

MUSBURY PARISH NEWS



Summer 2021

Holyford Mission Community

www.holyford.org

Rector Fr Steven Martin	rector@holyford.org	01297 553180
M C Administrator Mrs Emma Laughton	office@holyford.org	01297 551400
Ms Linda Joy (Families Worker)		07796 063208

Readers

Dr Charles Hill	01297 552141
Mrs Sue McCoulough	01297 552446

Hon.Assistant Priests

The Reverend Canon Colin Preece	01297 552154
The Reverend Nigel Freathy	01297 22303
The Reverend Canon Karen Curnock	07460 244475
The Reverend Prebendary John Lees	01297 551351

St Michael's Church, Musbury

Church wardens

Mrs Sue Irving, Cherry Tree House, Church Hill	01297 552440
Mr Michael Pritchard, Knap Orchard, Combpyne Rd	01297 552297

Treasurer

Mr Robin Collis, Monmouth House	01297 551105
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MUSBURY PARISH NEWS

Village Website: www.musburyvillage.co.uk

This magazine is published quarterly by the Parochial Church Council of St. Michael's, and is distributed free of charge to all households in the Parish. The cost is borne by the PCC but is largely offset by advertising revenue and by a grant from the Parish Council. The Treasurer will always welcome donations by readers. The services provided by our advertisers are commended: when using them please mention the *Musbury Parish News*.

Editor

Jolly Sargent, Ruffles, Doatshayne Lane	552470
	jolly.images@mac.com

Distribution:

Mr David Antell	553454
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Advertising:

Rod Powell	552681
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The cuckoo



The cuckoo is a merry bird,
He sings as he flies,
He brings us glad tidings,
And tells us no lies.

He sucks up the bird's eggs
To make his voice clear,
And the more he cries 'Cuckoo!'
The summer draws near.

The cuckoo is a lazy bird,
She never builds a nest,
She makes herself busy,
By singing to the rest.

She never hatches her own young,
And that we all know,
But leaves it to some other bird
While she cries, 'Cuckoo!'

And when her time is come
Her voice we no longer hear,
And where she goes we do not know
Until another year.

Plant Sale and Village Show

It is said “be careful what you wish for” and in April and the beginning of May we wished for rain. On 15th May we got more than enough! Information from my own personal Met Office reporter, recorded on Weds 12th 49.5mm, Thurs 13th 9mm, Fri 14th 8.5mm and during the day on Saturday 15th 15mm precipitation, a total of 81mm (3.2 ins). The plants loved it!

Thank you very much to all those brave people who weathered the downpour, bought plants and willows, and helped on the day. Special thanks to Mary and Martin Minter for enabling us to hold the safe outdoor event in their garden and to those who lent us the gazebo and tables and chairs. We hoped The Sale would help towards a return to normality (no irony intended).

Still optimistic we are hoping to hold both the Garden Charm and Veg. Plot Competitions this summer. Judges have been booked for the Garden Charm judging on 30th June, and for the Veg. Plots on 28th July. Entry forms are available from the Spar Shop and can be returned there or to Valerie in Mountview, Doatshayne Lane.

Also we would like to hold the Musbury Show on Saturday 14th August, if permitted, in the Village Hall. Notices will be posted round the village in good time.

In our last report some names of the Committee were omitted. We are: David Antell, Mary Minter, Martin Minter, Lesley McGowan Lock, Valerie Nicholls and Michael Nicholls and we always welcome anyone who would like to come and join us.

Lesley McGowan Lock



Parochial Church Council Report

Our thanks to all those ladies who decorated the Church so beautifully for Easter. We have been able to hold services most Sundays despite having to sit amongst the scaffolding and keep to social distance, we have seen a good number each time. We have sometimes sung the last hymn outside so that everyone can join in.

The original repair job on the ceiling has been completed and we are now doing extra work while the scaffolding is in the building. This could save money in the long run. Hopefully, congregations will be free of scaffolding soon. The famous Drake Monument is on display again.

We held our Annual Church Meeting on Zoom this year. Michael Pritchard and Sue Irving were re-elected Church Wardens. The PCC remained the same. In her report, Sue Irving thanked everyone for everything they do at St Michaels to keep it clean, keep services going especially with the extra work the repair job and coronavirus has produced.

Father Steven also thanked everyone especially the Church Wardens for their service during a difficult and challenging year. Robin Collis took us through the Annual Accounts. He paid tribute to the many members of the congregation and to others in the village for their generous donations to Church funds to keep the Church Building and its activities going.

We gave out posies to members of the village on Mothering Sunday and for Easter Sunday. These were much appreciated. Several members of the Church Membership joined with other Villagers to form a group of people willing to help anyone in need during the Pandemic Lockdowns. A great Community spirit was nurtured and is still present in the village.

There have been some links with the school in the last few months but there will be more when life gets back to normal. Coffee Mornings will hopefully start up again when allowed and the hall is open.

Hopefully the Christmas Craft Fayre will go ahead and other much needed fund raising events. We did make over £300 by serving teas at Lt Col Tony Drake's Open Gardens in May.

There may be some changes in the pattern of services over the Summer months so keeping an eye on the Church Notice Board at the Post House for the latest information is a good idea.

We look forward to the warmer summer months and wish all of you an enjoyable and well deserved holiday if you are lucky enough to get away after a challenging year. You are all welcome at our weekly services which are varied and planned for the many tastes of the people of Musbury.

Kay Short

Secretary

shortatbeacon@lineone.net

CHURCH FLOWERS AND CLEANING

Well: Easter flowers DID happen - none on the south aisle, font or porch, but enough to lift our spirits for the Resurrection celebration. Thank you to those who produced the arrangements so beautifully.

The scaffolding is still up, and now we are aiming to repaint the north aisle and the other half of the nave ceiling, therefore the annual (which didn't happen last year at all) Spring Clean is STILL on hold ! I anticipate it will be summer (June /July) by the time we can don our rubber gloves !! I will advise all those waiting cleaners in due course.



Meanwhile with Sunday services continuing again, the flower rota is 'in play' - it is just a shame that Church is still closed during the week for safety reasons, and altar flowers are only enjoyed on a Sunday.

Sue Irving 552440

Weather Watch

February began wet and relatively mild, but by the 8th cold air had moved south and one of several spells of cold northerly winds began. These gave the merest sprinkling of snow on 10th, a flake or two on 11th and a further dusting on 13th. A milder and wetter spell began the next day and lasted for the next week. The weather then slowly cooled and the month ended with three frosty mornings and cold days. The month's rainfall was 85.5 mm (3.5 inches), slightly above the 17-year average of 71.5 mm. The first day of March was cold but the next few were milder, but changed to cold again on 5th as an anticyclone developed. This was pushed aside by a deep depression on 10th which gave strong winds and rain that day and the next, followed by showery and breezy weather until 15th when overnight frosts began and continued until 24th. The weather became warmer towards the end of the month. March's rainfall was 47.5 mm (2") below the 17-year average of 75 mm. April began warm but arctic air soon arrived from the north and set the pattern for the rest of the month – cold, often windy, and dry. I recorded early morning frost on 17 out of 30 days – in the valley floor we get a good deal more than those of you up on the slopes. The total rainfall for the month was 4.5mm – less than a quarter of an inch. The long-term average for the month is 61 mm and this was the driest April I have ever recorded. As I write (8 May) we are having the first wet day for six weeks. All that maize that was sown last week needs a bit of moisture and warmth to get going!

