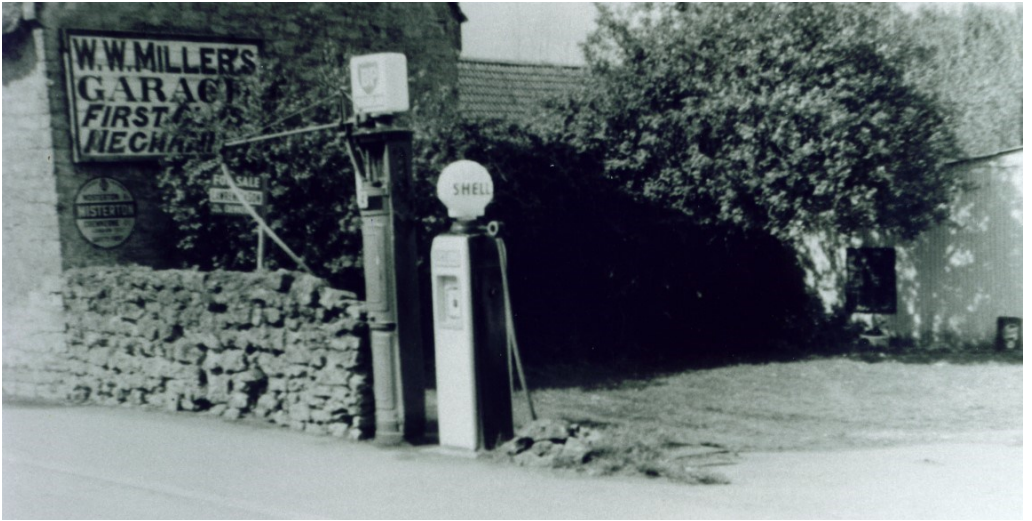


# Misterton Village Magazine



March 2024

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## Note from the editors

Misterton Garage is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and this month John Dyke has penned an article about its history over those years. The cover photos tell part of that history, depicting the garage as it was 100 years ago and slightly more recently. To find out more, turn to page 16!

*Jacque Lyus and Sarah Watt*

**Deadline for entries** for the April magazine is Thursday 21st March.

Submissions for inclusion in the magazine please to [mistertonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto: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/>



**Disclaimer:** the views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of its contributors and advertisers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine committee.

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## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

As you will no doubt be aware February has brought more rain than average as well as being slightly warmer. Needless to say, this continues to impact the village making everything pretty soggy, particularly the footpaths and fields. As a team we try to keep any eye on pinch points and would ask you to let us know if you are aware of any problem areas. Working as part of the parish council we will do what we can to assist with issues.

Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) are making a couple of changes to the core team and updating the resilience plan we have for the village. As this is still in progress, we will provide more details in due course.

For now, at least there are signs of spring popping up and it is great to see the village out and about as soon as the sun shines.

*Phil Clifton*

MERT member

### MERT Contact Details

If you would like our assistance please call:

**Iain Rowland** 01460 78951 or 07968 232998

**Phil Clifton and Sally Gray** 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 [philclifton@hotmail.com](mailto:philclifton@hotmail.com)

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

**Bob Taylor** 01460 271658 or 07931 657312

**Support Number** 01460 455602 - for best endeavours response from MERT

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## News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



The work of the Misterton Parish Council is the lowest level of government and is defined by the Local Government Act 1947, which describes responsibilities and processes. We are approaching the final quarter of the parish council year where we shall be laying out our budget and voting in our chairman and vice chairman for the following year. For a variety of reasons our meeting schedule will change slightly but in particular we shall be separating our annual parish meeting from our AGM. The annual parish meeting will take place in Mallabones, commencing at 6:30pm on Tuesday 7th May 2024. This is not a parish council meeting but an opportunity for all villagers to come along and express their views. To boost attendance, we intend to have a presentation on proposed village clubs and a way forward for these. Please come along to hear these plans and to have your say.

