

MUSBURY PARISH NEWS



Spring 2024

Holyford Mission Community

www.holyford.org

Rector Fr Steven Martin	rector@holyford.org	01297 553180
M C Administrator Mrs Caz Jefferies.	office@holyford.org	01297 552307
Ms Linda Joy (Families Worker)		07796 063208

Readers

Dr Charles Hill		01297 552141
Mrs Sue McCoulough		01297 552446

Hon.Assistant Priests

The Reverend Canon Colin Preece		01297 552154
The Reverend Nigel Freathy		01297 22303
The Reverend Canon Karen Curnock		07460 244475
The Reverend Prebendary John Lees		01297 551351
The Reverend Ann Stuckey		07473 664328
The Rt Reverend Dr Oliver Simon.		01297 552860

St Michael's Church, Musbury

Church wardens

Mrs Sue Irving, Cherry Tree House, Church Hill		01297 552440
Mrs Caroline Doulton, Crossway, The Street		01297 552558

Treasurer

Miss Ellen Ruth Anning	ellen.anning@outlook.com	07709 282334
------------------------	--	--------------

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*.

Editor

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

Distribution:

Mr David Antell		553454
-----------------	--	--------

Advertising:

Kate Norman		07731 531714
-------------	--	--------------

From the Vicarage Steven writes

As we prepare to celebrate the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ this Lent and Easter, we should remind ourselves that this is the greatest story ever told. It is a story of hope; life overcoming death, love and forgiveness triumphing over hate and fear. Many today are anxious and worried, fearful for the world, the cost of living and having to make tough decisions.

The disciples who witnessed the trial and crucifixion of Jesus were plunged into despair. Dreams were shattered and at once their life was without direction or purpose. Everything felt meaningless and frightening. Some simply walked away. I wonder how this resonates with us?



On the first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, supposing him to be the gardener, sees the risen Lord and she reaches out to touch him. She reaches out to what she has known in the past. However, Jesus, risen from the dead, says to her 'do not touch me'. Jesus does so in order to say to her, and to all his followers, 'do not cling to the past, but come into God's future.' That is the invitation to us each Lent, Holy Week and Easter, as we make a spiritual pilgrimage to establish or refresh our hope and seek to discover more about God's love. It is a love that is both steadfast and ever-new.

Join us for one or more of our Lent course sessions (Thursday evenings in Lent), which are stand-alone events addressing different topics. You are warmly welcome to join us for any of the services taking place across the Mission Community—the churches at Branscombe, Colyton, Colyford, Musbury, Northleigh and Southleigh. Details can be found further on in this magazine.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

Lent courses

Tell me more...

A series of talks about a variety of topics every Thursday in Lent, beginning on 22nd February. We gather for a short Eucharist at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments and a talk. The sessions end at 9pm. Come to as many sessions as you wish. Each one will stand alone, All are welcome.

Thursday 7th March St Michaels, Colyford Tell me more about Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's St John Passion

Thursday 14th March St Winifred's, Branscombe Tell me more about God who opens doors

Thursday 21st March St Lawrence's, Southleigh Tell me more about Holy Week

Fund raising

The. Church Christmas Fayre raised £852 for the Church

£157 for the Children's Society over Christmas from Musbury School , carol singing and donations.

Parish Records

Marriage

27th January Julie Michelle Stott and Lee Francis Pardy.

Parochial Church Council

What a lovely Carol Service we had just before Christmas. The Church was full, it was beautifully decorated by Sue Irving and her team, there were candles everywhere even lining the path up to Church, the choir were fantastic and we all enjoyed the mulled wine and mince pies. A thank you, too, to the readers.

A group of us sung Carols around the village and a big thank you must go to Ann Veit and friends for providing mulled wine en-route. We finished in The Hind where we sang more carols. We raised money for the Children's Society.

Our Christmas Craft Fayre was a particular success raising more than usual so thank you everyone for your generous support.

Our Annual Church Meeting will have taken place on February 28th in the Village Hall Committee room, when we will have had an opportunity to thank the Rector and the Church Wardens, particularly, for their leadership and pastoral care. We will also have thanked all those who help to keep the life of the Church going - the cleaning team, the flower arranging team and the bell ringers to name a few.

The reality of us getting a toilet and a servery is moving closer with plans being drawn up and grants being sorted. The bell restoration project is progressing too and we are busy raising money for the combined project.

We are holding our Annual Table Top Sale on March 16th from 10.00am, when we hope to raise some more towards the servery, toilet and bells. Your support will be appreciated. There will be lots of bargains, a book stall, a cake stall and of course the bacon butties.

The season of Lent will be well on the way by the time you read this. This will be followed by Holy Week and then Easter itself. The service on Easter Sunday is earlier than usual - 10.00am. We look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and you are most welcome to join us.

St Michael's Church provides a variety of services each month - services for everyone's tastes and we extend a warm welcome to each one. Please join us as we look forward to the Easter season, the summer and the better weather that follows.

Kay Short

PCC Secretary

552711

shortatbeacon@gmail.com

CHURCH FLOWERS AND CLEANING

Well, here we are again the Annual Spring Clean of the Church is looming.....this year the dust will 'fly' on Saturday 23rd March at 10.00am. I look forward to seeing all cleaners (let me know if you can't make it) ready with their buckets and mops ! Tea and buns provided !!!

The following week it will be the turn of the flower arrangers as we decorate the Church after the long period of Lent. Decorating will be on Saturday 30th March, ready for Easter Sunday. I look forward to those spring arrangements that you all do so well.

Lastly, I would like to welcome two new volunteers to our flower team. Thank you for the giving of your time which makes SUCH a difference to the rest of us.

Happy Easter

Sue Irving

552440

sueirving336@btinternet.com

2024 Musbury Plant & Craft Sale

We are delighted to announce the date for the 2024 Musbury Village Plant and Craft Sale

Saturday 4th May 9.30am–12.00noon in Musbury Village Hall

Raffle & Refreshments will be available

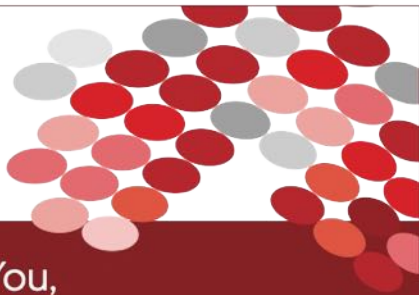
Hire of Craft Tables £10 each

Please contact Mary Minter on 01297 553325 if you would like to hire a table

The Hall will be open for setting up from 6.00pm – 7.30pm on Friday 3rd and from 7.30am – 9am on Saturday 4th

We would gratefully receive any plants or seedlings of vegetables, annuals, perennials, indoor or outdoor plants for the Committee's own Sales Table

All proceeds help finance the Musbury Village Show which we will be holding again this year on Saturday 10th August



Accountants for You, Your Business and Your Family

For friendly, professional advice call Mike Griffiths

01279 20584

seaton@lentells.co.uk www.lentells.co.uk

ACCOUNTANCY | TAX | PAYROLL | WILLS | PROBATE and much more...

Actionline Decorating Ltd **Painting & Decorating**

External & Internal
Over 30 years experience
Conservation Projects
Fully Insured
Domestic & Commercial
(Approved contractors to the
National Trust)
Local, reliable and professional
service

DULUX SELECT DECORATOR
of the year 2022 Category Winner
www.actionline-decorating.com



T: 01297 20001

M: 07785 345904

E: info@actionline-decorating.com



YOUR LOCAL BOOKSHOP

Amxminster's beautiful new bookshop also
has games, vinyls, cards ... and the
famous Community Waffle House above

Mon - Fri 9 to 5

Sat 10 to 4



Trinity House, Amxminster EX13 5AP

01297 33744

Buy online: www.archwaybookshop.co.uk

Space Available for your Advert

Your Advert will be seen by
over 300 households in
Musbury and published on the
village web site
Contact the editor



COLY ELECTRICAL

Electrical Contractors
Domestic & Industrial
Installation & Maintenance
www.colyelectricaltd.co.uk
07811183523



HAYE FARM



Locally raised meat and fresh,
free-range eggs from the heart of
the Devon countryside.

Enjoy 20% off all online orders
when you collect from the farm
using code MUSBURY20 at
checkout on our website.

WWW.HAYEFARMDEVON.CO.UK

Stuart's Sweeping Service



*Support your local trades –
use a local Chimney Sweep*



*A clean chimney
is a safe chimney*

Chimney, woodburner and range cooker sweeping.
Power Sweeping, Bird's nest removal.
Camera Inspections, Cows and bird spikes fitted.
Woodburners and liners installed.

07432 118318 or 01404 613447

stuart@stuartssweepingservice.co.uk
Evening and weekend appointments available.

Thatch approved. NFU Insured. Member of The Guild of
Master Sweeps. HETAS Approved Chimney Sweep.



HETAS Registered
Installer
Sweep Safe accredited.



