

Misterton

Village Magazine



March 2025



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Note from the editors

This month our featured villager is Julie Douch, a lifelong Misterton villager who has had a few adventures (and mishaps!) along the way. The front cover photo was taken at Ham Hill in the golden hour by Jess Watt who is a photography undergraduate at Bath Spa university.

Although it's hard to believe spring is on its way given the recent weather, there are definitely signs of it in the magazine with various events popping up in March, April and beyond - good news, we say!

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the April magazine is Friday 21st March.

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



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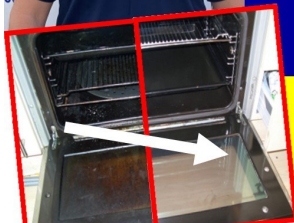
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News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



Dear residents

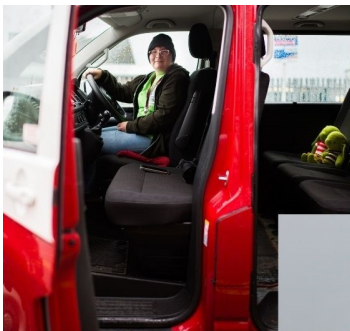
After the terrible weather of January our MP, Adam Dance, held a flooding forum to bring together local residents, community leaders, and key stakeholders to discuss the challenges we face and explore ways to improve flood prevention and resilience in our area. Two representatives from the Misterton Resilience Working Group attended and reported that there were a number of strong messages coming from it namely flood patterns have changed, drains are cleared periodically but generally cannot cope, flood financial support is available, and communities need to be more involved. Please see the minutes of the parish council meeting from 18th February 2025 for more information.

On other matters we are still planning a defibrillation course, probably in April but to make it worthwhile we need to know if villagers are interested. If you would like to attend, please advise Phil at philclifton@hotmail.com or 01460 73815.

And a gentle reminder about the telephone kiosk in Silver Street which serves two purposes. The most important is to house the AED defibrillator and the second to provide a place for books to be exchanged. As the space is very limited, please would you only swap books, not leave a large number. Recently it has been overwhelmed by boxes of books which has made access to the defibrillator difficult. As the defibrillator is most likely to be needed in an emergency, please ensure that it can be easily reached at all times.

Finally, a request for volunteers to join the Speedwatch Team. Numbers have fallen recently and without new interest the team will probably be unable to be sustained. The SIDs have made a difference to the speed of traffic passing through the village but there is still a call for speed watch, so if you could spare a little bit of time occasionally, please get in touch with the clerk.

Graham White
Chairman



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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.**

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

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We had a busy month in February! At our February meeting we welcomed Nick King, a retired police officer. His presentation was entitled 'Goats of the Gorge' and we really did not know what to expect. Nick told us that because of health problems he was advised to turn to goats' milk and as a result he ended up with 28 goats and a lot of milk! After much research he decided to go into producing soaps, creams, lip balms and other items. Initially from his kitchen, moving to his converted garage, but now so expanded that he and his two sons have an industrial unit. These are all completely natural products, not tested on animals, and very helpful to treat many skin conditions. It was a really interesting talk, and judging by the amount of products Nick sold, Misterton WI ladies will soon be walking round with beautiful, unblemished skin!

Our committee met with the village hall committee and were treated to a preview of the renovations to the hall so far. We look forward to seeing the new kitchen and toilets.

We held our February coffee morning at Mallabones on 19th February and as always it was a morning full of chat and laughter. On this occasion we had a collection for the Salvation Army. The next coffee morning is at Lynnbrook, Newbery Lane on Thursday 20th March from 10:30am to 12 noon so come along for a chat. All are welcome. And the cake is good...

In 2024, Misterton WI awarded four bursaries to enable winning members to participate in a new craft or skill of their choice. This is of course in keeping with the original aims of the WI to further learning. The names were drawn out of a hat, and the four winners were Jean, who chose to learn more about painting, Emily, who did a course with 'Burns the Bread', Sue, who made some wonderful wooden items, and Jan, who chose to do a willow stag with Jo Sadler. Photos below.