Mike Lock

Stop press: May is doing its best to make up for a dry April. By 13th we had had 80.5 mm of rain (3 in), with 49.5 mm falling between 3 p.m on 12th and 9 a.m on 13th.

As we go to press on the 24th May the total for the month stands 155mm or 6.11 inches and its raining :ed

Food Bank

We continue to thank you for all your donations to the Food Bank basket in the Spar shop. Numbers have dropped slightly but we are always getting new referrals and depend very much on your regular contributions which are always gratefully received.

Sheila

Jane Bishop Memorial Tree

Some months ago a proposal was made by Graham Durrant and Ray Cross that a tree might be planted as a memorial to Jane Bishop.

Jane, as many of you will know, was clerk to Musbury Parish Council for many years, jointly started Musbury Garden Club, had involvement with Axminster Heritage and was active in Musbury and Whitford W.I. as well as being involved with many other aspects of village life.

Ray and Terri with Graham and Annie set about putting up some leaflets, placing collection boxes in the Hind and the local Spar shop and enthusiastically started a collection in Jane's memory.

This culminated in a magnificent sum being collected to enable the tree to be planted and donations to be made to Hospiscare and Force. Letters of thanks have recently been received from the two charities.

The tree planting took place at the end of February with a few socially distanced friends in attendance. A site was chosen on the Marlborough Road close to the Garage/shop.

Special thanks must go to Mike Lock who made the suggestion for the tree variety, Noel Jacks whose horticultural skills ensured the planting was successful, Axminster Ironworks who supplied the excellent tree guard basically at cost and the Hind and the Shop for looking after the collection boxes.

Sincere thanks must also go to all Musbury Parishioners and others who made a donation, thus enabling this Memorial to Jane, a true friend to the village, to be realised.

Rod Powell





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School Report

Monday 8th March saw school reopen to all pupils, following two and half months of a mixture of in school and remote learning. Throughout the whole period the children, staff and families rode every challenge brilliantly. Since then, the full curriculum has resumed and the children have thrown themselves into their new learning.



Whilst protective measures and restrictions have limited some school activity we are looking forward (as I am sure everybody is) to relaxing these steps throughout the summer term. In addition to whole school swimming, day trips and a KS2 residential we are hoping to host our school sports day in July and government guidance permitting we would like to welcome members of the community into school.

Several of you have been involved in our recent 'Hope Project' and we have come to realise just how important the relationship is between our school and our local community. Let's hope conditions allow us to get together in the future.

Since last writing, we have had a change in teaching staff, with Mrs Firth moving onto new challenges and Mrs Coe joining us from within our Multi-Academy Trust. More recently we have also advertised for a new Teaching Assistant in Key Stage Two (please contact the school for more information or visit [Devonjobs.gov.uk](https://www.devonjobs.gov.uk)).

We are also working with the PTFA to raise money to support projects within the school. These include the construction of an activity trail, books for the library and IT equipment. The latest project is a 'Bags to School' textile collection. If you are able to support in anyway, then please do let us know.

I hope everyone has a fantastic (restriction free) summer.

Mr T Nield

Head of School

Nature Watch

You probably often see in the press reports of bird species 'declining', or becoming 'endangered'. You may also wonder what these statements are based on. The key source is 'BirdTrends', produced each year by the British Trust for Ornithology, a research organisation now based in Thetford, Norfolk. (www.bto.org/our-science/publications/birdtrends). Each year they take the information from eight or nine different projects, all undertaken nationwide by volunteers, and knit it together to produce an assessment of how each species is doing. For each species the account gives conservation listings (e.g., Least Concern; Vulnerable; Endangered etc.) for Britain and Europe, the long-term trend, and estimates of the UK population size. So – to take an example – if we look up Skylark, we find that at global and European scales it is rated as 'Least Concern', while in Britain it is Red-listed because of a rapid decline in the number of breeding pairs – 1.55 million in 2016.

What kind of survey gives us the basic information? For water birds there are the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts. For other species there are, for instance, the Breeding Bird Survey counts in which a selection of 1-km map squares is checked by walking along the same route every year and counting every bird seen. There are also Constant Effort Sites, where a ringer sets up nets at the same place for the same length of time in each year and records how many birds are caught. These are examples: there are eight different counts that are used to work out the published trends.

Most of our summer visitors have now arrived and are taking up territories prior to breeding. Swifts are generally the last to arrive and I saw my first over the river at Woodhayne Bridge last Sunday (9 May). Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins have been here for a while but the cold weather in April seems to have held many back and I have yet to see signs of breeding. Chiffchaffs began singing in Waterford Lane in mid-March; it is hard to know whether these are migrants because quite a few Chiffchaffs now winter in this country. Blackcaps began singing a little later but again it is hard to know if these are migrants as many winter here; they have been shown to be Central European breeding birds; this habit of wintering in Britain is something that has developed over the last 20-30 years; Blackcaps are now a frequent visitor to urban and suburban bird tables in winter. My first Whitethroats were singing in Maidenhayne Lane last Sunday.



Whitethroat



Blackcap

Bluebells are good this year; the wood at the top of Mounthill Lane is a fine sight, with the occasional Early Purple Orchid scattered among the Bluebells. Holyford Woods are the same. A few bright yellow Lesser Celandines are still in flower, but the Primroses, which put on a fine show this year, are all over. In the lanes the bright white starry flowers of Greater Stitchwort brighten the verges; at first glance they appear to have ten petals but closer examination will show that each of the five petals is split almost to the base. Here and there the pinky red flowers of Red Campion and the yellow spikes of Yellow Deadnettle add to the palette of the lane hedges. Soon the lacy white flower heads of the earliest of the umbellifers, Hedge Parsley, or Queen Anne's Lace, will form drifts along the lanes and hedgerows.

Seaton Wetlands

The Wetlands are in good order, although very busy with people taking exercise. All the hides are now open, although masks must be worn and there are no windows so it can be a bit draughty. Most of the wintering birds have now left, although there were still two Greenshanks on the river on Friday (7th). Shelduck are very conspicuous and noisy; the females will soon be moving up-river to look for nesting sites in old rabbit burrows. They will lead the young to the river when they hatch and move back down to the estuary. One or two broods of Mallard have already hatched but many of the young have fallen victim to Crows and Herring Gulls. I saw the first brood of Canada Goose goslings yesterday – six of them. There are several more nests on Black Hole Marsh, yet to hatch. Oystercatchers are also already sitting on eggs on the islands in Black Hole Marsh. This is now one of very few regular breeding sites in Devon. Swallows are nesting in the hides, but as yet there is no sign of Sand Martins taking to the bank that was built specially for them, and virtually no Swifts have yet arrived so we don't yet know if they will take to the boxes on a pole by the Discovery Hut.