NC JACKS

LANDSCAPING

GARDENS DESIGNED
AND CONSTRUCTED
FENCING AND TURFING

TEL: 01297 553407
MOBILE: 07974 965389
njacks384@gmail.com

THE OLD BAKERY HOUSE, THE STREET,
MUSBURY, NEAR AXMINSTER,
DEVON EX13 8AU

Weather Watch

After the very wet October, November continued in the same vein, with heavy rain (31 mm) on the 1st (Storm Ciarán), with further rain on the 15th and 17th. There was some colder weather with frost towards the end of the month and the 30th saw sleet and a few flakes of snow in the wind.

Total rain for the month was 147 mm (6 in.) against a nineteen-year average of 104 mm (4 in). The first two days of December were cold but torrential rain (45 mm) on the 3rd brought milder conditions but also flooding. Further very wet weather and more flooding followed on the 7th and 8th. After a dull but drier period in mid-month the rains returned between Christmas and the new year, with a final total for the month of 200 mm exactly (8 in).

The total for the year was 1225 mm (47 in) against a 19-year average of 958 mm (37 in). Of this, 517 mm fell between 1st October and 31st December, giving a very wet autumn and early winter. 2019 was marginally wetter, with a total of 524 mm for the same months.

January began wet, with 22 mm on the 1st, but after a few days the weather turned cold and clear, with overnight frosts and night minimum as low as -8°. This continued until 20th, after which conditions became more changeable and less cold. The month's rainfall total was 76 mm (3 ins), somewhat below the twenty-year average of 104 mm (4 ins.).

To date, February has been extremely mild but there are some indications that another spell of wintry weather is yet to come.

Mike Lock

Thanks from some very appreciative residents

Many thanks to everyone who helped to keep the drain covers and ditches free from debris in and around our lovely village of Musbury.

The 'Wet Weather' has certainly been a test for us 'ALL'.

Nature Watch.

Birds seem to have coped well with January's cold spell. Numbers at my feeders did not seem to increase much, although birds need more food when it is cold, just to maintain their body temperature. Although they were visiting gutters and any pools of meltwater, the cold wasn't great enough to freeze streams so there was always water available. The Wetlands froze over completely and birds moved to the estuary where there was always open water and mud, even though a fringe of ice formed along the margins. Once the weather warmed, many things responded, and the first frog spawn appeared in my pond on 4th February.



It was astonishing to see how quickly snowdrops responded to the end of the cold spell. A few in my garden had been showing flowers since before the cold, but as soon as the warmer weather began, they appeared everywhere within a week and are now at their best – although most will have probably faded by the time you read this. Snowdrops are not native to this country; they come from further south in Europe and seem to have been introduced around the early sixteenth century. Out of the twenty or so known species of snowdrop, by far the most widely cultivated and naturalised is *Galanthus nivalis*. Several other species are quite widely cultivated; I have *G. reginae-olgae* and *G. woronowii* in my garden; the former flowers in October but the latter flowers at the same time as *G. nivalis*. The name 'Galanthus' comes from the Greek words 'gala' (milk) and 'anthos' (flower) and 'nivalis' just means pertaining to snow. *Galanthus reginae-olgae* was named in honour of Queen Olga of Greece – the grandmother of the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Apart from the twenty or so species, there are also a large number of varieties, mainly of *G. nivalis*. Snowdrop enthusiasts ('galanthophiles') search big colonies of snowdrops for variants: double flowers; flowers with especially large or small green markings flowers with yellow instead of green markings; with oddly shaped petals or petals held horizontally rather than drooping – and so on. A recent book on snowdrops lists 86 named varieties of *G. nivalis* alone. Such is their attraction for galanthophiles that rare varieties have to be carefully guarded; the original clump of *Galanthus elwesii* Carolyn Elwes was stolen and the bulbs have never been refound or recovered. To give some idea of how much galanthophiles are prepared to pay, a bulb of *Galanthus* Bitter Lemons will set you back £95!

Seaton Wetlands

The Wetlands have again been very quiet. The wet autumn kept water levels high so waders mostly stayed on the estuary or on the big scrape opposite the Colyford Common hide. Black-tailed Godwit numbers have remained low, and there are not as many Curlew about as usual. There are, however, large numbers of Lapwings, probably at least a thousand in all, which often spend the day on the islands in Black Hole Marsh. A sunny day shows up the green iridescence on their backs which gave them the old name of Green Plover.

A Marsh Harrier (perhaps two) was present for a few days in late January. Gulls have been abundant as always, but this year there have been a lot of Common Gulls in the flocks. These are like a small Herring Gull with a dull yellow beak and dull green legs, and are not by any means our commonest gull, in spite of the name. They breed in northern England and Scotland on peaty moorland or on islands in rivers and are with us only in the autumn and winter. I also saw a single Mediterranean Gull on the estuary at the end of January. These are very like Black-headed Gulls but have a black and yellow tip to the red beak and entirely white wings. They now breed in the country in some numbers, particularly around the Solent, where this southern species first bred in Britain in 1968.

Mike Lock

Axminster Hospital League of Friends

The Trustees and volunteers of Axminster Hospital League of Friends are working hard to raise funds to begin a Home Hospice Service for the residents of Axminster and the surrounding area. We are organising some events during 2024 and we would love your support.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 11th April - Bacon butties – Church Rooms, Axminster

Tuesday 21st May – Annual Open Meeting – Speaker tbc – Axminster Hospital -the next 10 years

Saturday 8th June – Exeter Male Voice Choir – The Minster, Axminster

Saturday 6th July – Cream tea – Jackleigh Farm, Wyke

TABLE TOP SALE

WOULD YOU LIKE A TABLE - £10

RING - 01297 552440



SATURDAY 16 MARCH
10 am - 12.30 pm
MUSBURY VILLAGE HALL

Refreshments and bacon butties

ALL PROFITS TO ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH MUSBURY

CEH
CLEAN ENERGY HARVEST LTD
Bruce Kenny, Lyme Regis
07903 840092 info@cleanenergyharvest.co.uk

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Help local people in need
get to their medical appointments!



If you

Like to drive

Enjoy meeting new people

Can spare 2 to 3 hours a week

Call us on Tel. 01297 35550

All mileage and expenses paid



Axminster Care Service

Charity No. 900144

axminstercareservice@gmail.com

www.axminstercareservice.co.uk

South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD

4 Axminster Road, musbury, devon EX13 8AZ



Electrical, Security & Media

Full Electrical Service including:



SECURITY

- HIGH DEFINITION CCTV
- FARM & RURAL SECURITY SYSTEMS



ELECTRICAL

- INSTALLATION & REPAIRS
- PAT TESTING
- SMART CONTROLS



MULTI-MEDIA

- WHOLE HOME WI-FI
- WIRELESS NETWORKS
- MULTI-ROOM AUDIO & VISUAL SYSTEMS

Contact

Mail: mattcraker@icloud.com

Mob: 07725 895099

Web: next-phaseelectrical.co.uk



JOHN PARRY TREE SURGERY & FENCING



Professional tree surgery services including aerial tree works, reductions, pruning, felling and forestry.

Domestic fencing services. Installation and repair of traditional and contemporary fencing styles.

NPTC qualified and fully insured,
with over 20 years experience

07903 124808

john@parrytrees.co.uk



WE ARE GETTING READY TO REOPEN FOR EASTER

There's plenty to see and do...

- Ride on the Beer Heights Light Railway
- Explore our picturesque gardens
- Visit the Peco Model Railway Exhibition
- Browse the well stocked Model & Gift Shops
- Let off steam in our outdoor play areas
- Challenge each other to Crazy Golf (reopening soon)
- Enjoy refreshments from our outdoor catering kiosks

SCAN OUR QR CODE OR CHECK
OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA
FOR MORE INFORMATION



Pecorama

Opens 26th March



Online bookings recommended
to avoid disappointment

PECORAMA, BEER, SEATON, DEVON EX12 3NA TEL: 01297 21542 www.pecorama.co.uk

m12

GORDON & Rumsby

Time for a change? Get in touch to book your free property valuation and let us take the stress out of selling. Visit our website for the latest properties, testimonials and advice, or pop into the office for a chat if you prefer the traditional way!

01297 553768

www.gordonandrumsby.co.uk



#AgentsWithHeart

@gordonandrumsby

Axminster and District Choral Society

The Society's programme for spring and summer 2024 promises three evenings of enjoyable and entertaining music.

March 23rd brings 'Joy and Peace', a programme of works by Handel. It features his Ode for St. Cecilia's Day, a joyful glorification of the power of music, with melodies and harmonies that evoke its role in the creation of the universe. Also included is the Ode on the Birthday of Queen Anne, which celebrates the Peace of Utrecht which ended the War of the Spanish Succession. The Ode credits the Queen with bringing "lasting peace on Earth". This wonderful cantata is a present that any self-respecting Royal would be delighted to receive, and Anne was pleased enough to grant Handel a pension for life.

The choir will be joined by professional soloists and orchestra, and will be conducted by Judy Martin.

On April 13th 'The trumpet shall sound' in a fascinating and lively programme tracing the history of the trumpet through performances of well known music. The concert will be given by Alistair Mackie, former Principal Trumpeter of the Philharmonia Orchestra, accompanied by the choir's President Andrew Millington. You can expect a very entertaining evening.

