Big thanks also to Kitty Hollingsworth and participants of the West Tone Benefice Walk & Sausage Sizzler who raised an incredible £282 for us! **Thank you all. Wivey Cares could not carry on without the generous support of our local community.**

Parkinson's Café,

And that leads me to our newest undertaking – a **monthly Café for people affected by Parkinson's Disease**. Starting on 15th October 2026, it is going to run every third Thursday afternoon at Nynehead Memorial Hall from 2.15 – 3.45pm. We held an information event in early August and twenty guests attended, so we are hoping to get a good crowd for the café. The other dates in 2026 are 19th November and 17th December. There are Parkinson's cafés in Hemyock, Taunton and Willand already, but in not our area.

For the October café we have booked the wonderful Wellington Makaton Choir with Jenni leading the fun and teaching us Makaton. They recently came to our Hub & Grub and were a big hit!

The Hub & Grub social club (Fridays, Wivey Community Centre) is about to celebrate its first birthday and our lovely guests make it a fabulous, friendly and entertaining group. Again, we have to thank local volunteers for their contributions: Jon and Christine Brinkman and Shelley Ward – they host, cook, serve and entertain.

Pop in if you are in Wivey on a Friday for refreshments (10.30-12). Lunch (£7) is served at 12.00, and the entertainment runs from 1-2pm. You can come for any part of the Hub & Grub, or stay the whole time.

The **Memory Activity Group** is now in its

4th year and runs on Tuesdays (10.30am-12.30, Community Centre). There's always music, singing and story telling and it is a very uplifting experience spending two hours with our guests. Come and see for yourself!

Health Walks are also continuing on Wednesday mornings (10.30am). We call ourselves the **Wivey Amblers** and do short walks between half a mile and one and a half miles for those who need to build up fitness after illness or just enjoy a very leisurely stroll in good company. Needless to say we finish with coffee and cake. Recently, we ambled around Fyne Court and plan to go a little further every now and then. We could do with a second walk leader volunteer so we can offer walks of different lengths.

Info on all groups is available at www.wiveycares.net and updates appear weekly on our Facebook page. Please spread the word about the Parkinson's Café, posters will be going up in the usual spaces very soon. Volunteers helping out with any of our groups are always welcome!

*Valeria Coots, Wivey Cares Trustee
valeria@wiveycares.net*



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Parkinson's Café

A social space for those affected by Parkinson's disease.

Thursdays
15 Oct, 19 Nov, 17 Dec
2:15PM - 3:45PM

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Nynehead, Wellington TA21 OBS

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co-ordinator@wiveycares.net
07508 331661

wiveycares.net Charity #1183575

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We look forward to seeing you there!!!



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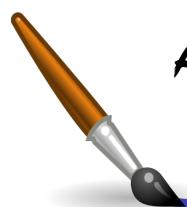
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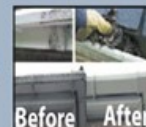
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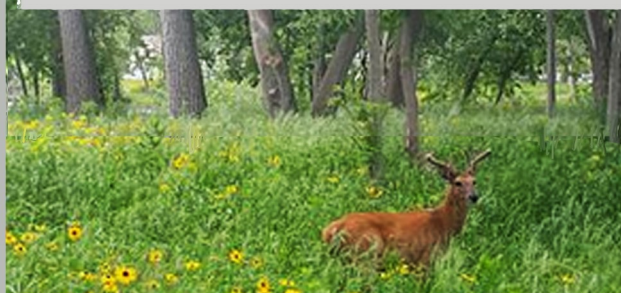
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blurts/flats/crouching

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
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Each one can be removed and taken to where it is needed. **These are all accessible 24 hours a day**

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.

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

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
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Stawley - Chairman Paul Musgrove 0793 934 7891
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Somerset Councillors

Cllr Dave Mansell – 01984 623823 or email:
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Cllr Gwil Wren – 01823 400657 or email:
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Local Groups

Stawley under Fives at the Appley Pavilion.

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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: Pat Sweet, Winkleigh, Stawley, Wellington TA21 0HR Tel: 01823 672380 or 07714 545906
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

3rd	10.00 - 4.00 pm	Apple pressing at Bathealton Village Hall
4th	From 10.00 am	Fun ride at Woodlands Farm, Bathealton
4th	2.00 pm	Bathealton Parish Walk - meet at the Village Hall
5th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	'Pop-up cafe' in Bathealton Village Hall
7th and 21st	10.00 - 12.30 pm	Books, Biscuits, Coffee and Cakes at Stawley Mill
9th	7.30 pm	Ceilidh at Appley Pavilion
11th	10.00 - 3.00 pm	Apple Day at Appley Pavilion
17th	10.00 - 12 noon	Coffee, Cake and Chat in Ashbrittle Village Hall
17th	7.00 pm	Chilli night in Bathealton Village Hall
22nd	10.00 - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning and Bring and Buy at Church Cottage, Stawley
29th	12 noon - 2.00 pm	Lunch Club in Ashbrittle Village Hall

November

7th	7.00 pm	Ashbrittle Hall AGM
14th	11.00 - 3.00 pm	Christmas Fair in Bathealton Village Hall
14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd	11.00 - 4.00pm	Winter Exhibition at Greenways Studio, Ashbrittle

December

11th	From 7.00 pm	Kittisford Christmas Dinner at Kittisford House Barn
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Stawley Flower and Produce Show trophy winners, together with the prize-winners in the Children's section. Full report on page 18. Photo Maurice Stanbury

Next Deadline Date: Friday 23rd October 2026

Editors: Maurice and Avril