

MUSBURY PARISH NEWS



Winter 2021

Holyford Mission Community

www.holyford.org

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MUSBURY PARISH NEWS

Village Website: www.musburyvillage.co.uk

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From The Vicarage Steven Writes

As always, Christmas has come upon me suddenly and unawares. No sooner is Remembrance Sunday out of the way, we inevitably seem to skip Advent, the Christmas marketing shifts up a gear, and I am already panicking about posting my Christmas cards in time and wondering what on earth to buy for my wife.

It can be easy to feel out-of-step with things and generally behind at this time of year, until we remember that, despite the advertising campaigns and even the early Carol Services in church, Christmas doesn't officially begin until 25th December. Not only that, the Christmas season proper lasts well beyond the Twelfth Night, until the feast of Candlemas (2nd February). Yet we invariably celebrate it early and by the time New Year comes we are itching to pack away the decorations and put Christmas behind us, even though it has really only just begun.

As we shift Christmas back a month and begin the familiar celebrations early, we can often take the extraordinary story of Christmas for granted. At Christmas we celebrate the fact that God saw a world which is out-of-step with his loving and generous purposes and so he sent his Son, a tiny and vulnerable baby, to redeem creation. All of that took preparation, and a journey.

As they travelled along, Mary and Joseph, as they prepared for the coming of Christ in the stable at Bethlehem that first Christmas Day, must have felt under-prepared and anxious about the huge responsibility placed upon them. The lead-up to Christ's birth would have been difficult and challenging and very hard to prepare for. Yet they managed, and the Saviour of the World was born in an inadequate, temporary home in Bethlehem, a somewhat dishevelled and unglamorous city south of Jerusalem. Despite that inauspicious start, Mary and Joseph trusted in the message of God delivered by the angels—'fear not'—and the angels continued to attend and reassure them, shepherds and kings drew close, and the baby grew out of human obscurity to reveal the fullness of God's love. A love to conquer all fear; a love stronger than death.

The lead-up to Christmas should not be a time of anxiety or worry, but a time of fruitful preparation and expectation. The angels gave to Mary and Joseph the most often-repeated message of the Bible as they prepared for the birth: 'fear not'. The message occurs 365 or more times (in one way or another) in the text of the Bible—that's one 'fear not' or 'do not be afraid' for every day of the year.

However out-of-step or underprepared we may feel, there is plenty of time before Christmas. Fear not. The full effect of God's love will arrive with us on 25th December and will stay with us: God did not send Jesus as a temporary decoration, but to be with us in all seasons, our saviour and friend forever.

Come and celebrate this with us this year. Details of our Christmas services and events can be found in this magazine and online. There are lots of opportunities to join us in any of the six churches which make up our group, called the Holyford Mission Community. The full pattern of services has been up and running for most of the year now and at Christmas there will be all the usual services at Colyton and Colyford, Branscombe, Musbury, Southleigh and Northleigh, plus other events. If you are still worried about attending busier services because of the threat of Covid, you may wish to consider coming along to one of the smaller churches to celebrate the festive season, or attend our outdoor crib service at Colyton on Christmas Eve (indoors if wet). Please see our website (Holyford.org) Facebook page (@holyfordmission) or contact a churchwarden or me for details of the types of services there will be, and times.

On behalf of all of us at the six churches of the Holyford Mission Community, I wish you all a happy, joyful and peaceful time as you prepare for Christmas.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

ADVENT WINDOWS

Walk round the village and count down the days to Christmas as each window lights up !



A huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers taking part.

To see which house is lighting up next, check out the list on village noticeboards, or the Musbury Village website

www.musburyvillage.co.uk

Parochial Church Council

Life at St Michael's Church is beginning to get back to some form of normality. We have resumed weekly services with a good variety of forms of worship each month to meet all the different preferences of village residents. All services are quite well attended with no difference in numbers from before the pandemic. We try to keep our distance from one another and sit more spread out than we used to. We still do not receive wine during Communion and we keep doors open for good ventilation.

Our Harvest Festival was enjoyed by all who came. The Church looked beautiful and we have the flower arranging team to thank for that. We sent £74 to the Farmers Crisis Charity.

Our Remembrance Service will take place just after this item needs to be with the editor but it will take place outside and inside this year unlike last year which was all outside. We hope for good numbers.

Our monthly coffee mornings have started up again and we have met up twice so far. We have a good number taking advantage of meeting up with friends and having a good old natter!

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Craft Fayre in the Village Hall on November 27th from 10.00am. There will be lots of festive tables, a cake stall, tombola and bacon butties will be served of course. Do come and support our efforts to raise much needed funds to cover the ever increasing costs of running the Church.

Our Carol Service will be on Sunday December 19th at 4.00pm and everyone is welcome to join us.

On Christmas Day we have our usual All Age Service at 10.00am followed by a short Communion Service.

It is so good to be back worshipping together on Sundays and we welcome you all to join us as we approach the festive season with joy and pray for peace in our troubled world.

Kay Short
PCC Secretary
552711

Coffee Breaks a chance for cake and a chat

The second Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall for coffee and a chat. 10.30 am

Coffee at Crossway House Annexe (opposite the old Post Office) every other Tuesday 10.30 am to 12 noon

CHURCH FLOWERS AND CLEANING

We are finally back to 'what we do best' - Harvest Festival was the first celebration where the Church was filled with those beautiful Autumn colours, on every windowsill and all areas around the Church. Thank you to all those who did arrangements.

Our next celebration is of course the special season of Christmas. Our Carol Service is Sunday 19th December so Christmas arrangements please on Saturday 18th. As usual predominately greenery with hopefully lots of red festive berries !

I will shortly be preparing next years rota for cleaning and flowers, so if anyone would like to join our merry band of volunteers, do please give me a call. Even one turn on the rota would be so helpful.

May I thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a VERY Happy Christmas !

Sue Irving

552440

sueirving336@btinternet.com

Parish Records

Wedding

September 11th Owen Alan Mitchell and Andrea Louise Palmer

Funeral and Burial

19th October. Edward Gay

5th November. Edward George Fowler

Funeral and Burial of Ashes

November 13th David Rixon



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Weather Watch

August was a changeable month with a rainfall total of 71.5 mm (just under 3 in); this is slightly below the long-term average. There was a heavy shower on 9th and a longer spell of heavy rain on the early morning of 21st; otherwise the rain came in small showers. September likewise had rainfall somewhat below average – 48.5 mm (2 in) – the average is 61 mm. The first week was generally warm and sunny, and this continued for much of the month, albeit with a few showers. Heavy overnight rain on 27-28th watered in the grass seed that had been sown after the maize harvesting. October, conversely, was a very wet month with a total of 187.5 mm (7½ in); the average is 103 mm. The rain tended to come in torrential downpours, with 26 mm on 2nd, 19 mm on 4th, and then a lull until 19th–20th when 82 mm (3 in) fell in two days. A further 53 mm fell on 28–30th. The very heavy rain fell on fields where maize had just been harvested, but the grass cover crop sown afterwards had not had time to grow enough to stop the soil washing away. A good deal of mud and gravel washed down through the village. November has started bright and cold with the first frosts of autumn.

Mike Lock

Winter Quiz

On behalf of the Friends of St Michael's, Alan Fowler has composed a quiz to sell to make funds for the Friends. We are selling them for £1 each and there will be a prize of £20 for the most correct answers. In the event of a tie, all tied entries will go into a box and one will be picked out at random during the refreshments at the Carol Service, for the prize.

We are grateful to Alan and look forward to making some funds for the Friends of St Michaels. They are available from PCC members, Churchwardens, Kay Short and Andrew Kennan (secretary of the Friends). Please support and have fun at the same time.

Kay Short PCC

Nature Watch

Beeds Hill Plantation, at the top of Mounthill Lane and along to Bulmoor Cross, has been clear-felled and the timber is now stacked waiting to go to the sawmill. The plantation was of Western Hemlock – originating on the west coast of North America and not a common plantation tree in this country. Tilhill Forestry, who manage the plantation, tell me that the larger trees will go to BSW Southampton, one of their eight UK sawmills, where they will become posts, rails, sleepers, featheredge boards, palisades and square posts. The smaller round pieces will be made into wood chip, probably for boiler fuel. The Ash mixed into the plantation has also been felled because of the prevalence of Ash Dieback in the area, and will go for firewood. The site will be replanted with a mixture of conifers, mainly Douglas Fir, Norway Spruce and Western Hemlock, and the edges and areas where the Ash has been cleared will be allowed to regenerate naturally with local hardwoods.

