

Misterton Village Magazine



December 2024



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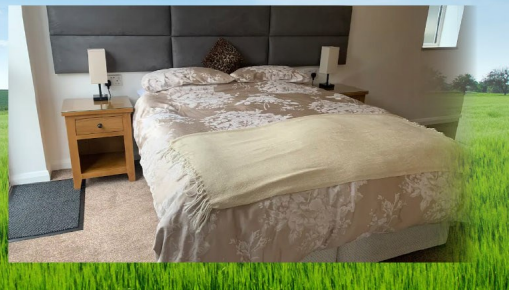
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Note from the editors

As this is the last edition of 2024, the magazine committee would like to thank all those who make this magazine possible - our sponsors Pattemores, all our advertisers for their continuing support, Footprintz for printing this magazine every month, our regular and ad hoc contributors for their content over the year, and last but not least all the villagers who help to distribute the magazine to your door each month. Thanks also to Maureen Albert for this month's cover, which ties in very nicely with the memories of village carol singing on page 16.

Merry Christmas and a very happy new year to you all!

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the January magazine is Friday 13th December.

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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News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



At the recent parish Council meeting the topic of the school (Misterton Learning Centre) was once again discussed at length. I reported that the clerk, two members of Adam Dance's team and I had met with the headteacher earlier in the month to discuss recent incidents in the village and the safety of the children. Unfortunately, the meeting was largely unsatisfactory with MLC still not recognizing or acknowledging the effect that that the school is having on the village and the concern of residents. As a result, the parish council have agreed that I will write to Adam Dance MP, the CEO of Somerset Council, and the Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner listing the worries of the village. Residents are also to be encouraged to write to the authorities (copying the parish council) with their concerns.

Also discussed at the meeting was the 2025/26 budget and precept for the village. The newly imposed cost of emptying rubbish and dog waste bins from April 2025/26, together with small increases in other costs, means that the budget needs to be increased. It was proposed that this should be achieved by increasing the precept for the first time in three years and not by using reserves, leaving them for future expenses. This follows a communication from the Leader of Somerset Council warning us to prepare for further cost impositions and service reductions due to their financial situation. The final percentage increase will be confirmed at the December meeting, once we receive the council tax base figures from Somerset Council, but we forecast the increase for a Band D property will be below £6 per annum (or approximately 11p per week).

The more eagle eyed among you may have noticed that there is a new piece of kit attached to the AED at Misterton Garage. This is an accessible bleed kit which can be used in any kind of catastrophic bleeding incident e.g. traffic collisions, fall from heights, animal attacks or accidents at home or work. Hopefully it will never be needed but a useful addition for the just in case scenario.

Finally, a thank you to all who turned out for the litter pick at the beginning of November and to all who have helped the village in some way during the past year.

With very best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year

Graham White
Chairman

Misterton Resilience Team contact details

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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.*

Christmas!

Misterton Flower Guild are once again making and selling festive door hangings, table centres and memorial arrangements.

Door hangings £10

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A very merry Christmas from us all at Misterton WI. Well, here we are again at the end of another year. Our WI goes from strength to strength, and we really do have a fun group of ladies. Since our last report we have once again been busy. At our November meeting we welcomed Kevin Little, who engaged us with tales of his life as a fishmonger in Reading - a talk full of anecdotes, stories and much laughter. Very entertaining indeed! Jan McNeill went on a WI organised trip to see the Thursford Christmas Spectacular in Norfolk, along with 27 other members from the Somerset area. A very hectic three days, including visits to Norwich and Cambridge. But a truly memorable mini break, and well worth seeing. We held our coffee morning last month at Mallabones, where we once again enjoyed Zoey's homemade scones. These coffee mornings give us the chance to have a good catch up and chat with friends and an ideal opportunity for any new ladies to meet us. This month we donated to Crisis at Christmas. So on to December. We have our group carol concert, this year organised by West and Middle Chinnock. Several members will also be attending the ever-popular Somerset Federation carol concert at Wells Cathedral. Our Christmas meeting will be at the Globe on the 3rd of December, when we will hold our very own 'Call My Bluff' evening. A distinguished panel of non-members has been invited to give their interpretation of words, and our members will guess just who is telling the truth. There will be a buffet, Christmas cake once again thanks to Mand Diaps, mulled wine and more. We will also have our annual Secret Santa, and exchange Christmas cards. So we look forward to 2025 and a superb programme of speakers. These include such diverse subjects as Somerset Independent Living, Iceland, Treading the Wards, The Metropolitan Police, Air Ambulance and of course a summer garden party. And we will resume our skittles matches too... remember we are always looking for members to join our team. It's all about the fun (and the supper at the end).