On June 15th the choir's summer concert will consist of favourite anthems and shorter choral pieces, chosen by the members for the sheer pleasure of singing – and pleasure for the audience too we hope.

All three concerts will be held in the Minster Church, Axminster, starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets will be available on line at www.axminsterchoral.co.uk, from Archway Bookshop, Trinity Square, Axminster, from members of the choir or on the door.

For further information, contact:

Elizabeth Twining
ejtwining@gmail.com, 01404 43805

Registered charity no.900458

2024 Musbury Show - Saturday 10th

August

We're hoping for lots of entries for this year's Show, especially for the Photography classes. We are therefore giving you plenty of advance notice of the categories. So everyone can start planning and taking pictures now!



Flight
Patterns in Nature
Sun Up or Sun Down
Churchyards
Buildings (b&w)
A Group of 4 Depicting Musbury
At The Beach - Under 16s only

Hopefully every keen photographer will find at least 1 subject that they can find inspiration in to enter their photographs.

The usual General Photography Category Notes will apply, as follows:

1. Entries must not have previously been shown at the Musbury Show.
2. Photographs should be no larger than 15cm x 20cm (6" x 8").
3. Photographs can be in colour or black and white (except where specified).
4. With the exception of the Under 16 class, all photographs must be mounted individually on card 18cm x 23cm (7" x 9").

For the Under 16s category, the following notes apply:

1. Entries should be submitted as a jpeg attachment by email.
2. Entries should be emailed by 31st July 2024 to: martin@minter-roff.co.uk.
3. The email submission should include your full name, age, connection to Musbury (e.g. pupil at Musbury School), the picture's title, and a contact phone number.
4. Photographs may be resized by us after submission, for the purposes of uniformity.
5. Entries must have been taken by the competitor within the previous 12 months

A full schedule of classes will be on the village website and notice boards in due course. And Entry Forms will be available in July.

Martin Minter on behalf of the Musbury Show Committee (01297 553325)

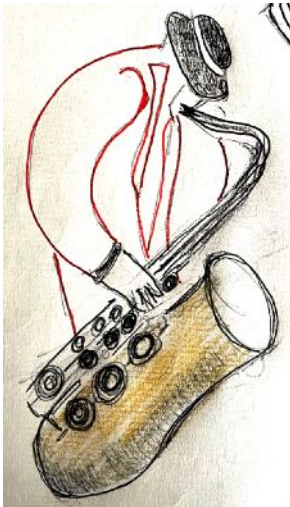
Allotment news

Will any gardener forget 2023? A summer spent praying for water or carrying cans, and a winter desperately trying to drain water away. And yet there we all are, with the evenings getting lighter, perusing seed catalogues and deciding what to grow in 2024. For those with sunny window sills, you could even start to sow some seeds like onion, leeks and early cabbages. Most seed packets will tell you the best time to sow, both indoors and outdoors.

It's a good time to get ready for the new allotment or gardening year by cleaning tools and servicing lawn mowers, strimmers and rotavators, all jobs that can be done inside until the weather improves.

Elsewhere in this magazine, you will have seen that there are currently allotments available to rent. It's a great time to take one on at the beginning of the gardening year, providing both exercise and delicious home grown produce for a healthy 2024. Contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested.

An Allotmenteer



Wholly Funk

Saturday April 20th in Comrades Hall, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP.

Music from 8pm, entrance £10.
Pay on the door or tickets from
Ian McCoulough
07880 790400

Tea, coffee and a bar

MUSBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

We finished 2023 with a very enjoyable “Festive Evening” on 11th December held at The Hind. We had fun quizzes and festive music with “audience participation” and sausage and chips were served. The evening was very well attended, and a good time was had by all.

We started the New Year on 15th January with a fascinating talk by an RNLI volunteer. George Hislop gave a very interesting and informative insight into the RNLI’s work both nationally and internationally, and despite a bitterly cold evening, we had a good turnout. We’ve received a nice letter from them telling us our donations raised £127.43, so well done Musbury!

5th February saw the return of our popular monthly “Art for Everyone” afternoons run by Victoria Connell. It was great to see some new faces, and we very much hope that they enjoyed the session and will come back for more. These sessions are held monthly, generally on the 1st Monday of the month (exception is 8th April), and the next session is 4th March.

We’ve also held 2 “Woolly Workshops” for knitters and crocheters of all abilities. More of these are planned for later in the year.

On 18th March we will be holding a new workshop – “An Introduction to Calligraphy”. Here we will be demonstrating the use of a traditional dip pen, plus pen exercises and examples to look at. You will use pens with a cartridge for ease. All materials provided. Calligraphy is an art which takes months possibly years to master, so this workshop will give you a taster. For more details on booking, please see posters around the village or the village website. Places are limited, so please book up if you’re interested.

25th March sees our second talk of 2024. Simon Card OBE will be telling us about the history of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust, the helicopters and the advanced equipment used by their highly trained paramedics and doctors. He will talk about night-flying, fundraising, and their plans for the future.

On 22nd April, we’ll be holding a Quiz Night, and on 20th May, Michael Pritchard will be giving a talk about Peco. Look out for more details of these events nearer the time.

In early June, Graham Stark will again be running tours of Shute Barton, the nearby National Trust property. A very worthwhile visit for those who haven’t been.

We've more talks and events planned. Having listened to your ideas as to what you would like us to arrange, we've tried to include some of them. One such idea was a Bingo Night which we held back in February. Depending on its popularity, we may be holding more later in the year!

Please keep coming along to our events and workshops. They are great for socialising with other villagers and learning something new at the same time.

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



**DO YOU HAVE
TIME TO CHAT?**

COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDER?

At the Community Waffle House, we're on the lookout for people in the Axe Valley area who can spare 1-2 hours a week chatting to people who are in need of a conversation.

Can you help?

If you think you could be a volunteer befriender, please drop us an email or give us a call.

community@waffle.org.uk 01297 34694

The Waffle House

At the Community Waffle House we are passionate about two types of waffle:

The first you can eat. Specifically Liège waffles which we make from scratch early in the morning before we open. We have a recipe for Liège Waffles handed down to our co-founder Sophie through generations of her Belgian family who used to cook waffles for Jews they were hiding during the Second World War. Sophie's great-grandad received a medal for his efforts from the King of Belgium. The family still come together over a waffle to this day.

The second type of waffle is often defined as "talking in a vague and trivial manner" which doesn't sound like something that you would want to base a company on.

But we are massive advocates for this type of Waffle: full flavoured, face-to-face, adventurous conversation.

What we have learnt is that when it comes to tackling loneliness it's not so much what you talk about as much as it is about who you are willing to talk to and how you talk to them; about the courage it takes to start up conversations with new people and the radical discipline it takes to stay fully present in a conversation. In other words, waffling (as we define it) is much more about the *intent* than the *content*.

And we call this kind of Waffling adventurous because it's really not easy to do in today's society. Despite the concerns about what has been labelled 'an epidemic of loneliness', there is at the same time a growing social norm that we should just leave each other alone.

We often say that it has never been harder to start up a face-to-face conversation with someone and that might sound bold but when you think about it, loneliness really does have the perfect conditions to grow in:

We don't have any time for a start. And even if we make the time there just aren't any humans around; they've been beamed up from supermarkets and surgeries, many of our community spaces have disappeared and more and more people simply live alone.

But supposing you do find a human to talk to (who's not busy), then we've got all this within-reach technology designed to make an economy out of our attention that makes it super easy to avoid and ignore people and really hard to be present. Paying attention has never had such a price tag.

And even if we find the time, find a human to bump into that isn't plugged into tech - if we're honest, many of us have lost the art of conversation and certainly the enthusiasm and courage needed to have these adventurous conversations that are considered counter-cultural if not downright dangerous.

So 5 years ago we decided to set up a Waffle House with the hope of working in the opposite direction and making our community more... waffly.

Our Waffle Houses are community bases from where we try to build the kind of communities that we dream of, communities where people are not left unseen, unheard and unwanted.

We do that by empowering individuals, organisations and communities to pursue adventurous, everyday conversations, as we know that every friendship starts with an (often slightly waffly and slightly risky) interaction.

As a result, everything we do from schools workshops to gardening, games clubs to tech support is geared around developing the art of, and creating opportunities for, conversation.

As three young(ish) directors that grew up in the local area we are really excited to be able to invest in our community and always welcome any help from anyone who might be able to lend a hand - of whatever age!

We have 70 year-olds helping to take orders and 15 year olds doing work experience; so we'd love to hear from you if you'd like to find out more about joining in!

Matt Smith

More about the Waffle House at <https://waffle.org.uk/>

Regular groups include (check online for time)

Tuesdays	Mornings	Tech Tuesday, Talking Cafe,
	Afternoons	Chess club
	Evenings.	Magic the Gathering

Wednesdays	Mornings	Knit and Natter, Waffle walks
	Afternoons	Lego club

Thursday.	Evenings	Archway Bookclub, Pokemon Club
------------------	----------	--------------------------------

Ralphie's bit

Thank goodness! It's that time of year again when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. 'Tis a time for frolicking and fun. A time for a quick gambol in the daisy strewn meadows. A time to dip those toes frivolously in the cold waters of a babbling brook. A time for enjoying the natural gifts around us!