It is of course sad to see the plantation go, but it was, after all, a crop with a limited lifespan. The mature plantation held birds such as Coal Tits and Goldcrests, as well as nesting Woodpigeons. The young developing plantation may well hold more species for a while; Willow Warblers like the thick young stages of plantations, and there is even the possibility that some of the Nightjars from Trinity Hill will colonise the site and breed there until the trees become too tall. Nightjars have become more common in Devon in the last thirty years and often move into clear-felled areas. Listen for their long-drawn-out churring song from mid-May onwards.

All the summer migrants have now left and we await the arrival of the winter thrushes – Fieldfares and Redwings. They have been seen in plenty on Dartmoor, where, hopefully, there is a better berry crop than there is in and around my garden. It is possible that the cold and frosty weather in late April affected fruit set in Hawthorn and Blackthorn. It certainly led to us having virtually no plums this year although the apples did well.

A striking and more-or-less annual sight at the end of October and early November is coastal Woodpigeon migration. On clear fine days thousands of Woodpigeons, accompanied by a few Stock Doves, fly west along the South Devon coast in flocks of fifty or more. To give some idea of the numbers involved, 45,000 were reported passing Budleigh Salterton on 4 November this year, and the previous day 48,000 passed Start Point. The totals reported vary from year to year; in 2018 and 2019 between 140,000 and 180,000 passed south coast watch points, but in 2017 the total was 614,000. Although impressive, this is only a fraction of the British population which stands at around 15 million. Where are they going? Some, like those seen at Start Point this year, head out to sea, perhaps moving to France.

Some may go to Ireland. However, very few British-ringed birds have been recovered in France, and even fewer in Ireland, so it seems likely that the birds we see just disperse through Devon and Cornwall and spend the winter there; flocks are sometimes seen heading back eastwards in spring, although usually inland. I had a bit of luck a few weeks ago. I was standing, as I often do, on Nunford Bridge, which carries the footpath to Colyton over the Axe and the end of Waterford Lane. Something disturbed a Moorhen from the banks downstream, and a Little Grebe flew out to the middle of the river and dived. I then realised that something was moving upstream near the bank, and as this got nearer to me, it resolved itself into a family of Otters – I think Mum and two cubs. Mum went upstream under the bridge but stayed submerged, but the cubs explored a narrow side stream so I was able to look down on them as they moved upstream beneath me. I stayed quite still and I don't think they were aware of me. This is only the second time I have seen Otters in this area in 18 years, although I have seen them a few times in the estuary and the Wetlands. Possibly the same family were caught on a camera trap a few months ago raiding a small garden fishpond in Whitford Road. Otters are certainly now pretty common along the lower Axe; those who go fishing at night see them very often, but daytime sightings are rare. In the Spring number of the Axe Vale & District Conservation Society, Steve Waite described a sighting of a mother and cub by the river in broad daylight below the A3052 in January this year.

Seaton Wetlands

Water levels at the Wetlands are now higher, partly through management to encourage ducks, now that most migrant waders have passed through, and partly a result of the very heavy rain in mid-October which brought the river and the Stafford Brook down in heavy flood, just enough for water to start coming into the Field Classroom. This is built of marine plywood, and hatches in the floor are designed to lift and allow water to enter in big floods. It can easily be swept out again when levels fall.

There are now large numbers of Teal on Black Hole Marsh, as well as a few Shoveler and a lot of Mallard, most of the latter on the pool by the Discovery Hut where children come to feed them. Some Shelduck have returned from moulting, either in Bridgewater Bay or North Germany, and are looking very smart in their fresh plumage. Wigeon have also arrived from Russia, but generally stick to the grassy fields near the junction of the Coly with the Axe rather than coming onto Black Hole Marsh. They can often be seen from the Tower Hide or from the Seaton Marshes hide. Most waders have now moved on southwards but some Black-tailed Godwits remain, as do Redshank. Lapwings have started to arrive and can often be seen resting on the islands of Black Hole Marsh during the day. They tend to feed at night because anything they find during the day is often stolen by gulls. There are reports of two Whooper Swans perhaps wintering in the Axe Valley.

Mike lock

School Report

The Children at Musbury Primary have returned to school following the half term break, ready for the second half of the Autumn Term. We have lots of exciting events planned, a Theatre Company will be joining us, followed by Children In Need, Sports Events, rehearsing for the Christmas Production, a trip to the Theatre to see a Pantomime, so a very busy few weeks ahead!

Class 1 have had a lovely couple of weeks exploring Diwali and talking about the significance of bonfire night. The children used pastels to create their own bonfire night. They also made their own diva lamps out of clay and painted them.

Class 2 have been studying the book 'Oliver'. Children have been getting into role to learn about Nancy and Fagin. In maths, Year 3-4 have been looking at measures, exploring measuring and converting, getting ready to calculate the perimeter. In Year 5-6, children have been learning about prime, square and cubed numbers.

Would you be interested in helping out at school? We are looking for someone in the community to become a volunteer Gardener to take care of raised beds etc. If you are interested, please contact the school office via email: admin@musbury-primary.devon.sch.uk or phone 01297 55687.

We are also looking for a temporary midday supervisor to cover a long-term sick leave. For more details please visit the school website or contact the school direct on the details above.

Questions of life

Questions of Life and Faith at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month is attracting a mixed group from our local churches. We meet in Colyford Memorial Hall and the next session will be the 9th Dec. A donation of a £1 or £2 is welcome to meet costs, but not essential. The most important thing is to come with questions that matter to you and open them up to share views and insights. All welcome.

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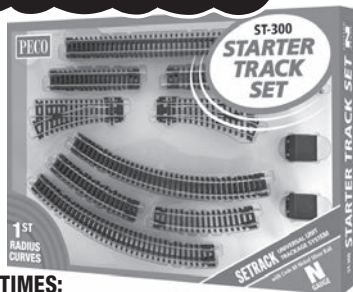
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Musbury Heritage

Musbury Heritage Display

We are hoping to raise more awareness and interest in forming a Musbury Heritage Society for people to meet occasionally and discuss our village history. A few villagers who have previously expressed an interest have already met to discuss how we might take this forward. But we need some volunteers who are committed to ensuring that Musbury's history is not neglected or forgotten, and are willing to help form a small organising committee. I do not envisage this entailing a lot of work or time. The research, which is the bulk of the work, will still be carried out by me, but I will not stand in the way of anyone who would like to help! I will also be happy to form part of the committee.

I'm pleased to say that Ken and Sue from The Post House have kindly agreed to host a window display through next January promoting the idea of forming a Musbury Heritage Society. But we need more artefacts or interesting items and photographs of the village. Some of you may have visited Axminster Heritage back in July 2018 and saw the Musbury Village display there, so we have some material, but Ken & Sue would love to borrow some more items/photographs/artefacts (just for a few weeks – please be assured they will be treated with the utmost care and returned promptly). Please contact Ken and Sue directly if you have any items. Just ring/knock at the door or text/phone Ken on 07484 667747.

If we can form a small committee, one idea is to hold an initial public meeting to evaluate interest, to raise some funds to set up a simple but formal organisation and also to be able to purchase reasonably-priced relevant items at local auctions, so that they are not lost to the village, and also maintain the website, purchase research material, etc.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me by the email below or by phone (553325).

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

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

Being a member of a healthy community:

I have always thought myself to be extremely lucky to have moved to Musbury – a lovely village in the Axe valley with good facilities, good communication links, friendly people and a better cultural and age profile than most places.

During the recent pandemic our luck seems, mostly, to have held – with low case rates, high immunisation rates, low rates of hospitalisation and complications, lots of volunteers to deliver shopping, collect medicines and visit the vulnerable or isolated. However I sense that over recent weeks “pandemic fatigue” may be emerging with people less keen to wear face masks, stick to social distance guidance, meet outside and wash hands. Working from home seems less of an option and there are certainly more cars on the road and more visitors on staycation breaks.

