

# Misterton Village Magazine



Annie-Rae

April 2025



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## Note from the editors

Let's celebrate Easter a little early with this month's cover, which is by Annie-Rae Melvin, age 9. We love the bright colours and the way she has given each egg a different pattern!

With it being the 50th anniversary of the village hall this year, we were delighted to receive an email from Maria née Guppy who was the last Misterton village hall princess back in 1980. Her story along with some wonderful vintage photos can be found on page 16. We're always looking for stories with a local flavour, so if you have an interesting one to tell please do email us and it could well be featured in a future magazine!

*Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt*

**Deadline for entries** for the May magazine is Wednesday 16th April.

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.

### Magazine committee contact details

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



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## News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



Dear residents

Recently members of the parish council met with the interim headteacher and senior psychologist of the learning centre. A useful discussion took place which touched on the progress the school feels it is now making after a difficult start, the hope that the learning centre can become more involved with the village and the issue of parking which the staff are continually reminded about. The headteacher said that the school is giving the pupils the chance to develop skills they didn't realise they had, and many are making good progress with. To quote one pupil:

*Firstly I'd just like to be heard on how not all the kids in this school have the same needs as kids in mainstream and we've probably all had a bit different lives that the majority of mainstream kids and this school helps us in so many different ways as there all qualified and educated on how to meet our needs so in a way this school could have a massive impact in these children's lives creating there futures and making this world a better place.*

PC Nally from Crewkerne Police Station attended the March Parish Council meeting (minutes are available on the parish website and village noticeboards). Speeding was one of the topics discussed and he encouraged people to support Speed Watch as this has been proved to be the best way of getting vehicles to slow down. There has been some interest since the request in the last issue of the magazine, but more volunteers are still required - please contact the clerk for more information.

The Warren Trust have installed a new AED at Kingshay Barton, Church Lane, which they have generously offered to be used by the public. It is currently on private land but due to be moved to be more accessible. On that subject, the defibrillator/AED course will be going ahead on 12th April at 10am in Misterton Village Hall. The course will provide some valuable first aid skills in a short two-hour effective session. Please contact [philclifton@hotmail.com](mailto:philclifton@hotmail.com) or 01460 73815 if you would like to attend.

There has recently been reports of increased amounts of dog waste, particularly on the recreation ground. If you are one of the few dog owners who is responsible for this, please clear it up - it is extremely unpleasant, dangerous and unfair.

Finally, please do come along to the Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday 29th April at 6pm at Mallabones. Councillor Heather Shearer (Somerset Council Lead Member for Children, Families and Education) will be in attendance along with various local groups who will take the opportunity to say a few words about their organisations.

*Graham White*  
Chairman

### **Saturday 16th August is Flower Show Day**

This year it will be bigger and better so watch this space in future magazines.

*The flower show team*

**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.*

### Misterton Resilience Team contact details

If you would like our assistance please call:

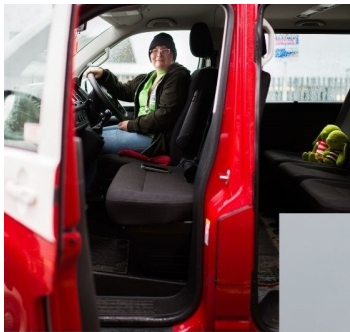
**Phil Clifton and Sally Gray** 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 [philclifton@hotmail.com](mailto:philclifton@hotmail.com)

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

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At our March meeting we welcomed Bob Selway, who demonstrated the art of wood turning. Bob is a very personable man and interspersed the making of a beautiful bowl with many a tale. Afterwards, he presented us with the bowl as a future raffle prize so thank you Bob, something very different!

The March coffee morning was at Jan's this time on the 20th March. As always, time for a catch up, chat and cake! Apologies to the two new ladies and to Jeffrey White who turned up at Mallabones in February as we had to change the date. Please come again though as we are now going to alternate between Mallabones and Jan's, so the next one will be at Mallabones on the 17th April from 10:30am to 12 noon. Please come and join us for some informal chat, discussion and more (and scones)!

Our ladies have been very busy preparing and making items for our craft stall at the Misterton village hall party in July. Jean has kindly opened her home for crafting sessions and we have had four so far with many more to come. Some pictures at the bottom of the page show our concentration. We have learnt new skills and have already amassed quite a lot of items, but you will need to come to the party to see for yourself. We will also be manning the kitchen on the day, offering home bakes, teas and coffees and light lunches. So please bear the date in mind, as we will be asking for home bakes, traybakes, scones and more nearer the time.

The next meeting is Tuesday 1st April when our speaker will be Neil Clarke, whose talk is entitled 'Iceland - the country'. So do join us at the Globe on Middle Street ladies, you will be made very welcome. Meetings begin at 7pm prompt. Our meetings begin with the speaker, and you can enjoy a glass of wine from the bar with the meeting too if you so wish!