And gracious me, there appears to be some rather risqué behaviour taking place in my garden. And do you know what? I must confess I am rather enjoying every moment of it. But fear not dear reader, I have not taken leave of my senses and adopted a naughty Bohemian lifestyle. You do not find me

swanning around, wine goblet in hand, dressed in a gaudy coloured, silk kaftan indulging in a dreadfully debauched manner. I can assure you there is no inappropriate behaviour going on in my back garden.



No, I speak of the work of dear old Dame Nature who has been quite busy in the Ralphie residence. The dame has been flitting about casting her captivating spell on the flora and fauna who were not so long ago struggling with the cold and frosty winds that blew in from those nasty old foreign parts of the world where they never see the sunshine! Spring has finally arrived, bushes are budding and the wildlife is getting awfully frisky!

Shrubs that I feared had withered and died in the frosty weather are forcing out dainty little green buds on their fragile looking twigs, daffodils dance merrily in the soft breeze, pretty little birds twitter as they cheerfully hop onto the bird feeder in search of the odd nut and bees buzz busily from flower to flower humming their cheery little pollen collecting song. In the pond a new family of goldfish lazily emerge from the weeds demanding food.

After last year's tragic and appalling events when, if you recall, the idyllic existence of my water based friends was dramatically snuffed out by a callous wildlife sniper attack, I am pleased to announce that four toads have appeared and are shamelessly flirting on the lily pads.

Whilst on the subject of the pond, and before I go any further, it is here that I have to do my duty and drop down on bended knees (not so easy to do these days if I may say so) and humbly proffer a public apology and retraction. If you remember my poor pond was dramatically emptied of everything that moved leaving your poor writer in a sad state of loss and grief. And following an exhaustive and thorough enquiry, the finger of blame blatantly pointed to a beady eyed heron. On being found guilty the bird was banished and the pond was completely bird-proofed and restocked. But now, with head bowed low in shame, I can now advise that the "Friends of the Heron" brigade can discard their "Free The Heron" t-shirts, for after further detective work the real culprit has been uncovered.

I have been presented with photographic evidence that the real villain of the piece was a callous, evil little otter! In the revealing picture he is sat, as bold as brass, by the pond with a half eaten goldfish in his mouth, and to make matters worse he is grinning broadly from ear to ear without a care in the world. So the heron has now been exonerated of all guilt and a nationwide search is now on for the otter who is wanted for questioning (if spotted do not approach. He's not dangerous, but his breath isn't very pleasant if you get too close). And as for me, I am extremely remorseful for the false accusation and lock myself in a dark, damp room, beating myself regularly with wet bramble twigs as a punishment for tarnishing the reputation of an innocent bird.

So, as one of Musbury's greatest crimes has finally been solved, a new spring begins. Once again all is well in the garden, but in amongst the beauty and scents of the fresh blooms I have learnt that evil can lurk with intent, and so I issue this stern warning to any feathered, furry or scaled animal, if any of you dare go anywhere near my pond licking your lips in anticipation of a good fish dinner, there will be serious repercussions! And remember, I still have those heavy boots!

Ralph



Musbury Heritage - News & More

Discussion Group

In the last Parish News, I announced my intention to try regular meetings to discuss Musbury's history. My rather uninspired name for these was the 'Musbury Heritage Discussion Group'.

The first date has been set for Saturday, 13 April 2024. It will be held in the small village hall starting at 10:30 am and will be expected to last a couple of hours. Please come along and join in the discussion, which I will start by talking about some of my current projects. You do not have to bring anything, but if you have something you would like to discuss, please do. Don't feel you will be badgered into volunteering, as I will just value the knowledge and opinions of Musbury residents past or present. There will be posters, etc. around the village nearer the time to publicise the event. All are welcome. I would particularly appreciate seeing some of our longer-standing residents there, so we can benefit from their memories of Musbury's past, but you are just as welcome if you are new to the village.

Dead Horse Lane and others

I am hardly a lover of social media, but occasionally a discussion does produce something of interest. Recently a Facebook user enquired about the infirmary that shows on old maps where Spillers Farm is today (on the right along Seaton Road as you drive out of the village). I and others pointed out this was a Veterinary Infirmary and had nothing to do with the treatment of people. This prompted another comment that as Dead Horse Lane ended just behind this infirmary, it may have something to do with its unusual name. Well, some of you may recall an article I wrote about a controversial vet named David Rawle, who operated out of this Veterinary Infirmary from about 1871. Among his many visits to the legal courts, there were prosecutions for ill-treating horses and his practice of failing to bury the carcasses of cows and horses. Whether it was for metaphorically 'flogging a dead horse' or perhaps leaving a dead horse at the back of his smallholding, he likely gave the lane its name. [Search 'vet' on the home page of www.musburyheritage.co.uk for the story about David Rawle]

This prompted me to wonder about other unusual names in Musbury. A long-standing local has told me about 'Gooseberry Lane', another dead-end that you will find running off Maidenhayne Lane. Presumably, it was somewhere people went to pick fruit off bushes, though it is tempting to think it might be something to do with the expression 'to play gooseberry'. It is a quiet dead-end lane with hedgerows on either side where perhaps an innocent farmhand may have stumbled upon an amorous couple? Will we ever know?

Does anyone know of another unusually named lane or road in Musbury? I would be pleased to hear a story or investigate a possible reason behind a name.

The Brook

Have you ever wondered where the brook that runs down through the village disappears to under The Street? We know it meanders through Musbury Barton, squeezes between the Old Post House and Yew Tree Cottage, appears again between Crossways and May Cottage, but only reappears on the other side of the A358.

The route shown opposite is from the Tithe Apportionments map of c.1839. The blue shows the line of the brook and where the colour is lighter it has gone underground.

Did you know this was an open sewer in Fore Street (now The Street) until about 1870? Tenders were requested for arching over 240 feet of the brook in March 1870, so this is presumed to have been completed within a couple of years of then. How long the brook continued to be used as a sewer is not known. There were outbreaks of Typhus Fever in the village in the 1880s, which was resolved by laying a new sewer and flushing out parts of the old system. Reports of sewage problems continued in the 1920s and 1930s. Indeed, it was only in 1944 that connecting Musbury to the main sewage system was being considered.

This is not the most pleasant of subjects but is important when considering the history of the health of the people of Musbury. Hopefully, it will be possible to complete a more comprehensive account of the water supply and drainage issues of the village in due course, but more research will be needed.



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

An introduction from your New Parish Councillors

Cllr Andrew Moulding

Born in Axminster, Andrew was educated locally and directed his own company in Axminster for 24 years. He is married to Mary and retired six years ago from his employment for 16 years with Somerset County Cricket Club.

Andrew has been Chairman of East Devon District Council, where he was a District Councillor for 36 years & is a former Chairman of Devon County Council.

Andrew served as a Governor at Axe Valley Community College for over 20 years and led the development of Cloakham Lawn Sports Centre which offers sporting and social opportunities for people of all ages.

Andrew is a trustee of Axminster Heritage and Patron of ARC Bereavement Service.

Andrew and Mary have now lived in Musbury for 30 years. Andrew loves life in the village and now that he has retired as a District and County Councillor, he is delighted that he has been co-opted onto Musbury Parish Council.

Cllr Morag Hughes

Morag was born in Germany, her Dad was from Northern Ireland & served in the British Army whilst her Mum served in the RAF & was from Ottery St Mary. She spent a few years there and in Hereford before moving to Honiton in 1976.

Morag moved to Axminster in 1996 and has lived and worked in Musbury since 2015 where she is now manager of the local shop. She has 2 children, Lana, 27 who is in the Army and Kyle, 22 is in the RAF.

Morag spent 4 enjoyable years in the army reserves and still enjoys being active, walking with 2 boisterous dogs, running and spending time at home with the dogs, cats and chickens.

Morag loves living in Musbury. She believes it's a very friendly place to live and she looks forward to contributing to the village by joining the Parish Council & will assume joint responsibility for the Footpaths in Musbury.

Cllr Dr Nigel Starey

“I have lived in the village for the last fifteen years, when I retired (for the first time!) from a career as a family doctor in Derbyshire. Having settled in the village I returned to work for the next ten years as a locum GP and also worked for the GP out of hours service and latterly for the Care Quality Commission and the Covid vaccination programme. Following on from my clinical career as a doctor, I now keep active in retirement by walking my dog – I completed the South West Coast Path 640 miles, and by supporting a local Woodland cooperative to gather enough wood to keep us warm in winter. I also wrote and published a second book “Health and social care in the digital world” CRC press ISBN – 978-0-367-85839-1 2020. Married to Sarah, we have been slowly renovating our ancient Devon farmhouse with the help of local tradesmen and builders. Our scattered family and friends keep us busy alongside some voluntary work and gardening when the weather allows.”

