

MUSBURY PARISH NEWS



Winter 2023

Holyford Mission Community

www.holyford.org

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St Michael's Church, Musbury

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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 covered by the PCC but is offset by advertising revenue.

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*.

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From The Vicarage Steven writes

One of the greatest and enduring traditions of Christmas is the Crib; the scene which re-creates the nativity of Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to Saint Luke (*Luke 2. 7*). Mary gave birth to a child in an outbuilding of some sort, and the babe was laid in a manger. The earliest pictures of the nativity discovered so far date from the third and fourth centuries. These are images of Mary, Jesus and Joseph below a star, or other depictions with a donkey and an ox standing by the manger, painted or carved in the Catacombs of Pricilla and Saint Sebastian in Rome. The tradition of 'the animals standing by' is ancient.



The tradition of erecting a crib in church or at home comes from Saint Francis of Assisi who, legend has it, first created a tableau of the nativity in the woods of Greccio near Assisi (Italy) on Christmas Eve 1223. He wanted people to see with their own eyes and experience for themselves the incredible scene described in the Gospel. The crib embodies the mystery that God, creator of the world and supreme deity, existing outside time and space, comes in. He enters into the heart of the world he both created and wishes to save.

St Francis' mission was to encourage people to think about this carefully. He not only wanted the people to see the nativity and take in the wonder of it, he also wanted people to enter into it and connect with it in a very real and powerful way. The Gospel must be lived, not simply looked at, especially if you are ever to begin to grasp who Jesus Christ is. God doesn't simply look at us and believe in us. God comes in and lives with us. If we are to know God, we need to strive to live and believe in him.

God comes into the world, not into some royal palace or place of prestige, but into the family of a carpenter, born into a place of little comfort or honour. These humble beginnings make the story of the incarnation truly incredible and transformative. God doesn't barge in and conquer, but comes in by way of a young lady, a carpenter and a manger in Bethlehem.

The crib scene is set like a stage, with three walls. It is open on one side, so that we can see in. There is no 'fourth wall', imaginary or otherwise. God in a manger welcomes us in and invites us to share his life. The crib serves to show us that God shares our birth and life with us. Saint Francis believed that the profound mystery and revelation of the incarnation can't just be read about in a book, it must be lived in some way if we are to grasp and claim the transformative possibilities of allowing Jesus Christ into our own lives. The love and power of Christ cannot be contained either in heaven or in earth, and yet can enter into the smallest and most unpromising places and situations. It all began with an invitation to share a life, which Mary embraced and Joseph supported, and grew from there. This is what the crib reveals to us.

St Michael's, Musbury is a part of the Holyford Mission Community, a group of six churches in this area which work together to provide opportunities for people to grow in faith and fellowship. You are warmly invited to our services at St Michael's, and to any of the services across the Mission Community. Details of a wide variety of services and events for all ages, including forthcoming Christingles, crib services, carol singing, carol services, Midnight Mass, Christmas Day services and Epiphany services can be found in the magazines and on our website, Holyford.org.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

Parish Records

Funeral & Burial

4th October
3rd November

Terence Frederick Trott
Dennis Frederick Pomeroy

Marriage

2nd September

Alexander Styles and Benedict Van Bertel

Parochial Church Council

We held a successful Harvest Festival in October. The Church looked beautiful thanks to the Flower Arrangers. We sent £86.00 to the Farmers' Crisis Fund. We enjoyed a successful shared lunch afterwards in Church.

We were thrilled to host a choir from St John's College Oxford in September. They led a beautiful Choral Evensong and then we gave them a meal in the Village Hall. Many people from Musbury and further afield came to join us.

Several villagers joined us for this year's Remembrance Service both outside by the War Memorial and inside for the remainder of the service. £136.00 was collected for the British Legion. Musbury School came out to the War Memorial on Friday November 10th for their own Service to remember the fallen of both wars. They read their poems and sang a song they had learnt. Sue McCough led their service.

We look forward to welcoming as many as possible to our Christmas Craft Fayre in the Village Hall on Saturday November 25th from 10.00am to 12.30pm. There will be lots of stalls including a cake stall run by the Church. Bacon Butties will also be on sale with tea and coffee. The Church really needs the funds right now with preparations towards providing toilet facilities, a refreshment area and bell restoration getting a little nearer their installation.

Our Carol Service this year will be on Sunday December 17th at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for this joyous occasion. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. If you are interested in singing in the choir please contact Ken Short (552711).

There will be no service on Christmas Eve but on Christmas Day we have a Family Communion at 10.00am and you will be most welcome.

The PCC are very busy with the various projects we have taken on recently and we will be grateful for any help both financial and practical from Musbury villagers in the coming months. Hopefully in the future the Church building will be used for a bigger variety of events when we have a toilet and better refreshment facilities.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to any of the variety of services we hold each month in Musbury Church and we wish everyone a very Blessed and Happy Christmas.

Kay Short (PCC Secretary)
552711

CHURCH FLOWERS AND CLEANING

The Church looked wonderful for Harvest and huge thanks to those arrangers that went the extra mile due to arranger shortages !!

Our next flower extravaganza is the Christmas Season beginning with our Carol Service on Sunday 17th December, when the Church will be reborn after the wait during Advent. Please could arrangers decorate on Saturday 16th (or the day before) and as usual, please decorate predominately with greenery, berries, pine cones and all things wintry - of course some included flowers are fine too.

As another year closes, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all arrangers and cleaners who work so hard to keep the Church looking clean and welcomingand loved !!

I also would welcome extra helpers, so if you would like to join our merry band, either doing flowers or cleaning. Please do give me a call.

Sue Irving

552440

sueirving336@btinternet.com

Open studio

Rosemary (Mary) Jacks will be holding a Christmas Open Studio on Friday 1st December until Sunday 3rd December. Old Bakery Cottage, The Street, Musbury, Axminster DEVON. EX13 8AU. Fun, functional pottery with quirky animal, bird and plant designs. New work, Christmas gifts, seconds and refreshments.

For full details: <https://>

www.rosemaryjackspottery.co.uk/

Rosemaryjackspottery@gmail.com.





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Weather Watch

August was a very changeable month, with some warm sunny days but no long dry spells and frequent fairly light showers. The last two days of the month were wet, however. The total rainfall was 74.5 mm (3 ins), close to average. The first week of September was hot, dry and hazy but this was followed by a much more changeable spell, with very heavy thundery showers near Exeter which flooded roads and made travel tricky. The weather then became changeable with the first named storm of the autumn (Agnes) giving strong winds on 27th. Rain for the month was 70 mm against the long-term average of 60 mm. The first three weeks of October were showery with quite a few fine warm days and light showers but this changed on 24th with heavy rain almost all night giving 40 mm in the gauge on the morning of 25th. A further 45 mm over the next three days ensured that everything was thoroughly wet and the road and river flooded. After a day or two of respite the 31st was again very wet and the month ended with a total of 170 mm (7 ins), well above the average of 109 mm. November continued wet, with 100 mm already at the time of writing (13th).

Mike Lock

Thank You

The family of the late Dennis Pomeroy (Den) would like to thank all members of the church for all their kindness, help & support in our very difficult time.

We are grateful for the lovely service that the Reverend Canon Colin Preece gave.

Also for the wonderful professional service that Simon Wakely of J F Clarke & Son & A.J Wakely & Sons gave the family before and at the service.

It was lovely to see so many villagers attend the service, and lastly a big thank you to Adrian & Emma at the Hind for the marvellous spread of food they provided for Den's Wake.