The PC budget and precept have been set for the next financial year. The precept has increased by 0% which we hope will be a minor benefit to all residents. Unfortunately, Somerset Council, which is by far the largest proportion of the council tax, will only finalise its costs to us after my report. We do know that government has refused them from doubling their increase from 5% to 10% without first seeking a referendum. Their problems are not surprising from their actions of increasing their councillors' pay by over 30%, increasing the number of directors and recruiting a new CEO with an increase in pay to £195,000. These steps alone increase the costs to us by £0.5 million with no visible benefit. In order to pay these costs Somerset Council are planning to cut many of the services that we rely upon such as Crewkerne recycling centre, dog bin collection etc.

Our cemetery working group still has much work to attend to, but the cleaning and monthly opening seems to be working well. We have to plant trees around the periphery of the extension to fulfil our planning need and have managed to acquire ninety trees (for free) which we will collect in March. Any help in planting will be appreciated.

We have contracted the repainting of the MUGA and hope to proceed soon. We have seating and a commemorative tree to place in the recreation ground this year, along with a picnic table adjacent to the children's play area. We shall also be changing the entrance to the children's play area to make it disabled friendly and plan to install at least one new play piece that is suited to all abilities. The parish council as a charity maintains the recreation ground play area, Old Mill estate maintain their play area and previously the Packers Way play area was owned and maintained by first, South Somerset District Council and then Somerset Council. With the dire financial situation of Somerset Council, there is a strong possibility that they will no longer pay for its maintenance. This is to be resolved.

*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](mailto:mistertonpc@gmail.com). ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the parish clerk.***



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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 first meeting of the year is on Friday March 22nd at 7:30pm in Misterton village hall. Our speaker is David Moon who will tell us about the National Gardens Scheme. Most of us will have heard a bit about the National Gardens Scheme, but what it is, how long it has been going and which gardens we can visit locally visit through the NGS remains somewhat of a mystery. So do come along and learn something new and interesting.

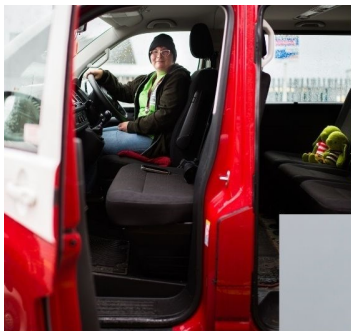
Our meeting will be preceded by a swift AGM and as it is our first meeting, subs (just £15 for the whole year) are due. We welcome new members and if you are new to the village or are doubtful about joining us do come along for a free taster session. Previous members will have received three daffodil bulbs and judging of these will take place at our meeting. I hope they are not gone over!

And do remember that our flower of the month contest begins this month, so bring along one of the best flowers from your garden. The competition will run throughout the year and the person who scores most points overall will receive free membership of our gardening club for 2025. Last year's winner was Heather Passmore.

Those of you who have been on recent walks along the many footpaths we have surrounding our village will have probably noticed the wonderful catkins which come out in the early months of the year. Whilst we associate these mostly with hazels, a lot of common trees have them such as alders, birch, and willows. A while ago I saw a plant covered with catkins and was told that it was a garrya, so I bought one and planted it in a little-visited spot in our garden. It has grown very fast, and this year was covered by the finest array of catkins I have ever seen (see photo). It is also known as silk tassel bush.



*John Dyke*  
01460 77233



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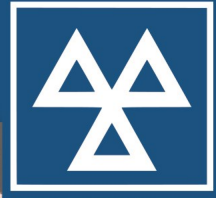
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At our meeting on January 9th, we said a fond farewell to our longest serving member, Lyn Drew. Lyn moved from Misterton to Merriott some years ago, but always continued to be a fully participating member of our WI, and loved attending meetings at our new abode, The Globe. She said it had given Misterton WI a new lease of life. Lyn also continued to be involved in the Flower Guild in Misterton and was a very accomplished flower arranger.