So ladies give us a try! For any further information please contact Judy on 01460 78931 or Jan on 01460 77599 jancd136@hotmail.com.

The committee



From left to right: Jan in Cambridge, a taste of Thursford, the coffee morning at Mallabones in November and the lovely cake made by Jean

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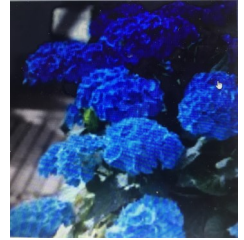
 CHAS

Misterton Gardeners Association

December is the month for thinking about gardening rather than doing any gardening proper. Thinking about the past year; what has done well, and what has not. Perhaps even making a note of it, memories lapse. For us it has been an average sort of year. The usual crops (tomatoes, courgettes, beetroots and early potatoes) have done well but beans less so. The primary reason being slugs. They seem to have multiplied and multiplied, spoiling not only our dwarf and runner beans but also our dahlias. I shall be taking preventative measures next year - crushed eggshells and chippings around plants may do the trick.

It is also that time of year when my children and grandchildren say the inevitable "what do you want for Christmas?" New pruners and other small tools are always welcome. But how about giving someone a token for free membership of Misterton Gardening Club for 2025. Get in touch with me if you wish to do this - it will cost £15 and gives access to all our illustrated talks, good company and discounted vouchers for plants and seeds at Groves (Bridport), Castle Gardens (Yeovil and Sherborne) as well as North Perrott Fruit Farm Shop.

The one plant which has done extraordinarily well this year has been our hydrangeas. We have two and keep these in large pots. Every couple of weeks we add some crystals which turn the flowers blue. As can be seen from the photo here they look splendid and the flowers last for about four months of the year. Give it a try yourself.



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I would like to thank my friends, family and neighbours that kindly donated to my collection on behalf of the Wear it Pink event held at my house on Friday 18th October.

We raised £350 which has been sent to the charity to help a good cause, Breast Cancer Now.

Kindest regards

Rona Manley

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Village carol singing memories



It was always thought that carol singing around the village was the start of Christmas. There were two nights. The first night began at the top end of the village and extended all the way down to The Globe pub, and the second night at the bottom end of the village. Organised by the WI, all the proceeds went to local good causes. Geoffrey Clifton, a retired headmaster, originally led the singing as he had a good voice and provided carol sheets as no one knew more than the first verses. Caught by snow one year which made the ink run, the sheets then had to be laminated. Some of the words on the sheets were incorrect, but those were the words we sang! There were 30 carols on the sheets, however there was an unwritten 31st song which was sometimes sung when the singers had had rather too much alcohol. It was the well-known Somerset Wurzels song *Drink up thee cider - for the corn's half cut and so be we!!*

Retired headmistress Liz Parkinson from Newberry Lane took over as lead singer as she had a strong voice and kept everyone in line, calling for stragglers to keep up as sometimes those at the front were singing a different carol to the stragglers at the rear.



We met at the bottom of Broughton's Drive with torches and carol sheets and the first stop was at Broughton's for sherry, whiskey and hot sausages. Off we went again, stopping every few houses to sing a carol and shaking our collection tins at front doors. There was a lovely lady in Station Road who would come out in her blue fleecy dressing gown with a tray of sherry while we sang.