Local community involvement is important to both Nigel & Sarah including volunteering for the Axminster Waffle programme and a local woodland management scheme.

Having been co-opted onto the Parish council at the beginning of February Nigel will assume joint responsibility for the Footpaths in Musbury, many of which he regularly walks with his dog.

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

The Parish Council still has a vacant seat to be filled. 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 councillors attend to the 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.

Musbury Allotments

The PC confirm that there are currently both half & full plots available for rent in the Allotment Field. There is no waiting list so if you know of anyone who would like to be added to the list, please contact the clerk. In these times of rising food costs, growing your own is more important than ever.

The main expenditure in the past year has been the payment of water bills. To counter this, the water is turned off for the months of December, January and February when there is less requirement for water and more likelihood of pipes bursting or leaks going undetected.

Current plot holders are reminded that allotments are let on the condition that it is maintained in a state of proper cultivation and is used for its intended purposes (to cultivate the land for personal consumption and/or enjoyment) and not left idle. Allotment garden(s) and pathways must be kept clean & reasonably free from weeds & in a good state of cultivation and fertility. You must keep every hedge that adjoins your allotment garden unobstructed and properly cut and trimmed as is reasonably possible & not throw rubbish or derelict equipment into the hedge. You must keep & maintain by cutting to a reasonable level, any grass pathway adjoining the plot(s) on the uphill side. The use of herbicide must not extend outside of that land actually cultivated by you.

The allotments are a great asset to the village, we take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the ongoing maintenance, especially Mr Allen Parkman for his continuous work with the Parish Council.

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately, there continues to be an issue with dog fouling in the village and surrounding area. The Parish Council appreciates that most dog owners act responsibly and clear up after their dog. If you witness dog fouling, the easiest way to report it is via the EDDC app.

If you own a smart phone or similar, please do download the app and then use it to report the fouling issues. It's quite a useful tool for reporting many other things too!

Roads & Crime

Parking on the roads of Musbury continues to be an ongoing issue. 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 their App or the following <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-parking-problem/>. The customer service centre number for enforcement of on-street parking restrictions is 0345 155 1004

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.

Sue Coombe

Parish Clerk

musburyparishclerk@gmail.com

01460 495107

Thanks to all our advertisers

The income from the adverts appearing in this magazine allow every household in Musbury to receive a free copy of the Parish News

Could readers show their support by using these services where possible.

Garden services, a blacksmith, electricians, green energy advice, memorial stones, printing, and financial advice. Not forgetting a bookshop, a decorator, bed and breakfast, accountancy, and funeral services. Also organic vegetables, organic meat, an estate agent, chimney sweeping, and your local shop and garage.

All these are offered along with days out at a local tourist attraction, and tree surgery

'Gastropodcast'

Permit me if you will to speak briefly on the subject of the slug - and more pertinently its' insatiable, twice as grisly cousin the snail, some of the accursed things as big as croquet balls. Indeed, a great many appear to be even *bigger* than croquet balls, and you don't need to be David Attenborough in all his pomp to determine precisely *why* either. They spend most of their waking hours filling their dear little bellies with our potted plants, that's why, callously reducing vast sections of unfortunate herbage to spindly stalks in just a couple of sittings. Little wonder snail stomachs are so swollen. Looking closely at one or two of them (not an avocation I'd make a habit of if I were you) one observes their rounded, bloated abdomens as to be so vast they give the impression they're on the verge of becoming too big for their flimsy shells. But all the same, and in defiance of this, they press on in their self-indulgent, opportunistic manner no matter what, untroubled by the disproportionate aesthetic their recklessness could potentially impose upon them and seemingly unconcerned they may soon be transformed into gastropod themed Elephant Men if they don't watch out.

The rapacity of snails is without parallel. As far as free-at-point-of-source munchies are concerned they are utterly unmerciful. They devour virtually everything they can slither inexorably onto, and what ill-fated foliage they omit to polish off completely is left resembling pretty, green doilies that wither away to dried out parchment soon after. And are they in any way shamefaced or self-reproachful about this gastronomic theft, this underhand piggishness? Sad to relate, the answer is no. For not only are the thieving, unsympathetic little chancers greedy beyond redemption they are contemptuous with it. Why, they are so cavalier in their mercenary attitude it bothers them not one jot that they leave behind them a vital clue, a clue so easy to spot and subsequently unravel it makes you marvel at the sheer brazenness of it. Take my word for it, that silvery, mother-of-pearl trail they criss cross the garden with is little more than a snail's smoking gun; a cynical, two-fingered attestation of their noxious presence in and around your terracotta pots more blatant, more more emphatic than the whacking great 'Z' that Zorro used to leave behind him whenever he'd been on the rampage.

"We'll scoff as much of your vegetation as we can hold," they seem to be saying, "and then we'll cover everything in shiny slime just to show it was us, and who is actually in charge here."

Compassionate? Considerate? No, snails don't give a dewdrop in a rain barrel.

If only all types of garden weed were on their menu. If only snails and slugs gobbled up dandelions, nettles and daisies as readily and consistently as they put away our tender shrubs. I'd encourage the little charm monkeys if that were the case, farm them, take up snail-whispering even. But to have in one's garden a permanently placed, continually ravenous creature that regards all types of weed as its' staple foodstuff would be too easy would it not, too convenient?

I think Mother Nature seems to have missed a trick here. I think it is remiss of her not to have bestowed upon slugs and snails the vitally important responsibility that is systematic weed control. Not only would it free human beings from the back-breaking, perennial torture that is cleansing the garden of quackgrass, nutsedge et al, it would undoubtedly preserve the lives of countless gastropods into the bargain. After all, who but a madman would set out to dispatch a snail that was about to tuck in to that unsightly couch grass, growing like bamboo smack bang in the middle of the herbaceous border?

Regrettably, life rarely turns out to be logical or indeed sporting does it? (beyond everything, The Birdie Song would never have gotten within a hundred miles of a recording studio if life was anything like logical or sporting) Where innocent, perfectly healthy young plants are frequently chomped down into the digestive systems of repulsive, garden masticators so a hectare or two of disagreeable, unfavoured weed growth is allowed to blossom and remain undefiled, robust to the point of other-worldliness and greener than Kermit the Frog's kneecaps. It's unreasonable that's what it is and disheartening into the bargain. Even for a reluctant, unenthusiastic gardener such as myself it is soul destroying to frequently discover that one's carefully nurtured verdure has been targeted and subsequently annihilated by unremittingly pitiless slugs and snails. More than this, my being forced to constantly replace the decimated flora is not only frustrating and inconvenient it is dashed expensive besides. I might just as well give the avaricious eating machines the contents of my wallet to eat, cut out the plants and garden centre altogether.

Petunias. The little gutbuckets *love* petunias. The garden centre people should rename petunias; 'snail feed - delicious, buffet-style, fast food for snails.' And fast food it most certainly is. I don't know why I don't leave a large bag of fries and a banana milk shake in each pot and have done with it. Not a single petunia we've ever bought has survived the first couple of nights in its new planter. By morning, battalions of gannet-like, stoney hearted snails have reduced the defenceless blossoms to scraggy, sorry looking leftovers. It's cruel.

So in an effort to torpedo the zeal, and in so doing perhaps curb the appetite of these ravenous, alien slimeballs we invested in some (hugely overpriced) fibrous pellets, the organic type that are supposedly unkind to slugs and snails but do no harm whatsoever to the indigenous flora and fauna. As the theory goes, the pulpy yet bristly, wooden fibre pieces are supposed to irritate the undersides of the perennially peckish varmints to such an extent they are obliged to recoil in horror, vamoose rapidly (if a snail can do *anything* rapidly that is) and thereafter cast about for complimentary sustenance elsewhere in the garden - or more favourably someone *else's* garden.

'Gastropodcast' cont

Now, quite naturally, and in our desperation to find the key to our wolfish snail problem we assumed that the purchase of the fibrous pellets would not only be a credible investment but a prudent measure to boot, so it was a case of our bringing these things quickly into play or perhaps implementing another 'foolproof' method of nocturnal pest control we'd heard tell of involving deliberately positioned containers of beer - an old wives tale of an approach that we had neither trust nor too much confidence in. Inebriated snails and slugs so pie-eyed and precarious they stagger about comically and then topple over and drown themselves in a mini reservoir of milk stout? It seemed a somewhat fanciful concept to us, besides which (and knowing the sort of luck we have regarding all things horticultural) we could quite easily have imagined our drunken, uninvited guests drinking our beer trays dry, slithering back home to sleep it off then returning the following night for another round of unfettered, undisturbed scoffing down and grogging up. And let's be honest, if these unforgiving molluscs can boast a thirst that even comes close to matching their unrivalled capacity for sinfully consuming greenery, then no amount of gratuitous wallop on this Earth is going to unsettle and thereafter neutralise them.

So we opted for the pellets.