I would humbly like to suggest that a healthy community has to mean more just the absence of sickness or even the prevalence of sickness returning to pre-pandemic levels – I think we need to strive to become a healthier community by learning from the experience of the Covid 19 pandemic so we are more resilient next time -and after TB, diphtheria, Polio, Spanish flu, SARS and foot and mouth the one thing we can be certain of is that there will be another epidemic to threaten us. I offer a few preliminary thoughts-mostly transactional rather than transformational and not answers but simply things that have occurred to me, a retired family doctor with enough experience to recognise my own weaknesses and the limitations of my thoughts.

- We cannot expect our government/leaders/science/medicine to always do the right thing – there is no algorithm for them to follow and even following the science is risky as there is insufficient evidence to rely on – we stand on a “burning platform” if we believe otherwise. Doctors can advise and support – but they cannot cure Covid19, there is no pill for them to prescribe, but prevention and avoidance might offer a way through.
- There is little point in *blaming* anyone for the pandemic or its management. Blame is a negative and harmful pastime. As the Duchess of Cambridge pointed out recently addiction is a mental health problem and blaming addicts does not help them overcome it. Nearly all of us are or have been addicted to something at some stage of our lives be it chocolate, TV or radio soaps, nicotine, alcohol or narcotics – all can be risky or harmful and sufferers need help not blame, to grow through their addiction and become healthier people as a result.

- *Playing safe* – keeping our distance, taking precautions like wearing face masks and avoiding overcrowding, keeping rooms ventilated have all been shown to reduce transmission and we should continue to do all these things for as long as it takes – along with getting immunised and steering clear of vulnerable people until we know we are immune.
- A healthy community is made up of individuals who *take responsibility* for their own lives and their own health – who avoid risky behaviour and take extra precautions and offer extra help to protect the rest of the community – perhaps getting the hole in the exhaust mended or ensuring loud music/ mowers or fireworks only disturb neighbours who are pre-warned, these may be people who pick up dog mess and close gates, who pick up litter while out walking and who usually leave the car behind in favour of walking or cycling. Of course this “health” issue can be pushed further into avoiding addictions like smoking drugs and alcohol and adopting a healthy lifestyle without overeating, taking plenty of regular exercise and caring for ourselves and our families so that signs of illness can be picked up and treated early before they harm us. I would add that supporting vulnerable people to help them remain at home can really help and make a big difference to their confidence. Getting them home from hospital expeditiously will give them confidence and free up a scarce hospital bed.
- Both the Covid pandemic and the issue of Climate change are *existential* threats – in their own way they each threaten our and our children’s existence – that is why they are so frightening and why it is so important that we take them seriously – rely on our approach adult and mature to guide our behaviour – recycle, avoid plastic pollution, reduce our carbon footprint and promote biodiversity.
- Really the Glasgow climate conference (COP 26), and all it represents, is as important to us in Musbury as the Covid pandemic – we ignore either at our peril. Both of them require us to take *personal responsibility* and promote *socially responsible* behaviour or suffer the consequences which may mean the planet becomes uninhabitable. The absence of hedgehogs in our gardens and swallows in our garages are bad enough; the loss of wildflower meadows is terrible but a planet that is unfit for human habitation is something we all have a responsibility to prevent not by transactional or transformative steps but by moving from a resource depleting paradigm to one focused on sustainability.

As I said above, a few preliminary thoughts - - - - -

Dr Nigel Starey

Edward Gay 1937-2021

Dad was born on the 1st September 1937 at Wellington Maternity Unit in Wellington, Somerset. Edward was the second eldest of 6 children, born to George & Hilda Gay. His father was a smallholder, having previously worked as a miller in the family milling business at Selgars Mill near Ullfulme. They lived at Cordwinds, a little cottage in the village of Sampford Arundel near Taunton.

Dad was going to be named Edward George Gay, taking his father's first name. However his parents then realised his initials would be E.G.G – (egg!) and were concerned their son would get teased at school, so..... just Edward it was.



Edward and Kathleen were married on 11th September 1963 at St Mary's Church, Axminster, followed by a reception at The Cedars Hotel. They moved into No 2 Drakes Farm, Musbury and started a dairy herd using a portable milking bail, milking by the river for their first summer – mum recalls it being extremely wet and muddy that summer. For a short time dad continued farming his pigs but these kept getting out onto the road and were soon evicted. With only four acres adjoining the house and buildings the cows were always on the road during the summer months, and this was still the case for many years after. Dad in his red pickup, driving along the road with his wipers going (as he would call them) and waving his arm out the window to slow the traffic was a daily occurrence, twice a day until the 1990s.

August 1964 brought the arrival of their first son Richard, followed the year after by Robert. Their third son John, was born in 1969 and life for mum and dad was kept very busy with three young boys. Somehow dad managed to still combine his work on the farm and find the time to sit on the Parish Council, be a founding member of the Monmouth Club, running Clay Pigeon shoot competitions and become a Police Special for the local area. In later years he was an area rep for Axminster Christmas Agricultural Show, sat on the Honiton Agricultural Show Association, was both a representative for Milk Marque and Milk Link and competed in various farm competitions.

In 1992 the council sold Drakes Farm with 67 acres, to Edward & Kathleen, who were now farming with sons Richard & Robert. Since then further land was acquired and the dairy herd known as the Walkabout Herd expanded. Dad was very proud of the farming partnership's achievements from humble beginnings and he was extremely hard working with days off few and far between.

I have very fond memories of my childhood delivering milk to the neighbours and caravanners with dad, many of whom became great family friends, checking livestock in the pickup after tea and Sunday evening rides in the car with both mum and dad. These rides would often involve a stop off at a pub en-route for a treat! Dad would always pick a packet of cheese and onion crisps and a shandy! Dad loved his food, and mum's attempts to slim down his waistline never succeeded.

Georgina

COP 26

With many of the world leaders meeting together in Glasgow trying to find the best way forward to save the planet, is there anything that us Musburyites can do to assist in the process? Should we be ahead of everyone else by having our own COP27 plan of action now? This all sounds like a great idea but what practical things can we actually do that will make a difference. Should we all aim to plant a tree but where is there space for a tree in our gardens? Should we aim not to drive our cars once a week; possibly many of us do this already. Should we not eat meat once or twice a week?

Perhaps our local farmers and the National Trust could spare some land for trees; this time of the year is ideal for planting and I believe there would be several people who would love to assist with the task if that was an issue. Perhaps there are lots of ideas that others in the village have so maybe these could be directed to the editor who can then include them in the next issue of the 'Parish News'??

Anon

Trill Farm Garden

We have got through the season, but it hasn't been particularly easy! It started off with a cold wet spring and all of the early plantings really suffered, and never fully recovered. The end of the season was more favourable, ending in a mild autumn which meant that many crops continued producing longer than usual, and some of the seed crops that we have been growing had a little longer than usual to mature and dry. We had a good haul of runner beans that we have grown for the Real Seed Catalogue (a great small seed company based in west Wales) that we left to dry on the plant and podded once they were all dry - getting around 15kg of dry seed off a single 30 metre row. We have also grown tomatoes and chard for seed for Real Seeds this year, and have turnips and parsnips in the ground at the moment that we will be selecting the best of in spring and replanting at wider spacings to allow for how big they will get when they go to flower and produce seed.

Growing on a small scale on heavy soil like we do means that we have chosen not to grow much winter veg which takes up a lot of space and generally doesn't like to sit around in waterlogged soils. Instead, we focus on polytunnel production through the autumn and winter - growing lots of salad, herbs, and a few early spring crops that we overwinter in the tunnels such as sugarsnap peas, spring onions, early garlic, chard and perpetual spinach. These crops were mainly sown from September to October and we usually get a harvest from the salad leaves in the autumn, and the other crops start producing in spring. Around mid February we see it all start growing lots, and they keep producing until end of April or early May, by which time the summer crops are ready for planting, like the tomatoes, french beans, cucumbers, peppers and chillies

We had a great surprise at the beginning of autumn, being awarded the "Young Organic Growers of the Year" by the Organic Research Centre. We feel very honoured to have been recognised for the work we have done over the last 12 seasons at Trill. We were awarded for our approach to organic veg growing on a very marginal piece of land here in East Devon, but also the work we do training new organic growers, our involvement and work in seed sovereignty and other work that we have been involved in with The Landworkers' Alliance. It felt especially great still being referred to as "Young"!!

