

Misterton

Village Magazine



April 2024



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Note from the editors

This month's bright and colourful front cover by Arienne Scrase has us looking forward to spring and Easter, especially the lighter evenings and hopefully some warmer weather.

John Coquet puts another local resident in the spotlight this month, Walter Mears, who has led a very geographically diverse life.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the May magazine is Sunday 21st April.

Submissions for inclusion in the magazine please to mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

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Misterton Village Magazine is now also online!

<https://mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk/village-information/village-magazine/>



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Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

I was hoping that by now I would be able to stop writing about floods, rain, and sodden land around Misterton. However, March is continuing in the same manner as February and so watery matters remain one of the issues that dominates the village.

To make things even more challenging we have received information from Somerset Council in the following quote:

“The decision notice (5th March 2024) confirms that Somerset Council does not provide sandbags or equivalents to householders and businesses as from 13th March.”

All is not lost because, as part of Misterton Parish Council, the resilience team have a stock of bags to stop water getting into homes. They are not strictly sandbags but are less messy and work in the same way. Hopefully they will not be required as the spring gets going but if needed just give us a call and we will help where we can.

As mentioned last month the members of the Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) have changed and so please see our updated contact details box below.

Let's hope we get some dry weather and sunshine soon.

Phil Clifton

MERT member

MERT Contact Details

If you would like our assistance please call:

Phil Clifton and Sally Gray 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 philclifton@hotmail.com

Pete and Jackson Marshall 01460 73507 or 07909 967319 / 07980 768125

Bob Taylor 01460 271658 or 07931 657312

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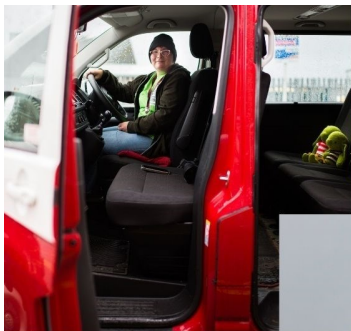


I have just realised that this will be my penultimate report to you all as chair of the parish council. I hope for many of you that my reports have proven useful in keeping you up to date on our activities here at the lowest level of government. I appreciate the help and consideration provided throughout by the magazine committee.

For a variety of reasons this report has had to be penned several days before our next monthly meeting and so it comes with a warning that issues may be finalised differently. However, our decisions are based on the recommendations of our working groups and so far have found approval as recommended. A little disconcerting is that this month we will report on twelve items of matters arising such as unlit street lights and slow sign for the hump in Knowle Lane. All these items we actioned but as yet have not been resolved because they may await better weather, work teams or are the responsibility of another authority.

You will have received the formal statement for next year's council tax. The Somerset figures of 3% and 2% are additive, allowing a less alarming way of a declaring a 5% increase. The latest financial problems of Somerset Council may cause possible problems with dog poo bin emptying and maintenance of Packers Way play area (both the responsibility of county) and may require further negotiation.

This month has seen much concern on road issues. These have been considered by the road working group but pose problems because we have no authority other than to recommend to county highways and police. Perhaps the most concerning is the A356 road closure to Crewkerne in five phases over six months starting on 2nd April. Residents will be able to use side roads but through traffic, especially HGVs, are unlikely to be able to pass and there are no turning places. Our SIDs are working well with their solar panels but we continue to fine tune their use. We will be recommending extension of double yellow lines at the access to Old Mill and Bradfords and at the pinch point entrance to Silver Street. A word of warning to those living nearby as the removal of parking places often results in the parked vehicles reappearing nearby. Finally, having been horrified by a van parked totally obstructing the narrow pavement in Middle Street, we discussed whether a leaflet could discourage future



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illegal parking but a check with the Highways Act 1980 confirmed parking on pavements is an offence which the police must act upon. We will soon be providing instructions and police contact details on our website which will give all villagers the chance to take action when they witness an offence.

Finally, as a village we are being asked to nominate a resident for the Chubbs Alms Houses Trustees. The meetings occur twice a year and the co-opted person would be one of the trustees ensuring that the rules were followed which includes making sure that a suitable ex-Misterton resident becomes one of the alms house residents. Anyone interested should contact either our clerk or me.

