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Note from the editors

You may think that our front cover looks a little different to usual this month and you would be right! We are giving a shameless plug to the 1970s disco being held to raise funds for our village hall on Friday 14th February. It promises to be a great evening so get your tickets now!

If you're interested in local traditions, John Dyke's article on page 16 is just the thing for you as he writes about one he remembers from his younger days that has been revived.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the March magazine is Thursday 20th February.

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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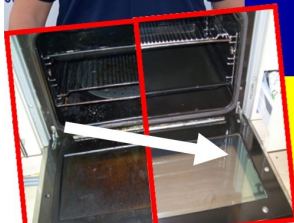
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News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



Dear residents

As there was no council meeting in January there is little to report on parish matters. So it seemed a good opportunity to tell you a little about the work that has been going on in the cemetery over the past three years.

The cemetery and chapel are owned and maintained by Misterton village. The cemetery working group, a working group of the parish council, has the task of ensuring the primary legal duty is met and improvements sought by recommending improvements to the parish council for their funding and approval.

Over the last three years much has been done. The new cemetery extension has achieved planning permission for interments but will not be used until the spaces in the main cemetery are full. In the meantime, it will be grazed by sheep to avoid additional grass cutting costs. The entrance gates have been moved inwards to improve access from the main road and new railings will be installed soon to improve security. The noticeboard has been repaired, new memorial benches installed, and regular work takes place to maintain and improve the grounds. The chapel has been regularly cleaned and is opened on the first Sunday of each month and at Christmas and Easter for residents to remember their loved ones. This Christmas more than twenty-five families visited and left notes in the remembrance book as well as decorating the tree with baubles.

Much of this work has been done by volunteers. If you would like to get involved and help, please get in touch with the clerk.

Looking forward to spring we will be planning a defibrillator course so the community is ready and confident to assist others should the need arise. If you would like to register an interest, please contact Phil Clifton (philclifton@hotmail.com or 01460 73815) and we will add you to the list.

The next parish council meeting is on Tuesday 18th February at 6:30pm in the back room of the village hall.

Graham White
Chairman

Misterton Resilience Team 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

Bruce Martins 07770 744531

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In an emergency the first line of support should be via the Emergency Services on 999.

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.*

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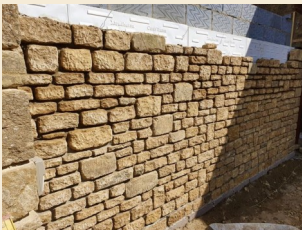
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Stolen goalposts

Sadly we have received a report from a resident of children's goalposts having been stolen from the playground on the estate near the railway one day late December. It was captured on webcam that they were taken by four males in the middle of the night. The goalposts are easily identifiable as the sections that fit together have been drilled and screwed because they kept coming apart.

If anyone has any information that may lead to the return of the goalposts, please contact the magazine editors at mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or one of the phone numbers on page 3.



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At our first meeting of the New Year on January 7th we welcomed Jamie Lewis, who spoke about Somerset Independent Living, and occupational therapy. What an eye-opener this proved to be. Little did we know that there are three centres in Shepton Mallet, Yeovil and Taunton, where experts will give advice on the many devices and equipment they can offer to aid people with difficulties they might face in everyday situations. Items can be supplied often at little or no cost and are on permanent loan and funded by Somerset Council. It was explained to us very comprehensively, and we hope to go over to the centre at Shepton Mallet at some point to see for ourselves how this service can really help people... who knew?

Our skittles matches have now resumed but we need new players! Please remember we are always looking for members to join our team.

On Saturday January 18th the ladies of the committee were pleased to meet with Steve Lyus, chairman of our village hall. We handed him a cheque for £20,000, to enable the hall's kitchen to be completely refurbished. Further details are in a separate article.

We resumed our coffee mornings, and met at Jan's on the 23rd January for a natter and good biscuits! We had a collection for Hospice SW. Our next one is at Mallabones on Wednesday February 26th from 10:30am - 12 noon so come along for a chat. All are welcome.