The next meeting is Tuesday 4th March, when our guest will be Bob Selway. He will be giving a demonstration of wood turning. Something different yet again, thanks to our speaker secretaries Heather and Margaret. So do join us at the Globe on Middle Street ladies and you will be made very welcome. Meetings begin at 7pm prompt. Our meetings begin with the speaker, so you can enjoy a glass of wine with the meeting too!

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

The committee



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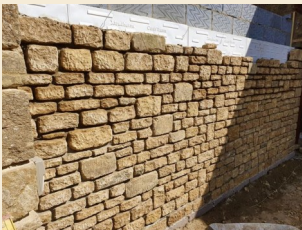
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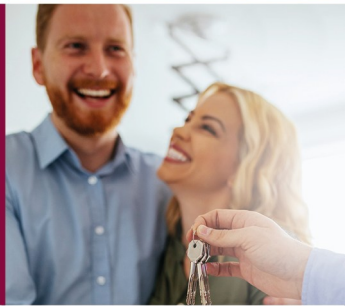
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Letter

The Lenten theme of *repentance*...

Years ago, a young couple I knew seemed drawn to the 'good news' of Christ - His offer of free amnesty and entry into God's perfect kingdom - where God will be and one day all the causes of human grief will be no more.

And then they changed their minds. Because they said they did not want to give up their autonomy.

And tragically that was a very good definition of Christian repentance. Because of course you can't enter Christ's kingdom and keep your *own crown*.

With my prayers and best wishes

CJ Davis

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Julie Doutch

Julie, or Ju as she is called by her family and friends, lives in Morgan Sweet House in the orchard on the right of Newbery Lane. She was born in 1968 at Yeovil Hospital and was brought home to Sherwood on the North Perrott Road in Misterton. Her parents were John Dyke and his first wife, Susan, who both still live in the village. Her father worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and her mother was a secretary.

Ju's elder sister, Caroline, lives in Taunton and works as a hairdresser. Ju's younger brother, Chris, lives in Surrey. Ju has two horses, and a big soppo (her description) mastiff called Winston, and a small Burmese cat named Fred.

Ju admits to having had an idyllic childhood with a great group of village friends. Her parents were best friends with other families in the village and they all travelled in convoy down to Cornwall for holidays and, later, to the Mediterranean. As for her education, she went to four schools - Misterton, Maiden Beech, Wadham and Yeovil College. While at school, she ran races and played hockey and enjoyed acting in school plays. When Ju was sixteen, she had a bad fall from her horse, and as a result, lost one of her kidneys. But being accident-prone, it was by no means the only accident she has had.

She married the boy next door, Darren, in Misterton's church in 1993. The reception was held in a marquee on her father's lawn in Unity Lane. Darren is now a project manager who works for a software company. Ju once took her pony, Toby, dressed as a Christmas reindeer to join our village carol-singers to the delight of Misterton's children. Her childhood was all about ponies and riding with her friends in the village. Ju loved organizing pony rides for children to raise money at local fetes. The couple have two children, Will and Sophie.

Ju had always wanted to join the mounted police force, but her riding accident ruled that out. She therefore followed her father into the Civil Service and has worked for the DWP for the last thirty-eight years, currently working at the Bridport Job Centre. Darren and Ju built their own house in Newbery Lane in 2012.

They decided to have a mini mid-life crisis in 2015, which involved booking into a sailing class in Gibraltar with two of their best friends. They lived and trained on a beautiful vessel for thirteen weeks to learn how to sail and skipper motorboats.

They are now both qualified Yachtmasters and have enjoyed some great sailing adventures.

In 2017, Ju had a serious accident while abroad on holiday in Greece. She had a bad fall and managed to break both her back and neck. The consultant in the local hospital called her his little miracle because she survived a hangman's break in her neck without very serious consequences.

Her hobbies are few as she still works full time, but still loves her holidays abroad, sailing and skiing. And at home, Ju enjoys looking after her two horses and walking her dog. Her son, Will, studied at both Keele and Exeter universities gaining a BA and a master's in business and marketing. He now works as an account manager. Will continues to live at home while saving up for his first house with his girlfriend, Abby. Darren and Ju's daughter, Sophie, lives in Bournemouth with her fiancé, Adam.