Paul Bradly
Chairman

WELCOME INFORMATION LEAFLET for newcomers to the village - a useful leaflet telling you all you need to know about Misterton is available on our website at Misterton Parish Council; alternatively, if you would like a copy via email or a hard copy, please contact the parish clerk at mistertonpc@gmail.com. ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the parish clerk.***

Our mixed winter team continues to hold its own in the challenging division 2 of the Yeovil league; they have played nine matches winning five of them and are on course to maintain their position in the league.



With spring approaching it would be great to see some new faces on our wonderfully maintained courts. Club sessions are Sunday 10am-12noon and Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please contact Bob Waterhouse on 01935 891260 if you would like to take part. We also have adult and junior coaching sessions on Wednesday afternoons and early evenings.

Bob Waterhouse
Chairman

Village hall flower show August 17th

Please note that we have three letterboxes around the village for anyone wishing to sponsor the flower show - Paul and Diane Bradly, Knowle House; Graham and Kate White, Sunnyside (opposite the school); Mike and Cheryl Newman, Poppies, (opposite Packers Way). These addresses will also be open for the schedules which will be available in the June magazine.

Thank you for all the phone calls and offers of help which are so much appreciated plus of course the folk promising to sponsor. Please address to Max Field c/o Village Flower Show.

Any questions then please give me a call on 01460 929915.

Please look for further news in the May magazine.

Pam Glazier



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Crewkerne Probus Club

Probus Clubs provide regular gatherings for those retired or semi-retired business or professional people who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and with similar interests.

Crewkerne Probus Club organises meetings for lunch on the last Wednesday of each month. These are held at the **Windwhistle Golf Club** at 12:15pm for 1:00pm. The two-course meal currently costs £15 per head and is followed by an after lunch speaker on an interesting topic.

Each year special events are held to which our partners, as well as other guests, are invited – a ladies lunch in May, an autumn supper, a Christmas lunch and a summer outing.

If you are a retired professional or business man living in the Crewkerne area, why not consider joining us? Contact David Bryant on 01460 74422

Misterton Gardeners Association

Our meeting this month is on Friday 26th April at 7:30pm in the village hall. We have a speaker from the Gold Club at Castle Gardens and his subject is 'Colour in your garden throughout the year'. He will be bringing with him a large selection of plants providing the colours illustrated by his talk. After such a long and wet winter, I am sure that we will all be delighted to learn about plants which give a colourful display.

Our flower of the month contest continues, so do bring along your favourite garden flower.

As ever visitors and new members are very welcome, even if you do not have a garden.

Spring is finally with us this month with daffodils and fruit trees in full bloom. I love to see the white plum and pear blossom in early April followed by the pinkish apple blossom later in the month. It is one of my favourite months with April showers and some warm sunny days and much longer hours of daylight. Get to work on your lawn and put out your indoor grown plants (though protect them from frosts).



I mentioned last year that I was trying out some double daffodils. These are all April varieties which I prefer as we are more likely to be out in the garden this month. The one I thought best was named Tahiti and the photo is of a clump of them in our garden last April.

John Dyke
01460 77233

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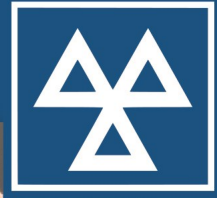
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We continue to be proactive and enjoy social events and our monthly meetings. In March we had a welcome return of speakers Ann and Clive Barker who told us about their journey by motorhome on the Silk Route to China from Istanbul. This proved to be a really interesting and fun evening, and we look forward to their return on April 2nd when we will get to hear part two of this amazing adventure! Thanks to Jean on this evening for her delicious cake too.

We fielded a team at the quiz night at the Globe on March 2nd, which was a lot of laughter and a fun night out. We hope to be able to attend the next quiz night too.

On 9th March several committee members attended Henstridge Air Ambulance HQ on one of their open days. We presented our donation to them, and enjoyed a wonderful morning, giving us a real insight to the workings of this amazing organisation. We will share our stories of the day with our members at our April meeting.



Another of our informal coffee mornings was held at Lynnbrook, Newbery Lane on Tuesday March 19th where a collection was made for Alzheimers. These mornings are gaining in popularity, and you can be assured of a good chat, a cuppa and cake! So please join us for future sessions.

It was a busy week in March, as on the 20th eleven members had an early Easter lunch at the Admiral Hood in Mosterton. Just another socialising time for us.

Our next meeting is Tuesday April 2nd at 7pm at the Globe Misterton, when our speakers are Ann and Clive Barker.

And we hope you had a happy Easter everyone!