Mike Lock



Oystercatcher

Trill Farm Garden

It's been a particularly dry and cold Spring this year, and for us that has proved a little tricky in the market garden, but on our heavy, slow draining soil it tends to suit us to have a dry spring so that we can get on with cultivating and planting. The cold is less welcome, but we have had almost everything covered with horticultural fleece until mid May to keep the frosts and cold winds off young plants. We try to strike a balance between trying to work with nature and creating a semi-artificial environment in which the plants will thrive - this is mainly by growing veg under crop covers such as fleece and polytunnels to advance the growth rate and allow us to extend the season at both ends. Without polytunnels and fleece we would be unable to grow the range of crops that we do early on in the year and later into autumn. We balance these more controlled ways of growing veg by having flower strips through the garden to attract beneficial insects and pollinators that help to balance the life in the garden. We also practice minimum cultivation, so disturb the soil as little as possible to encourage a healthy soil and healthy plants.

Most of the polytunnels are full of climbing beans, cucumbers, peppers, aubergines and tomatoes in the summer, and this changes to winter salads and herbs through the winter along with some early crops like spring onions, spring garlic, sugarsnap peas, chard and spinach.

As always, we have had some problems in the veg garden, but generally things are growing well and it's setting out to be a good season so far.

Up until March 2020 we sold almost exclusively to local cafes, restaurants and shops, but as the restaurants and cafes all had to close we set up a veg bag delivery scheme where anyone can get hold of our veg. We deliver door to door in Musbury and you can order as little as a couple of bags of salad, or a larger bag of veg to suit a small family. There are also options to add on extras like eggs, bread and other veg to the standard bags. We vary the contents of the veg bags from week to week depending on what we have in the garden through the year.

If you are interested in getting veg from us visit www.trillfarmgarden.co.uk and follow the links to the box scheme. Musbury Spar also sells our salad bags and other veg of ours, so you can always drop in there to pick up a bag of salad.

Ashley Wheeler



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Rooks

Parishioners may be interested in the following taken from the first edition of the Guardian published on May 5th 1821

During the last two months some interest has been excited in this town (*Manchester*) by the establishment of a colony of rooks in the trees in a small garden at the top of King-street, belonging to Mrs Halls. One pair of these birds made their appearance at the latter end of February, and, after cautiously surveying the place, began to construct a nest with branches which they very



dextrously broke from the trees. They were speedily followed by a single bird, (apparently a female) which, alone and unaided built a nest in another tree: but when it was nearly completed, apparently not liking her situation, she demolished it, and erected another immediately under the first comers. After a short interval, another pair appeared, and constructed a habitation, chiefly with materials purloined from the other nests. Indeed, all the members of this sable republic appear to have very loose notions of meum and tuum, and evince as much dexterity in appropriating the effects of their neighbours as any of the other worthies who have adorned the annals of the New Bailey [Manchester's main prison before Strangeways].

The poor widowed female has been particularly exposed to depredation: no sooner did she quit her nest to search for food than the last comers fell to work (in which they were assisted by a number of Jackdaws) and, on her return, she has more than once found her little dwelling reduced almost to its foundations. These thefts, and the frequent contests which they produce, have for some time furnished a constant fund of amusement to the bystanders. The nest first built now contains four young ones, nearly fledged, and the owners of the last are engaged in incubation; but the poor female remains in all the misery of singleness, scarcely daring to leave her house, lest it should be demolished before her return. Food has been placed for these birds in the garden, but they have never ventured to descend to it, nor have they been observed to alight on the neighbouring buildings. – It is difficult to conceive why they should select a situation apparently so ineligible, and so incompatible with their usual shy and cautious habits, as the centre of a large town; but we hope they will not be molested, and that they will have no cause to repent the confidence they have thus reposed in mankind.

Musbury Heritage - Ongoing Projects

I thought I would provide an update on some of my current Musbury history projects. The following may be construed as a list of what I haven't achieved, but I can assure you it is a drop in the ocean compared with the pages that make up my 'to do' list! We might be just one village with a small population, but we have generated a lot of history, much of which remains undiscovered.

The Lethbridge Family – A family central to the wealthier Victorian history of Musbury. I am sure many of you have noticed the stained-glass window in St Michael's that is dedicated to "William Farley Lethbridge and Susannah his wife". They appeared to own and live at Mountfield sometime in the 1860s, but as they travelled so widely, they are proving very difficult to trace. Reverend Cockerton tells of William Farley Lethbridge being Nelson's Flag Lieutenant amongst other things, but so far, I haven't found anything to support this. I do know he was a sugar planter in the East Indies. This will be a very time-consuming research project.

Edward Bouverie-Hoyton - I wrote about this artist in the Spring issue and briefly referred to an etching of his entitled "Doatshayne ?". I've not had much success with contacting the San Francisco Museum where it is held, but here is a low-resolution image.



Doatshayne ?" by Edward Bouverie Hoyton c.1930

Those of you who follow the MH Facebook page will have seen this before, but I don't think we got to the bottom of where it was drawn. Please let me know if you have any suggestions, but I'm beginning to suspect there's a lot of artists' licence involved here! I've also found out that another of EBH's etchings was of Beal's Farm (Musbury Barton) and I'm trying to track down a copy.

Old Pictures of Musbury – I'm always on the look out for any old pictures of Musbury and I mean anything up to the late 20th century, whether they are photographs, drawings or paintings. Recently I saw a collection of pictures for sale at auction and these included a few copies of the following picture. The artist, Richard Evans has captured Church Hill quite well. Have you seen this etching before? Please let me know if you can tell any more about it. The lack of a porch outside Missals may give a clue to its date. Was Richard related to the Evans living in the Old Cottage in the 1930s? I'm also hoping to sell a few framed copies of this picture to raise some funds for Musbury Heritage.



Distant Connections – The website, Facebook page and my rambling in this publication have certainly resulted in some interesting correspondence. My 'rags to riches' story of John Loveridge in the Spring Parish News resulted in my being sent a very comprehensive biography of this man by a family historian in Herefordshire, but needless to say I've not had a chance to edit and publish this yet. My article on the website about the origins of the Chapel on Whitford Road was read by a descendant of the Wills family of New House Farm (now Castlewood) living in New Zealand. They were surprised to learn that Walter Wills was responsible for establishing and building the Chapel. Shortly after hearing from these descendants I was contacted by another person, also in New Zealand and related to a different branch of the same family. Other contacts have included descendants of the Larcombe, Rockett and Partridge families of Musbury. I'm very happy to help with family history enquiries, but my main goal is to illicit from them as much information about our village history as I can.