Sadly, a fall before Christmas meant Lyn could no longer drive and she made the brave decision to move to South Wales to be near her daughter and family. We presented Lyn with a card signed by everyone and a lovely bunch of yellow roses and spring flowers. She will be much missed.



We sadly also report that another of our very long-standing members has passed away. Jean McCoy played a vital part in our WI for many years and will be sadly missed and remembered by us all.

Now some brighter news. Misterton WI are very pleased to announce that due to our institute being in a very fortunate financial position, we have now made substantial donations to the Yeovil breast cancer unit appeal, local Air Ambulance and Motor Neurone. It is our intention to carry on supporting worthy causes with our members full and unanimous agreement and support.

We raised funds for Air Ambulance at our January coffee morning, and in February our coffee morning was held at Mallabones, where we raised funds for the Medical Detection Dogs. Our March coffee morning will be held at Lynnbrook on Newbery Lane, from 10:30am to 12 on March 19th where all ladies will be made very welcome and can be assured of a morning of interesting and frank discussion! (and cake). Do come along if you want to find out more about what we have in store for 2024. Incidentally, at our February meeting our speaker Andy Hill spoke about hypnotherapy and the power of the mind. Amusing, informative and enlightening and he commented at how good an organisation like the WI is for the mental health of its members and bringing people together.

Our next meeting is at the Globe on Silver Street on March 5th at 7pm, when our speakers will be Ann and Clive Barker on 'Travels to China - part one'. All ladies are welcome to join us - come and see what we are about!

*The committee, Misterton WI*

### Road closures alert

The Parish Council has just been told that from the 2nd April onwards for six months first South Street will be totally closed and then Station Road Crewkerne to permit installation of new gas pipes. More information will be given as it is received.

## History of Misterton Garage

The story of Misterton Garage began 100 years ago when the landlord of The Globe bought for his son Bill the former House of Help for Girls in Middle Street. Bill who trained at Dartmouth Engineering School thrust himself into his job and built a workshop well in front of the existing one. In the 1924 edition of Kellys Directory an advertisement reads:

*Miller, William, motor dealer and general engineer, repairs of every description to motor cars and cycles, steam, gas and oil engines; all engineers are ex-servicemen and first class mechanics. Quality service and satisfaction guaranteed.*

Millers Garage expanded steadily during the inter-war years and Bill knocked down part of his house for more space. Ever economical he used the water from the piped spring across the road to supply his home and business. Everything came to a halt in World War II as petrol was severely rationed and private cars taken off the road. Children used our main road as a playground.

Millers Garage slowly resumed business after the end of the war. However, most people could not afford cars and Bill had to compete with neighbour Ernie Taylor whose workshop was to the rear of his house. Whilst people could not run to cars, they could just about afford a motorbike. And Ernie had a ready supply of them. He bought dozens of ex-army motorbikes (often shipped through Crewkerne station), changed their colour from khaki to black, gave them a thorough service and sold them to eager customers. As petrol rationing ended, Bill installed Misterton's first petrol pumps. These were almost on the pavement and, as he could not afford electricity for both, one was hand operated. The story goes that one day a gas-guzzling car pulled up for petrol and Bill said to the driver "Could you turn the engine off, you're gaining on me!"

Then Bill pulled his house completely down. In truth the erstwhile House of Help was poorly constructed, leaked and badly needed re-thatching. Bill considered the large area occupied by the house would provide a useful car sales area and more modern petrol pumps (see photo below left). In some ways Bill was far-sighted. He could see the 1960s onwards would become the age of the motorcar. He needed an office building and the Cleveland Petrol photo below right - taken in the bad winter of 1962 - shows what he achieved with his garage.



By the late 1960s Bill Miller reached retirement age and sold up. The premises were bought by the Swaffields from Crewkerne. They renamed it Misterton Garage although their tenure was short lived. At the same time Ernie Taylor died and his site including his workshop was



*Note how brands of petrol have changed over the last 50 or so years. And also the price! When prices were changed to pence per litre in 1980, the price per gallon also had to be shown.*

sold. His son Bernard moved the business further up Middle Street to build up a firm which had expanded into five branches with an enviable reputation across the West Country.