Thank you all

Stella, Steve, Christine & Paul

Nature Watch

The rough weather of this autumn has had a number of effects on birds. First, it has been a remarkable autumn for American birds in Britain and Ireland. Hurricane Lee passed up the east coast of America and its remnants then swung east and crossed the Atlantic in two days, bringing American migrants with it. According to the latest number of British Wildlife, 47 American bird species, represented by almost 450 individuals, were recorded between early September and mid-October. One of these, a Canada Warbler, was the first record for Britain. I have not heard that any North American birds were seen in Devon – that will have to wait for the 2023 Devon Bird Report. Most seem to have been seen further north. Of course, the birds that are found are but a small proportion of those that actually reach these islands, and the number that don't make it and just fall exhausted into the sea doesn't bear thinking about. Later storms brought numerous sightings of Great Shearwaters off Berry Head and other south coast headlands. These shearwaters breed in the South Atlantic on the Tristan da Cunha group of islands and then migrate in a great circle into the North Atlantic before returning south again to breed. They usually pass to the west of us but this year many were caught by Storm Agnes and blown into the English Channel, so that they were seen in hundreds as they moved back westwards to join their southward migration route.

Other sea birds that were seen after the later gales were Leach's Storm-petrels. These are small largely black birds with white rumps that live at sea almost all the year, flitting over the water surface and picking up tiny animals and droplets of fish oil as they go. In Britain almost the entire breeding population is on the St Kilda group of islands. They feed at sea and winter far out in the North Atlantic, some moving south of the Equator. They are only occasionally seen from the shore, but autumn gales can be too much for them and they are can be blown ashore, or even well inland. These 'wrecks', as they are called, are not uncommon in autumn. Although many birds may die, most live for a considerable time (over 20 years in the closely related Common Storm Petrel) so that they have plenty of opportunities to breed and keep their numbers up, even though they raise only one chick per year and do not breed until they are several years old.

My grandmother would always say that gulls inland portended a storm, but things have changed quite a bit in the last sixty years. Herring Gulls now breed very widely in towns and cities, often well inland. (Black-headed Gulls have always bred in wet places in open moorland and still do so). After the heavy rain of early November there were lots of gulls in the local grass fields, usually feeding busily. I suspect they were finding worms and other minibeasts flooded out of the soil by the rain. Gulls are great opportunists and will gather quickly when someone starts ploughing, looking for worms, mice, and the other things turned up by the plough.

They also gather quickly when slurry is being spread; no doubt there are succulent morsels to be found – and most birds do not have a sense of smell! Our local gulls, at least in the winter, feed in the fields or along the shore by day and then gather on the Estuary in the evening before flying out to roost on the sea in Seaton Bay. They seem to spend remarkably little time feeding and I often wonder just what they do eat (apart from chips). One thing they do like is freshwater to bathe in and they can be seen doing this in the river opposite the Tower Hide, but I suspect many of them fly inland to Chard Reservoir to bathe in fresh water.

Seaton Wetlands

The Wetlands have been very quiet recently. It was a good autumn for migrating waders, with Curlew Sandpipers the highlight; one was present for several weeks. A Ruff was still present about a week ago. Deeper water from high tides and recent heavy rainfall has made the site less suitable for waders, and ducks are taking their place. Teal are now in abundance; they feed mainly on small seeds of which there must be plenty this year after low water levels allowed the development of a fringe of Buttonweed and Glasswort, both copious seeders. Shelduck are back in numbers from their moult migration which will have taken them either to North Germany or Bridgewater Bay. They are looking very smart in their new plumage. Teal, on the other hand, are still moulting and some have not yet developed their new feathers. Gulls rest on the marsh at high tide; most are Black-headed (which do not have a black head at this time of year) but they can be joined by the occasional Mediterranean Gull – slightly larger, with a heavier beak, a little more black on the head, and, in adults, entirely white wings. Quite a challenge to spot!

Mike Lock

What's on at Seaton Gateway

Saturday 27th January Joey and the Lips

Thursday 22nd February The Hague String Trio present an extensive string trio repertoire, from treasured masterpieces to lesser known compositions which they believe deserve more recognition.

And much more check out the web site
<https://thegatewayseaton.co.uk/whats-on/>

SEARCH FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Axminster Care Service is a local organisation providing the framework for local people to help other people in need. The Service is limited to helping those who reside within the perimeter of Axminster Medical Practice. This provides the boundaries of the Service, as required by the Charity Commission. The Service is provided with the support of approximately 40 volunteers, all local people who want to help local people in need of support.

ACS provide support to pay specific bills for people in financial crisis, or household items in cases of emergency or due to sudden changes in circumstances. This is done by referral, often via social or care services, and can include a GP, clergy, solicitor, teacher etc.

The charity also provides grants to local schools, groups and other organisations who find themselves facing difficulty in raising the funds they need. Axminster Care Service provides a comprehensive transport service to help local people get to their hospital, surgery, and chiropody appointments, who would otherwise not be able to do so; approximately 2000 trips per year.

The charity is currently searching for volunteer drivers to join their team to meet the needs of the local community. Our drivers can choose how many hours they wish to volunteer, and what distances they wish to travel.

01297 35550

Devon's Mobile Library Service

You may already have heard that Devon will cease to run its mobile library service from February 2024, including the monthly Thursday stop in Musbury.

What you may not know is that there is a service that will deliver books to people's homes if they are unable to visit a library themselves because of health or mobility issues or have caring responsibilities that make it difficult. This is known as the Home Library Service. You will be matched with a volunteer who will choose books, large print books or audiobooks on your behalf, and deliver them to your home.

The library service is always looking for volunteers too, so if you are interested in either receiving the service, or becoming a volunteer, contact either Seaton or Axminster library or phone 0345 155 1001.

A Good Neighbours scheme is available too, if you have a neighbour, friend or family member who is willing to bring you books.

Sue

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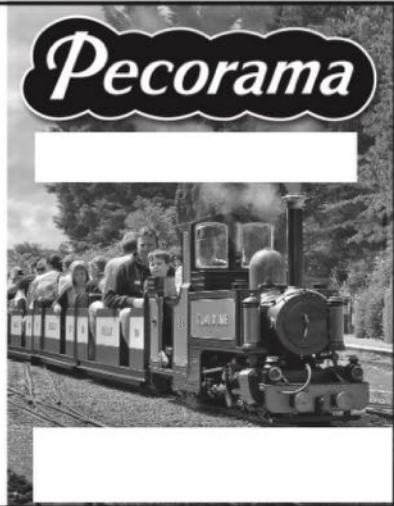
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Ding Dong

Further to the interesting piece about church bells in the Autumn edition of this magazine, we are pleased to announce that £1641.30 was raised from the open garden and cream teas at "Sunnyside" and from the donations from the visiting ringers on August 26th and 27th.

We have had some other donations which brings our running total to £2006.30 We have also been gifted some money raised by the Musbury Flower Show. We thank you so much for that.

Unfortunately we need a HUGE sum to restore our bells and the framework that supports them, so we are continuing in our efforts to raise this.

If any of you would like to donate to our fund please contact Dee on 07977956922 for details. Any amount will be gratefully received no matter how small.

Hopefully we will also be able to apply for some grant money from various sources.

As a Tower we have just joined the Devon Association of Ringers.

We are at present a happy friendly band of just six. This means that if any of us are on holiday or are sick we have to scrounge ringers from other towers to ring for weddings etc.

If any of you would like to join us and learn to ring church bells we would be exceedingly happy to teach you.

Ringers in our area range from age 11 to 60 (and above), it is a rewarding skill to learn and once mastered is very satisfying.

Please contact Dee on 07977956922 even if you just want to come and see us in action. At the moment we try and have a practise on a Wednesday evening but we don't always have enough. We can often be found in other towers making up their numbers. Our plan is to start ringing for Sunday services again, numbers permitting. Obviously you would be welcome to stay for the service, some of us do and some don't. No pressure.