Don't forget 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, so you can always drop in there to pick up a bag of salad.

Ashley Wheeler

Village Notice Board

Free Support to Help Farmers Navigate the Agricultural Transition

Business Information Point providing free, tailored one to one advice, webinars, and business skills development workshops to help farmers and land managers navigate the changes brought about by the Agricultural Transition. The Future Farming Resilience Fund has been funded by Defra and is available from September 2021 to February 2022 across Devon and Somerset to any farmer or land manager currently in receipt of BPS payments.

Initially we will be running several free, local workshops to discuss the changes. In addition, we have a local network of experienced advisors who can work with you to assess your current position, how the changes are going to affect you and your farm and discuss the options available to you. Carried out in-person or remotely, they will perform a thorough, independent review of all your activities and help to develop an agreed action plan for the future.

For further details and to register for the support please visit our website - <https://businessinfopoint.co.uk/ffr/> or call 01837 659 059

Saturday, 18th December in the Minster, Axminster 7.00 pm. CONCERT by the Axminster and District Choral Society of Handel's Messiah with professional orchestra and soloists. Conducted by Judy Martin. Tickets £15.00 to include programme. Covid precautions will be followed including wearing of masks as appropriate and not attending if suffering from a cold or other symptoms. Ticket price will be refunded on return of ticket if potential Covid symptoms prevent attendance. BYO cushion and refreshments! Tickets may be purchased online via the link on the website, <https://www.axminsterchoral.co.uk/>: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/axminsteranddistrictchoralsociety/593585>

In order to reduce handling of tickets and money, no tickets will be available on the door.

Wholly Funk

The Hind Saturday 19th February 2022

If you remember this band from pre pandemic concerts you will know that it will be a great evening . If you have not heard them before this is one not to miss.

Trill on the Hill

This time last year we were packing boxes and sifting through the last 15 years of Trill Farm adventures. It's been a year of transition, learning, ideas, planning and more recently settling. Not to mention all the unexpected twists and turns that Covid has brought. Leaving Trill Farm was one of the hardest things we've done and it's only now that we're starting to settle into a routine and get excited about the plans for the future - just up the hill at Trinity Beacon.

This year, Trill Farm has become Trill on the Hill. It is a joint venture between us, Tamsin and Lara, Romy. We will be doing the day to day running and Romy will be advising, inspiring and directing. Trill on the Hill is a wild place for people and nature, a rugged and plentiful natural landscape, made for learning, sharing and connecting. The foundation of our products and shared experiences, a journey towards a more diverse and thriving land than we found. A wild campsite and home to our gorgeous flock of Gotland sheep. Over the summer we ran a number of family camps. We slept under starry skies and woke to dappled sunlight under the silver birch. We cooked and feasted around the campfire, made soothing balms and fires by friction, raced around the labyrinth and got to know the sheep. We crafted string from nettles, made charcoal from willow and learned how to weave. We played sneaking games in the dark and chasing games in the woods. We chatted, cooked, laughed, sung songs, played, relaxed and above all else became great friends. The success of these camps has given us the confidence to start planning camps and courses for next year. Watch this space!

We're learning as we go so we'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas. We're constantly asking ourselves how this little corner of Devon could serve nature and our community, both locally and further afield. If you're a conservationist, farmer, ecologist or grower, an artist, writer, musician or performer, a teacher, builder, maker, designer, ideas person or doer, get in touch.

Last, but by no means least we are pleased to announce that we will be launching five updated products later this November. Each product will be a snapshot of this land and will support our mission to connect people with nature to enhance health and wellbeing.

We're looking forward to being part of the local community again!

Tamsin, Lara and Romy

TRILL ON THE HILL. A wild place for nature and people.
www.trillonthehill.co.uk

Musbury Heritage - What's in a name?

There are not many newcomers to Musbury who haven't been teased about not being proper villagers, as we've only been here 5 minutes, which is quite true in my case! Indeed, it sometimes seems even those who have been here for decades are jokingly referred to as interlopers.

So, who are the real Musbury families? Well, really there is no simple answer, as even centuries ago there was some mobility between the villages. Real mobility came in the middle of the 19th century with the advent of railways. Prior to that people essentially stayed in their local area. Only the rich and educated moved around much. Gentry, clergy and professional people would come and go with much greater regularity.

The first named census was compiled in 1841, so that makes a good starting point for studying the surnames in our village. Here are the 15 most popular surnames from 1841 to 1911 and how the numbers changed over those years. This is a small extract from over 200 different surnames.

Surname	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Hoare	35	36	28	27	28	15	18	23
Collins	20	23	27	32	24	22	22	14
Larcombe	17	16	24	13	11	23	19	7
Rockett	15	16	11	12	17	18	16	19
Harvey	8	6	19	21	17	19	10	14
Partridge	4	12	14	12	18	13	19	11
Goldsworthy	7	18	12	17	13	17	10	4
Welch	0	4	5	6	13	23	25	20
Wakley / Wakely	18	14	7	11	8	9	5	6
Gear	0	0	5	15	21	17	9	9
Hellier / Hillier	0	6	8	12	16	11	11	9
Row	2	5	8	15	15	5	9	6
Loveridge	10	15	10	13	8	7	0	0
Halse	8	10	9	11	13	3	2	0
Mitchell	0	5	7	1	7	11	9	12

How many of these names still exist in Musbury today? Some of them will be recognisable and some will be known from the local area, but no longer present here. It may also be surprising that some other surnames are missing.

The Hoare family are the most prolific and, of course, we know that they are still in the village. This doesn't mean they are directly related to the Victorian families, but I would be surprised if they were not. Parish registers show births for Hoare, Hoar and Hore families in the 1600s and this means they were likely to have been in Musbury for a long time prior to then. They were predominately employed as agricultural labourers or trades people, such as shoe and boot makers. The Collins were in similar employment.

The Larcombes and Rocketts were involved in more variable trades. Larcombes were publicans, farmers, carpenters, tanners, etc. The Rocketts were mainly builders and carpenters, as can be evidenced by local buildings bearing their initials. They were also our first postmasters.

The popular name of Welch only appeared in Musbury during the middle of the 19th century, with the first recorded birth in our parish registers being in 1848. Early research seems to show some coming from Axmouth and Membury.

Another name familiar to many of us is that of Gear. This was a local family from Combpyne and Axmouth, some of whom settled in Musbury in the 1850s. Oscar Gear will be remembered for his large nursery that ran from Rose Cottage. No members of that family still live in the village, but there are descendants living in Devon who take a keen interest in our history.

Perhaps the exceptions in the above list are the Halse and Row families who often described themselves as Yeomen, being wealthy farmers of the Maidenhayne and Ashe farms. They were not landowners, but as farmers were probably less mobile than trades and professional people. Both families were in Musbury during the 18th century through to the early 20th century, but are they still in the local area?

Other familiar names a bit further down the list are, for example Whiller, Jefford, James, Burroughs / Burrows, Griffin, Salter, Moulding, Edwards, Loud, Sweetland, Rowell and many more. There were even Annings in Musbury until about 1860. I'll put the full list in the 'People' section of the website (www.musburyheritage.co.uk).

Missing from the list are many surnames associated with Musbury's recent history. Rather than being further down on the complete list, most of them do not appear at all, being later arrivals in the 20th century. Next time when someone calls you a foreigner you can always respond with "well we were all incomers to the village once!".

I am writing this article to stimulate some thought about our local names and would very like to hear from anyone who can provide stories or any information about Musbury families. If you know or believe you are related to a well-established Musbury family, then I would be very happy to help you with producing a rudimentary family tree to establish your link to the past residents. If you have pictures of past residents and wouldn't mind them being shown on the MH website, I would very much appreciate be allowed to scan and return them.

Please remember I'm also interested in buildings, trades, farming, etc. from Musbury's past, which includes anything up to the late 20th century. Don't be shy, I am always happy to chat about our history! I am also very capable of making mistakes, so please let me know if you find one.