Trust me they don't work, leastways not the ones we handed over a small chest full of gold coins for. Despite spreading the prickly repellent all around the bases of the most appetising of our young plants, we found it made virtually no difference whatsoever to the appalling amount of destruction we would find within a couple of days or so. The entire exercise turned out to be a total waste of time, effort and money. Yes, time, effort and money thrown away, all of it down the metaphorical drain. Bet your desolate, petunia graveyard pots on it.

To sum up then. Slugs and snails are the supreme overlords of unbridled gourmandism, with bellies full of snaffled flowers that weren't theirs to snaffle and gruesome heads full of misguided notions of worthiness and self-entitlement. And there doesn't appear to be too much the green-fingered fraternity can do to rein the little rascals in, other than stand guard all night armed with flashlights, sharp sticks and a keen ear for the sounds of ominous slithering and wildly out of control chomping, chewing and belching.

Us poor, ill-omened gardeners. In our naivety, in and in the hope we might bring a smattering of colour to our modest estates we think we are buying and planting decorative, aesthetically pleasing-to-the-eye additions to our patios. It turns out we are spending hard earned brass on little more than free, all-you-can-eat supper for gangs of gutty, slippery slugs and snails and, in innovations like feeble, organic, bug-busting pellets, something comfortable to sit on whilst they eat it.

Gary

Musbury Flower Project

What is it? A crafting project to be displayed in the Church porch in June, to tie in with the proposed Scarecrow Festival at the beginning of June, and Musbury Barton National Garden Scheme days at the end of June. Money raised through donations collected in the church will go to the fund to provide a servery and toilet for the church.

What will it look like? A curtain of flowers knitted, crocheted or sewn, will be attached to netting and displayed on the two inside walls of the porch and above the inner door.



How can I help? We need people to knit, crochet or sew flowers that are between 10cm and 20cm (4in and 8in) across, and have a 45 cm (18in) end of wool left on for use in sewing later on. We need a LOT of flowers by 19th April. There are no restrictions on patterns for the flowers, but if you prefer to have a pattern just ask and one can be emailed, or a paper pattern delivered to you in the village.

Where do the finished flowers go? They can be collected from you in the village, or they can be left in a box in the church on the first pew to the left as you enter.

Progress to date Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help so far. We have had some lovely creations knitted, sewn and crocheted. And not just flowers but some butterflies and bees as well.

What next? We will be asking for help later on to sew the flowers to the netting, so look out for posters on noticeboards and appeals on Facebook.

If you would like to join in too, but would like further information.

email sue.leach17@gmail.com phone 553521 or

email jdmalbano@gmail.com phone 552793

School Report

In December, we opened our doors to family members for our class galleries, showcasing children's artwork based on the artists Andy Goldsworthy for our KS2 children and Matisse, Thomas and Hockney for our KS1 children. The children also shared their learning in calculation and reading. The school has welcomed support from the Church community to enhance our RE curriculum on Christianity in Open the Book sessions, and these have continued into the new year. During one of these sessions, the children were supported to make a Christingle, and these featured in our end of term service.

Also in December, our oldest children took part in singing lessons with the music lead from Axe Valley and performed in a Christmas themed concert to a live orchestra.

In January, our school playleaders have resumed their roles in school, leading play activities at lunch time, supporting and developing skills such as running, jumping and catching as well as building on knowledge of competitive games, the opportunity to work on movement sequences and strengthen relationships between older and younger children.

The infant class has been full of keen historians, who have been exploring Kings, Queens and the Victorians as well as experimenting with junk modelling to create their own castles. They will continue this subject after half term and visit Powderham Castle to enrich their studies.

The whole school have taken part in National Online Safety Day on February 6th. The children in Class One have been learning all about the importance of being safe online. They worked as a class to develop strategies to use to keep themselves safe whilst using their online devices. Class Two had a great afternoon exploring technology through time from home gaming to education. We also discussed and formed opinions about the benefits and concerns of Artificial Intelligence.

Meeting with the Ethos team, they have expressed a wish to support the village community. One suggestion has been to build a litter picking team and visit the footpaths in the village. Equally, we would love to welcome more members of the community into school to share their skills and experience with the children. Below are some of the activities which you may be able to help us with:

- The school would like to develop a team of reading champions to support the progress of reading, so if you are able to spare a couple of hours a week, we would love to hear from you.

- As our half term comes to an end, we are looking forward to supporting the village in making flowers to reach the grand total of 700 by April. We hope to welcome some members of the local community in to school after half term to help us sew our flowers.
- We will be celebrating World Book Day on 7th March with a variety of activities.
- We will also be participating in National Science Week which is the week commencing 11th March with hands-on experiments to develop enquiry skills.

Please contact the school office if you would like to help with any of these events.

Best wishes

Clair Murrell

Head of Teaching and Learning

Musbury Primary School 01297 552687

Musbury Short Mat Bowls

Friday afternoons have continued throughout the winter with members enjoying many full sessions using all three mats on many occasions.

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas Meal at the Hind with many members attending.

We are now looking forward to the Ted's Trophy on March 22nd. The Pomeroy family are asking that we raise money towards Cancer Research in memory of Dennis this year. Everyone is welcome to come and watch and join in the afternoon. A raffle will take place and donation of prizes welcome.

Our AGM takes place at the end of April (26th) at the beginning of the session. Hopefully, we shall still have time for a couple of games.

Musbury Short Mat Bowls Club is a popular club and we have a full membership at present. We are therefore starting a waiting list. Do let us know if you are interested in joining that list.

We continue to enjoy the company of friends on a Friday afternoon as well as having fun as we improve our skill as bowlers.

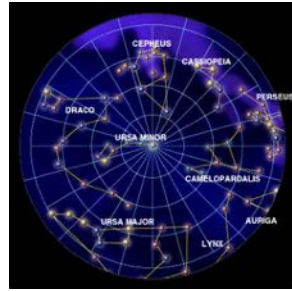
Kay Short

Secretary 552711

shortatbeacon@gmail.com

The Sky at Night

March signals a change in the southern skies with the winter constellations gradually moving away and the spring and summer constellations appearing. I wonder if you have ever looked at the southern skies and then the northern skies to see the difference. The south is forever moving on with the changes of seasons, whereas the northern skies (or at least the bulk of it) is going round in circles. This is because in the north we have the Circumpolar constellations. These are a set of constellations which, because of where we live, which basically go round and round Polaris. Some of you may have seen photos of star trails. These are easy to do, by simply placing your camera facing north and leaving it to take an image for a couple of hours. You will end up with a picture like this.



The longer you leave your camera the more circular the trails appear. I'm sure many of you can recognise at least two or three of these constellations as they include asterisms (patterns) which we know, like the plough, the W, the dragon, the upside down house.

In the southern skies, Orion, Taurus and Gemini will still be visible until 10pm, but as we move through April and May they will gradually disappear. Now we have Cancer, Leo, Virgo, and Canis major and Canis Minor, but some of these are not easy to spot as they don't all have patterns which we easily recognise. Leo is a constellation which is easy enough to find as it looks like a seated lion and if you have a small telescope it has some lovely stars to look at, and with a larger telescope there are three galaxies below it. Between Leo and Virgo is the Virgo cluster, which is thought to contain 1000 – 2000 galaxies. Many of these were discovered in the 1700 by Messier, who was creating a list of fuzzy objects which were not comets. Basically this list was where not to look in the sky, whereas today it is a list which people view over and over for its variety and beauty.

We have two meteor showers, one in April and one in May. On the night of 22/23 April the Lyrid meteor shower should look very good this year as the moon is just past New moon phase. This comes from the constellation of Lyra in the southern skies. The second one is in May, but the moon is just past Full and will spoil the view. The Eta Aquarids meteor shower is caused as the earth moves through tiny pieces of Halley's comet on our journey round the sun.

On March 16th we have a family fun at the NLO for British Science week. There will be talks, planetarium shows, children's activities, and lots to see around the domes and technology centre. To learn more look at normanlockyer.com and check out all our opening times and meetings times through the year.

The Norman Lockyer Observatory

An old Devonshire recipe for Orange Marmalade

Conserve

Take three Seville oranges, one sweet orange, one lemon, 5 pounds of sugar, 5 pints of water. Cut fruit in half, squeeze all the juice out, put straight in a preserving pan. Cut up the peel as finely as possible with very sharp knives, put into the pan also and 5 pints of water. Leave to soak for 24 hours. Put the pips to soak in a little water separately; boil them for some time and strain off into the other pan. Boil all for one hour without sugar, and then, without letting it cool, for 2 hours with sugar. When the juice begins to jellify on a cold saucer, it is done.

This recipe is from May Byron's Pot Luck, a collection of recipes she found in old manuscripts, notebooks etc. Considering that the book was published in 1914, that makes the recipes well over 100 years old. Note that the reader has a good grasp of cookery skills, not like books today with every stage, temperature and piece of equipment carefully described

Sarah

Village Hall

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

As mentioned last time, we applied for funding available from East Devon District Council, for installation of Solar Panels on the Hall. Unfortunately, we weren't successful. The Council was inundated with applications and with limited funding, we, along with many others, were disappointed.