War Memorial – Axminster Heritage are re-opening soon with a temporary exhibition about the war memorials in Axminster and the surrounding villages. According to the manager of AH, who is putting the exhibition together, Musbury is the only village without published details about those named on the war memorial. I spent a couple of weeks on this and found out that most of the existing research was limited and contained errors, plus there are some strange anomalies on our memorial. I've also tried to ascertain where they lost their lives and what action they were involved with.

The exhibition at Axminster Heritage will be open from 18 May and EX13 residents will be allowed free entry (proof of residency required) on Saturday, 29 May (10:00 to 13:00hrs). I will be updating the Musbury Heritage website very soon. If you have any details, especially photographs, of those named on our war memorial, I would love to hear from you.

House Histories – This is very much an on-going project, as essentially all I have done to date is to keep every snippet of information I find out about a property, whether it be historical documents, pictures, planning applications, newspaper cuttings, etc. until one day when I can make sense of it all. Recently I've been delving a little deeper into the building of the Council-owned properties in the 1920/30s, which, although relatively recent in historic terms, is very interesting. You also recall my asking for help with some defunct names from the past. One of these was "The Towers" (1910 to 1931), which I've now discovered was The Old Cottage on Church Hill. Can you think of a less appropriate name?

If you are concerned about sharing details about your home that may appear on the Musbury Heritage website then I would like to reassure you that no recent history is recorded, privacy is paramount and Musbury Heritage is not used for research purposes by 'urban explorers' (there are many websites more suited to their use). Nothing will be posted without your approval. So far only about 100 people have registered to use Musbury Heritage and most of these are locals, ex-locals, or genealogists. I am sure that between us we can learn a little more about your house history.

Musbury Family Histories – These form an essential aid to understanding so much about Musbury. I have created over 30 of these family trees to help understand the connections between people. What was the background of a man who lost his life fighting for his country? Why did a family who'd lived in Musbury for centuries suddenly leave? Who were the families who broke away from the traditional church and became known as "Chapel people"? If you have descended from an established Musbury family (in the village 1911 or prior), then perhaps I can help you with your family tree and we can both learn a little more.

Finally – I'm always very happy to chat about Musbury's history. I may not act immediately on what I learn, as this is a very long-term project, but I will retain all information for use in the future. So please keep the stories, pictures, anecdotes, etc. coming.

Martin Minter / *Musbury Heritage* / martin@musburyheritage.co.uk

You can now also follow us on Facebook – just search for "Musbury Heritage"

Trees planted along the main road on 27 February 2021

I have chosen small trees that will have some special feature at some time during the year.

Siberian Crab *Malus baccata*. (Jane's Tree). A small tree with white and pink flowers in the spring followed by tiny 'apples' the size of holly berries in autumn.

Sweet Gum *Liquidambar styraciflua*. A tree, fairly slow growing and late to come into leaf. The leaves turn dark red in autumn.

Himalayan Birch *Betula utilis* var *jacquemontii*. A small tree like our native birch but the leaves are larger, the branches more upright, and the bark smoother and whiter. Looks elegant in winter.

Flowering Cherry *Prunus incisa* 'The Bride'. A small tree producing pink buds opening to white single flowers in March-April.

Hupeh Mountain Ash *Sorbus hupehensis*. A small tree with bunches of cream flowers in early summer followed by white or pale pink berries that last late into the winter. Also good autumn colour.

Upright Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia* 'Autumn Spire'. A small tree with upright branches, good autumn colour and yellow berries.

Red Maple *Acer rubrum* 'Brandywine'. A small tree that has spectacular red autumn colour in most years, particularly after early frosts.

Mike Lock



Flowering Cherry



Red Maple

The View from the Farm

Penny and I farm together with our son Robert and his wife, Kate, at Castlewood Farm, Musbury. When moving to the farm in 1973 there were approximately twelve other dairy farms in the Musbury parish and today that number has reduced to four. Some people may think that even this number is too great at certain times of the year; especially, during the muck spreading season!

However, although the number of herds are fewer, the actual number of cows has stayed virtually the same. This is due largely to the intensification and rationalisation of the farms which has also impacted on the farming industry countrywide. In the early seventies it was possible for a small dairy farm to be profitable and afford a reasonable standard of living for the farmer and his family.

Over the years, political decisions have impacted on the farming industry. In the early seventies, as a nation we were only 58% self sufficient in food. We joined the Common Market and a period of increased food production ensued and by the mid eighties we reached 78% self sufficiency. Needless to say, many people from the more senior generation will recall the various accumulated butter and grain mountains in addition to the wine and milk lakes in Europe as a whole.

In an effort to reconcile these excesses, milk quotas were introduced which aimed to limit each farm holding's annual milk production. Set-aside was introduced, and as the name suggests a percentage of land was taken out of arable production each year and left fallow. The consequences of adopting this policy among others resulted in our food self sufficiency dropping back to the levels of those in the 70's. At the moment the figure stands at only 64%. The remainder is imported. However, the main intention of the various governments was to mass produce cheap food. This led to further intensification. The policymakers soon realised that farming, unless practiced on a very large scale would become unprofitable and so diversification was encouraged so that smaller farm businesses could survive.

Currently, we are moving into an era where we are urged to consider how climate, industry and people impact on our environment. Farmers are waiting to see what implications, adaptations or indeed opportunities this may have for their future businesses. Whilst recently explaining the new rewilding and tree planting schemes to a 95 year old farmer (in the family), after a lengthy pause he commented, " Well, they can't eat trees, can they! Be careful what you wish for, food is a necessity!".

It is interesting to note how world politics and innovations have influenced farming at Castlewood Farm over the years. In the seventies the dairy herd comprised of approximately 60 in number and today 120 are milked through two robotic milking machines.

Numbers may have increased, but also improvements in breeding and the even greater consideration given to an individual cow's feeding requirements and welfare has helped contribute to nearly double each cow's yield. However, this has had to happen to offset the fact that the price per litre has barely risen over this period; running harder to stand still comes to mind!

The need for us to diversify has resulted in the provision of holiday accommodation and 15 years ago when Robert returned home to the farm, a vineyard was planted. Grapes on the slopes of Musbury Castle would have been unthinkable in the 1970 's but there are now eight acres of vines growing happily (well, in most years) on the southern slopes.

This is Robert's domaine....literally! I know very little of the alchemy that is required to produce a bottle of sparkling wine and even less about the vintage which recently achieved a silver medal and international recognition. We are very proud of him and also the fact that the wine came from a Musbury vineyard!



Looking into the future, who knows what paths we may follow and choices we may make in our farming business. However, of one fact I am sure and that is that a farm of our size will not survive on commodity priced items like milk, which are incredibly cheap to buy in the supermarkets. Our products, though staple, will have to be value added and marketed directly to the consumer. With that in mind, I just hope that our family farm can continue to operate for at least the next generation in one of the most beautiful parts of our country.