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

Axminster Food Bank

Very many thanks to everybody who has supported the Food Bank throughout the year and helped to make such a difference to the daily lives of so many people who need basic food. We would like to thank especially schools and churches in the area who have contributed food from their harvest celebrations (including Musbury) – so much so that our shelves have been groaning! However, please don't let this deter you from helping us out as the shelves will empty very quickly with the approach of Christmas.

We do like to add seasonal food and treats to the food bags at this time so would be very grateful for any donations along those lines. There's also a shortage of household items at the moment e.g. cleaning fluids, washing up liquid and washing powder/tablets as well as toilet and kitchen rolls.

Thank you again in anticipation of your donations and to the Spar shop in Musbury for continuing to hold a basket there for us.

Sheila

MUSBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ROUND UP

Someone asked me recently what it is exactly that I do as Musbury Parish Clerk. So, I thought I would share a few of the more regular activities that I carry out for the Council.

Emails – these are checked every day and can range from a notice of a road closure, changes to the electoral roll and requests for information.

Allotments – I am responsible for the allocation of allotment plots to those on the waiting list (or to advertise plots if there is no one on the waiting list). This involves ensuring the tenancy agreement is up to date and signed by new tenants and the annual rent is paid as well as the deposit. Occasionally, I also have to write reminders to plot holders if their plots are not maintained adequately. I also pay the water bill and collect and pay in rents.

Roads – I regularly log pot holes or other common problems that occur on the roads with Devon County Council. I also log abandoned vehicles with EDDC. I am in regular communication with our Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) at DCC who gives advice and often comes out to look at issues that have been raised. I can also request dog mess stencils to be painted in problem areas. The VAS (Vehicle activated sign) signs were also on my to-do list and it is great to see them up in the village.

Bins – If bins are not emptied, I can report this to EDDC who then arrange for one of their workers to empty them _ however this usually takes around 5 days which is why it is so important to take your rubbish home with you if the bin is full.

Drains – On my walks with Millie around the village, I do always keep an eye on the drains and report to DCC any issues that I notice. I can also pass on any particular issues or problems which arise if parishioners email me with the details although it is often more effective for the homeowner to contact DCC themselves as the problem is then triaged quicker than going through the NHO.

If/when we have another period of very heavy rain such as that experienced at the end of October, please do take photos and send details to the Clerk of any flooding issues you experience. This evidence can then be forwarded to the appropriate department at Devon County Council.

The Playing Field – In the last few months, I have created a survey for the local children to complete about their wishes for the field and am working with interested parties on ways to make the field more accessible to more of our parishioners for more of the year.

Agendas and Minutes – Before each meeting, I prepare the agenda and distribute it to all the Councillors, the County Councillor, District Councillor and our local PCSO. A copy also goes up on the website and noticeboard at the bottom of Church Hill. After the meeting, I write up the minutes and publish them in the same two places.

Finance – During the month, I keep track of invoices which need paying and payments coming in and create an accounting statement for the month. I set up payments on the bank website and update and maintain the yearly accounting records as well as applying for our annual precept from DCC and EDDC and making annual donations to local groups. At the end of the financial year, all the accounts are internally audited and our Annual Governance and Accountability Record is completed. I have also set a budget and ensure the Council's spending is reviewed regularly.

And of course, I write the Parish News article!

Volunteer Required – Do you have good painting / lettering skills? The Parish Council are working on the black Musbury Castle sign that is usually at the bottom of Church Hill and need someone who can paint the fairly ornate lettering on it or is adept at stencilling the same. Please contact the clerk if you can help with this project.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14

**THE COUNTY OF DEVON (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION) (DOATSHAYNE LANE, MUSBURY)
NOTICE 2021**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC & PARKING

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL hereby give NOTICE that:

From MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2021

for a maximum of 5 days

Until FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2021 (both dates inclusive)

No person shall cause or permit any vehicle to proceed or wait on the sections of Affected Roads.

Roads affected - DOATSHAYNE LANE, MUSBURY

**The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - CHURCH HILL, AXMINSTER ROAD, FROM
MAIDENHAYNE FARM TO DOATSHAYNE LANE AND VICE**

VERSA

This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable -

DEVON HIGHWAYS - DRAINAGE WORKS

For additional information contact:

MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE

Telephone: 0330 105 269



Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ)

Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service have advised us that as of 5pm on the 3 November 2021 an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was declared across Great Britain. This means that all bird keepers in Great Britain (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard) are required by law to take a range of bio-security precautions:

- **Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers**
- Keep domestic ducks and geese separate from other poultry.
- Ensure the areas where birds are kept are unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources.
- Feed and water their birds in enclosed areas to discourage wild birds.
- Minimise movement into and out of bird enclosures.
- Cleanse and disinfect footwear and keep areas where birds live clean and tidy.
- Reduce any existing contamination by cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas and fencing off wet or boggy areas.
- Keep free ranging birds within fenced areas, and ponds, watercourses and permanent standing water must be fenced off (except in specific circumstances, e.g., zoo birds).

- **Schedule 2 –Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with over 500 poultry or other captive birds**

Keepers with more than 500 birds will need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, workers will need to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and site vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

Full details of what is required can be found on the government website: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1030990/aipz-declaration.pdf

To assist all bird keepers in complying with the new rules, the [biosecurity guidance and self-assessment checklists](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity) have been updated and all the latest information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity>

Remember that if you have poultry it is your responsibility to keep updated on any outbreaks and an easy way to do this is to sign up for text notifications - register with the [APHA alerts service](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th December 2021 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Please keep your eye on the noticeboard and website for more details.

Jo Boyce (Clerk to Musbury Parish Council)

Tel: 553898

Roadside Litter

We need to thank Steve —15 bags plus more!
Collected over 9 hours and 4 miles

Any ideas how to prevent littered in the first place?



From the wine cellar

The wine trade like many businesses over the past 20 months has not been without its challenges. Deep sea shipping has been a huge challenge and will be for the foreseeable future, with a global shortage of available containers and ships. UK ports are backed up and the well-publicised shortage of lorry drivers has only added to their problems; so, there is likely to be many more months of disruptions to come.



Production has seen considerable interruptions, with many southern hemisphere producers unable to harvest in January and February this year due to lockdowns, leaving grapes on vine with severely reduced harvests; New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc being a major casualty. There has never been a better time to try something new!

We ship direct from mainland Europe using a very savvy freight forwarder so although we have experienced delays of up to eight weeks for Italian and Spanish shipments, and five weeks for French shipments over the past 15 months we are pleased to say, things now appear to be getting back to normal. Fortunately, we don't use bonded warehousing which not only saves us financially but avoids the bottlenecks currently experienced by many UK merchants.

Poor implementation of new border controls, over complicated form filling and box ticking brought about by the "B" word has created its problems, and the downside is of course, more costs!

There is plenty of good news though.

Over 90% of our business is supplying restaurants, hotels, and bars, and in this area, there has been an abundance of new restaurants starting up with exciting young talented chefs, many of whom saw lockdown as a time to take stock and embark on new and exciting ventures. The most local is the Old Inn at Kilmington, we are delighted to be on board with them, so, look them up, most definitely worth a visit. It is encouraging to see, once again, an appetite for using local experienced suppliers, in favour of large national distributors.

Mixed case offers were the big hit of first lockdown for us, with on-trade closed we needed to act quickly, so we put together some exciting selections and extended our free home delivery service to within 15 miles, the take up was great and we would like to thank everyone who supported us during that time. We have recently added a new range of mixed cases for the run up to Christmas and winter drinking.

We have been incredibly busy since the country opened up again, back in the summer, not only with logistics but sourcing some fabulous new wines. A great new range from Bordeaux, Germany, Southern France, Italy, and some lovely ports. You will find them all on our website www.justfinewines.com. If you wish to purchase from our warehouse and tasting room, you are very welcome. But please give us a quick call first as we may be out delivering. As space is limited in the tasting room, we have delayed opening for tasting events until further notice.