We continue to search out funding opportunities to maintain and improve the Village Hall.

Installation of Wi-Fi in the Hall has also been 'put on 'ice for the time being. Any additional spending must be weighed up with the current increased costs for energy. It's something we may visit again in the future, but to be honest, most users of the Hall can now go online via their smart phones without the need for Wi-Fi.

The AGM took place on February 12th.

It was well attended with a discussion taking place on various topics, from how cold the Hall was on occasions (!) to the proposed increase in rental fees. The latter was decided at an increase of £1 per hour. This will contribute to the current high energy costs.

The existing Committee all decided to re-stand and were elected successfully. As has been requested for some time now, the Committee asked for further volunteers to join them, to enhance the team and bring fresh ideas.

Success! Martin Minter and Graham Stark requested to join. Both were successfully proposed and seconded (Graham in his absence) to the Committee.

We hope they bring enthusiasm and ideas to the existing team.

The usual activities have taken place over the last quarter and Jackie Gooding continues to do a sterling job at controlling the bookings system. Not an easy task!

The Musbury Community Club continue to provide villagers with events that cover a wide spectrum of interests. The 'Art for Everyone' class, which is run monthly, is extremely popular as is the 'Woolly Workshop'. Other talks are planned, along with the start of what hopefully will be a monthly 'Bingo Night'. 'Introduction to Calligraphy' is another great idea. Please support these events otherwise you'll lose them!

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



LOCAL ORGANIC VEGETABLES DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

trillfarmgarden.co.uk/boxscheme
ashley@trillfarmgarden.co.uk



HANSFORDS FUNERAL SERVICE

*Still a family run business, serving the local
community of East Devon for over 50 years*

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans 

Tel. **01297 22538**
(24 Hour Service)

Office and Chapel of Rest at
**Bay View, Trevelyan Rd,
Seaton, EX12 2NL**
www.hansfords-funeral.co.uk



Trusted Local Independent Family Business
FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MONUMENTAL MASONS

OVERMASS & CHAPPLE

CHAPPLE COURT, QUEEN STREET, SEATON 01297 20644



Julian & Karen Hussey DipFD NAFD



Jerry Parkhouse

- Offices also at Honiton, Ottery St. Mary & Bridport
- Pre-arranged & prepaid funeral plans



W. G. POTTER

WEST STREET, AXMINSTER 01297 34283

www.funeraldirectors.uk.com

Wealth management
Financial planning
Pensions & retirement
Estate planning
Helping you reach new heights in your financial life



**BRIGHT FUTURE
FINANCIAL**
INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVICE

Contact us to arrange a free no obligation consultation

www.brightfuturefinancial.co.uk

Call us on 01297 642048

Bright Future Financial Ltd is an Appointed Representative of Vision Independent Financial Planning Ltd which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Firm reference number 487395. The FCA does not regulate estate planning.

Post Office, Spar and Garage

As we move towards Spring, in your local Spar we are once again supporting Marie Curie, selling daffodils with 10p from every bunch donated to this worthwhile cause. Following our minor shop revamp, you hopefully have had chance to sample the take-away dishes in our new COOK freezer, as a new range of Indian, Thai, and Chinese food makes it to Musbury. Just looking around our shop also makes me realise just how many local suppliers are now involved here - fresh milk sourced from Colcombe Abbey in Colyton is an obvious one, but we also have Haye Farm organic meats, Gilt & Flint organic beers (both Musbury), Gyle 59 beer from Thorncombe, Moores Biscuits from Bridport, Marshwood Scrumpers apple juice (from you guessed it - Marshwood!) and many, many more.



I'm sure many of you watched the Mr Bates vs The Post Office on ITV recently. What a well-acted and moving story, that I must admit, I didn't find easy to watch. All those decent, innocent sub-Postmasters wrongly accused causing so many financial, mental, and physical issues. Although it's way too long coming, it's good to finally see names being cleared and compensation being paid.

We have recently invested in new equipment in our workshop, with additional specialist diagnostic tools at the top of the list. We also now have some new cleaning kit, enabling us to clean troublesome diesel particulate filters (DPFs) on the vehicle rather than them having to be removed and sent away, saving a great deal of off-the-road issues for our customers.

We are in the process of ordering some new vehicles for our rental fleet; look out for these, plus the vehicles leaving the fleet being offered for sale. They are all meticulously maintained and in excellent condition. There are no high-pressure sales techniques here, feel free to browse if you're interested, and a test drive is never a problem.

That's all from me, thanks once again for all your support.

Julian Rinaldi,

Musbury Garage 01297 552292

RING & RIDE

TRIPS FOR 2024 - ZONE 2 + 4

Please pay for your trip on the day directly to the driver.

Saturday Trips: First pick up 9.00am Return 4pm (**Times are approximate**)

Thursday Trips: First pick up 12.30pm Return 4.30pm

MARCH

Saturday 2nd Wells £18

England's smallest city. The magnificent Cathedral and Green are jewels in a crown of ancient streets, glorious buildings and characterful shops.

Thursday 7th Combe Garden Centre, Honiton £9

Large choice of plants and garden necessities, lifestyle shop and restaurant.

Thursday 14th Shopping in Taunton £9

Thursday 21st Otterton Mill £9

Experience the ancient traditions of flour milling, bread baking and much more! Enjoy the historic working watermill, cafe-restaurant, local food shop, gift shop and gallery.

Thursday 28^h Shopping in Sidmouth £9

APRIL

Thursday 4th Topsham £9

Visit this thriving shopping town. Many independent shops, restaurants and cafés

Saturday 6th Dawlish and Teignmouth £18

Enjoy a drive along the coast and visit these seaside resorts!

Thursday 11th Otter Nurseries Garden Centre £9

Thursday 18th Blackdown Garden Centre, nr Wellington £9

Somerset's leading Garden Centre! Then down the road to Rumwell Farm Shop.

Thursday 25th Donkey Sanctuary, Weston, nr Sidmouth £9

Walk around the sanctuary and interact with the resident donkeys! Refreshments in The Kitchen. Gift shop and indoor attractions.

MAY

Thursday 2nd Shopping in Sidmouth £9

Thursday 9th Shopping in Weymouth £9

Saturday 11th Poole £18

Enjoy the bustling quay and shops, walk on the beautiful beach or visit Brownsea Island in the stunning natural harbour

Thursday 16th Mystery drive with a stop for tea £9

Thursday 23rd Monkton Elm Garden Centre, Taunton £9

Taunton's premier garden and pet centre. Family restaurant

Thursday 30th Shopping in Dorchester £9

JUNE

Thursday 6th Otter Nurseries Garden Centre £9

Saturday 8th Dartmoor £18

Enjoy a drive over beautiful Dartmoor with stops for shopping and refreshment.

Thursday 13th Portland £9

Visit the Isle of Portland, a wonderfully isolated coastal area. Lighthouse and café for tea.

Thursday 20th Shopping in Exmouth £9

Situated at the mouth of the beautiful Exe estuary and at the very beginning of the Jurassic Coast, Exmouth is one of the most picturesque seaside towns in Devon.

Thursday 27th Connaught Gardens, Sidmouth £9

These gardens are a delight. Views of the bay, invigorating sea air, quaint restaurant



Piano Man

The immediacy of playing a musical instrument not only gives great pleasure but also a sense of achievement. In a world where instant distraction challenges us for our attention, it can seem daunting to learn complex skills and take on the vast associated knowledge but studies show there are significant benefits for the brain of students of all ages. In learning an instrument we can gain familiarity with skills that unexpectedly cross over to life. Numeracy and literacy, gaining understanding and internalising concepts, building good personal habits. These broaden the palette of a well rounded person's knowledge and sense of worth beyond the activity itself.

The piano is a great instrument for learning music and harmony. The span of notes is laid out in front of you on the keyboard in a linear fashion. It is also the instrument with perhaps the greatest amount of music written for it, pianists really are spoilt for choice. If you are looking for a piano teacher who can help you achieve your musical goals, whether you are a beginner or advanced player, you could benefit from the guidance of Patrick Ytting, a professional pianist and composer based near Lyme Regis.

Patrick has played the piano since age six and enjoys sharing his passion for music with his students. He has a Masters degree in music performance from the University of Chichester and has performed across the UK and Europe both as solo recitalist and with bands and ensembles. He also composes and records original music for films, documentaries, and video games and has taught music and advanced instrumental studies at university level.

Patrick offers piano lessons for all ages and levels, from classical to contemporary styles. He can help you improve your technique, sight-reading, ear training, theory, and broaden your repertoire. He can also prepare you for exams, auditions, or performances, or simply help you enjoy playing the piano for fun.

Patrick teaches from his home studio in Devon, part of a beautiful Victorian house that used to be a school. He charges £40 per hour (half hour lessons £20), block bookings receive a 5% discounted price. Patrick offers a taster lesson for new students for £35 (half hour £17.5).