To listen to church bells ringing on a Sunday morning should be a pleasure for all to hear, it's such a joyful sound.

On another note, Musbury Church bell ringers along with those from Seaton, Branscombe and Colyton rang on Saturday morning 18th November.

This was to show our support for keeping the hospital going in Seaton. We all must know of someone who is stuck in Wonford (R.D and E Hospital)unnecessarily, who would benefit from being nearer home.

Anyway, "A BIG THANK YOU SO MUCH" to those of you who have given their support so far.

Musbury Ringers: Michael, Dee ,Sue ,Lindsay, Cherry and Stuart

Christians against Poverty

Christians against Poverty is a National debt relief and counselling charity and will offer assistance to those in debt irrespective of their religious belief, age, gender, orientation or other personal circumstances.

It is a free service which works through a network of trained debt coaches who, using debt advisors, will work out a realistic budget to prioritise essential bills and also negotiate with creditors to stop unfair interest, penalty charges and harassment. Each step will be carefully explained and ongoing support provided and, unlike some other debt relief agencies, continue to provide personal support once the budget payments are underway.

Support is available to clients from;

Professional Debt Advisors based in Bradford

Local Debt Coaches who work face to face with clients and provide a link to debt advisors who will work out budgets etc

Local befrienders who offer emotional and personal support.

Nationally, Christians Against Poverty helps over 1200 people each year with a satisfaction level of 9/10 and has been praised by Martin Lewis (Money Saving Expert)

Since starting in April 2021, we have helped 6 people out of debt, lifting £30,000 worth of debt from their worries and are enabling others to manage their financial lives with sustainable budgets. Also, Befrienders meet up with them to share a cuppa and chat, providing support with attending meetings and other care.

Local CAP workers usually have links with local Churches and Churches are asked to consider financially supporting the work of the local Debt Centre, Axe Valley Christians against Poverty, Local Debt Coach Sharon Bruce
sharonbruce@capuk.org, 07519 751999 who is able to provide more information.

We need help with :

1) Finding other people to help - If you know anyone who needs help, please ask them to contact Sharon or CAP Head Office using the numbers shown.

2) Befrienders or Finance Help with completing Grant applications.

3) Our work is completely reliant on donations - if you can help, please send a cheque payable to Seaton PCC with the reference AVCAP on the back to St Gregory's Church, Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon. EX12 2DF or a bank transfer to :

School Report

Musbury School has had a wonderful start to this academic year, welcoming five new families into our school community and a new staff member to further support teaching and learning.

A whole school project this year is to make the most of our school grounds. The children have completed designs, and the school is being supported by MKM in Honiton to transform our front garden to enable children to grow produce. The school has also been supported by many local businesses, who have donated equipment to enable the children to grow their own, after receiving letters from the children, and for this we express huge thanks.

Early this year, the school and pre-school joined together to enjoy a trip to Paignton Zoo. The children used maps to negotiate their way around the site and collected facts about animals on their journey to support their factual writing back in school, looking at recounts, non-chronological reports and fact files.

Father Steven Martin led a harvest assembly in October, with children performing poems and songs. Families attended and supported Axminster Food Bank, by donating for this event. The school has also benefitted from the continued support of the Church community in leading the school in a Remembrance Service and holding Open the Book sessions, the first of the year, focusing on the Creation Story.

The school PTFA have run several events this term, including film club, a Halloween disco and Christmas wreath making, to raise money for the school to attend the Axminster Pantomime this year. In addition to our usual festive events such as Christmas dinner and class parties, in the run up to Christmas the KS2 class are rehearsing in preparation to take part in the Big Christmas Sing to be held at Axe Valley Academy. This will be the first time that the school has attended this event, and the children are very much looking forward to the opportunity to sing with other schools in the local community and with the accompaniment of a full orchestra. We cannot wait; it will be a magical sound.

Into the New Year, the school will continue to focus on reading; broadening children's opportunity to read and look at reading material, to ensure we value the greats as well as current and new authors. We would welcome local community members who would be interested in supporting children to read, to contact Musbury School and pending a DBS, become a volunteer to champion reading.

Best wishes in this festive period

Clair Murrell

Head of Teaching and Learning

Musbury Primary School 01297 552687

ACCOUNT : SEATON PCC

SORTCODE : 30-90-37

ACCOUNT : 00880981

REFERENCE : AVCAP

Other Contact details;

capuk.org info@capuk.org

capdebthelp.org 0800 328 0006

Fur further information, please contact Sharon either by email or telephone number, as shown above.

Plant & Craft Sale and Musbury Show

The Musbury Show held their 2023 AGM on Weds 15th November. The Committee reported that both the Plant Sale and Show had been very successful with bumper plant sales and Show entries.

All the various volunteers were thanked for their help, and the committee commented that they would be looking for their help again in 2024.

We were able to make donations to 4 “local causes” - the Church “kitchen and toilet fund” and “bell restoration fund” each received £500, the Community Playing Field and Musbury Heritage each received £200.

We will be continuing with the children’s classes in next year’s Show and hope to encourage more children to enter. All children with links to Musbury (School, Clubs, Family, etc) are eligible.

Sadly, both Valerie Nicholls and David Antell felt it was time to hang up their Show boots, and the Committee thanked them for their many years of service.

The dates for 2024 are as follows:

Plant Sale will be on 4th May and the Musbury Show on 10th August.

We will be holding the Veg Plot Competition in 2024 (we alternate the Garden Charm and Veg Plot Competitions). This is open to all Musbury gardeners and allotment holders. Judging by the high standard of the vegetable entries at this year’s Show, we’re hoping for a large number of entries for next year’s Veg Plot Competition.

Mary Minter, Secretary, on behalf of the Musbury Show Committee

Ralphie's Bit

Believe it or not I have been on a crusade! No, you won't have seen me galloping around the village on a white charger waving my sword about with knightly vigour. My crusade was one of the written word, far less dangerous and no having to clean up after a large horse. However, I did manage to create a wonderful uniform based on the ones worn by the Knights Templar. It's amazing what you can do with some tea towels and an old coal scuttle if you put your mind to it. However, it sadly didn't last long due to the rain which made the tunic shrink with an alarming result which would make anyone who happened to glance in my direction blush profusely at my immodesty, and then the helmet started to give off a most peculiar odour due to a mixture of damp coal dust and rust. But I digress, let's quickly return to the crusade. It all started with a pile of dirty laundry and a weather forecast.

Whilst tending bar one evening I found myself bereft of conversation (yes, it does happen on the rare occasion) and in desperation plumbed for that good old English topic with which to break the silence and began to bemoan the rainy weather. I followed up with sharing my worries about how I was to dry my soggy washing. To my amazement the customer fumbled about in his pocket and pulled out the smallest telephone I have ever seen. He explained with great pride that it was one of the newest flip versions with built in AI. At first I was horrified, for the only AI familiar to me was an appallingly messy business involving cows. I tried to look suitably impressed but I am sure the lacklustre expression on my face was one of ennui and despair. I hoped it hadn't given my true feelings away as he tippy-tapped on the keyboard in the style of Liberace at the piano. Suddenly, with the gusto of a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat, he showed me the Met Office weather report for the next few days. But what I saw on that tiny screen unleashed a furious anger within me! There in big, bold, black letters in the location box were the words "River Cottage HQ". I ordered my accomplice to type in "Musbury" again. He quickly did as instructed, but once again the location popped up as "River Cottage HQ". I hurriedly dismissed the customer with a wave of my hand, a half hearted smile and an odd hissing noise which I hoped he couldn't hear. As he scampered away I was overcome with a feeling of purpose. I knew my quest was about to begin. A chill ran down my spine as I realised that to carry it out I was going to have face my oldest and most feared enemy. Yes, I would have to do into battle with science and technology!