And then in 1968, came the Hilliers. Nick Hillier had married Liz Jeffries from Winsham and was searching for a garage repair business. At the time there were three possibilities - garages at Kitwhistle, Toller Down and Misterton were all on the market. They chose Misterton although there was much to be done there. None of the buildings were big enough but enlarging them was far from easy. The site was not level and much ground had to be made up for a new, relocated workshop. It took a lot of rubble, time, and money to bring this about. Nick and Liz

obtained the local agency for Ford car sales. They did not live here for a couple of years until the opportunity to buy the former Ernie Taylor's yard and workshop arose. They bought this and converted the workshop into a dwelling house. Much easier living on site where they could work and bring up a young family. However, by the end of the 1970s, tragedy struck when Nick contracted cancer and died. Liz was determined to carry on and enlisted the help of her brother. Thanks largely to Liz's determination Misterton Garage grew steadily for the next twenty years.



But all of this took its toll on Liz and after a short illness, she passed away. By then her son Mark - already working in the garage - had grown up and took over the business. Mark's objective has always been to develop things as his father would have wished. In his 24 years there, never a day has gone by without the workshop being busy. He employs eleven staff, including well-known Paul Gillard who joined Misterton Garage in 1989 (probably a record for a car salesman). Mark prides himself on customer care - perhaps fulfilling Bill Miller's dream 100 years ago with his last few words in Kellys Directory.

*John Dyke*

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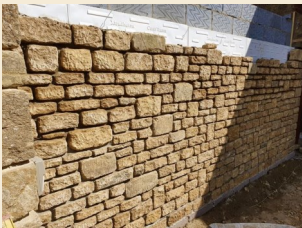
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## **Village hall flower show August 17th**

Spring is almost upon us so please remember that we will have many classes for fruit and vegetables. No need to dig up a whole row of carrots or potatoes to find five perfectly matched as we will be looking at quality not quantity.

Children classes to include...you've made it let's see it...baking, painting and drawing.

Just two age groups, 5 to 9 years and 10 to 15. Please watch this space in future magazines for more information.

We are still looking for sponsorship, anything from £1 upwards. Names will be printed in the magazine but not the amounts.

If you would like to join us in helping on the day, please give me a call on 01460 929915.

*Pam Glazier*

## **Misterton Village Hall (Registered Charity 277476)**

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Date: Monday 25th March 2024

Time: 7:15pm for 7:30pm start

Venue: Misterton village hall (meeting room to the rear of the hall)  
Unity Lane  
Misterton  
TA18 8LX

The general public are invited to attend.

We look forward to welcoming you!

## **Looking forward to Easter 2024**

*Really real... or pretend real?*

Of course, many think the Christian faith is all pretend. That is one reason Easter matters. If Jesus really rose, we begin to see that lots of other surprising things are real - God, angels, a day of judgement, heaven & hell... but also the possibility of forgiveness, heaven, unimaginable joy with God forever...

You could say that the Resurrection acts a bit like a pair of night vision goggles. Through it we can 'see' things about which otherwise we are in the dark.

With a warm invitation to 'see' more at church this Easter...

*CJ Davis*

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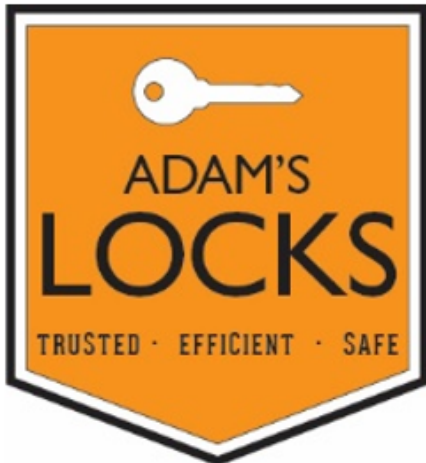


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Not a lot to report this month. Sadly, our quiz night at the Globe on February 17th had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Our winter mixed team have played three fixtures so far, winning one and losing two. There have been a number of postponements due to inclement weather.



