

Misterton

Village Magazine



May 2025



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Note from the editors

This month's striking cover photo is of the buzzard that is always around the recreation field and was taken by Stefano Pochetti on one of his walks around Misterton. We are grateful to Stefano for sending his photo in to share with you all as it's a great shot!

Also this month John Coquet talked to Chris Ellis, the president of Misterton Tennis Club to find out about the history of the club, which has been running for well over 50 years. We are very lucky to have such a facility in our village and if you turn to page 16 you can read John's article, which includes some photos from the tennis club archives.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the June magazine is Wednesday 21st May.

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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News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



Dear residents

Recently residents from Station Road have approached the parish council expressing concern about the parking along a stretch of this road as they considered it to be a danger to homeowners and traffic. As a result, a consultation was done to determine if Somerset Council should be approached about adding traffic restrictions along the north side of Station Road between The Old Stagecoach Inn and Queensbury House. The residents of Station Road and adjacent roads (approximately 200 in total) were approached, and 60 responses were received. The majority of the responses supported an application to introduce parking restrictions but there was also disagreement to the proposed lines. Concerns expressed included that they would contribute to an increase in speed along the road and parking on nearby roads. Before reaching a decision about approaching Somerset Council, the parish council have decided to do further investigations into the current problem and the impact on Misterton as a whole. Crewkerne Town Council will be asked for assistance with respect to the entrance to Wool Gardens estate (proposed new traffic lights) and their SID operation. Dates for meetings to move this forward have been set and I will update you when any decision(s) are made.

Defibrillator training went ahead on 12th April with attendees from Misterton, Seaborough and North Perrott. The training for both new people and those wanting a refresher was really valuable to boost skills and confidence. There were updates in techniques recommended by the health professionals which made it even more straightforward to provide assistance should it be needed. Further training will be arranged in due course.

The parish council continues to monitor the impact of the learning centre and home in Unity Lane on the community and are in regular contact with County Councillor Heather Shearer who is Somerset Council's lead member for children, families and education. If you witness any incident that you are unhappy about it is essential that you report it to the police and helpful if you could also keep the parish council informed.

Finally with spring well and truly here, please could I ask everybody to make sure that none of their bushes and, trees and shrubs are overhanging pavements or other rights of way. If they are, please trim them back.

Graham White

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. ***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:

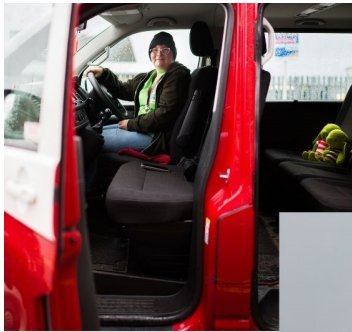
Phil Clifton and Sally Gray 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 philclifton@hotmail.com

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

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At our April meeting on 1st April, we welcomed Neil Clarke, whose talk was entitled 'Iceland - the country'. Neil is obviously in love with this fascinating country and presented a film, made and narrated by him, showing the many sides to Iceland, incorporating all his own photographs. We look forward to seeing him again in September with another of his films and this time the subject will be Starlings, murmurations and all.

The April coffee morning was this time at Mallabones, on Maundy Thursday 17th April so time for hot cross buns and scones, along with the usual banter and chat. Our informal coffee mornings are held monthly, alternating between Jan's on Newbery Lane, and Mallabones. As always, time for a catch up, chat and cake! All are welcome to join us.