The committee

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Walter Mears

Walter (Wally to his many friends) was born in Bermuda in 1934. His father was based there as a sergeant in the Northumberland Fusiliers. His mother, who was born in India and worked as a secretary, had three children, Wally being the youngest child. Sadly, both his brother and sister died from Covid during the outbreak of the virus a few years ago.



Wally's education began in Dover, Kent, but at the outbreak of war his father went to France with his regiment and the family moved to a village in Northumberland. From a mining village school at the age of eleven, he moved to a grammar school where he played rugby, soccer, cricket, and cross-country running. After he left, he took up playing squash, tennis, indoor and outdoor bowls. He also became a keen skier and, later, took up scuba diving. His second and present wife, Stephanie, played netball and rounders as well as being a keen athlete and gymnast at school. She also loved swimming and diving. Nowadays, and for exercise, they limit themselves to walking at Lambert's Castle, Wayford Woods and along the cliffs at Burton Bradstock. If it is too muddy at those places for comfortable walking, they stroll around Misterton instead.

Wally attended evening classes during his first paid job at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which lasted for two years. He was then called up for national service in the Royal Air Force where he trained as a navigator. After a year, he decided that the RAF was the life for him, and he signed on for a career that lasted for thirty-four years. During that time, he flew in Canberra bombers in Germany, and Vulcan bombers in the UK. He rose from the ranks from Pilot Officer to Group Captain, commanded squadrons on stations and worked on research and development projects. He served for two and a half years in Poland (then a Soviet satellite) as Defence Attaché. He subsequently declined a similar job in Moscow and retired from the RAF at the age of fifty-two. He then went to work for the NHS as a manager in Bristol. Following that, he worked as an Independent Financial Advisor for several years. He has a daughter, Amanda, who lives in America.

He married Stephanie in Bristol in 1998. In 2006 they decided to live in south-west France in a small village, Bournazel. They stayed there for eleven years. Consequently, they both speak very good French. Bournazel is truly small, having a population of fewer than 200 inhabitants

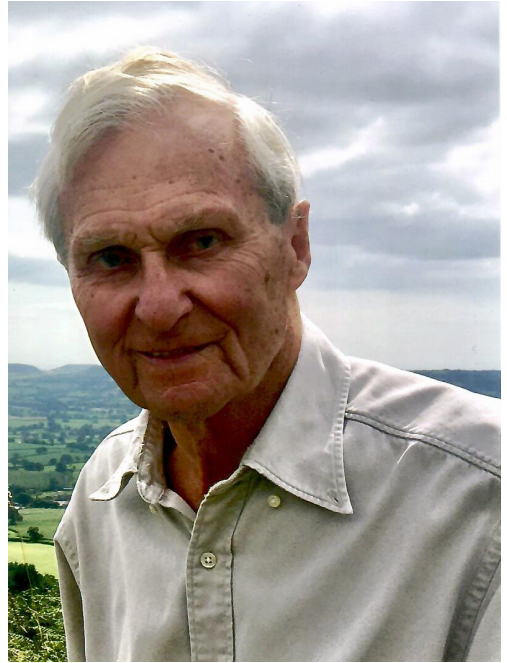
(Misterton has some four times as many).

Stephanie and her late husband had two children, a son and a daughter who now live in Bristol. She has a grandson as well.

Before they were married, Wally took Stephanie to Venice on the Orient Express. As a married couple, they did a lot of travelling, going to many parts of France, plus visits to Austria, Holland, Italy, and Greece. Outside of Europe, they have spent time in Egypt, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Madeira, New Zealand, and North America.

Wally is a lover of classical music, especially operas, his favourite being 'The Barber of Seville'. He is a keen gardener and Stephanie enjoys painting in oils for recreation. The couple moved to Church Lane in 2017, after coming back to the UK from France.

John Coquet



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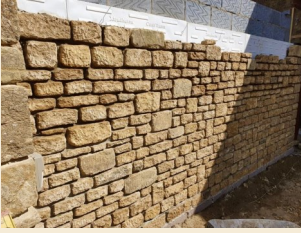
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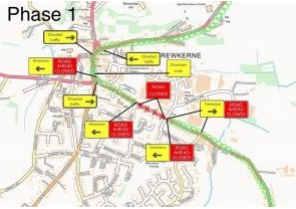


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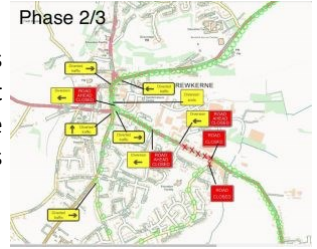
Road closure - South Street, Crewkerne

We have been advised that Wales & West Utilities will be commencing works on 2nd April to replace a gas main. This work will take place over 5 phases.