Ralphie's Bit cont

Now, before I go any further I must point out that I bear no animosity toward the River Cottage establishment at all, and wish it well. But as one of the few remaining born and bred Musbrarians (I may have dreamt up that word, but I have always used it to describe an original village member) I was somehow incensed that our little village should take the name of a reasonably new commercial venture in the area. Surely it deserves its own identity! After all Musbury was here first! Ramblers and hikers who come from all over the country to take in the beautiful views on the famous Musbury Castle Loop Walk won't be checking River Cottage for the weather before they start trekking, will they? And think how annoyed River Cottage Hq. would be if the Rambling Organisation rang them up for weather information every time they fancied a little ramble. I am sure they would soon want their name removed from the site!

Before the mission could commence I firstly had to be sure that the information I had gathered was correct. With a shaking hand and beating heart I blew the dust off my technical device and turned it on. It whirred into action, made an eerie clucking sound and lights flashed before my eyes. Carefully I aimed the index finger and hit the button marked "Google", tapped in the words "Met Office" and waited with anticipation. All at once the screen was awash with weather symbols, photographs and lots of useless, tedious information. Surely this was witchcraft. I imagined my fellow villagers gathered up in a marauding crowd to march on my house brandishing pitchforks and flaming torches. I could almost hear the chanting and pictured myself being manhandled into a tumbrel and trundled off to be burnt at the stake. I waited, but no, it wasn't happening, so I returned to the experiment. Once more "Musbury" was typed into the box where the Met Office had invited me to search for a place where weather might happen within the next few days. Again up popped those fateful words "River Cottage HQ". 'Twas time to burst into action. But before I went on the attack I sought advice from a computer-literate expert. After explaining my grievances and plan of action she informed me that she had the Met Office app installed on her device. When this app thingy was opened I was thrilled to see that Musbury had its own identity and no mention of River Cottage was anywhere to be seen. After what seemed a lifetime of Googling and practising what I consider to be the dark arts, we were certain that my initial discovery and accusations were quite correct, the Google Met Office page prefers to call Musbury by the name of River Cottage, but their app retains the rightful name of Musbury. Next on the agenda was to contact the Met Office and find out why. Now, you may think this would be a simple exercise, but after searching their website from top to bottom I was crestfallen to discover that their contact details were nowhere to be found. Wasn't life a lot easier when we had Yellow Pages? After a multitude of yet more searches, finally the email address was located by means of that keeper of all knowledge "Google". By now I was feeling quite Googled out!

A polite message was immediately dispatched asking why they didn't give Musbury its proper title on their search page and why River Cottage HQ had been assigned to that position.

Lo and behold, within the hour a reply pinged its way into my gadget. A very nice man called Richard was asking me details of how I was seeking my forecast, and once more I trolled out the whole story, which by now I could ramble off without even thinking about it as by now I had explained the situation so many times to all and sundry.

Surely enough another reply was promptly received, this time from Paul (I remember thinking cattily to myself that they can't have much to do if they can answer such trivial requests so promptly and maybe they should concentrate more on getting the weather forecast right). Typically, for a government department, the explanation was written in gobbledygook and it took me three or four reads to understand what the dickens they were trying to tell me! In short, they advised that they (and this is a rough translation) are adding new locations all the time and currently the nearest location to Musbury is River Cottage. I was assured that it certainly wasn't an issue with Musbury being mislabelled but it was the website directing me to the nearest forecast data. However, they understand why I would like to see Musbury added under its own location and as such they have logged my feedback to be reviewed by the Service Delivery Management team. Confused? I know I was.

No explanation was supplied as to why you can have Musbury if you have the app, but not if you Google it. In fact I think it may have been a standard reply used to fob off annoying people in a quick and polite manner. I knew that there was nothing more to be done and it was time to desist while I was slightly ahead.

No doubt many of you are thinking that I am a curmudgeonly old duffer with too much time on my hands. Well, that may be true, but I still have a bit of pride in Musbury, and to me its the principle that matters. So, if like me, you would like to see our village reclaim its rightful title on the Met Office Google why not bombard the Met Office with emails requesting that this should be done (to save you the trouble of searching, the email address is enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk).

And so now the crusade is over, no real victory is in sight yet, but who knows what could happen in the future? But there has been a small personal win for myself. Who would have thought that I would conquer my fear of the demon technology due to a whim and a principle, and even though I still think there is some element of sorcery involved, I am now able to Google away with confidence in a willy-nilly style. But my creaking bookshelves need not worry about being neglected, if I need to look something up, my first port of call will be the well thumbed reference books that have been my faithful companions for many years. Professor Google will now be retired in this household, until the next crusade beckons.

Viva Musbury!

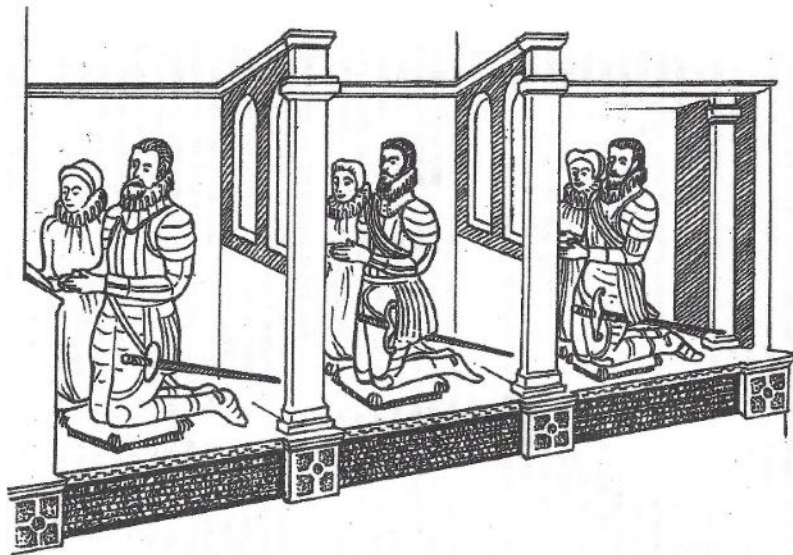
Ralph

Musbury Heritage - The Drakes of Musbury

In November this year, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony John Mervyn Drake of Musbury Barton turned 90 years of age. Former Coldstream Guards Officer, High Sheriff of Devon, Chairman of Devon County Council, Chairman of Musbury Parish Council and East Devon District Councillor, also simply known as Tony Drake to those better acquainted.

Colonel Drake is a direct descendant of the 'Drakes of Musbury', who go back much further than those immortalised in the Drake Memorial in St. Michael's Church. These Musbury Drakes are an ancient family, probably descendants of the Dracos or Dragos, the Anglo-Saxon tribes. Perhaps they inhabited the Iron Age hillfort that we now know as Musbury Castle? They certainly lived in Mount Drake and Ashe House many centuries ago. They were also the Lords of the Manor of Musbury from the 16th to the 18th centuries. This included Ashe House, plus a great deal of property and land in Musbury. They also held the advowson of the living (the right to appoint the clergy) for St. Michael's Church.

This means the Drakes wielded considerable control over our village, but it was to come to an abrupt end. In 1733, William Drake the 6th Baronet died without issue. The baronetcy became extinct and he left all his property to his widow, to the exclusion of his own family. Lady Drake died in 1782 and Ashe, the advowson of the living and all the estates were disposed of. This brought to an end the Drake family's connection with Musbury.