Colin Corbett

Musbury Parish Council Annual Report

Covid – The Musbury Collective has been instrumental in providing support for those of our parishioners who have required help with shopping, prescriptions and company. The Parish Council thanks all those involved. The Clerk has kept the district and county council informed of the services provided by this group and the appropriate contact information.

Roads – As always, there seem to be more cars parked on the roads of Musbury. Please remember to park with consideration for residents, other road users and especially the emergency services. The Council would like to thank all residents who give their time and effort to keeping our roads in working order – whether that is weeding the edges, clearing drains or reporting potholes – it is greatly appreciated.

Cllr Ian Hall has earmarked funds for supporting the placement of VASS (Vehicle Activated Speed Signs) in the village to try and raise awareness of speeding through the centre of the village. The holes are already in place and the Council hope to see this project completed soon. We will be sharing the signs with one other parish.

New Parish Clerk – New Clerk, Jo Boyce was appointed in April 2020 and after a baptism of fire and Zoom meetings is learning more every day about the wide-reaching nature of the role.

Devon Air Ambulance Local Landing Site – This project has moved forward in the last year with the site at Musbury Primary School being agreed as the best location for the Night Landing Site. Funding has been secured thanks to the Libor fund and the generosity of both local residents and businesses, and the planning application is now with EDDC.

Marlborough Road Trees

After the strong winds and multiple storms of the last few years, several of the trees along the main road needed replacing. Mike Lock has given generously of his knowledge and experience to advise on the species of trees to use, a SCARF report was carried out by DCC to ensure it was safe to dig holes to replant and the trees have been planted and staked with the help of Noel Jacks, Mike Lock, Paul Chapman, Matt Craker, Caroline Griffin and Colin Corbett.

One of the new trees planted is ‘Jane’s Tree’ – chosen as a memorial to Jane Bishop, our long-serving clerk and paid for by generous donations from the village.

Lengthsman

This is a project that the Council are still keen to see to fruition. We would like someone to take on the role of village lengthsman or woman to address both the cosmetic appearance of the village by the removal of weeds and the prevention of surface water flooding by ensuring drain gratings and gutters are kept free from debris-particularly after hedge cutting activities.

Whilst in years gone by, much of this work has been carried out by volunteers, the Council would now like to put it on a more formal basis.

We are still looking for that person, so if you or someone you know are interested, please do contact the clerk for more details.

Financial Report

The Parish Council have internal controls to ensure public money is used properly. These include Monthly Treasurer's Accounts and corresponding Bank statements sent to all councillors prior to meeting, accounts and statements checked on monthly basis along with invoices, receipts, red book and bank proofs by a nominated, non-bank signatory Councillor. All payments are seen and approved by two councillors and minuted at meetings. Two signatories authorise all payments by cheque, and Internet banking access allows immediate access to view bank statements.

The Council also maintains an Asset Register and list of payments over £100 for each year and produces a budget which informs the Precept bid and spending plans for the year. This budget includes earmarked funds for things like the maintenance of notice boards and benches and an election fund.

As we are dealing with public money raised from parishioners' Council Tax, accurate and timely invoices are especially important. Invoices should be made to Musbury Parish Council and not be "Pro-Forma" documents. Spending has to be carefully considered and invoices are approved by the Parish Council before payment is made.

Balance brought forward as at 1 st April 2020		£8,337.18
Add receipts	£13,319.85	
Less payments	£7,280.93	
Balance to carry forward to 1st April 2021		£ 14,376.10

Includes:

Allotment Deposits	£ 710.00		
Allotment Funds Available	£ 1221.34	£1,931.34	
P3 Footpaths			£ 944.92
DAAT			£3,730.00
Christmas Tree			£ 210.00
General Fund			£7,559.84

Musbury Planning & Development

Applications – There were 13 applications reviewed in the past year, 2 of which were tree related. All applications had the general support of the Parish Council.

Mountfield – There were no planning applications for Mountfield House over the last year. The owners are working with EDDC to prepare a planning application for Mountfield House that will see the house fully restored as a large family home to a modern standard / purpose.

The main expenditure in the past year has been the payment of water bills. To counter this, the water is turned off for the months of December, January and February when there is less requirement for water and more likelihood of pipes bursting or leaks going undetected. The Clerk and Mr Parkman also regularly read the meter as the 'estimates' are frequently inaccurate. The slope has been levelled out by the bottom entrance gate, a new post for the bottom tap has been fitted and the large branches of the tree have been removed. Thanks to all involved in the maintenance of this great asset to the village.

Musbury Playing Field

The Playing Field and Playground have been an invaluable lifeline to the community over the last year. It remained open and meant village children could expend their energy and play – a little bit of normality in a very strange time. It has also been the venue for some of the Musbury Movers' sessions led by Annie Stark in response to the need for people to keep active when they could not attend their usual clubs and groups.



The recent annual safety inspection has reiterated the areas of the playground in need of attention and as each year passes, the need for work grows. Cllrs Corbett and Craker have stepped forward to lead the redevelopment of this area and along with the Clerk, would welcome practical assistance from interested members of the community.

The Clerk is in contact with several staff members of EDDC with regards to possible funding for the work needed on the play area and has started to look into potential sources of grants. Any help researching this area and completing applications would be gratefully received. A questionnaire has also been sent to the school to distribute to the children and pre-school asking them which kinds of activities they prefer to do in the playground. The results of this survey can then be used to formulate a design which can then go out to tender. If there are any young people (aged 2-14) who would like to complete a survey who perhaps have been missed, please contact the clerk.

There is no quick fix for this area as it is an expensive task and one that needs careful planning to ensure the best result for our community now and in the future.

The Parish Clerk

Musburyparishclerk@gmail.com

Up on The Allotments

Once upon a time you could say a 'man and his allotment.....' but no more, not because of political correctness, but because more and more women have allotments and this is certainly the case in Musbury. There are as many women as men, and all have their own ideas as to how to manage their plot. Some have small beds and lots of paths, others have one large area, but everyone has the same idea – to grow their own produce. Some people are early risers out just after dawn, some prefer later in the day, or weekends at the end of a working week, but the jobs get done. In recent years polytunnels have appeared on some plots enabling a greater range of exotic plants to be grown and a longer growing season for others.



Two things that you may not have realised about Musbury's allotments. Not all plot holders hail from Musbury. While locals get priority, there are people from Axminster, Charmouth and Seaton. And the allotments are very good value. Plot holders pay circa £7 for half an allotment and circa for £14 for a full one, plus a £25 deposit.

So, what produce are people enjoying at the moment? Winter sown broad beans and cauliflowers are being harvested outside, with garlic and shallots following on soon, and some more tender plants like lettuces springing up in polytunnels.