Despite her many foreign holidays, Ju's most enjoyable times were spent in Majorca, Cornwall and Dartmouth. Her current favourite TV programme is Strictly Come Dancing, though her guilty pleasure is reality TV. She loves going to concerts and has seen some great stars including David Bowie and the Rolling Stones.

John Coquet

Return of the flower show Saturday 16th August

After the success of last year, we are making it bigger and better with some new attractions. More details will be given in future magazines.

The flower show team

Request: If anyone has any plants surplus to requirements, we would be very happy to accept them for a plant stall being held at the village hall gold event in July. Can we politely request that they would be potted up and labelled please. Any that remain will be sold at the flower show the following month.

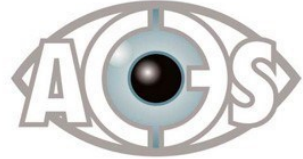
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Misterton Tennis Club

This month has seen good attendance at club sessions despite the freezing cold, wet weather. League matches went ahead and Misterton players Kate White, Matt Farrington, Nick Watt and Shiona Meikle (captain) pictured right, gained much needed points for the team.



Back to tennis? Are you a former tennis player, but feel a bit rusty? Or maybe you are a complete beginner?



25 year old Henry Park, level 2 Tennis Coach (with accreditation) will be joining us for a few weeks to offer a series of coaching sessions for both beginners and improvers on a Friday evening 7pm-8:30pm starting in May.

More details to follow but in the meantime, if this interests you email us for more information at admin@mistertontennis.co.uk.

Misterton Tennis Club welcomes new members. Check out our website: www.mistertontennis.co.uk.

Catherine Carins
Chair

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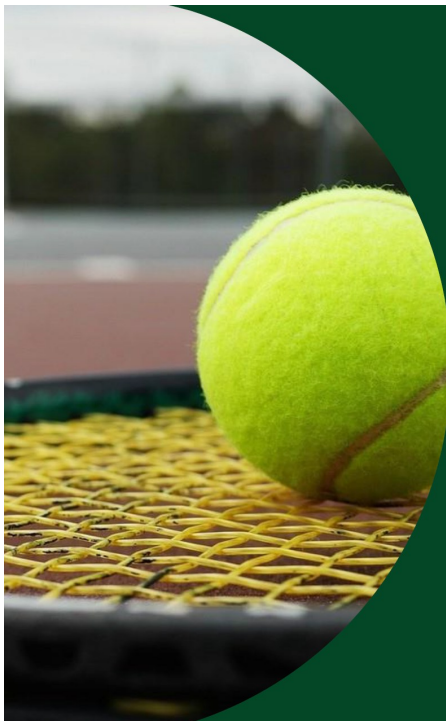
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Misterton village hall



We start this month's article with a big thank you to Hannah Palmer and her team for organising a hugely successful 70s Disco Night on 14th February. It was a great turnout and a hugely entertaining evening which raised the fantastic sum of £703.65 for the village hall. Thank you to everyone who supported the night - we plan to use the funds to help with our ongoing renovation work at the hall. Hannah has said it was such fun to organise, and she really enjoyed planning the event so if anyone else out there has a great idea for a future fund raiser, we would love to hear from you.



We remain on track to start our next projects as planned and we expect the kitchen refurbishment to kick off in early April followed by improvement work to the toilet facilities to commence by the end of July. Additionally, we are now also planning to renovate the floor in the main hall. Obviously, we will 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.

This month has also seen the start of a new club at the hall. Mike Luff's creative writing club meets every month, usually on a Wednesday afternoon. So, if you are a novice or seasoned writer with a flair for storytelling or just want to create prose to unlock your thoughts, why not give it a try? Mike's class is part of the u3a movement and is open to anyone not in full-time employment or full-time education. A small yearly membership fee is required to join the u3a (currently £12), so if you want to create, inspire and write, contact Mike Luff on michaelsevenoaks1234@gmail.com to get started!