Best Wishes and a Very Merry Christmas

Martin and Sue

Just Fine Wines - Retail Sales

Hillside Wines - Wholesale to Hotels, Restaurants & Bars

The Coach House, Rousdon, Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3XW

Tel: 00 44 (0)1297 444150

Mobile: 07734 054052

Tasting Room & Cellar

Unit 3 Musbury Farm, Musbury, Devon EX13 8BB

Tel: 00 44 (0)1297 551555



Mrs Gwen Hill 1918- 2021

Infant teacher Musbury school from Approx 1966-1978

I have known Mrs Hill since I was 5 yrs old, she was the infant teacher at Musbury Primary School. There were 2 classes at Musbury School, the infants and the juniors with approximately 25 children in the each class; that seemed quite a big school when you were just 5 yrs old. I liked school, Mrs Hill was always there to greet us in the mornings, our days were filled with learning and fun, we all took our turn to be with Mrs Hill for our reading and writing. One thing that fascinated me was that Mrs Hill could write with her right hand and her left hand, I always wondered how she did that, that was very clever in my young eyes. We had music and dance, art and craft and nature studies and sums. School days were happy days with Mrs Hill, she would play the piano and we would all sing along. At playtime Mrs Hill would be in the playground keeping a careful eye on things- if anyone should fall over she would be there with kind words and gentle care - you always felt safe when Mrs Hill was nearby.

Mrs Hill lived in Tatworth. She would take the bus to Musbury every day. When I got home from school I would be sent to the village shop to buy the bread and on my way home I would wait with Mrs Hill at the bus-stop, where we would have a little chat until the bus arrived. Then she would get on the bus and I would wave her good-bye- she always remembered those times.

I've spoken to some of the families that knew Mrs Hill, and they remember her with great fondness and affection. One Mum told me that all the children cried when they had to move up to the junior class, not because it was in a different school – the junior class was just along the corridor – it was because they were leaving Mrs Hill, that was the impact that she had on her children. She was such a special lady and everyone loved her.

Another Mum told me that at the School Carol Service her little 5 yr old son was sitting in the pew next to Mrs Hill, he was leaning on her and he fell asleep, Mrs Hill didn't wake him up, she just scooped him up and put him in her lap and rocked him all the way through the service - that was the kind and caring person that she was.

Mrs Hill kept a photo album of all the children she had taught at Musbury School, and she gave it to me to be the next custodian. Musbury has village archives and I was asked if Mrs Hill would give permission for the album to be copied and added to the archives. She was over the moon about this that her little book should be included and that's where they are today detailing part of Musbury School history.

I've kept in contact with Mrs Hill ever since my school days, letters, post cards, phone calls, Christmas and birthday cards and visits, we became great friends. In fact Mrs Hill became part of our family, she knew my parents well and they always referred to her as 'dear Mrs Hill'.

In latter years I visited her in the care homes, we would talk about school-times and families that we knew, her memory was amazing, she was always interested to hear what people were doing and encouraged travel and adventure. She told me that she loved all her children that she taught and I could truthfully tell her that we all loved her too.

On one of my visits to Mrs Hill at Frethey House one of the carers popped her head around the door to say hello, she told me that even if she wasn't on Gwen's floor for the day she always called in to say hello to Gwen, she said 'Gwen is so special she touches me here' – to the heart – and that couldn't be said any better, Mrs Hill touched everyone's heart.

So these are just some of my memories of our dear Mrs Hill, I have many more and you will have your own too. She was special to all of us and she was loved by many. My family and I will miss her. I feel so lucky to have known you Mrs Hill and to have had you in my life for all this time, you taught us this little prayer at school and I've never forgotten it, this is for you:

Heavenly Father hear my prayer,
Night and day I'm in your care,
Look upon me from above,
Bless the home I dearly love,
Bless the friends with whom I play,
Make me kinder day by day.
Amen.

Contribution received from

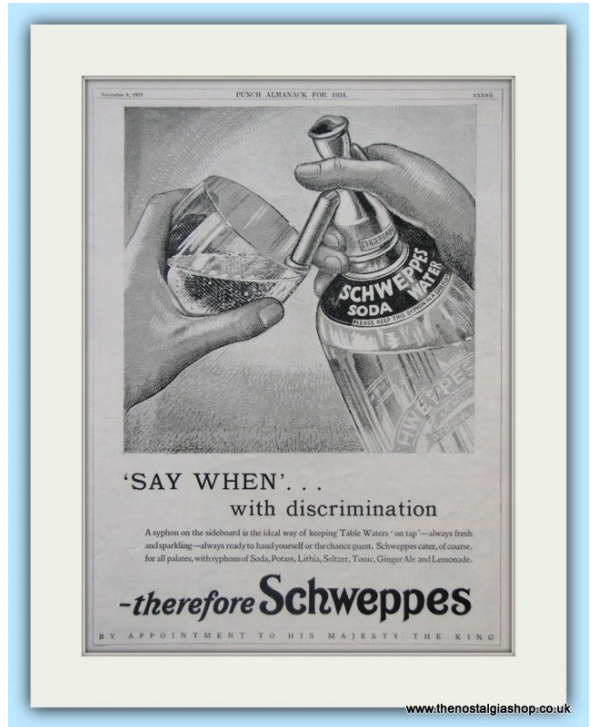
Louise Fowler

Ralphie's Bit

I am often being chastised for living in the past. It is true I bemoan the passing of simpler times long before good old fashioned conversation was replaced by blank faces staring lifelessly at mobile phones and there was no fear of being arrested by the "woke police" for a making a harmless comment! But people often insist that there must be something I am pleased to see to see the back of, and on careful reflection there is one thing I don't miss. It used to sit on the end of the bar looking fairly innocent, but be assured if placed into the wrong hands it could become an evil weapon of mass destruction.

I talk of the barman's worst enemy - the dreaded soda syphon. The barman was always the easy target for every

sharpshooter and we soon learnt to keep it in view out of the corner of the eye. Many a time I have been drenched from head to toe on a Saturday night, but was wise enough to know that Musbury wasn't yet ready for its first topless bar person (appealing though it may seem now) and had to carry on serving in soaking wet clothes, slowly dripping a watery trail as I went! Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve were the high danger times. After a few celebratory drinks all caution would be thrown to the wind and the syphon wars would begin. There were times on these occasions when the flow of water would make The Niagara Falls look like a drought area! I remember at one of these festive events we held a fancy dress night and one of our local ladies arrived dressed as a Christmas cracker beautifully made out of cardboard and crepe paper. Spectacular as it was to behold, it was no match for the force of the mighty soda syphon. Within seconds the cracker was a sodden mess of paper mache and the dye from the crepe paper turned the lady's white t-shirt a lovely shade of green and rained colourful drops on the carpet wherever she walked. On the bright side there was a smug smile on my face because I was nice and dry for once.



But now they are gone, and quite frankly not missed from my point of view. Mind you this did make way for the rise of bottled fizzy water, closely followed by still water in a bottle. Do you remember how odd this seemed at the time, and how we complained about having to pay for water? And yet when you walk along the street now the majority of people will be seen clutching a bottle of H₂O as if they may become so dehydrated their life depended on it! And that is another new fangled idea that I cannot see the point of, but heigh ho, I won't bore you with a Ralph rant now!

I hope you all have a happy Christmas and will hopefully see you for the festivities at The Hind, which I can assure you is a safe and syphon free zone!!

Ralph

Musbury Short Mat Bowls Club

Bowls club members began meeting up again on July 31st making sure we kept to the restrictions of the Hall and East Devon Short Mat Bowls Association. The members all felt safe and those who felt comfortable coming back have continued to attend regularly ever since.

We are pleased to have welcomed some new members who have settled in well. We only have two mats out at present to help with social distancing but soon we hope to have the three. We have also made adjustments to the serving of our refreshments, making things safer.

We are very proud of two of our younger members. James Trott has been asked to be Assistant Manager of the England Short Mat Bowls team and Paul Pomeroy has been selected to play for the premier England team. Quite something for a small village like Musbury.

James Trott and Mike Irvings were runners up in the Devon County Pairs recently. Well done to them.

We are not playing any matches against other clubs this season but we hope to arrange some friendly games in the New Year.

We look forward to our Christmas Meal at the Hind and enjoying the Festive Season with the many friends we each have at Musbury Short Mat Bowls.

Kay Short

Secretary

552711

Musbury Garage and Spar

So, another year nearly over – I'm really not sure where the time goes! No sooner is Easter over, then the summer, and suddenly it's Christmas!

We had an incredibly busy summer in all areas of the business, with lots of holidaymakers on staycation, enjoying our beautiful area and bringing a much-needed revival to businesses that suffered so much in 2020.