By the time the Drake family's involvement in Musbury ended, there were many branches of the descendants of the couples depicted on the Drake Monument in the church. Lt. Col. Drake is descended from one of those branches. Many Drakes have held high offices, senior ranks in the military, clerks in Holy Orders and other influential roles. There are also family members spread around the world, particularly in the U.S.A. And we must not forget that Elizabeth the sister of John Drake, the 1st Baronet, married Sir Winston Churchill (1620-88 of Minterne Magna, Dorset) and was mother to John Churchill who became the 1st Duke of Marlborough. If you follow that line of descendants, you will arrive at a rather more famous Sir Winston Churchill!

We may be a small village, but Musbury has, most definitely, made its mark on British history.

Martin Minter / martin@musburyheritage.co.uk / 553325

Musbury Heritage / www.musburyheritage.co.uk

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

Musbury Christmas Windows

As a result of feedback, it has been decided that the previous years' display of 24 Advent windows around the village will be a more limited 'trail' of Christmas window displays, all lit up from 1st December. There are 20 households around the village taking part (and by the time you read this there could be more). There will be a list of addresses on notice boards so they can be found. You can view all the windows any day until Christmas Day, in any order that you choose.

Huge thanks to the 20 volunteers who have agreed to light up Musbury for December 2023!

Sue Leach Sue Irving

Musbury Heritage - News

Discussion Group

This isn't a cry for help or a desperate call for volunteers, though the latter are always welcome. This is more of a rallying call for those who are interested in our village's history and would like to know more.

I know I have become synonymous with Musbury's History, principally by default (but isn't that often the way...). This doesn't mean that I can take the project forward single-handedly. Nor does it mean that I'm researching, archiving and writing about the right things.

I am not a historian, more of a collector of information. There are undoubtedly many far better qualified than me to take on this mantle. I would happily work under the direction of others.

This is why I think we could do with a discussion group, who meet occasionally, just to talk generally about Musbury's past. I could start the ball rolling by talking about what I've achieved so far and what I see as the goals. Anyone who has spoken to me will know that my main concern is ensuring that we do not lose documents, pictures, artefacts or anything that hasn't already been located or archived. What we do with this information can wait until later.

In the new year, I will arrange an initial meeting in the village hall or maybe The Hind to just have a natter about Musbury's History, with a view to making this a regular event. I will initially call this the 'Musbury Heritage Discussion Group'. That's not very inspiring, so perhaps the name will be the first item on the agenda! Please look out for posters, etc.

Please don't think if you have been through all this before or you are new to the village that you won't be welcome or able to offer anything to the meeting. An eclectic mix of opinions is needed. I'm also aware that some of you have made offers of help that I have not yet taken up. This would be a great opportunity to discuss what needs doing.

Please get in touch with me if you have any thoughts about this idea or would like to register an interest.

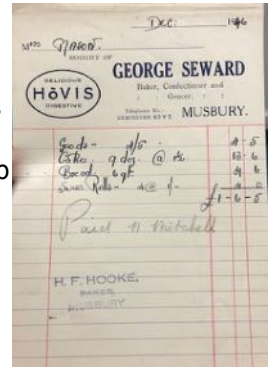


Who's Got What?

Hardly an elegant question, but intended as an attention grabber!

You will know that I am always seeking information about Musbury's past, but I thought this time I would be specific and list some examples of what may be lurking in the drawers and cupboards of villagers. Do you have any of the following?

- Pictures of Northfields, Lower & Higher Doatshayne Lane, Yonder Mount or Doatshayne Close under construction.
- Pictures taken on any Musbury farm up to the 1980s, especially if there is a story to them.
- Any old pictures of Whitford Road or Maidenhayne Lane up to the 1980s.
- Pictures of events in Musbury, such as fairs, street markets, jubilees, the castle run, snow-bound streets or anything similar.
- Pictures of past residents of Musbury.
- Any printed matter from Musbury's past. For example, bills from traders who no longer exist (see picture), leaflets about events, parties, sports or anything that would back up or provide more information to any stories I write.
- Old newspaper reports that you may have kept as they related to Musbury.
- Deeds or other paperwork that may give some clues about some of the older buildings in the village.



These are just examples. There are plenty of other items, which would help Musbury Heritage. I haven't even mentioned our dearth of physical artefacts!

I'm not asking for originals unless you would like to donate them, but simply to be able to scan or photograph them. Please contact me if you think you have something of interest.

Winter is a good time to start delving!

Martin Minter / martin@musburyheritage.co.uk / 553325

Musbury Heritage / www.musburyheritage.co.uk

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

Musbury Parish Council News Round up

Do you think you have what it takes to become a Parish Councillor?

The Parish Council continues to function with only 4 Councillors. We hope to Co-opt new members at the next meeting but will still have a vacant seat.

You need to be able to give up one evening approximately every 6 weeks to attend Parish Council meetings, and in return you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping your local community.

As a local councillor, you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Local councillors are the champions of their community who invest time in local projects and issues to the benefit of residents and the neighbourhood. Local councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally

Local councillors attend to the local needs of residents, local groups and businesses, make decisions on local services, collaborate with district and borough councils to adhere to local needs, and progress vital projects to invest in the future of the community.

Can I be Co-opted?

To become a Local councillor you must be:

- A UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- At least 18 years old
- An elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

The Council meets 8 times a year on a Monday evening at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room in Musbury.

New Councillors will hold office until the local elections in May 2027.

Any person interested in becoming a Parish Councillor or for more details please contact the Parish Clerk.

Introducing your Parish Clerk

I have been in post as Musbury Parish Clerk for 6 months now & thought it was a good time to share with you a little bit about myself and the role I carry out for your Parish Council. My parents moved to Musbury in December 2021 & it was them that made me aware of the vacancy. I live in Chard with my husband and two children. I am a qualified Self Employed Bookkeeper and am also Clerk to the Parish Council in the South Somerset village where my boys, 10 and 6 attend primary school. I am an active member of the school PTA and after three years in post have just stood down from the position of Chair. Both my children play for a local football club and for the past 18 months I have been in the position of Treasurer for the club that currently has 11 teams & nearly 200 players. All in all, my days are easily filled & very busy.

I am paid 6 hours a week by the parish council to carry out numerous & varied activities, some of these are as follows:

Emails – these are checked regularly 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 report 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.

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 – I can report 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 in the past few weeks, 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.

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 also set a budget and ensure the Council's spending is reviewed regularly. At our last meeting at the end of October councillors agreed to raise the annual precept bid for financial year 2024/25 to £10,000.00.

And of course, I write the Parish News article!

If you have any query, big or small please don't hesitate to contact me.



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Musbury Allotments

There are currently four vacant half plots available, one full plot will become vacant in the near future. There is currently no waiting list for rental of a plot. If anyone in the village would like to take on a plot immediately or for more details, please contact the clerk.

Musbury Playing Field Regeneration Project

Thanks to the £10,000.00 National Lottery Grant playground specialists SNC Southwest Ltd have now carried out the resurfacing work in the playing fields. The Grand opening took place on 7th October 2023 & was well attended. As always, we extend our thanks to the individuals who have worked hard on the regeneration project.

Roads & Crime

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.

We emphasise to residents to report any crimes, including speeding & parking violations directly to Devon County Council via the App or the following link,
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-parking-problem/>
For Crime and Police matters, there is now a call back facility when calling 101, this allows you to keep your position in the queue without having to hold on the phone.

Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree will be erected on the 9th December 2023. The lights will be turned on with a few festive songs around the tree at 6pm on the 10th December 2023. We look forward to seeing you there.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 18th December 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room. Please keep your eye on the noticeboard and website for more details. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Coombe
Musbury Parish Clerk
musburyparishclerk@gmail.com
Tel: 01460 495107

MUSBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

The Autumn has certainly been busy with MCC events.