Our February meeting is on Tuesday 4th, when we welcome 'Goats of The Gorge' presented by Nick King. We have been told to expect the unexpected by our speaker secretary. Come and see for yourself, we will make you very welcome. Meetings begin at 7pm prompt at the Globe on Middle Street.

So ladies give us a try! For any further information please contact Judy on 01460 78931 or Jan on 01460 77599 or jandc136@hotmail.com.

The committee



Our coffee morning and president Judy Welch handing over the cheque to Steve Lyus at Misterton village hall

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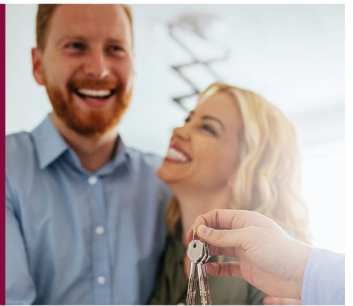
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Misterton memories

In 1905, before the roads were Tarmac'd, the shop on the right was Vardy's bakers and grocers shop. In 1960 it was Mr and Mrs Sweet's grocers shop. Behind the shop was Stan Gear's bakery. Mr Obern worked there and Ted Wills used to deliver around the village. In the 1960s Fred Hodder was the blacksmith.



From *Merritt Memories* by David Bryant

Every little helps

And a little from everyone helps enormously... but I am not asking for money; I am asking for your unwanted clothing and footwear for men, women, children and babies, all sizes, to send to refugees who live in camps, sometimes permanently, mainly in Southern Europe and the Middle East. We know there are families fleeing from camp to camp and country to country with limited options for their futures. For the first time charities there are asking Raft (refugee aid from Taunton) for large suitcases no longer in use. We can all feel helpless when viewing such distress. But, as wars erupt in many countries and other wars continue, and refugee numbers rise in adjacent states there is this way to help.

I am seeking good clean warm washable clothing for all, particularly at present warm coats, either outgrown or no longer needed, all ages and sizes, and footwear to withstand mud, rain, snow as wintry conditions can be harsh. In addition, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, unopened hygiene and toiletries are always requested, and now large suitcases. From April summer clothing and footwear will be required.

I began by writing 'a little from everyone' and I wish to emphasise this. Whatever you can donate will be really appreciated by those who receive them, for practical reasons obviously, but equally importantly, they will know the world has not forgotten them.

With grateful thanks,

Geraldine Downey
Merriott 01460 271358

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Ashen the faggot

When I was younger, I used to go to the Squirrel Inn between Clapton and Winsham regularly on Old Christmas Day to 'Ash the faggot'. I had forgotten about it when out of the blue I saw this wonderful photograph of the event in a newspaper magazine. It was taken by celebrated photographer Homer Sykes and featured in his book 'An Annual Affair' published by Dewi Lewis.

So what exactly is 'Ashen the faggot'? The faggot is a bundle of wood (not the faggot we buy in the butchers!) and the tradition is to turn this huge bundle of branches into ashes.

How old is the tradition and why is it always celebrated on January 6th? It dates back to mediaeval times. The twelve-day period between Christmas Day and January 6th was always regarded as a time when country folk could take a bit of a break. Yes, cows still had to be milked, and animals tended or fed but other farming activities were put on hold. However, all agricultural life had to start again. So it became customary around here to make an occasion of twelfth night. What better on a cold midwinters evening to sit beside a warm wood driven fireside with mugs of ale or cider. Ash branches (which burnt well) were made into a twelve-foot-long bundle and strapped together with twelve flexible hazel bonds.

Whilst in time the tradition died out, memories of it remained. And in 1974 it was revived by local farmer Mike Turner in agreement with the landlord of his local pub The Squirrel. Since then, Mike has continued to make these lengthy wooden faggots each year. Like the original custom it was specified that those attending should have another drink each time one of the hazel bonds broke. More recently there was a competition whereby customers laid bets on the time taken for all twelve bonds to burst as the faggot was pushed deeper into the fireplace. In 2023 it took 5 hours 35 minutes between the breaking of the first and last bond. In 2024 it was quicker at 4 hours 13 minutes - all due to the wood being drier. Predictably not many left The Squirrel Inn sober!