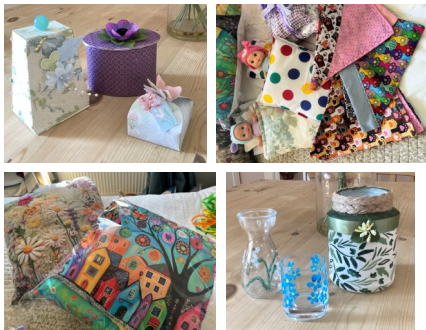
Our ladies continue to be busy, preparing and making items for our craft stall at the Misterton village hall anniversary celebration on 19th July. Expect decoupage vases, handmade cards, brightly coloured plump scatter cushions, glass bead bracelets, sets of lavender cushions, hand painted bud vases and more and lots for the little ones too! Another reminder that 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 baking nearer the time. All proceeds from the kitchen go to the ongoing refurbishment of the village hall, which Misterton WI is very glad to support.

We have several outings planned for the warmer weather, and our WI also often receives invites to other WI's events. Recently three of us went to a buffet supper and a private showing of 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' which was a really fun night. There was also a fun evening featuring demonstrations of belly dancing and its origins, and future events include a cookery demonstration, horse drawn barge trip, and several members will be helping out in the WI tent at the Bath and West Show. The modern WI really does have something for everyone.

Our next meeting is on May 6th when we will be holding our AGM and electing officers for the forthcoming year. Therefore, we have no speaker to give us the chance to discuss upcoming ideas and events. Please note, this is a members-only event.

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



Some of the beautiful craft items made already for the upcoming event in July



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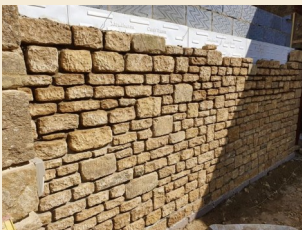
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Forever Young
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Positively 4th Street
Lord Franklin
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Seven Yellow Gypsies

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The history of Misterton Tennis Club

I'm indebted to Christopher Ellis, the current president who gave me much information about Misterton Tennis Club and without whom so much would be lost.

The club was formed after the Second World War, and the Council paid for the grass courts as part of the recreation ground. Until then tennis had to be played in the Old Vicarage garden behind Gordon Boalch's farm. Gordon was very youthful at the time and took it on himself to teach villagers to play tennis. Meanwhile, Gladys Young involved herself for years in seeking funds for the wire netting surrounding the courts.



Tennis court 1950

The club now had tarmac courts. From 1978 onwards, 'Auntie Glad' organised mixed men and women to play tennis, as well as singles. After that, the club joined the Yeovil and District Tennis League. Over the next few years, the club had two men's teams, two ladies' teams and a mixed team playing in the league.

Over the years the club has had several chairpersons who have overseen successful developments of the facilities. The costs of the wire netting surrounding the courts were funded by the Playing Fields Associations, run by the late Duke of Edinburgh. A plaque exists to signify this.

In 1983, the hard courts surface was improved. A new pavilion club house (which used to be a mere garden shed) was erected and then opened by David Laws around 1997. It was the first small local clubhouse to install electricity.

The club further developed by having its floodlights opened by the former president Mary Boalch in the late 1990s that allowed for play during evenings and throughout the year. More recently, the club invested in an updated set of LED floodlights that were installed last year to further enhance the quality of the club's facilities.

The club continues to exist and expand by running a number of related fund-raising events, including bingo sessions and quiz nights.





In addition to tennis, the club is now offering pickleball sessions. This is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. It is played on a section of the tennis court (similar size to a badminton court) with a modified tennis net. Players use solid paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball over the net. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports as it is easy to learn and suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

The club remains an important sporting hub for the village, fostering community engagement and active lifestyles. There are currently around forty active playing members. The club participates in both the summer and winter divisions of the Yeovil and District Tennis League, offering competitive play throughout the year. They also provide a range of coaching options for different standards of players.

They are actively looking for new members to join the club in order to ensure its future. Are you looking to get back to tennis? Are you a former tennis player but feel a bit rusty? Or maybe you are a complete beginner? If you interested in finding out more then check out the club website at www.mistertontennis.co.uk or wander over to the clubhouse at Unity Lane for a chat, they are a friendly bunch.