We have now been going for over a year, and held our First Anniversary Evening on 25th September. This was a free evening, with BYO (bring your own) liquid refreshments. We provided the nibbles and entertainment. We also sought ideas from those present as to what events/activities they would like us to do moving forward. Lots of ideas were forthcoming, so look out for more details in the New Year.

3 “Art for Everyone” workshops were held (September, October and November), with Victoria Connell continuing to show everyone different aspects of painting and drawing, and giving attendees homework! We’re pleased to announce that Victoria is happy to continue with the monthly workshops in 2024. Look out for posters and leaflets giving dates.

We re-instated the popular “Woolly Workshop” for knitters and crocheters of all abilities on 4th November. Materials, needles and practical help were provided. We’re planning more workshops soon.

In October, Graham Stark lead a private tour of the National Trust’s Shute Barton for MCC members.

On 16th October we held a “Ask The Gardeners” evening. Jill White kindly hosted the evening with several local gardening experts answering questions. An interesting and informative evening, and I think everyone present learnt something.

Ian McCoulough gave a very entertaining talk entitled “My Life as a Trade Unionist” on 13th November, with not too much heckling from the audience!

Forthcoming December events are:

“Christmas Wreath” workshop on Saturday 2nd December. This quickly filled up, so it will be lovely to see lots of beautiful wreaths adorning front doors in due course.

“Art for Everyone” regular monthly workshop on Monday 4th December.

Our annual “Festive Evening” is on 11th December, 7pm start. This is being held at The Hind and we will be having nibbles and sausages & chips, with fun quizzes and festive music. Further details on posters around the village.

More events are planned for 2024, so look out for details on the website and on posters around the village. It would be great to see more villagers at our events.

Would you like to receive our regular email newsletters? Please email us at mcc@musburyvillage.co.uk

We have a small group of lovely volunteers to help with MCC events on the entrance desk, serving refreshments, etc. To save us asking the same people all the time, is there anyone else out there who would be willing to help occasionally? We'd be delighted to hear from you!

From the MCC - **Mary and Martin Minter, Sue Leach, Graham and Annie Stark**

Village Hall

Nearly Christmas!
Not quite, but it's around the corner.

As mentioned last time, we applied for funding available from East Devon Council, for installation of Solar Panels on the Hall. A decision was due by the end of September, but as of today, we still await a decision. Apparently, they were overwhelmed with applications, and the decision-making process is taking them a lot longer than expected. We're all keeping our fingers crossed! Installation of Wi-Fi in the Hall is still being planned, and we're trying to currently choose our best and cheapest option!

The Hall continues to be popular with local groups; ranging from Woolly Workshop, to Short Mat Bowls and Taekwondo.

Bookings for these and other Groups remains relatively strong, but it needs to be, to cover our running costs! The winter months sees heating and lighting bills at their highest, and we're attempting to control these as much as we can. The Musbury Community Club continue to provide villagers with events that cover a wide spectrum of interests. I attended the recent 'Ask the Gardeners' evening. Although I didn't have any questions to ask (!) fortunately, others did! A very knowledgeable panel, and an informative evening was had! Well done to the organisers.

I'll end with the usual request, any fund-raising initiatives from the wider community are always welcomed!

Rex Orr
Secretary
Musbury Village Hall Committee

News From Trill farm Garden

It has been a soggy autumn for us on the farm, and it's definitely a change from when we opened the garden gates for our Tomato Fest in August. Thanks to those of you who came - it is great to be able to share what we do in the market garden and to show those of you who order our veg bags where it is grown. We are now in the downtime as growers, having planted all of the polytunnels up with winter salads, herbs, greens and a few early spring onions and sugarsnap peas. We are currently taking the time going through all of the notes that we made through the year about the crops, what went well, what didn't do so well, when we had a gap in production and all of that sort of detail. We then tweak the cropping and sowing plans for the year ahead so that we can continue to increase production whilst improving soil health and biodiversity.

We have noticed a big difference over the last year or so in the market garden with the drainage and in turn crop health. We have gradually changed the way that we cultivate our vegetables from yearly ploughing the first few years, to moving away from ploughing altogether, and now not using the tractor in the market garden at all. This reduction in soil disturbance and driving on the ground with machinery combined with increased use of cover crops and green manures to increase the diversity of roots in the soil and reduce bare soil over winter has led to much freer drained soil. The better drainage then has a positive effect on soil life which increases and in turn, makes more nutrients available to the crops.

We were asked by a publisher to write a book on vegetable growing so we are also spending some of this time through Autumn and Winter to do that. We intend to share the way that we do things here to hopefully help people to make decisions on how they would like to grow vegetables commercially. The book will also share the reasons that we have come to run the market garden the way that we do, and the influences that have helped to steer our decision making process. We will continue to teach courses next year on salad growing and market gardening and much of the content of the book will be taught through these courses.

Don't forget that we offer door to door deliveries through Musbury and the surrounding areas, and you can order a selection of vegetables to suit you, delivered to your door weekly, fortnightly or just as a one off. We will be doing special Christmas Veg Boxes during the week of Christmas and you will be able to pre-order these on our website at www.trillfarmgarden.co.uk/boxscheme

Ash

Musbury Short Mat Bowls Club

Numbers have been slightly reduced lately mainly because some members have been playing outdoor bowls only during the Summer and would find it difficult adjusting to the different lengths of the Mat/Green. We look forward to welcoming them back now the outdoor season is over. We also have welcomed some new members recently.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Hind on Friday December 8th and the Barbie Competition a week later on December 15th. This event will be in aid of the Heart Foundation in memory of a loved member who died suddenly of a heart attack.

We were very sad to learn of the death of a founder member of the club recently - Dennis Pomeroy - and many club members attended his funeral. Den played Short Mat Bowls matches for Musbury over many years and he played outside for Lyme Regis and Honiton over the years too. He was an inspiration to many members sharing his bowling skills with all with whom he came into contact. I personally remember him watching a wood come down the mat and tell me what it was going to do when it arrived at the other end! He was such an experienced player and kept playing even when he could hardly walk! He was particularly proud of his grandson, Paul, who now plays for England and was keen to let all the nurses know every time Paul visited the hospital in the last few weeks of his life. We shall all miss him and think of Stella, Steve, Christine and Paul at this sad time.

We are keen to introduce Short Mat Bowling to more Musbury villagers especially those of you who have moved into the village recently and in the New Year we hope to have some taster evenings. Watch this space!!

The present members wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy prosperous 2024.

A few Anagrams

Clue

I'm inapt.	Kettle drums
Ether.	Not here
Ray Money	Originally a British volunteer cavalry force
Diet Nosh	A pleasure Seeker
Tree in coast	A Shrub with red berries

'Orphans Song'

'Pretty much all the honest truth telling done in this world is done by children...'

Oliver Wendell Holmes - 19th century American writer.

With Children In Need still fresh in hearts and minds I thought I would offer my own, literary contribution.

Orphans Song

If all the love in all the world was rolled into a ball
Then driven round a football pitch or up against a wall
Or cast about a cricket field or tennis court or green
How much love would roll our way?
How much would we see?

If all the hope in all the world was lifted to the sky
And allowed to fall like summer rain, cascading from on high
Bouncing off umbrella tops and tumbling to the ground
How much hope could we collect?
How much could be found?

If all the smiles in all the world were posted in the mail
And collected by the GPO on time and without fail
Then sorted into bundles trim and delivered one by one
How many smiles would we receive?
How many smiles would come?

If all the kindness in the world transformed into a sail
That, hoisted high would billow forth when Southern winds prevailed
To sweep a boat across the seas, to send it far and near
How soon would kindness reach our shore?
How soon should it appear?