John Dyke





Locals at the Squirrel Inn in 2020, photographed by and reproduced with permission from Homer Sykes.

Homer's book can be purchased from his publisher Dewi Lewis Publishing at www.dewilewis.com/products/an-annual-affair

Wanted

Has anyone any six-, seven- or eight-inch flowerpots that they no longer need. We are having an unusual plant sale at the golden anniversary event on the recreation ground in July. If you can help us out, then they can be left with any one of the following team members.

Mike and Cheryl Newman 01460 75025

Christine Perrin 01460 76824

Diane Bradly 01460 76761

Margaret Darch 01460 72040

Pam Glazier 01460 929915

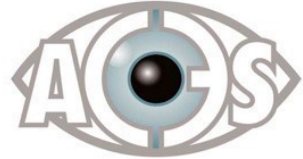




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Misterton Tennis Club

We had a good turnout for the annual 'Chairman's Bash' with eight players for a pre-Christmas 'bash' at tennis and served homemade refreshments. Cups and trophies were awarded to the 2024 tennis tournament winners at

the event. Graham White and Peter Smith (pictured from left to right), share the shield for Club Member of the Year and were recognised for their hard work and dedication to deconstructing the former floodlights and building and installing the new LED lights in their place along with other willing helpers.



Yeovil league team members Paudie and Tracy O'Hagan, Kate White and Nick Watt (pictured from left to right) started the new year with a hard-fought home match against Bridport, narrowly missing a win with only one game difference, but earning four valuable points in the league.

Have you thought about taking up tennis? New year, new you?

We welcome new members or if you are not a member and just want to book a court for a knock around, contact Tim Bradley on 07702 242000. For more information of what we offer, check out our website www.mistertontennis.co.uk.

Catherine Carins
Chair

Letter

"Men seek happiness. ... This is the motive of every action of every man" (Blaise Pascal 1623-1662).

Last Sunday in Church, we read John 2:1-11 - the account of the wedding at Cana - when Jesus turned water into wine. Not just a little bit of plonk either - 420 L minimum - and the best wine at the wedding...

It is a miracle that points to Jesus's agenda - to give us overwhelming gladness and joy forever - if, as Pascal did, we will drink His wine of forgiveness...

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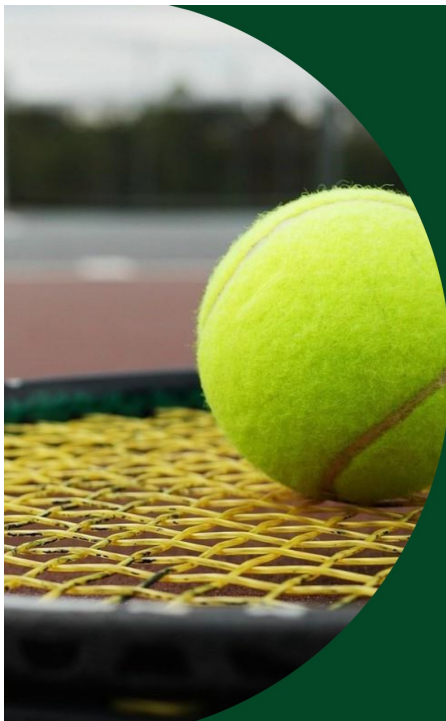
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Misterton village hall



As we reported in January's article, this year promises to be a fantastic year for the hall. It has started well, and the redecoration of the main hall itself has been completed. Thank you to all our regular hall users for your patience whilst the work was completed. We think the new two-tone colour scheme really brightens the hall and makes it a much more appealing space; we hope you agree and in case you do not get the opportunity to visit the hall in the near future, below are the before and after pictures.