John Coquet

Misterton Tennis Club members from days gone by including Mary Boalch, Gordon Boalch, Jack Lawrence and Roger Forcard amongst others



Misterton Tennis Club members now

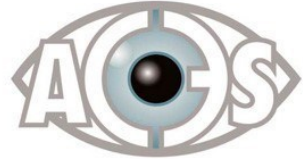




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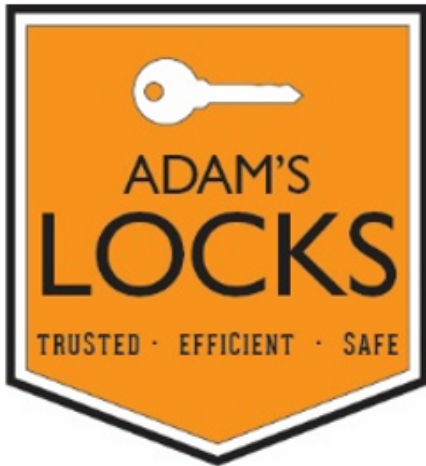
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Misterton village hall



The committee is pleased to report that the kitchen renovation work is going well; the new kitchen units are already in place and by the time you read this article in early May we hope to have the new oven, worktop and sinks installed. We would like to thank all our users for their patience during this work package and we expect the newly completed kitchen to enhance our hall users' experience for years to come.

In terms of future work, the refurbishment of the toilet facilities and main hall floor renovation remain on track to commence in late July/early August; 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.

In terms of future events, remember the Village Hall's 50th Anniversary Party is planned to take place at the hall on the afternoon of **Saturday 19th July 2025**. In last month's article we called on the creative residents of Misterton to participate in the art display, which is being planned for the day. There are several categories (pictures, floral displays and craft) that will hopefully appeal to a wide-ranging audience. Don't forget, there are also prizes for each category and age groups. Our village hall committee secretary, Sue Kennedy, is leading with the art display, so if you would like any further detail on what is required, please contact her on 01460 72660.

We have also just taken delivery of the raffle tickets for the event, so we will be looking to distribute them throughout May, June and July, ahead of the party on 19th July. Tickets are priced at £1 each and every ticket sold will not only support your village hall, but it will also put you in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes. As mentioned previously, anyone who is willing to donate raffle and/or tombola prizes for the event can contact Diane Bradly, who is leading with the organisation of the raffle. Diane has also kindly offered to take delivery of any donated prizes at Knowle House, ahead of the event.

Look out for the posters advertising the party shortly. There will also be regular updates on our Facebook page, including timings for the day's events.

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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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Misterton Gardeners Association

Our meeting this month is on Friday 30th May at 7:30pm in the village hall. We have a very interesting speaker, Dan James who works as a ranger on Exmoor National Park. His subject is 'Exmoor and my life as a ranger there'. There will be plenty of slides illustrating this beautiful part of our county so do come along. Visitors and newcomers to our village are most welcome.

The flower of the month competition continues so please bring a favourite one from your garden.

May is a busy month for us gardeners. Time to plant out both vegetables and flowers outside, at least once you have hardened them off first and the danger of a late frost has subsided. The warm weather in April has heated up our soils a bit earlier than normal so we should get some earlier crops. Home grown tomatoes, courgettes and beans taste so much better than supermarket ones. It is well worth taking a bit of trouble with them at this stage. Time to prepare your hanging baskets but harden them off first in your porch or greenhouse. We all have some shady parts in our gardens so think about planting ferns there as they all add structure and interest.

Hasn't the tree blossom been wonderful this year? Our magnolia has been completely untouched by frost and the petals have lasted much longer than normal, as has the flowering cherry. But the little pear tree pictured here (which I bought from the much-lamented Scotts Nursery in Merriott years ago) has born more blossom than I have ever known. I will take great care with it in the hope that the pears will also be extra special in September.