If all the tears in all the world did swell a river wide
And then that river rose and burst its banks on either side
Flooding all the countryside and drenching all the land
It still wouldn't equal the tears we've cried
Me, and my little brother Stan...

Gary Franckeiss

The Hind

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

Lunchtime Bar 12-3pm Meals Served 12-2pm

Evening Bar Open 7pm Christmas Draw starts 8pm

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

Bar 11.30am-2pm

Boxing Day Tuesday 26th December

Bring and Share Night (Speak to Emma for details & to book in)

Wednesday 27th – Saturday 30th

Normal Opening Hours

End of the year Disco Saturday 30th & Curry Night!!

CLOSED 31ST DECEMBER - RE-OPEN TUESDAY JANUARY 16TH

Emma and Adrian

The Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree lights ceremony will be on the 10th December at 6pm, Gather round the tree for a few festive songs and The Hind will be open for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards - all profits from this will go to the 'tree fund'. The bar will also be open.

This year it is requested that people do not add baubles. Whilst its a lovely idea the weather causes havoc and they end up everywhere. If people are upset and offended by this please feel free to volunteer as bauble monitor!

The Sky at Night

We are now passing from autumn into winter and as we move forward the summer constellations will have gone and the nights will become darker earlier. The constellations at this time of year are probably more well known to many than the Spring and summer ones as they make more recognisable patterns.

When I first moved from Australia to the UK I discovered that Orion was standing on his feet rather than on his head, which was the view I'd grown up with. Below is a picture of a winter night sky.



The large yellow images are the brightest stars and as they get smaller so they get dimmer. If we look out on a clear winter night in the south, we would see Orion's stars, a large red star just above them, which is Aldebaran in Taurus, and just slightly higher a little mass of stars which is the open cluster called the Pleiades. Above the Pleiades and to the left is Capella in the constellations of Auriga, and then further left a pair of stars called Castor and Pollux in Gemini and below the Procyon in Canis Minor. (When seeing a star map like the above, I always wonder why the early astronomers named Canis Minor as it looks nothing like a small dog to me.)

As well as having bright stars to view at this time of year there are other delights. In Orion you can see in a small telescope the Orion Nebula which hanging just below the three stars forming Orion's belt. Just above it is a star cluster and a little nebula region forming the running man and near the belt lowest star is the flame nebula and the horse head nebula.



In Taurus, as well as the Pleiades, the v shape which Aldebaran is part of is called the Hyades, and if we travel to the other end of Taurus we can see the Crab Nebula. It is a wonderful sky we have to view with lots of hidden and interesting gems.

For open evenings at the NLOI go to www.normanlockyer.com.

Merry Christmas and happy star gazing New Year.

The Norman Lockyer Observatory

To see the images in this article in glorious colour visit the online version of the News

<https://musburyvillage.co.uk/>

Post Office, Spar and Garage

By the time you read this, our minor shop improvement project should have been completed. Hopefully, you will all be able to 'Spot the Difference' and like the changes! For the first time in many years, Spar have returned to the small screen, with TV advertising spotlighting our 'Big Deals of Christmas'. Various customers have reported to me how happy they are with the offer prices, well under those charged by our larger competitors. And with new deals every fortnight, there's always something new to put in your basket ready for the festive period. As usual, your Spar and Post Office will be open until 8pm on Christmas Eve, in case you have one of those 'Oh no' moments and there's something you've forgotten. From chilled bubbly to chocolates and flowers, we have those last-minute gifts covered, with our usual blend of local and famous-name brands to choose from. We will then be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day; I'm sure you agree that our staff all deserve their break. Hopefully, they'll be fighting fit and ready to re-open on Wednesday 27th December, keeping the store open for you until New Year's Eve at 8pm, before we take another day off on New Year's Day to recover from Auld Lang Syne and all that.

Jamie in our workshop recently passed his 30-year service milestone. We celebrated this with an evening out, inviting my parents Frank and Barbara along, too. Those longer-standing members of the Musbury community will know that my parents purchased the Garage in April 1981, with me joining the business full-time in 1988. Jamie then arrived as an apprentice in June 1993, and we've worked together ever since.

Those football supporters amongst you may have spotted our Practical Car & Van Rental sponsor boards on display at both Axminster Town and Beer Albion FC's home grounds. As part of the deal, we are providing 17-seater minibuses to both clubs when they need to transport their players to away games. All that's left is for me to thank you all for your support during 2023, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Best wishes

Julian Rinaldi

Owner, Musbury Garage, Spar & Post Office

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Ring & Ride

I was informed that services might be cut back due to a lack of funding , but this applied to Dorset and not East Devon. Thanks to a donation by Bridport resident there will be no cuts.

The time table for 2024 is not available at the moment but here is the December Service
ED:

DECEMBER

Thursday 7th Darts Farm Shopping Village £9

The home of local Westcountry food and drink. Farm Shop, Food Hall, and Restaurant.

Saturday 9th Shopping in Exeter £18

Thursday 14th Shopping in Yeovil £9

Thursday 21st Shopping in Crewkerne £9

Here we go again

Another campaign ! Our huge thanks to Jenny Hardiman for organising the “Save Seaton Hospital” campaign in and around Musbury. Also many thanks to those that helped with door to door leafleting and with signatures for the the Petition

Fingers crossed

Cherry

What's On at the Beehive Honiton

Thursday 7th December Dr Feelgood 7.00pm English Pub Rock from the seventies British R & B (note none of the original members)

Thursday 14th December St Agnes Fountain 7.00 pm “Carols with a curve!”

Saturday 6th March The Elton John show 7.30 pm

More can be found at <https://beehivehoniton.co.uk/whats-book-tickets/>

Childhood memories Favourite Food

As a child at my grandparents' home in Burton Bradstock, the days were filled with adventures in the stream that ran through the garden, out in Farmer Hawkins' fields with the Guernsey cows, and bothering Arthur who grew amazing fruit and veg in the kitchen garden, alongside his beloved Gladioli.

The days were punctuated with food, breakfast followed by elevenses, with the postman at the table for his cup of coffee and piece of lardy cake, then lunch at 1 o'clock on the dot, and "proper" tea- a lace cloth on the round table, scones and Victoria sponge, and learning our manners from our grandmother.

The breadman, the butcher, the mobile shop all called during the week, as well as we children being sent on errands to the post office and the village stores.

One of my favourite meals was freshly caught mackerel, garden peas (podded by us!) and new potatoes, followed by an apple crumble and proper cream. Bert over the lane brought the mackerel, and we had to save any stale bread for Freda's geese, which terrified us with their long necks and hissing welcome. So, gather your new potatoes, scrub and boil with mint, pod and simmer your peas, and take the freshest mackerel you can find, gut, wash and then grill to perfection. All veg topped with a pat of local butter!

I am just starting the ball rolling, please email in your best childhood meals, memories and recipes for the next edition.

Sarah sarah.ansell.english@gmail.com

The Editor Adds

My favourite childhood meal was definitely Hungarian Goulash with dumplings served with mashed potato and Brussel sprouts . Followed by rice pudding and strawberry jam

I asked the editorial assistant Daisy May for her favourite child hood meals and after long deliberations she came up with the following recipes I think she may have been heavily influenced by Roald Dahl for the second recipe

Honey-Glazed Carrot Coins with Pooh's Hunny Mustard:

Ingredients:

- Carrots, peeled and sliced into coins
- Honey
- Butter
- Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

- Gather a handful of fresh carrots and slice them into delightful golden coins.
- In a saucepan, melt a spoonful of butter and stir in a dollop of honey, creating a magical glaze.
- Add the carrot coins to the pan, letting them dance in the sweet mixture until they're tender and glazed with a touch of golden happiness.
- For Pooh's Honey Mustard, mix a spoonful of Dijon mustard with a drizzle of honey. Adjust the balance to suit your taste, as Pooh would.
- Sprinkle a pinch of salt and pepper over the glazed carrot coins and serve them with a side of Pooh's Hunny Mustard for dipping.