It looks like being a good year for soft fruits. Strawberries are in flower and gooseberries too. There are some more unusual berries grown, including jostaberries and boysenberries.

Not all the plots are planted with just vegetables and fruit. Some plot holders like to grow flowers to attract insects and as cut flowers for the house. At the moment, you will find hesperis, phacelia (fiddleneck), sweet Williams, camassia and cornflowers blooming or in bud.

The rain is welcome, but late frosts are not, so it will be interesting to see how this year pans out. You think you've learnt from the year before only to find the growing conditions have changed entirely!

From Musbury Allotmenters

Update from the Castle

In January 2021, the National Trust East Devon Countryside team returned to Musbury Castle to continue clearing scrub from the ramparts of the Scheduled Ancient Monument as part of the grassland restoration work, and to protect the historic features of the site. The rangers managed to clear approximately 800m² before the start of the bird nesting season (1st March) with the support of a fantastic team of volunteers who worked tirelessly with staff, come rain or shine.



In mid-April, the rangers returned to the site to remove the fire tins and safety netting, and to complete a walk-through survey of the area. Bluebells, fox gloves, red campion, arum, lesser celandine and garlic mustard were already starting to appear in the area cleared this year, and these species could also be seen in the areas cleared in previous years along with stitchwort, mouse ear, buttercups, common sorrel and dandelions.

The woodland to the east of the site had another fantastic display of bluebells and early purple orchids this Spring, alongside other woodland indicator species such as violets, dog's mercury, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, wood sorrel, wood speedwell and moschatel. The hill fort provides an important habitat for numerous birds including yellow hammer which can often be seen perching on top of the boundary hedges and bushes. Keep your eyes peeled for this unmistakable bird with a bright yellow head and underparts the next time you are walking through the site.

Cattle have now returned to the hill fort to help maintain the grassland for target species including red fescue, crested dogstail, common knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil and red clover. The cows also help with bracken control as they trample the fronds and weaken the rhizomes of this negative indicator plant as they move around the site.

The National Trust team will return to Musbury Castle in the autumn to continue clearing scrub from this historic landscape. If you would like to get involved with our work at Musbury Castle over the autumn/winter months, please contact lucy.buckingham@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Garden Club

Well, what a start to the gardening year. Late frosts and drought followed by milder temperatures and floods. Both gardeners and plants are thoroughly confused. Still, many of you battled on and provided plants for the Plant Sale, against all the odds, so thank you to everyone concerned.

How has your garden been growing? Would you like an opportunity to show off your favourite parts, whether it's swathes of meadow, or a planted up pot? We would like to have a 'Celebrating Musbury's Gardens' display in the Post House windows for the whole of August. Post up to three 6 X 4inch (15 X 10cm) photos through the Post House door, or an A4 sheet of photos, by 1st August and give people the chance to see some of Musbury's hidden jewels. Should August prove to be sunny, the pictures may fade so please bear that in mind.

We hope to have more news in the next issue of the magazine about plans for future Garden Club meetings. Meanwhile, happy gardening!

Karen, Sue and Val

Friends of St Michael's Musbury

The Friends, set up four years ago to maintain the fabric of the church for the whole village community, has made our first financial contribution to preservation of the building. A gift of £5000 was made towards the cost of repairing the ceiling. This was possible largely through the funds raised by Ann Veit from her carport stall last winter, some generous one-off donations and the regular contributions of members of the Friends.

Although not strictly within the job description of members of this charity, several Friends found themselves up the scaffolding inside the church in early April, taking the opportunity to clean the roof beams before the scaffolding was removed. The incentive towards perfection in this task was what would a keen-eyed visitor say if they spotted a loose splash of paint? No one considered the possibility of a parishioner perusing the ceiling during a long sermon!

We will continue to raise funds for future work on keeping the church building an accessible asset for the village. Anyone who wishes to help can do so by contacting the Friends of St Michael's Musbury, c/o Beeds Farm, Musbury EX13 8AG or beedsfarm@tiscali.co.uk or BACS Lloyds Axminster sort code 30-90-37 account 36161468 (please mention gift aid!)

Andrew Kennon
Secretary

Pot holes , there are plenty of them in Musbury. Are they a bad thing?

Potholes are a perennial topic of griping in cities worldwide, given their tendency to damage unsuspecting vehicles, threaten bicyclists, and impede all modes of traffic. We debate their origin, allow them a starring role in local council elections, build tougher and bigger cars to withstand them, and blame budget shortfalls for their long lives. But really, what's so bad about potholes? Nothing. They're great at slowing traffic and discouraging car travel. Try seeing them in a new light .Pot holes provide traffic calming, simply put,vwe do not have to spend money on speed humps. Drivers will notice far more at lower speeds and be able to gaze at the beautiful Devon countryside and appreciate the benefits of rural life. You will learn to live your life at a lower pace resulting in a calmer more spiritual approach thus saving the NHS millions

Finally, you have the mechanics. Where do you expect them to eke out a living if not from your problematic cars? We must be considerate. Your shock absorbers need to be tested. And when found deficient, you are forced to repair them. In fact, potholes have been certified by the standards body as the perfect way to test if a car is road-worthy. If your car cannot stand a pothole test, then it should not be on our great roads. Tyre manufactures might well suffer a disastrous loss of profitability if all roads were smooth

Pot holes are often linked to floods and poor drainage and Musbury and the locality has its share of damp patches . One of them near Lower Bruckland Farm and the lakes, resulted in wet feet for walkers and cyclists and was often impassable .The Post man had to divert his round . This has now been fixed thanks not to Devon Highways , but to David and Richard Satterley.

David and Richard spent two to three days digging and putting in new pipes, at their own cost, thus saving Devon Highways money for other projects. So far it seems to be working excellently and cycling or walking that way will no longer mean wet feet. The Post man will be able to complete his round .

I am sure many of us would like to say a big thank you to David and Richard

Jolly



Musbury Primary PTFA

After a quiet year whilst we all kept busy with our children at home, we are thrilled to be back at school and enjoying our lovely school grounds in the summer term. The PTFA are working on a big fundraising project this year to raise enough money to build a new outdoor play area, and provide lots of small every day items to support the education of all the children. We are thrilled to see the school thriving and growing, and as always appreciate all your support. If you would like to join us for a meeting, have any ideas or think you can contribute in any way, please get in touch with our chair, **Daisy on 07740335655**

or by email at musburyptfa@gmail.com.

We especially need anyone who is skilled in book keeping to offer a few hours per year to keep our accounts, and someone who has experience of being a trustee for a charity to help with Charity Commission paperwork. If this is you, or someone you know, and can spare just a few hours a year, please do get in touch.