Phase 1: 02/04/2024 for 6-7 weeks will be a full closure of a section of South Street (see left). There will be access to the trading estate from the Misterton direction only with traffic lights at the junction.

Phase 2/3: 20/05/2024 for 10 weeks will be a full closure of the next section of South Street (see right). There will be access to the trading estate from the town centre direction with traffic lights at the junction. There will be no access in or out of the Kithill junction onto South Street during this phase.



Phase 4: 29/07/2024 for 8 weeks, Station Road will be one way (see left). You will be able to travel in towards Crewkerne.

Phase 5: 09/09/2024 for 2 weeks there will be a full closure on Station Road at the bridge (see right).



Any enquiries regarding the works please contact Wales & West Utilities on 0800 912 2999 or email: enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk.

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Gemini Carnival Club are in urgent need of a new home to build our cart from January 2025. We need around $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre with single phase electricity within ten miles of Ilminster. We own our own barn/shed however if there was one on site that would be a bonus. Either land to buy or rent. Any help please email us at geminicc@talktalk.net or call our chairperson Liz on 07908 132958.

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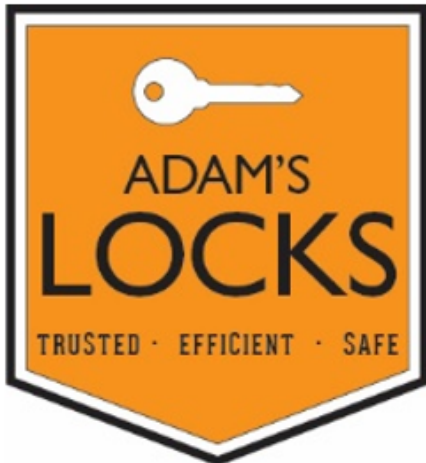


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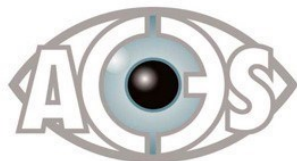


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Volunteers needed

The CB3 has been running for several years now and provides rural connectivity from Bridport to Crewkerne serving many of the villages on its way. It has proven a vital service to many residents who use it for various reasons.

But as with any voluntary service, it faces some challenges. It is looking for volunteer drivers to join the team and drive the bus. Typically volunteer drivers drive once a month/six weeks for 5ish hours. There is a morning and afternoon shift (7:45-13:00 and 14:00-19:00) and it runs a 'clippy' service so it is just a case of driving the bus. The only requirement to drive is to hold a C1/D1 category licence, or what is affectionately called grandfather rights. If you don't want to drive but still would like to help we equally welcome clippys to the team.

Cllr Craig Monks

Chairman, Beaminster Town Council

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Looking forward to Easter 2024

“Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him...” Luke 24:31

Have you ever seen one of those wonderful videos of a small child with impaired sight being given glasses and seeing for the first time - the face of its mother, its own hands... The look of utter wonder on the small face is sheer delight!

This verse describes the wonderful moment when two disciples came to recognise the Risen Christ. And it is still the experience of Christians - utter joy when our eyes are really opened to him.

With best wishes and prayers for open eyes this Easter.

CJ Davis

Family health walks

With spring approaching, now is a great time to join the FREE monthly Crewkerne Family Health Walk. Get your little ones out and active, meet other families and explore the local area together.

Walks are guided by volunteer walk leaders from the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP) and last 45-60 minutes. They follow buggy-friendly routes and include fun activities for the younger walkers. Dogs on leads are welcome too.

We meet on the 4th Saturday of the month next to the Henhayes playground (behind the Aqua Centre, TA18 7LZ) at 9:45am for a 10am start. No need to book, just turn up.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 27th April. For more information, please visit the SASP website or contact walk leader Amy via email, amyjlongman@gmail.com.