Our next project is the kitchen refurbishment and improvements to the toilet facilities. We have been fortunate to secure funding from both the National Lottery and the Norman Family Charitable Trust; however, our plans could not have moved forward without a very generous donation from the Misterton WI. Members of the WI and village hall committee met at the hall on Saturday 18th January, where Judy Welch, the Misterton WI president,



presented a cheque for £20,000 to Steve Lyus, our village hall committee chair (photo to left). This extremely generous donation will make such a difference and will help move our plans forward and we cannot thank the WI enough. We anticipate the kitchen and toilet work will commence in mid-March and we aim to minimise disruption to our users, but please bear with us whilst this essential

work is carried out. Our secretary will keep our regular users informed of the plans.

Just a reminder that there are still tickets available from Mallabones for the Disco Night on **Friday 14th February 2025**. A big thank you to Hannah Palmer for organising the evening and 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.

Finally, make sure that you have the Misterton Village Hall's 50th anniversary party in your diaries. It will take place on **Saturday 19th July 2025**. and we hope it will be a memorable village event. As always, we would love to hear from you if you would like to volunteer to help with the event in any way; please contact our secretary Sue Kennedy on the number above to register your interest.



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

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New year quiz winner!

Thanks to everybody who entered the new year quiz and well done to all those who got all the correct answers. Congratulations go to Maureen Albert of Silver Street whose name was drawn out of the hat and wins the £25 prize. Here are the answers:

- 1) 42 teeth in a dog's mouth
- 2) 15 players in a rugby union team
- 3) 102 floors in the Empire State Building
- 4) 90 degrees in a right angle
- 5) 220 yards in a furlong
- 6) 8 legs on a spider
- 7) 4 lions in Trafalgar Square
- 8) 15 reds on a snooker table
- 9) 6 zeros in a million
- 10) 206 bones in the human body
- 11) 66 books in the Bible
- 12) 30 jumps in the Grand National
- 13) 9 rooms in Cluedo
- 14) 826 = population of Misterton in 2011 according to Wikipedia



Congratulations

Misterton Gardeners Association

February is the month for preparing for the gardening season shortly to come. Clean off and sharpen all the tools which you are likely to use like forks, spades, pruners and hedge shears. And do not forget to get your motorised tools particularly your lawnmower serviced. Think about which seeds, composts, fertilisers and insecticides you will need for the months ahead. Members of the Misterton Gardening Club get 25% off discount vouchers for all these items - a good reason of itself for joining the club. If you are not yet a member, then get in touch with me as the vouchers must be used by the end of this month.

We start our meetings in late March but precede this by having Sunday lunch together at the Admiral Hood in Mosterton earlier in the month. Spaces are limited so if you wish to join us, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Of course, February is snowdrop month. How delightful it is to see huge drifts of snowdrops glistening against the winter sun. If you fancy a trip to Exmoor to see them at their peak head for Snowdrop Valley near Wheddon Cross. Nearer home Forde Abbey opens its gardens for snowdrop lovers every weekend in February. If you are interested in seeing the many different types of snowdrops head for Margery Fish's garden in East Lambrook. Its Snowdrop Festival 2025 runs throughout the month.

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Dates for your diary

February 2025

WI meeting	Tuesday 4th February	7pm	The Globe
1970s disco	Friday 14th February	7pm	Village hall
Parish council meeting	Tuesday 18th February	6:30pm	Village hall back room
Coffee morning	Wednesday 26th February	10:30am	Mallabones
Annual village meeting	Tuesday 29th April	6pm	Mallabones

Church Services February 2025

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 2nd		9:30am HC BK	9:30am HC CJ	11am HC CJ	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
Sun 9th	11am HC DN			8am HC 11am Morn P		10:30am HC BCP
Sun 16th		9:30am HC CJ	11am HC BK	8.00 HC 11am Morn P	9am HC BCP	10:30am Family S
Sun 23rd	9:30am HC CJ			11am All Age Service CJ 6pm Informal DN		10:30am HC CW
CJ = Rev C J Davis BK = Very Rev Bob Key DN = Rev David Newman HC = Holy Communion						

	Flowers	Brass	Cleaning
Sunday 9 th February	Mrs C Perrin	-	Mrs S Crabb
Sunday 23 rd February	CP to check	-	-

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