TEXTILES WANTED - FRIDAY 2ND JULY

We are pleased to announce that the PTFA has organised a clothes & shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds for the new outdoor play area. Please consider supporting the school by donating any unwanted textiles - this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys. You can also donate household linen, towels, curtains and textiles too. In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse. We will have bags you can use available for collection at school from Mid June, or just use any bag you have at home already. Bag2School will be collecting from the school on Friday July 2nd. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the school at any time on Thursday 1st July and help us have a really good collection. If you have lots of bags to donate or can't get to the school simply call us and we can pop along and collect them for you. Many thanks indeed for helping us with this unique fundraising opportunity - no donation is too small, and we are so grateful for your support.

CRISP LOVERS - WE NEED YOU!

Do you love crisps or know someone who does? At Musbury Primary we collect crisp packets and send them away to be recycled - and in return we get a small amount of money towards our fundraising projects. So if you eat crisps perhaps you would consider saving us the packets? Big or small, any kind of crisp packet is welcome! When you have a bag full just drop them into school for us to recycle - and if you work in an office or have family who also love crisps, perhaps you could collect their packets too? For this scheme to work we really need as many packets as possible, so please do keep collecting for us! Once a month we collect all the packets up and pack into boxes - if you can spare an hour to join us in doing this we would really appreciate it - just email musburyptfa@gmail.com and we will let you know when we next need an hour of your time - lovely company and a (socially distanced) cup of tea provided in return! Thank you!

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Musbury Garage and Spar

Hopefully, the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter and we can all look forward to getting back to 'normal', if we can remember what 'normal' is! It has certainly been a busy year at Musbury Garage, and once again we thank you all for your support. We are now gearing up for summer, just needing the weather to catch up. Although the bulk of our stock comes from Spar, we do always support local producers. Included in this ever-lengthening list is Ashe Farm Honey, Trill Farm salad, Lyme Bay wine and cider, pies, pasties and sausages from Anton's Butchers & Woodland View, Baboo Gelato (ice cream) and Moores Biscuits from Bridport (including the famous Dorset Knob to challenge your teeth) and organic milk and cream from Bruton.

Daily deliveries of fruit and vegetables ensure that we always have seasonal produce. Recent arrivals were lovely strawberries from near Taunton; teamed with Bruton organic cream, they were lovely. And just imagine how few food miles were involved.

Hopefully, it won't be long before we can enjoy some long summer evenings in the garden. Don't forget your charcoal, logs for your firepit, rolls from Evershot, burgers from Woodland View in Shute and sausages from Colyton. And we always have chilled white wine, cider (Lyme Bay and Northcotts) and lager. Perfect.

We were sorry to lose Megan from the shop and Jeremy from the forecourt but wish them both all the very best in their new jobs. Julian's daughter Amelia will be taking over Megan's hours at the beginning of June, for three months. We also say hello to Shane on the forecourt. Our car knowledge in the shop is very limited, but when the garage reception is open, just pop in and ask – they are more than happy to help. So, here's hoping for a long, hot, safe summer.

Theresa Stockman

Spar Store Manager – Musbury Garage

VILLAGE HALL

As mentioned in the previous edition of the Parish News we had to hold our Annual General Meeting on 1st March via Zoom and it all went surprisingly well with no IT issues!

The following officers were willing to stand again and were duly elected:

Chairman: Peter Perryman.

Treasurer: Jackie Gooding

Bookings Secretary: Sarah English

Secretary: Gary Knight

Trustees: Michelle Craker, Debbie Ellis and Mary Oborn.

We are also grateful to the six parishioners who attended the meeting, many thanks for your support, you know who you are!

Jackie has been able to secure some Covid related grants and we are utilising these to complete some much needed refurbishment of the hall including a total refit of both the men's and the accessible toilets, new flooring in the storage and lobby areas, new ceiling and lighting in the lobby and repairs to the outside wall. It is intended to complete these repairs before we fully reopen as and when we are permitted.

It is pleasing to note that Sarah is receiving many enquiries as to when groups can re-commence using the hall and the relevant people will be contacted as soon as an appropriate date is confirmed.

All the signs are that we are on the right path and that we can soon re-establish the hall as the heart of the community. Many thanks for your continued support, we look forward



to seeing you all soon!

Best wishes

Musbury Village Hall Trustees

Dog and Their Bites

Unfortunately, intimidation by dogs on our footpaths and lanes seems to be on the increase. Dogs need to be kept under control, because they can cause harm physically and mentally. When this happens it causes unnecessary inconvenience both to the victim and the NHS, some times needing numerous visits to a nurse.



Here are some guidelines on what to do if bitten by a dog. Most dog bites carry infection so need to be treated quickly. Always seek medical advice if the skin is broken as you will probably need antibiotics and possibly a tetanus booster. Infection can spread rapidly in the blood to other parts of the body leading to complications.

If you have been bitten

- clean the wound immediately by running warm tap water over it for a couple of minutes – it's a good idea to do this even if the skin does not appear to be broken
- remove any objects from the bite, such as teeth, hair or dirt
- encourage the wound to bleed slightly by gently squeezing it, unless it's already bleeding freely
- if the wound is bleeding heavily, put a clean pad or sterile dressing over it and apply pressure
- dry the wound and cover it with a clean dressing or plaster
- take painkillers if you're in pain, such as [paracetamol](#) or [ibuprofen](#) – children under 16 years old should not take aspirin
- seek medical advice.

Further information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/animal-and-human-bites/>

Cherry

The League of Friends

Like many charitable organisations the League of Friends of Axminster Hospital, who fund Hospiscare at Home in the Axminster District, are finding fund raising efforts very restricted. With the cancellation of charitable events it has been hard but not impossible. The League is still here and is still active

Axminster Hospital has continued to maintain their clinical services, therapies, Xray and ultra sound with the very busy ophthalmic unit progressing with cataract surgery. The Community Nurses are still doing magnificent work in and around Axminster-we have a lot to be thankful for.

Don't forget if you are being referred for any reason ASK FOR AXMINSTER.

If you have not had your vaccinations yet please, please get them booked now, you are not only protecting yourself but those around you. Local vaccination centres are at Axminster Medical Practice and Seaton Hospital. You may also be offered Exeter or Taunton dependant on demand. They are not painful and my personal experience has been no after effects to either jab which I believe is the case with most people.

The doctors, nurses, paramedics and volunteers are doing incredible work and working long, long hours to keep us safe. Massive thanks to them all.

Ann Veit

Hon. Secretary LOF AH

01297 552376

A special note for Musbury

Thank you to all of you who have me get through the last 18 months without your support my life would have been much more difficult. Special thanks to the team who have collected and delivered medications, this has been invaluable. Also thanks to the Garage/Spar shop for their deliveries, a wonderful service with such a friendly team.

My Jam pan is out again and the jams are on sale on the carport, at Lion Cottage, Axminster Road, once more. All proceeds are for the Church ceiling repairs which are now being done. I have had many pictures sent of the progress and some wonderful ones of the beautifully carved ceiling bosses which under normal circumstances are not seen in all their glory. This is just one of many designs.

Please support the Jam Sales: all proceeds go to Church Repairs.