*Bob Waterhouse*  
Chairman

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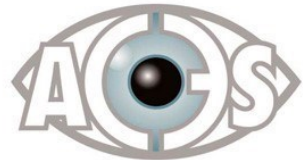
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## Misterton Football Club



Misterton Firsts continue their 23/24 season in good form and are still well placed to challenge for both the league and challenge cup. An impressive seven wins from the last eight games leave Misterton currently top of the league, but with three or four teams well placed, it is all to fight for. Following last Saturday's semi-final win, Misterton will also take part in the Challenge Cup Final on Easter Monday.

With six league games and a cup final left, every game is vital for the first team's push for silverware. There have been some great turnouts at Unity Lane this year, and all support for both home and away games is greatly appreciated!

Fixtures confirmed for March:

9th March home to Forton

16th March home to Barrington

And the cup final against South Petherton to be played on Easter Monday 12:30pm at Forton

We will be running transport so for any information please contact Joe on 07884 077878.

*Jack Bradford*

Manager

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Thank you Misterton for the continuing support for Mallabones!  
We hope that once the weather improves, we can utilise the forecourt and enjoy some al fresco coffees and dining.

We had a great time hosting our first quiz at the end of January; one of many to come we hope. Apologies for those who missed out on tickets - it sold out very quickly so we do hope you will try and come in the future.

We are looking forward to our next music event, Sally Barker presenting her evening of 'Joni, Sandy and Me'. This is again sold out, but don't worry, we are planning more exciting evenings so keep an eye on our website, Instagram and Facebook pages for announcements!

We have recently printed some very smart flyers, so if any of you are running Airbnb's, or other holiday accommodation please do give us a shout if you are happy to pass on our flyers to your guests as we would love to welcome them! Contact [mallabonesmisterton@gmail.com](mailto:mallabonesmisterton@gmail.com) or pop in and collect some from Zoey or Mica... a good excuse for some coffee and homemade cake whilst you're there...

We have lots of bookings coming in for birthdays, anniversaries, and have hosted some wakes, so do get in touch if there's an event we can help you with - we would be more than happy to tailor the event to your specific requirements.

We look forward to seeing you very soon!



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<b>WI meeting</b>	Tuesday 5th March	7pm	The Globe
<b>Coffee morning</b>	Tuesday 19th March	10:30am	Lynnbrook, Newbery Lane
<b>Gardening club</b>	Friday 22nd March	7:30pm	Village hall
<b>Village hall AGM</b>	Monday 25th March	7:15pm	Village hall
<b>Parish council meeting</b>	Tuesday 26th March	6:30pm	Village hall
<b>Village meeting (open to all)</b>	Tuesday 7th May	6:30pm	Mallabones



## The Church of St Leonard, Misterton

Rector of Crewkerne Benefice Rev CJ Davis 07707 719137 [cj@stbartscrewkerne.org](mailto:cj@stbartscrewkerne.org)

### Church services March 2024

#### Sunday 3rd March 2024

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

#### Sunday 10th March 2024 Mothering Sunday

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

#### Sunday 17th March 2024

Hewish: 10:30am Family service                      North Perrott: 9am HC BCP  
 Hewish: 11am HC Bob Key (tbc)                      Wayford: 9:30am HC CJ Davis  
 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 8am HC and 11am Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 24th March 2024 Palm Sunday

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

#### Sunday 31st March 2024 Easter Day

Misterton: 9:30am HC David Newman                      Wayford: 9:30am HC Bob Key  
 North Perrott: 9am HC, IS and AD                      Haselbury: 10:30am HC, IS and AD  
 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am Easter Day HC

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