Whizpopping Froboscottle Floats

Ingredients:

- Vanilla ice cream
- Sparkling apple soda (or any clear fizzy beverage)
- Whizpopping Froboscottle syrup (made from crushed snozzcucumbers and fizzwiggles)
- Whipped cream
- Gobblefunk sprinkles (a mix of colourful candies)

Instructions:

- Begin with a scoop or two of creamy vanilla ice cream in a whimsical glass or goblet.
- Slowly pour the sparkling apple soda over the ice cream, creating a fizztastically frothy reaction.
- Drizzle the magical Whizpopping Froboscottle syrup over the concoction, made with the essence of crushed snozzcucumbers and fizzwiggles for that extra pop!
- Top it off with a generous dollop of whipped cream, creating fluffy clouds reminiscent of dreamland.
- Sprinkle the Gobblefunk sprinkles over the whipped cream, adding a burst of colour and delight.

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 in the EX13 area. We would especially like to thank the school and church in Musbury who have contributed food from their harvest celebrations.

New referrals to the Food Bank continue to come in every week and I know that as we draw closer to Christmas our numbers will definitely rise. At present we are supporting around 70 people including those who live alone and families of all sizes. Rent rises have contributed a lot to the cost of living crisis and many people have to choose between food and heat as the weather gets colder.

Inevitably we are getting fewer food donations from the larger supermarkets and if you are thinking of supporting us over the coming weeks may we particularly ask for biscuits, tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, tinned meat, coffee, custard and rice pudding.

We are fortunate to have plenty of pasta, baked beans, cereals and tuna. Also we are short of household items at the moment e.g. cleaning fluids, washing up liquid and washing powder/tablets as well as toilet and kitchen rolls. Nappies size 3, 4 or 5 would also be welcome. In addition at this festive time we do like to add seasonal food and treats to the food bags so would be very grateful for any donations along those lines.

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

What's on at The Marine Theatre, Lyme Regis

Saturday 20th January The John Martyn Project Six artists celebrating the music of John Martyn starts 8.00pm

Thursday 1st February Show of Hands 7.30pm

Wednesday 14th February The Sharon Shannon Trio 8.00pm

And much more check out the Marine Theatre web site
<https://www.marinetheatre.com/#whats-on>

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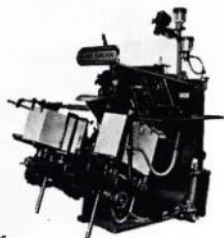
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2023 So far quiz

January

Who succeeded Jacinda Ardern as Prime Minister of where?
Who or what made an appearance in Scarborough harbour?

February

What was being shot tracked and eventually shot down over the USA?
Who resigned as First Minister of Scotland

March

Which country won the World Baseball classic?
What devastated the towns of Rolling Fork and Silver City?
Which Bill did Suella Braverman introduce to The Commons?
Who admitted to misleading Parliament?

April

Which country became the 31st member of Nato?
Which country closed down its last nuclear power plant?
What happened to Space X's starship rocket?
What did the Government plan to use the vessel Bibby Stockholm for?
Why did Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab resign?

May

Which country won the Eurovision Song Contest and who was the singer?
Of what offence did Rishi Sunak say that the Home Secretary had not breached ministerial rules ?

June

What was the fate of Titan?
What did Yevgeny Prigozhin begin?
How many Conservative MPs resigned during June?

July

Why did the Foreign Office issue a travel warning for France?

August

What happened to Yevgeny Prigozhin?

September

Who announced their retirement passing the business on to Lachlan ?

October

What did a majority of Australians decide ?

Answers from the editor

Horoscopes

Aries

2024 will be a positive period for Aries. Jupiter in your sign will help your professional life. For those who are looking, the first half of the year will be more propitious for finding a partner in love.

Taurus

Taurus is encouraging you to express your true self. The New Year may lead to achievements in professional life, as well as in the realm of finances. Take care of your mental health this year, and on the plus side, it is a good year for those contemplating marriage.

Gemini

Amazing luck will accompany you throughout 2024, which will inspire you to do something new or take up something that has been in your mind for many years now. It is a fantastic year for your relationships, while luck & hard work will stabilise your work prospects.

Cancer

Under Pluto's influence, major changes are on the horizon. This year think new beginnings, and explore your artistic side in words, music or art, this will help you meet the challenges that may crop up.

Leo

2024 promises to be a lucky year for Leo – Jupiter in your sign offers the opportunity to evolve. It will help you fulfil long held dreams, and bring you opportunities for progress in career, finances & relationships.

Virgo

2024 promises some special news for Virgo. You will make great progress in all aspects of life this year. Look objectively at what needs to be preserved or discarded. There will be challenges but you will rise up to meet them.

Libra

Saturn has weighed heavily on you, but now is your time to bounce back. 2024 will be full of love & romance for Libra. There will be positive events at the workplace, and the year will bring new opportunities for you to consider.

Sagittarius

Hard work & luck will support you in a big way in 2024. It is time to tackle those unfinished tasks and fulfil some long-held ambitions. Until March, Jupiter supports your progress at work, and Pluto deepens your world view, and helps you achieve perspective.

Capricorn.

Until March, Saturn urges you to deepen your relationships with those close to you. Then it will be time to shake up your life, and perhaps take up new pursuits and adventures. Take the lead at home and work, and inspire others with your confidence.

Aquarius

This year, Jupiter brightens your personal and private life, offering opportunities for personal achievement. This is a favourable time to move forward with your plans. Romance is in the air for those who look!

Pisces

An introspective year, which will deepen your family connections. Planetary disruption in your sign requires your diligence with finances. Home life will be settled, there may be a contact from a long lost friend .

Musbury Mystic

And Finally

“There's no subtext in 'Harry Potter,' really; it's all magic - anything can happen. Why do I say this? Because it's a magic spell. It's quite nice in a way. There is a real freedom to it. Doesn't say much for acting, does it?”

Michael Gambon 1940-2023

“It was a fair decision, the penalty, even though it was debatable whether it was inside or outside the box.”

Bobby Charlton 1937-2023

“I constantly deal with being called Shaft, and I vacillate back and forth with people coming up to me about it. But it never ceases to blow me away with the impact that character had on my life and my fans' lives.”

Richard Roundtree 1942-2023

Thank you to all contributors and advertisers, for keeping the Parish News an interesting read . I am still looking for help with the editorial process, and will welcome any contributions

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all readers.



Jolly

Contributors please note
Deadline for next issue
16th February

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Musbury Diary **Winter 2023**

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

December

Sunday 3rd	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion BCP	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 10th	Christmas Tree Lights Switch On	6.00pm	Hn
Monday 11th	MCC festive Evening	7.00pm	Hn
Wednesday 13th	Coffee and Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 17th	Carol Service	6.30pm	Ch
Monday 18th	Parish council meeting	7.30pm	Vh
Sunday 24th	No service		
Monday 25th	Christmas Day Family Eucharist	10.00am	Ch
Saturday 30th	Disco through the Decades	8.00pm	Hn
Sunday 31st	No service		

January

Sunday 7th	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Wednesday 10th	Coffee and Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion BCP	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 21st	Holy communion Cw	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 28th	Evening Prayer	3.30pm	Ch

February

Sunday 4th	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion BCP	11.15am	Ch
Wednesday 14th	Coffee and Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 18th	Holy communion Cw	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 25th	Evening Prayer	3.30pm	Ch