Our attention now turns to Christmas in our Spar store and Post Office. We have everything you need – advent calendars, chocolates, biscuits, some lovely Lyme Bay liqueurs, as well as award-winning Spar mince pies plus gluten-free mince pies, both lovely when warmed and served with some local organic cream. We are also taking pre-orders for Christmas meats, this year supplied locally by Woodland View. Please call in for a leaflet and order your requirements by Wednesday 15th December.

The Post Office has been busy all year and will obviously be busier still in the lead up to Christmas, and Christmas stamps are now on sale. Help us to help you by ensuring that when you come in to post items, they are ready to go; all large letters and parcels to the EU now require a Customs Declaration. These must be fully completed in block capitals; failure to do so may result in your parcel being returned. Latest posting dates keep changing, so best advice is to post early to avoid disappointment.

We do have a basket in the shop for donations to Axminster Food Bank. They are very grateful for any donations of tinned goods, rice and pasta etc. I'm sure they would be pleased to receive some Christmas foods as well.

We welcome Thomas to our shop staff team. He is yet to learn the Post Office and it will be a baptism of fire in the lead up to Christmas, so be gentle with him! I remember our first Christmas with the Post Office and it is a very steep learning curve; I don't think any of us realised just how busy it was going to be, so it was a bit of a shock. We also say hello to Ricky as our new valet, and Simon joins us in reception as our new rental and service advisor.

The beginning of January sees us opening up very early once again as a refuelling and time control point for the Exeter Trial. Sadly, last year's was cancelled but hopefully this year Julian and I will be on-site overnight on the evening of Friday 7th January, with lots of coffee and lardy cake to keep us going.

The Spar store and Post Office will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, to give all our staff a well-earned break. We will be open our normal hours on every other day, so if you have forgotten anything, we'll be 'There for You'. Vehicle rental and workshop opening hours will be shown on the Musbury Garage Facebook page and on our Reception door nearer the time. So, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – hopefully 2022 will be more 'normal'?! Thank you to everyone for your support over the last year and to all the staff at Musbury Garage for their hard work, support, and most importantly, the laughs. Because if we didn't laugh, we'd cry!

Theresa Stockman

Spar store manager, Musbury Garage
Tel 552292

Thank you from Judith

I am overwhelmed by the kindness and love shown to me through the many cards and messages I have received from my village friends for the loss of David. From the bottom of my heart I thank you all. David will have been chuffed to bits to have seen so many of you come to give him a good send off and it was his wish to hold a celebration in our lovely village pub and to buy you all a drink to send him on his next journey. He has probably adjusted and repainted the pearly gates by now!! I have a special thank you to Cherry, Kay and Sue for their help and guidance with the funeral arrangements and to Father Steven for his spiritual support and the wonderful service he conducted for David. My thanks to you all.

Up on the Allotments

Allotment round-up and a 'try before you rent' offer!

The change of seasons is very evident at the allotments. A couple of frosts have finished off cosmos, nasturtiums and dahlias. Plot holders are busy preparing their areas for spring – some cover the earth with plastic, some cardboard and others with farmyard or horse manure, all with the intention of restoring soil health and preparing the ground for next season's crops.

Onions, garlic and winter broad beans have been planted out to over winter and provide earlier crops next year. Netting or hanging scarers can be seen protecting the crops from hungry rodents and birds.

Three new allotment folk have joined the ranks of the regulars. At this time of year it is still a surprisingly busy and sociable place, especially during bouts of milder and dry weather. Everyone appreciates the chance to exchange tips and survey other people's plots, or just to rest between tasks and gaze at the wonderful views.

If you have ever wondered about renting an allotment, but have been alarmed by what seems like too big a space, there might be a solution for you, and a chance to try before you ask about a larger plot. One of the existing plots has been generously loaned to Jo Boyce to cultivate in order to produce some fresh vegetables for the clients of our local foodbanks. The hope is that volunteers will take on a small section of the plot and plant crops for the foodbank as well as some for their own benefit. This would be an ideal way to experience the allotments, get your hand in with some vegetable growing, learn valuable tips from existing holders and of course, do something great for the most vulnerable in our local area. The most disadvantaged people in our communities often find it very difficult to access fresh vegetables to contribute to a well balanced and healthy diet, so if you are interested in becoming involved in this project or have any suggestions, please contact Jo on 07923 44880

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Village Hall

At the last meeting of the Hall Trustees on 1 November, the Treasurer produced a detailed breakdown of the hall refurbishment costs - these total just over £23K, a worthwhile use of monies to ensure that the hall remains 'fit for purpose'. The remedial works include, electrical and plumbing works, new flooring and carpet, new store cupboard, decorating, new foyer ceiling, refurbished toilets, new doors, stage floor resurfaced, car park lines repainted.

Bookings are also buoyant throughout the week and a new long term church group booking on a Sunday. Post Covid it is particularly encouraging to see a full car park on a Friday afternoon when the bowls group meet!

A date for your diaries - the AGM for the Hall will be held on Monday 21 February. Further details will be published nearer the time.

Let us all look forward to a positive 2022.

Best wishes

Musbury Village Hall Trustees

Gary Knight



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FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S MUSBURY

This year saw the first occasion when the funds we have raised were put to good use in contributing to the repair of the ceiling in the church. Major elements in that transfer were the money Ann Veit raised from her carport sale last autumn and several generous but anonymous donations.

Several Friends were also involved in a more practical way in climbing the scaffolding inside the church to help clean up before the scaffolding was removed – giving us a rare opportunity to see the building from a different angle. After pandemic and ceiling collapse, it is great to see the church open and restored again.

It was in such a bright state for the funeral of Edward Fowler on 6 November. He was a long-term resident and participant in village activities over 65 years, as well as a regular attender at church. His family kindly dedicated the retiring collection at the funeral to the Friends of the church and the Devon Air Ambulance.

Just to recap : this group aims to preserve the church building at the heart of the village for the benefit of the whole community. It is separate from the running of the church as a religious body. There are similar arrangements in Axmouth, Branscombe and Colyton.

We aim to raise funds so that, when repairs and improvements are needed on the fabric of St Michael's, there is money available to maintain the building for all who live in Musbury.

Anyone interested in joining should contact
Rosie Houldsworth at rosie.houldsworth@talkworks.info
or Andrew Kennon at beedfarm@tiscali.co.uk

The committee has been considering how to expand the membership and what fund-raising events to organise. We are conscious of the need to complement not compete with other fund-raising activities in Musbury. All suggestions are welcome.

Andrew Kennon
Secretary

Hello from The Hind

Thank you to the people from the village that support us - we really appreciate it. These are really tough times and the new year will bring tougher times yet! If you haven't been in and value the asset of a village pub - perhaps make it your new year's resolution to come in – even if you do not drink alcohol we serve lovely coffee with breakfast on a Saturday morning!

A reminder of our opening hours

Monday - Closed (Unless Cribbage is on)

Tues & Weds 7pm-Close Bar Only

Thursday & Friday 12-2pm & 5.30pm-Close (Food 12-2pm & 6-8pm)

Saturday 9am-1 pm & 5.30pm- Close (Food 9am-12.30pm & 6-8pm)

Sunday 12-3pm (Food 12-2pm)

We have a few things in the diary to look forward to.

5th December – Musbury Christmas Tree lights on at 6pm. With a bit of a sing song around the tree and the pub will open afterwards! (please email thehindmusbury@gmail.com with carol suggestions!) All welcome

24th December – Christmas Draw 9pm (draw tickets available now and up to 8pm Christmas Eve)

28th December- Charity Quiz for Hospicecare 7.30pm

31st December – New Year's Eve disco 9pm till late

19th February 2022 – Live music from Wholly Funk from 9pm

Have a fantastic Christmas. Our Christmas opening times will be put on the village noticeboard. We will be closed for our family holiday from Monday 3rd January and will reopen Wednesday 19th January.

Best wishes

Emma, Adrian & The Girls

The sky at Night

Winter time is drawing near and the return of some of our favourite constellations.

The summer triangle (Vega, Deneb and Altair) are still visible in the early evening as the sun sets earlier and earlier each day, but gradually these will move west and Taurus, Orion and other constellations begin to rise.