Ann Veit

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Musbury Bowls Club

Nothing much has happened on the bowling front in the last few months but we have endeavoured to keep in touch by Zoom with those members able to do so.

We were not able to have our AGM again but the Treasurer will be circulating the accounts for the year. We are eagerly awaiting the opening of the hall but know that there will be strict rules to be adhered to because of the Pandemic when we do start up again. The Committee will be meeting to finalise arrangements for the resuming of play when allowed.

Two stalwart members, Marcia and Roy Griffiths, are moving from the area to live near their daughter. Sadly we won't be able to say goodbye to them properly but we wish them all the best for the future.

Several members have been ill and had operations and we hope they are all recovered and able to play when we resume.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon and hopefully some new members to our friendly club.

Christine Pomeroy, our Chairman, and all the committee send our best wishes to all our patient members. It won't be long now before we all see each other again. Keep smiling.

Kay Short
Secretary.



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The Sky at Night

This is the time of year when astronomers either become like a night watchman, rarely surfacing during daylight hours, or surviving on little sleep when the skies are clear.

Astronomical night time (when you can clearly see the star) at present is around 11 pm, although the sun officially sets at around 8:30 – 9:00 there is still a glow in the night skies. So what can we see earlier, the Moon, Venus, and some of the brighter stars, but none of those tantalising galaxies or nebulae we've seen in winter?



Starting with the sun, there is an annular eclipse on June 10th, although we will see it as a partial eclipse. An eclipse is where the moon is in exactly the right position between the earth and the sun for a small amount of time and covers the sun from our view point. This can be a total eclipse, a partial eclipse or an annular eclipse. Recently the UK has seen partial eclipses, where just a portion of the sun is covered by the moon. An annular eclipse is where the moon and Sun line up, but the moon is slightly closer to the sun and so doesn't cover the sun totally, but leaves a yellow circle all the way around. The partial eclipse will be visible around 11.13 am.

The summer months are very good for Noctilucent clouds. These are the highest clouds in the atmosphere; 80 kilometres up, right on the edge of space. They form above the Earth's poles. They look very ghost like in the sky and are only visible in the summer months. They are basically clouds made up of ice that's frozen onto tiny solid particles. So get your cameras out and look north-west before midnight and see what you can find.

If you have a good southern view and a medium sized telescope you should be able to see or image, the Trifid Nebula, the Lagoon Nebula, or the Omega Nebula. All are quite low down, and the moon is full at the beginning of July, but as the moon heads towards being new the views should be good. The only problem with July of course is viewing time is best between midnight and 3 am, which is not much good if you have to be up by 6am for work.

Another good target is the summer triangle. It's quite high in the sky and is made up of three stars from three different constellations; Vega from Lyrae, Deneb from Cygnus and Altair from Aquila. Even if you haven't got binoculars or a telescope these three stars are good naked eye objects.

Don't forget about the Perseid meteor shower in August. The 12th and 13th are the peak of the shower and with the moon being at its last quarter and rising around midnight the views may be hindered slightly. The shower is caused by the Earth passing through the stream of dust left by the Comet Swift-Tuttle and we see these dust particles passing into our atmosphere in the most amazing light show. Perseus is in the North East of the sky, so you may be able to put your back to the rising moon and still get a good view.

Due to Covid-19 we are unsure when the NLO is going to be open again, but we are hoping to be by early 2022. Meanwhile we are having some internal work done so its worth coming next year to see just what has changed.

Keep Looking Up!
The Norman Lockyer Observatory



Anagrams in preparation for Pub Quizzes

Elton malts The productive part of Musbury

Redrum An anagram famously used in the film The Shining

Metamagical Themas Fun with Numbers

Torchwood BBC sci fi series

Mr Mojo Risin Mister Mojo Rsin was in the lyrics of one of his songs on a
1971 album classic

O Draconian Devil Italian Painter ,draftsman and sculptor

Old west action SFPD inspector Harry Callahan

No city dust here Where we live

Here come dots Method of communication favoured by Endeavour

Fetch an iron leg Founder of modern nursing

Clam and sod referred to as Mac Clunkeys in soaps

And a few cryptic pub Quiz Questions (not anagrams)

Depressed apostle? A TV programme

Band for a rainy day in Lancashire?

An African Country; A thousand in front of an Irish Singer

A Coastal town; Keep supplied coastal area?

A town not far away; Keep teasing

Answers from The Editor or will be posted on village notice boards in June

Wordsearch

Find twelve Musicals



And finally

“I really believe that if the political leaders of the world could see their planet from a distance of, let's say 100,000 miles, their outlook would be fundamentally changed. The all-important border would be invisible, that noisy argument suddenly silenced.”

Michael Collins 1930-2021

“Though it's cold and lonely in the deep dark night, I can see paradise by the dashboard light”.

Jim Steinman 1947-2021

“We've been down in the valley much too long.

We've been down in captivity oh so long.

We've been down in humility much too long.

We've been down in slavery oh so long”.

Bunny Wailer 1947-2021

“I think it is really terrifying that we are narrowing down to a mechanistic assessment of children by how many pass exams... if standards meant improving right across the board, character, originality, interests, then I wouldn't mind so much. But it doesn't. It always boils down to the same thing, how will we pass exams.”

Shirley Williams 1930-2021

Thank you for all contributions and I hope everyone has had a good read.

I am very pleased with our two new features which I hope will become regular articles.

“Up on the allotments” should provide us with some insights into what goes on over in those distant patches where figures can be seen bent over forks and spades toiling away. Occasionally allotmenters are seen hurrying through the village with laden wheelbarrows.

“A view from the farm” I hope will introduce us to what is going on in the countryside today and give us a chance to meet and hear from the custodians of our local environment.

Stay safe and mind how you go

Jolly

Contributors please note

Deadline for next issue 13th August

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Musbury Diary* *Summer 2021

For the moment the diary remains blank but there are church services . Details on the Church website <http://holyford.org>

The Village hall will reopen.

The Pub is open

Organisations will meet again

Watch the village web site <http://musburyvillage.co.uk>

and village notice boards for a resumption of normal service

How your Parish News Works

To enable us to produce a magazine four times a year we need contributions and there are a regular band of contributors, who are emailed during the month prior to production with the request to submit copy. Over the past year it has not been easy for some contributors to submit anything, as the organisations that they represent may have not done anything. Bowls events have not taken place, church flowers have not been needed, and bell ringing has been cancelled. The W.I. have not met, and the pub doors have been firmly closed .

Despite all this the editor continues to receive interesting articles and has been able to produce forty plus pages of positive newsworthy material.

The editor frets that there will not be anything to fill the forthcoming issue and desperately waits for incoming e mails. But by the deadline the problem lies in how to squeeze it all in.

So thank you to all contributors, and a plea to anyone reading this who thinks they may have a contribution, or an idea that they would like to see taken up in future issues to contact the editor.