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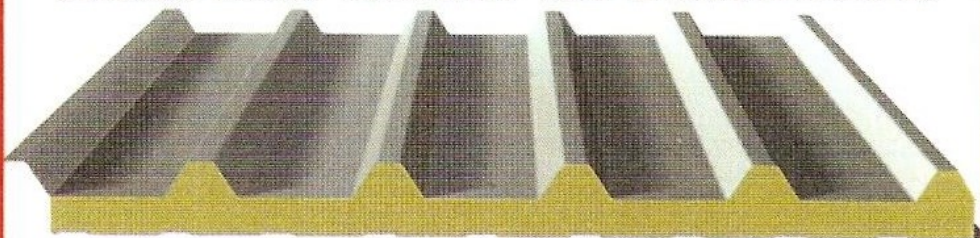
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St Leonard's Church flower festival

The Flower Guild are planning a flower festival in the church from 10am to 4pm on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th May and from 12 noon to 4pm on Sunday 26th May.

The title this year is 'Around Our Town'.

As before, we will be serving teas and cake in the garden of Finials next to the church. We also plan to have a home produce and plant stall and raffle. We welcome donations to the stall.

This year we are raising funds for the village hall refurbishment.

You can contact me on 01460 78430 or susancoquet1@icloud.com.

Sue Coquet

MALLABONES

Mallabones has enjoyed a good March despite the never-ending rain, and we are so happy to provide a welcoming hub for village life.

We are excited to announce that Nick and Clare will be hosting another fiendish quiz on Saturday 20th April - as before a maximum of 6 players to a team, £5 per person, and please remember that teams need to pay in advance to ensure their table reservation. Please see Zoey and Mica to sign up and come and enjoy testing those little grey cells. There will be prizes!

We are also thrilled to announce our next music event - something completely different! In their first visit to the UK, we are excited to be one of a small number of dates for Tribubu, a fabulous four piece band who combine English and Spanish lyrics with complex instrumental backgrounds, rumba and folk with blues and African beats. They will be playing on Saturday 25th May, and tickets can be purchased via <https://handsontv.co.uk/live-session/12>. The event will also be filmed for subscriber viewing via HANDSONTV. Tickets are £25 for the music event, and we will not be providing a meal this time, just table snacks!

Thank you to those who came to see Sally Barker at the end of March - it was a wonderful evening and Sally kept everyone spellbound with her incredible voice and many guitars (Beryl was a particular favourite!) and stories of Joni Mitchell, Sandy Denny and her own life. We do hope to welcome her back again one day.

Mallabones is a Community Interest Company, which exists to benefit the community, and any profits we make will be donated to local charities. Please do continue to support us, every cup of coffee helps, and why not pair that with a delicious, sweet treat baked fresh on the premises! We are happy to host bigger groups and parties, so just get in touch if there's anything we can help you with.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



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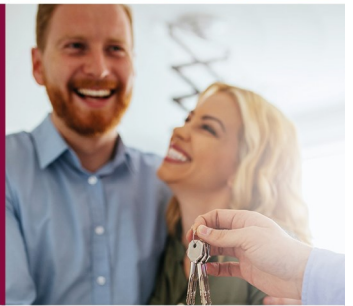
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Dates for your diary

April 2024

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| WI meeting | Tuesday 2nd April | 7pm | The Globe |
| Quiz night | Saturday 20th April | | Mallabones |
| Gardening club | Friday 26th April | 7:30pm | Village hall |
| Village meeting (open to all) | Tuesday 7th May | 6:30pm | Mallabones |
| Parish council meeting/AGM | Tuesday 21st May | 6:30pm | Village hall |
| Flower festival | Friday 24th - Sunday 26th May | | St Leonard's Church |

The Church of St Leonard, Misterton

Rector of Crewkerne Benefice Rev CJ Davis 07707 719137 cj@stbartscrewkerne.org

Church services April 2024

Sunday 7th April 2024

Wayford: 9:30am HC
 Haselbury: 10:30am HC CW
 Hewish: 9:30am HC
 North Perrott: 9am HC CW
 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC

Sunday 14th April 2024

Misterton: 11am HC
 Haselbury: 10:30am HC CW Andrew Daynes
 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 8am HC and 11am All age service

Sunday 21st April 2024

Hewish: 10:30am Family service
 Hewish: 11am HC
 North Perrott: 9am HC BCP
 Wayford: 9:30am HC
 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 8am HC and 11am Morning prayer

Sunday 28th April 2024

Misterton: 9:30am HC
 Haselbury: 10:30am HC CW
 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am All age service and 6pm Informal communion

Flowers

Sunday 14th April
 Sunday 28th April

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