There was a lot in the news, last year and early this year, about Betelgeuse and how it was dimming and was this the end people so hoped to see. Now it is back up to its usual brightness, and there is no sign at present it is going to explode. As it is an old star it goes through stages where it sheds a layer of gas, in simple terms, and some think this is why its light dimmed for those months. No one is 100% sure though, so we can view it still.

Orion is an interesting constellation as it has an old red star, quite a few white appearing stars which are probably middle aged, and a very nice blue star. What the different colours tell us is how old a star is, what chemicals it is made of, how hot it is and many other interesting facts.

As well as Betelgeuse, Taurus also has a red star in Aldebaran. Aldebaran is not as big as Betelgeuse, but it is still prominent in our skies. If you look carefully around Aldebaran, you can see a set of stars which make up two sides of a triangle. This is the open cluster the Hyades. Just above and to the right you will find another open cluster which is the Pleiades. These two are both naked eye objects. On the 16th December the moon is quite near the Pleiades, which would make a lovely picture for a DSLR. The moon will be just before being full so it may be more difficult to see what's around it, but it will be well worth trying.

In December we also have the Meteor shower called the Geminids, which peaks on the 13/14 of December. This is followed in January by the Quadrantids meteor shower which usually peaks around the 3rd or 4th. You may wonder what constellation the Quadrantids shower is near. Prior to the 1930's there was a constellation called Quadrans Muralis, but when the International Astronomical Union was formed they reorganized the list of constellations and Quadrans Muralis was no longer on the list. To see the Meteor shower you need to look around the area of Ursa Major and Bootes.

The NLO will hopefully be open again to the public in January 2022 so we may see some of you there. In the meantime, have a safe and Merry Christmas.

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The League of Friends of Axminster Hospital

Well it is a sad time but Hospiscare@Home provided by Hospiscare is no longer in operation but services will continue as per the following statement by Hospiscare.

'Hospiscare will continue to offer patients, families and healthcare professionals from Seaton and Axminster support through our Specialist Ward in Exeter, and Clinical Nurse Specialist team in the community, as well as our bereavement and education provision - as we do across our area of care in Exeter, Mid and East Devon.'

Discussions are in progress to provide an alternative service in the Axminster and Seaton areas and in the mean time necessary services are being provided by local clinical teams who are providing excellent services.

The League of Friends are currently raising funds to supply both the needs of the hospital and to accrue funds for any future end of life service.

I have every intention of retiring from the post of Hon. Secretary at the next AGM and we are looking for a replacement Secretary. There are also several vacancies for Trustees of the League and, of course, we always welcome new members. If you are interested in any of the positions you can contact me in the first instance at the number below. It is our hospital we are supporting, yours and mine.

There is every intention of increasing the services at the hospital and I have recently been informed that the Ophthalmic Surgery is increasing by a whole day the number of operations that can be performed.

Fund raising is vital to ensure our hospital has all the up to date equipment required. If you are organising a fund raiser please remember us. Donations, anonymous or otherwise, can be left in the box in the reception area of the hospital.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to Emma and Adrian, their staff and customers at the Hind public house in Musbury, for their generous donation of £183.30 raised at the Halloween Quiz Night.

Ann Veit

Hon. Secretary 01297 552376



Recycling in Axminster

In the aftermath of COP26, when we are all trying to think what more we can do to help our planet, here is some useful information taken from a Midweek Herald article published in May 21.

All these businesses in Axminster will accept various items for re-cycling:

Axminster Medical Practice: used inhalers, bagged. Empty blister packs from medications, bagged

Axminster Post Office: used postage stamps

Axminster Printing Company: printer ink cartridges; writing instruments including all sort of pens (marker, felt tip, biro etc)

Bennett and Rogers Opticians: prescription glasses

Co-op store, West Street: own brand soft plastic including crisp packets, pasta bags, chocolate or biscuit wrappers, microwave pouches (rice, petfood), flower wrappers, greeting card wrappers etc. They will take from other brands or retailers, but don't guarantee it will be recycled. Recycling needs to be clean or washed.

Corner House Bakery, Lyme Road: plastic milk bottle tops

Ganesha Wholefoods: water filters

Musbury Spar: batteries

Tesco, Axminster: soft plastic such as clear film from meat and fish, crisp packets, fruit and veg bags, bread bags, sweet wrappers. As much as possible will be recycled into new products and packaging. Tesco will keep collected material out of landfill.

The Recycling Shop, Market Square: any household items that are in a useable condition. A donation to a charity of your choice will be made in return.

2021 So far quiz

- 1 Who was banned from Twitter in January "due to the risk of further incitement of violence" ?
- 2 The cargo ship Ever Given got stuck where ?
- 3 In March who claimed the rugby Triple Crown ?
- 4 Which country won the Eurovision Song Contest in May , and by who?
- 5 In June what Did Devon Conway achieve?
- 6 What did Captain Kirk finally achieve in October?
- 7 In May what shop closed its door for the final time?
- 8 Which Tory MP defected to Labour in June calling his former party "reactionary, populist, nationalistic and sometimes even xenophobic"?
- 9 The first British player to win the US open since Virginia Wade?
- 10 After spending \$2.3 Trillion when did the last US Soldier leave Afghanistan after President Biden ended the US longest war ?

Year end anagrams

Blame everything on this	Rib tex.	6
Blame the weather on this	cheat leg manic.	7-6
And blame the economic situation on this	mince pad.	8
This might be the answer to the commute.	ok reforming whom	7-4-4
A rather privileged couple with a chip on their shoulder	dry Graham henna	5-3-6
Is this why East Devon was so busy?	Satanic toy.	10

Answers from Editor

And Finally

“It's been years and years and years I've been playing the drums, and they're still a challenge. I still enjoy using drumsticks and a snare drum.”

“People say I play real loud. I don't, actually. I'm recorded loud and a lot of that is because we have good engineers. Mick knows what a good drum sound is as well, so that's part of the illusion really. I can't play loud.”

Charlie Watts 1941-2021

To start 2022 with an inspirational quote

“Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It is about learning to dance in the rain”

So while Covid may never go away and the climate crisis may not be solved the New Year should start with an optimistic note.

Electric cars despite the cost seem to be on the increase , but it must be remembered they bring their own problems. Children mining Lithium in central Africa for a pittance , there is still considerable pollution from tyres, brake dust etc . The carbon foot print of vehicle manufacturer is considerable whether petrol, diesel, or electric . Some estimates put it as high as 100,000 miles of motoring. For people with roadside parking there are no charging facilities in Musbury. Provision of roadside charging meters should be considered in Musbury, but this will probably mean more infrastructure and road digging up.

Cars are a necessity in a rural community where public transport is unreliable and limited, but is it time to think outside the box and have a car sharing scheme. How many cars are parked up in Musbury? This may well be the way forward.

Thank you to all contributors to this edition, and I look forward to any feed back or contributions for future issues.

Best wishes for the future and a peaceful New Year.

On another note the Parish News needs an assistant editor if anyone fancies helping me out

Jolly

Contributors please note

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Musbury Diary Winter 2021

Ch-Church: Vh-Village Hall : Hn-hind

December

Sunday 5th	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Sunday 5th	Christmas tree lights on and sing song	6.00pm	Hn
Monday 6th	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Vh
Wednesday 8th	Coffee & Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion BCP	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 19th	Carol service	4.00pm	Ch
Tuesday 21st	Village Carol singing	5.00pm	
Saturday 25th	All Age Service	10.00am	Ch
Tuesday 28th	Charity quiz		Hn

January

Sunday 2nd	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Sunday 9th	Holy Communion BCP	11.15am	Ch
Wednesday 12th	Coffee & Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 16th	Common Worship with Holy Communion	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 23rd	Evening prayer	3.30pm	Ch
Monday 24th	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Vh
Sunday 30th	No Service		

February

Sunday 6th	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Wednesday 9th	Coffee & Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 13th	Holy Communion BCP	11.15am	Ch
Saturday 19th	Wholly Funk		Hn
Sunday 20th	Common Worship with Holy Communion	11.15am	Ch
Monday 21st	Village Hall AGM		Vh
Saturday 26th	Table top sale		Vh
Sunday 26th	Evening prayer	3.30pm	Ch

All the above subject to current regulations