On to Church Lane where we were treated to sherry and mince pies at Margaret Bourne's house, but they were limited to only one of each much to Tony Perrin's disappointment. At the end of the lane Martin Hutchinson would bring out more alcohol to keep us going.



Then it was down the hill where lovely Robert and Irene owned the village shop, which was truly 'open all hours'. We would get them out of bed while singing *Goodnight Irene* and they would join in the carols in their dressing gowns and slippers.

Opposite the shop, we were invited into an ex-policeman's house and someone managed to throw red wine up the wall which then needed redecorating. Singing carols in the Globe was always good as the villagers who were enjoying a quiet drink would give generously.

The second night of singing took part in the lower end of the village. Julie Douth (John Dyke's daughter) took her pony Toby round with the carol singers much to everyone's delight. It was hard work because lots more doors were to be knocked on, but the occupants were always very generous. We would say "who needs London and the Christmas lights of Regent Street?" when we had The Avenue, which was always a brilliant show.

Eventually, someone decided there should only be two stops for refreshments as it all took too long, and we enjoyed ourselves too much. Sadly, as many of the carol singers got too old and there was even talk of insurance and safety and someone said we needed a licence, it

faded out and dwindled in about 2017.

The WI hall started having carols outside with Derek Wood playing on his keyboard; then came Covid, but we still remember the fun of carol singing around the village.

Many thanks to Sue Coquet, Pam Glazier, John Dyke, Christine Perrin and Margaret Darch for all their lovely memories and to Sue for compiling them.



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Letter

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... Luke 2:1

Christmas approaches...in a very messy world. So let's not miss the hope found in the Emperor Augustus. His census ordered Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem so that the Messiah was born there as prophesied.

Be it an encouragement to our faith or a challenge to our doubt - Christmas insists that such mighty rulers are still, unknowingly, under God's hand. Unseen, He overrules all to bring His Saviour back again...

With prayers for faith and hope this Christmas

CJ Davis

'O Come' – A Christmas concert with Parnham Voices in St Martin's Church, North Perrott on Sunday 1st December at 3pm. A mixture of sacred and secular songs and music and four seasonal readings with this popular a cappella choir. Over 18 years £12 and 14 to 18 years £6 to include tea/cake after the concert.

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The 'Wear it Pink' coffee morning in aid of Breast Cancer Now, held at Mallabones on 18th October was a huge success.

Thanks to you, we raised £600 for the nationwide appeal. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported this event with raffle prizes, baking, entering the competitions, and by just being there. Thank you.



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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.

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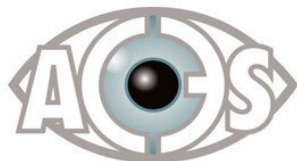


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As the new chair of Misterton Tennis Club, I would like to thank the outgoing chairman Bob Waterhouse for his years of service to the club in his capacity as a committee member, social secretary and latterly as chairman of the club. Our valued committee members have agreed to stay for another term, and we are delighted to welcome to the committee, Misterton resident and club tennis player, Nick Watt as vice

chairman.

The Yeovil and District winter tennis league has started with two matches played so far and a busy season ahead.

We hope you will join us for our bingo fundraising event on Monday 9th December at Misterton Village Hall, 6:30pm doors, 7:30pm eyes down.

Catherine Carins
Chair



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Our book this month is **Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons.**



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As you read this article, the bingo season is well underway and, as always, has proved to be extremely popular and well supported. So far, each bingo night has raised a significant amount of money for good causes. The bingo session planned for 2nd December will be in support of the village hall, so your support would be gratefully received; doors open at 6:30pm and eyes down are at 7:30pm. Further information can be obtained from Joan Sweetman on 07753 164496 - we look forward to welcoming you!