Finally, remember that the Misterton Village Hall's 50th Anniversary Party will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 19th July 2025. The programme is taking shape; it currently consists of live music, hot and cold food, classic car show, children's activities, art display as well as a tombola and raffle. And we would like to say a big thank you to Misterton Garage who have generously agreed to be our main sponsor. We hope it will be a memorable village event and if you would like to volunteer to help with any element on the day, please contact our secretary Sue Kennedy on 01460 72660 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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Misterton Gardeners Association

We begin our meetings for the year on Friday 28th March and as usual it is at 7:30pm in the village hall. Our speaker is from the Gold Club and has named his illustrated talk 'Somewhat Naughty Plants'. I am mystified by the title and very much look forward to hearing what he has to say and show us. Being the start of the season, subs (still £15 for the year) are due.

Last autumn members each received three daffodil bulbs. Judging of the daffodils will take place at the meeting and there is a small prize for the winner.

Also, our flower of the month competition begins again. So do bring along your favourite flower. It will be wonderful to see flowers in bloom again after such a long wet winter.

We always get some very pleasant days in March, so take advantage of these in your garden. Finish pruning your roses early in the month and tidy up your borders. If, like us, you have some red dogwoods cut these right down to the base. This will encourage new growth, and you will be well rewarded next winter with some sparkling new red plants. Tidy up your greenhouse and plant lilies in pots for planting out next month. And feed ericaceous shrubs like camellias and azaleas with some ericaceous fertiliser.

For me March is daffodil month. I know certain varieties flower earlier in the year (some even before Christmas), but I prefer the later ones when you are more likely to admire them in the longer daylight hours. You have to search a bit to find the late flowering ones, but it is well worth it. The old variety Mount Hood (see photo) seems to do well in Misterton soils. It is a strong grower with just off-white flowers which are at their best in late March and early April.

John Dyke
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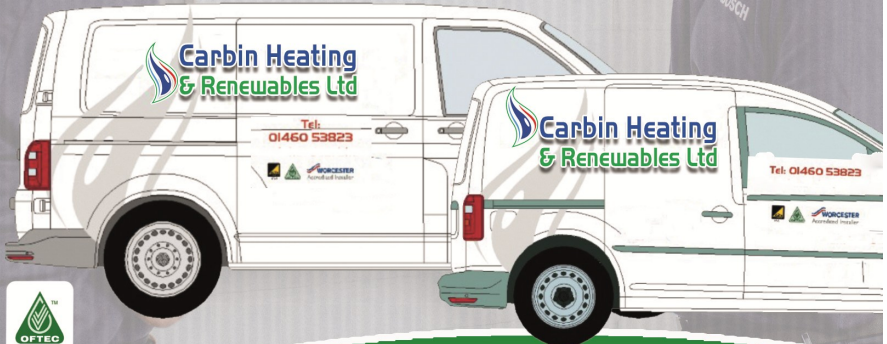
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Dates for your diary

March 2025

WI meeting	Tuesday 4th March	7pm	The Globe
Parish council meeting	Tuesday 18th March	6:30pm	Village hall back room
Coffee morning	Thursday 20th March	10:30am	Lynnbrook, Newbery Lane
Gardeners club	Friday 28th March	7:30pm	Village hall
Craft market	Sunday 13th April	10am - 2pm	Village hall
Annual village meeting	Tuesday 29th April	6pm	Mallabones

Church Services March 2025

Crewkerne Benefice					Merriott Benefice	
Rector: Rev CJ Davis 07707 719137 cj@stbartscrewkerne.org						
Date	Misterton	Wayford	Hewish	St Bart's	North Perrott	Haselbury
Sun 2nd		9:30am HC DN	9:30am HC CJ	11am HC CJ/BK	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
Wed 5th						7:30pm HC Ashing
Sun 9th	11am HC BK			8am HC 11am Morning P		10:30am HC BCP
Sun 16th		9:30am HC CJ	11am HC DN	8am HC 11am Morning P	9am HC BCP	10:30am Family Ser
Sun 23rd	9:30am HC CJ			11am All Age Serv CJ 6pm Informal BK/CJ		10:30am HC CW
Sun 30th	11am Mothering Sunday Benefice Service St Bart's				10:30am All Saints Merriott	
CJ = Rev CJ Davis		BK = Very Rev Bob Key		DN = Rev David Newman		HC = Holy Communion

	Flowers	Brass	Cleaning
Sunday 9th March	Lent	-	-
Sunday 23rd March	-	-	Mrs L Willis

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