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](mailto:jancd136@hotmail.com).

*The committee*



*Photos show wood turner Bob Selway, our gang at the February coffee morning at Mallabones, and craft sessions at Jean's*

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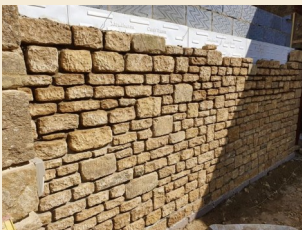
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## A little from everyone helps enormously

I am writing this in mid-March, and it is gratifying to report that ten full carloads of your donations have been driven to Raft (Refugee aid from Taunton) in the past six weeks. Winter clothing and footwear and blankets and suitcases were destined for the Middle East, Southern Europe and Ukraine, the last taking most of the blankets. Further visits will deliver some remaining suitcases.

Needless to say, Raft volunteers sent their thanks as they sorted and boxed the items, ready for collection. They will soon be collecting for warmer temperatures and from April onwards they ask those who can donate to give unwanted summer clothing and footwear for all ages and sizes - adults, teenagers, children and babies, all clean and in good condition. And they are always in need of new socks and underwear for all ages and toiletries and hygiene products. Additionally, if you have unwanted items unsuitable for refugees but suitable for Raft to sell on ebay, e.g. party clothes, high heeled shoes, business suits, Raft can use the money for shipping costs or for babies' nappies, for example.

Grateful thanks to all.

Donations to Geraldine Downey, Refugee Support Group, 01460 271358

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## Village hall princess

As Misterton Village Hall is celebrating its 50th year, I felt I needed to add my family to the Misterton records!

I'm Maria née Guppy the third daughter of Don and Liz Guppy, who grew up in Misterton in the 1970s-1980s, at School Hill. Although the family ties extend way back and are still prominent.

I suppose being crowned the village hall princess for a very shy nine-year-old in 1980 was rather daunting! But having Claire (Sweetman) crown me as she had been crowned the previous year was reassuring! As we often played in the Avenue together, Carmen Shaw, the assistant was a little older than me and lived with her mother and younger brother in the cottage under the bridge. I recall it being a stifling hot day, riding on the back of Don Melon's truck, wearing the dress my mother had made. The sash (which I think may be in my attic!) I believe was handmade by Betty White (standing to the right in one of the photos). The crown was a gorgeous tiara which I remember reluctantly having removed from my head at the end of the day and placed back in a box by the lovely warm Bet Melon. To become a princess, you had to go door to door selling raffle tickets and the one to make the most amount was crowned princess. Thankfully I had help from my older sisters who came round the village, and I remember going out to the neighbouring ones of North and South Perrott and Haselbury Plucknett!



To date I believe I am the last hall princess as sadly my youngest sister, who also turns fifty years old this year, never got her chance.

The hall certainly holds lots of great memories, with the ties to Misterton Football Club, as Dad alongside many others helped build the extended changing rooms. So, there were





always the discos, the bonfires, the fetes and most Saturdays watching Dad prep the pitch or playing football!

It was lovely to celebrate our dad's 80th at the hall recently with some of the villagers and our cousins, reminiscing our younger years!

*Maria née Guppy*

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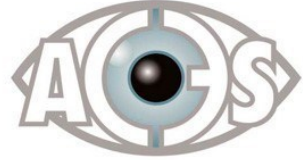
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## Misterton village hall



Hot on the heels of the main hall redecoration, we have now started work on renovating the kitchen. We hope to have this activity completed by mid-April and aim to keep the disruption to a minimum. During this time the smaller kitchen, located just off the main hall, will be available for hall users. And as a reminder regarding future work, we are still planning the refurbishment of the toilet facilities and main hall floor renovation in late July; this time has been chosen to hopefully cause the least disruption to our regular users as it coincides with the beginning of the summer break.

Planning for the Village Hall's 50th Anniversary Party is gathering pace. The event will take place at the hall on the afternoon of **Saturday 19th July 2025**. In particular, we would like to draw our creative residents' attention to the art section; we are hoping that Misterton residents will contribute to this display and have allotted the following categories for the event:

- Pictures - to include any medium (e.g. drawings, paintings, collage and photography)
- Floral displays - any choice of flower arrangement
- Craft - to include models of any medium (e.g. pottery, sculpture, wood, needlework, sewing and knitting)

We have further subdivided the categories into age ranges: 21 and over, under 21, and 12 and under. Prizes will be awarded for each age group in each category. So that we can best plan the display, please let Sue Kennedy (01460 72660) know more details of your exhibits by category (max of three per person per category), title and approximate size. Additionally, we would prefer pictures to be mounted, except the 12 and under where unmounted entries are acceptable. If you would like us to collect and transport your entry to the hall on the day, this can be arranged.