The first of the planned upgrades to the village hall has been successfully completed; our new heating controls are having an impact and making the hall a much better environment for both our regular and one-off users. Our next project is the redecoration of the main hall itself. This is planned to commence on 6th January 2025 and is scheduled to take two weeks to complete. In terms of user disruption, the hall will be shut completely during the first week (6th - 10th January) and from 13th - 17th January the hall will be available for evening use only. Normal service will be resumed from Saturday 18th January (please note the craft fair booking for 12th January will not be affected). We apologise for any inconvenience, but this much needed work is expected to make the hall a vibrant place for Misterton residents to enjoy for years to come.

In addition to the above work the committee has been working hard to secure grants for a kitchen refurbishment and improved access to the disabled toilets. We are pleased to report that we have been lucky enough to secure funding from the following organisations:

The Misterton Women's Institute
The Misterton Parish Council
The National Lottery
The Norman Family Charitable Trust

A huge thank you to those organisations and the good news is that because of their generosity we expect to undertake the kitchen, toilet and disabled toilet work in early 2025. Of course, we still rely on fundraising events and your individual charity to help maintain the momentum in moving our village hall plans forward. We have already mentioned the Bingo night on Monday 2nd December 2024; the next date for your diaries is Friday 14th February 2025 when the hall will be hosting a disco night. Tickets are available at Mallabones for this event, and we are extremely grateful to Hannah Palmer for organising the evening. If you would like further information on what promises to be a fantastic night, please contact Hannah via our secretary, Sue Kennedy on 01460 72660. And finally, don't forget the Misterton Village Hall 50th anniversary fete, which will take place on Saturday 19th July 2025.

As always, every event we host and/or organise, relies on volunteers to assist and make sure they run smoothly - our bingo, disco night and 50th anniversary fete are no exceptions so if you would like to help out in any way we would love to hear from you. Please contact our secretary, Sue Kennedy, on the number above to register your interest.

Finally, the Misterton village hall committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in 2024 and wish you all a very merry Christmas... 2025 promises to be a great year for your hall.

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Dates for your diary

December 2024

Village hall bingo	Monday 2nd December	6:30pm	Village hall
WI meeting	Tuesday 3rd December	7pm	The Globe
Book club	Wednesday 4th December	12:30pm	Mallabones
Tennis club bingo	Monday 9th December	6:30pm	Village hall
Christmas buffet	Friday 13th December	12-3pm	Mallabones
Parish council meeting	Tuesday 17th December	6:30pm	Village hall back room

Church Services December 2024

Crewkerne Benefice					Merriott Benefice	
Rector: Rev C J Davis 07707 719137 cj@stbartscrewkerne.org						
Date	Misterton	Wayford	Hewish	St Bart's	North Perrott	Haselbury
Sun 1st		9:30am HC BK	9:30am HC CJ	11am HC CJ/BK	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
Sun 8th	11am HC BK			8am HC 11am Morn P		10:30am HC BCP
Sun 15th		9:30am HC CJ	11am HC DN	8am HC 11am Morn P	9am HC BCP	10:30am Family S
Sun 22nd	3pm BK Carol service, refreshments	4pm DN Carol service		8am HC 11am Morn P 6pm BK/CJ Carol service	3pm Carol service	10:30am HC CW 6pm Carol service
Tue 24th		11.30 pm BK Midnight mass		Christingle CJ Midnight mass DN/CJ		11:30pm Midnight Mass
Wed 25th	9.30am HC CJ			11am HC CJ	9am HC AD/IS	10:30am HC CW
Sun 29th	8am HC and 11am All Age Joint Benefice Service at St Bart's				10:30am Joint Merriott Benefice Service	

CJ = Rev CJ Davis BK = Very Rev Bob Key DN = Rev David Newman HC = Holy Communion

Sunday 8th December
 Sunday 22nd December

Flowers
 Flower Guild
 Flower Guild

Brass
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 -

Cleaning
 Mrs M Albert

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