Finally, after many years at the Gardening Club's helm Diana and I are stepping down from our roles as secretary and chairman at the end of this season. The club has been an integral part of village life for 40 years, so we do hope that someone will step forward to fill these positions. Could it be you? You don't even have to be a gardener, just someone who loves our community.

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Misterton Tennis Club

Saturday 22nd March saw Misterton Tennis Club take over Mallabones café for a brilliant quiz night - and what a fun night it was! With eight teams, 44 eager quizzers, and barely a spare seat in the house, the atmosphere was buzzing with friendly competitive spirit, and there were plenty of head-scratching moments.

Entry was just £5 and thanks to some fantastic raffle prize donations (big thanks to everyone who contributed) we raised £155 for the club.

Thank you to Claire from Mallabones and her brother Nick, our entertaining quiz master duo, for putting together a cracking set of questions. The tennis-themed ones were a real hit...

Congratulations to 'The LED Lightbulbs' team led by our very own vice chairman Nick Watt, who lit up the scoreboard and took home the win and four bottles of wine.



In league news, it has been a bit of a tough season for the mixed team in the Yeovil and District Winter League Division 2, with a few matches rescheduled and just two wins along the way. But the team gave it their all and showed great commitment. Wincanton topped Division 2 with eight wins and 71 points. Sadly, Misterton (35 points) and Queen Camel (37 points) finished in the bottom two spots and will be moving down to Division 3 next winter.

Looking ahead to the summer season, we have had to make the difficult decision to withdraw both our ladies' and men's teams from the summer league this year. After many years in the league, we are now short on players for a number of reasons for these teams, but plan to rejoin the league next year entering a mixed team.

We welcome new members and are currently offering coaching for both intermediate players and beginners and 'rusty racquets' for those coming back to tennis after a break.

For more information of what Misterton Tennis Club offers or to contact us, check out our website www.mistertontennis.co.uk.

Catherine Carins

Chair

VE Day

Last month detailed the celebrations planned by Crewkerne and District Royal British Legion for the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE). The key dates are 8th May (anniversary) and 10th May (countrywide celebrations). If Misterton residents want to commemorate visually then displays of Union Jack and/or bunting during the period 8th to 10th May, especially through the village centre, would show our appreciation for all who helped our success in achieving freedom after six years of war.

Paul Bradly
RBL member

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Dates for your diary

May 2025

Book club	Wednesday 7th May	12:30pm	Mallabones
Parish council meeting	Tuesday 13th May	6:30pm	Village hall back room
Steve Knightley	Saturday 24th May	7pm	Mallabones
Misterton AGM	Tuesday 27th May	2pm	St Leonard's Church
Gardeners club	Friday 30th May	7:30pm	Village hall

Church Services May 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 4th		9:30am HC	9:30am HC	11am HC	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
Sun 11th	11am HC			8am HC 11am Morning service		10:30am HC BCP
Sun 18th		9:30am HC	11am HC	8am HC 11am Morning service	9am HC CW	10:30am Family service Then APCM
Sun 25th	9:30am HC			11am All Age service 6pm HC		10:30am HC CW
Thu 29th					10am Benefice service All Saints Merriott	
CJ = Rev CJ Davis		BK = Very Rev Bob Key		DN = Rev David Newman		HC = Holy Communion

	Flowers	Brass	Cleaning
Sunday 11th May	Mrs L Meakins	-	Mrs C Newman
Sunday 25th May	Mrs B England	-	-

Letter

"N'er cast a clout till May is out..."

i.e. don't shed your winter clothes until it's warm enough. Our family argues annually over whether May refers to the month or the hawthorn blossom. Either way, proverbs like this help us live well and wisely on the earth. Do you have a favourite?

And have you ever read God's Proverbs in the Old Testament? The Bible's greatest concern is to tell us how we can be rescued for the next world, but it doesn't forget this world either. And the starting point for wise living for this world and the next? Well, what about heeding the one who made them both?

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10)

With warmest wishes and prayers,

CJ Davis



“
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