If you are interested in learning more about Patrick and his piano lessons, you can visit his website <https://thegrandpianolessons.co.uk> and contact him at thegrandpianolessons@gmail.com

Patrick Ytting

J.F. Clarke & Son

EST. 1880

**Private Family Funeral Directors
of Axminster & surrounding area**

- 24 Hour Service -

**Lyme Road,
Axminster EX13 5BE
01297 32686**

Please contact our team for any advice or guidance.



Pre-payment plans available
Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



www.ajwakely.com

KATES FARM

Bed and Breakfast



16th Century Old Devon Longhouse
Countryside location
Children & dogs are welcome
10mins from River Cottage & Lyme Regis

Kate Satterley

T: 01297 552861 M: 07780840509

Lower Bruckland Farm, Musbury,
Axminster, Devon, EX13 8ST

katesatterley@hotmail.com

www.katesfarm.co.uk

m16

AXMINSTER PRINTING CO LTD

Not just a Printing Company...

01297 32266

Established in 1969



PRINTING & DESIGN SERVICES

Leaflets, Posters, Booklets, Books, Labels, Tags, Menus, Banners, Magazines, Canvas's, Order of Services, Headings, Business Cards, Appointment Cards, Compliment Slips, Headed Cards, Bookmarks, Invoice and Order Forms, Delivery Forms, Folders, Vouchers, Loyalty Cards, Wedding and Business Stationery, Plans, Prints (any Size up to A0) and so much more....



STATIONERS

- Stationery for School or College
- Postage and Packaging Supplies
- Filing Products
- Paper, Writing and Drawing Instruments
- Notebooks & Invoice Books



ARTS & CRAFTS SUPPLIES

We have a range of card making supplies - from card blanks, card toppers, glitters, printed papers, rubber stamps and stamping accessories.



Website: www.axminsterprinting.co.uk Email: sales@axminsterprinting.co.uk

Address: Axminster Printina Co. Ltd. West Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5NU



NORTON MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL CRAFTSMEN IN
AXMINSTER FOR OVER 50 YEARS



*QUALITY MEMORIALS, PLAQUES,
LETTER CARVING, RENOVATIONS*

Members of NAMB and BRAMB

Office & Memorial Display at
STONEY BRIDGES, CASTLE HILL,
AXMINSTER, DEVON

Tel: 01297 34233

Email: nortonmemorials@grassby-stone.co.uk

www.nortonmemorials.co.uk



The Gardener's Blacksmith



**THE GARDENER'S
BLACKSMITH**

Local artist blacksmith with a forge on Musbury Farm designing and manufacturing a wide range of garden plant supports, structures such as towers and arches, garden art, fine art original sculptures and limited edition bronzes.

If you have something specific you would like for your garden or outdoor space please contact me and I can help you create a workable design.

Art for Everyone

“Art for Everyone” was held in the Village Hall on the first Monday in February and was well attended. Lots of new faces. Victoria gave us the challenge of choosing our own subject, but using acrylic paint on wallpaper!

This issue’s front cover was one of the imaginative results. I feel a Sky Arts programme similar to Portrait Artist of the Year, but with the contestants limited to small brushes, acrylic paint and wallpaper , would make interesting viewing.

Whatever your level of skill or artistic talent , everyone can paint and draw , so it is worth giving “Art for Everyone” a try. It proves to be good social occasion and a chance to release the inner child

As Picasso once said *“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up”*

Jolly

Anagrams

Climates.	A Garden Climber	
Lad’s Back	One of two on Horseback	(6, 3)
Magenta	Identifying Mark	(4, 3)
Blunt lie	Summary of News	
Nerd’s Diploma	Happy Place	(8, 4)
Club Alliance	Immense	
Pilfer boat.	Lucrative	
Rub Oiliest	Overalls	(6,4)
Store’s Main	Laundry Equipment	(5,5)

Horoscopes

Capricorn

You will reap rewards from hard work, everything is falling into place. Tap into your spiritual side to take on life's wrinkles. Communication is key.

Aquarius

If you are ready to step up to the mark, this is your time. Always a free spirit, lucky Jupiter brings good vibes your way. Invest in your friendships and consider a career change.

Pisces

It is time to maximise your true potential. Prioritise the relationships that make the biggest difference to your life. The going may get tough so put your health first.

Aries

Finding a good home / work balance is hard for you, but Venus in your sign brings love and happiness.

Get serious about your financial future.

Taurus

You will have to navigate big personal changes, but good fortune will put a long held dream in sight.

Pluto in your sign brings success in all areas.

Gemini

Brace yourself, work is going to get intense. Saturn is telling you to take yourself more seriously. Look after your spiritual side, the world is full of possibilities.

Cancer

Focus on friendships and family and your life will feel full of potential. Someone at work may open your eyes to a new challenge. Balance is everything, put your own needs first.

Leo

Neglect your health at your peril. Positive action now will give you strength to deal with changes later in the year. Don't be lonely- reach out to family and friends.

Virgo

Don't doubt yourself, build on past achievements. A project that involves something you relish could come your way.

Libra

New friendships early this year could blossom by Autumn. Watch out for a lucky win or windfall on the horizon. Be honest with yourself about what you want from your life.

Scorpio

Dip into your creative side and invest in your future. Courage and commitment will help you reach your goals. Listen to your inner wisdom.

Sagittarius

Fall in love with your life again, Jupiter in your sign brings strong connections with others. Projects related to writing, speaking or sharing your story could be fruitful this year.

And Finally

“No foreign policy - no matter how ingenious - has any chance of success if it is born in the minds of a few and carried in the hearts of none.”

Henry Kissinger 1923-2023

“Cram as much pleasure as you can into life, and rail against the pain that you have to suffer as a result.”

Shane McGowan 1957-2023.

“It’s very sad when people only get nostalgia for music because I want to be excited by what’s going on now. I always have done, that’s what keeps me interested.”

Annie Nightingale 1940-2024.

“I’ve always been a stupid boy”.

Ian Lavender 1922-2024

“I went to a restaurant that serves 'breakfast at any time'. So I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance.”

Steve Wright 1955-2024

Once again, thank you to all contributors.

Could I remind organisers of village functions that the place to publicise your event is here in the Parish Mag. The News is delivered free of charge to over 300 homes in Musbury. Not everybody follows social media, including your editor who thinks that life is too short to be constantly looking at a screen.

I am always looking for fresh copy about what is happening, or has happened in the village.

Jolly

**Contributors please note-
Deadline for next issue 17th May**

SPAR



MUSBURY GARAGE

- Evershot Bakery bread
- Fresh fruit & vegetables, many from local growers
- Chilled Off licence
- Newspapers & magazines
- Dry cleaning & shoe repairs
- Post Office in-store
- National Lottery
- Free-to-use cash machine
- Anton's Butchers and Haye Farm Organic local fresh meats
- Khushi curries
- COOK frozen meals
- Laithwaites wines

SHOP &



MON-SAT 7.30am-8pm

SUN & BANK HOLS 8am-8pm

practical CAR & VAN RENTAL

MUSBURY GARAGE

- Full range of cars & vans for hire including automatics, Lutons with tail-lifts & 9-17 seater minibuses
- European Travel Specialists
- Find out more at www.practical.co.uk

01297

553700

AND DON'T FORGET THE WORKSHOP.....

MUSBURY GARAGE

- Class 4, 5 & 7 MOT Testing
- Repairs, Servicing & Diagnostic Testing to all makes of cars & light commercial vehicles
- Tyres at VERY competitive prices
- Wheel Alignment Specialists

01297

552292

www.musburygarage.co.uk

Musbury Diary Spring 2024

Ch-Church: Vh-Village Hall :

March

Sunday 3rd	Holy Communion B.C.P	11.15am	Ch
Monday 4th	Art for Everyone	2.00pm	Vh
Sunday 10th	Mothering Sunday Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Wednesday 13th	Coffee and Chat	10.30am	Vh
Saturday 16th	Table Top sale	10.00am	Vh
Sunday 17th	Holy Communion	11.15am	Ch
Monday 18th	An Introduction to Calligraphy	2.00pm	Vh
Sunday 24th	Evening Prayer	3.30pm	Ch
Monday 25th	MCC talk Simon Card D.A.T	7.00pm	Vh
Friday 29th	Good Friday Readings and Meditations	12.00	Ch
Sunday 31st	Easter Day Holy Communion	10.00am	Ch

April

Sunday 7th	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Wednesday 10th	Coffee and Chat	10.30am	Vh
Saturday 13th	Musbury Heritage Discussion Group	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 14th	Holy Communion B.C.P	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 21st	Holy Communion	11.15am	Ch
Monday 22nd	MCC Quiz Night	7.00pm	Vh
Sunday 28th	Evening Prayer	6.30 pm	Ch

May

Saturday 4th	Plant and Craft sale	9.30am	Vh
Sunday 5th	Village Praise	10.00am	Ch
Wednesday 8th	Coffee and Chat	10.30am	Vh
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion B.C.P	11.15am	Ch
Sunday 19th	Holy Communion	11.15am	Ch
Monday 20th	MCC Talk Michael Pritchard Peco	7.00pm	Vh
Sunday 26th	Evening Prayer	6.30 pm	Ch