Finally, we would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to donate raffle and/or tombola prizes for the event. Diane Bradly is leading with the organisation of this and if you do have items you would like to donate as prizes, Diane has kindly offered to take delivery of them at Knowle House ahead of the event.



## Bookclub @ Mallabones

Love reading and discovering unexpected gems? Join us 12:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Mallabones. This month, we're diving into James by Percival Everett. Next up in April: Conclave by Richard Harris. Come along, share your thoughts over coffee and maybe a piece of cake!





## Crewkerne Probud Club

Probud 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 Probud 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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## Misterton Gardeners Association

Our meeting this month is on Friday 25th April at 7:30pm in the village hall. Our speaker is Ian Cogden who is giving a very interesting and colourful presentation about the Gardens of Tresco on the Isles of Scilly. If you have ever been to the Isles of Scilly, you will know what a wonderful and unique place this is. If you have never been, do come along to our meeting and hear Ian. I am sure he will inspire you to go there!

As ever we welcome visitors and new residents to Misterton to our meetings. It is a great way to get to know fellow villagers.

Our flower of the month contest continues so if you wish do bring along a favourite flower from your garden along for others to admire.

For me April is the month of two Ps - Plant and Protect. Yes, it is time to get planting both inside and outside. Indoors early in the month if you have a propagator, you can plant lots of seeds, both flowers and vegetables. Lacking a propagator, a warm windowsill usually does the trick. Tomatoes, courgettes and cucumbers always respond well to a bit of heat, as do half-hardy annuals such as petunias, marigolds and lobelias. Some of these can be planted out later in the month but throughout April protection is paramount. Protect top and soft fruit from frosts - plum and pear blossom is wonderful but crops will be very limited if hit by frost. Protect emerging hostas from slugs and snails - gravel and eggshells should help.

You have heard me make mention of late flowering daffodils and April is a great month for some varieties. Pheasants Eye is very well known with its pure white petals and its distinctive orange or yellow cup. But my overall favourite is Tahiti pictured here.

*John Dyke*  
01460 77233



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### Letter

A great interview question from an archdeacon... *"What is the gospel?"* And the church year gave me my answer...

- Advent - Christ will return to judge but ... we are guilty
- Christmas - he came to rescue us from that
- Good Friday - by paying our penalty in our place on the cross
- Easter - he rose to show that his death has worked!
- Pentecost - God sent his Spirit to empower us to live his way until he comes

*"And if you had to choose one?"* Well - Good Friday. The cross is our emblem. The gospel is sins paid for...

Not new news but good news - this Good Friday.

*CJ Davis*

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## Dates for your diary

April 2025

<b>WI meeting</b>	Tuesday 1st April	7pm	The Globe
<b>Book club</b>	Wednesday 2nd April	12:30pm	Mallabones
<b>Defibrillator/AED course</b>	Saturday 12th April	10am	Village hall
<b>Craft market</b>	Sunday 13th April	10am - 2pm	Village hall
<b>Parish council meeting</b>	Tuesday 15th April	6:30pm	Village hall back room
<b>Coffee morning</b>	Thursday 17th April	10:30am	Mallabones
<b>Gardeners club</b>	Friday 25th April	7:30pm	Village hall
<b>Annual village meeting</b>	Tuesday 29th April	6pm	Mallabones
<b>Book club</b>	Wednesday 7th May	12:30pm	Mallabones

### Church Services April 2025

Crewkerne Benefice					Merriott Benefice	
Rector: Rev CJ Davis 07707 719137 <a href="mailto:cj@stbartscrewkerne.org">cj@stbartscrewkerne.org</a>						
Date	Misterton	Wayford	Hewish	St Bart's	North Perrott	Haselbury
<b>Sun 6th</b>		9:30am HC	9:30am HC	11am HC	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
<b>Sun 13th Palm Sunday</b>	11am HC			8am HC 10:45am Morning S	10:30am Congregation invited to Merriott Benefice service All Saints	
<b>Sun 20th Easter Day</b>	9:30am HC tbc	9:30am HC	9:30am HC	8am HC 11am HC	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
<b>Sun 27th</b>	No service			11am All Age Service 6pm HC		10:30am HC CW
CJ = Rev CJ Davis      BK = Very Rev Bob Key      DN = Rev David Newman      HC = Holy Communion						
Note: Easter Day services dependent on available clergy					Worshippers welcome at Haselbury	

	Flowers	Brass	Cleaning
<b>Sunday 13th April</b>	Palm Sunday, Mrs S Coquet	Brass group	Mrs J Charlton
<b>Sunday 20th April</b>	Flower Guild (tbc)	-	-



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