

Misterton Village Magazine



January 2026



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Note from the editors

Diane Bradly is kindly donating the money raised from the Christmas messages to the magazine. We would like to thank her and everyone who donated for your generosity to help us keep bringing you the latest village news, it is much appreciated by us all on the committee.

You may recognise the cheery star of this month's front cover, who is none other than our lovely postie Darren. We mentioned previously that he had completed a sponsored walk in September and you can read his own account of this amazing feat on pages 16 and 17.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year!

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the February magazine is Wednesday 21st January.

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

Just as we were all starting to look forward to Christmas, Misterton (along with much of the country) experienced two periods of very wet weather. The first one saw water flowing down roads and lanes, drains were blocked, small trees came down and the banks at the sides of roads slipped. Somerset Council reacted very quickly to a fallen tree in Knowle Lane which was cleared overnight and a resident with his tractor helped to clear the soil from the collapsed bank. A few days later additional heavy rain brought more challenges, particularly to the drains which were blocked by debris. Luckily home flooding was avoided, partly due to the hard work of a few residents who steered the water to where it caused fewer problems. We are very grateful to all the people who help out on such occasions - our community is very lucky to have them looking out for us.

There is little to report on the outline planning application for 325 houses at Station Road. We are still waiting to hear when the application will be discussed by Somerset Council, and the date will be publicised as soon as we have it. The other potential development of 31 new affordable homes at the end of Turnpike Green by Misterton Crossroads is proceeding with an application having been submitted to Somerset Council during December.

At the January meeting the councillors will be finalising the budget and setting the precept for the next financial year. The aim is for there to be no increase from the current year. Confirmation and full details will be provided following the meeting.

Finally, a request for all residents to be vigilant during these winter months. Undoubtedly there will be more bad weather so please do your bit by keeping drains near your homes clear of debris, driving sensibly and considerately if you come across surface water and keep a look out for your neighbours.

With best wishes for a happy new year from all at the parish council.

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

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.*

Food waste recycling in Somerset

Thank you to everyone, Somerset residents are among the best for recycling in the country, but there's still more we can do. Did you know that food waste makes up over 20% of the average Somerset family's rubbish bin by weight? Around 7 out of 10 Somerset households already recycle food waste, but there's still more to do, and every little helps.

Recycling your food waste is easy and has real benefits for both our community and the environment. When you recycle food waste, it's collected weekly and turned into green electricity and fertiliser. In fact, just one recycled kitchen caddy of food waste can generate enough electricity to power a light bulb for 24 hours!

By making food waste recycling part of your weekly routine, you'll help Somerset save up to £1 million a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It's also a great way to cut down on smells, as food waste is taken away more frequently than general rubbish.

If you don't have a food waste caddy or need more information, it's simple to order one from Somerset Council. Visit the council's website at www.somerset.gov.uk/order-bins.

Thank you for helping to make Somerset a cleaner, greener place to live. For more information, visit the Somerset Council website or look out for updates on social media at www.facebook.com/SomersetWaste.

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CHAS

Our Christmas meeting on 2nd December turned into a very social affair, with a lovely buffet and mulled wine provided by members (thank you from the committee!). We exchanged Christmas cards, and presented Donna at the Globe with an olive tree as a thank you for looking after us for the past three years. Please note, from January we are moving our meetings to our refurbished village hall. We also made a presentation to treasurer Helen, who is retiring from the post after 8 years.

There were lots of events in December. At the Christmas Crafts Market in Crewkerne our items proved popular and this together with further stalls at local care homes will mean that we can make a substantial donation to the Community Bus in January. The Christmas meal at the Squirrel Inn was much praised and eight members attended the group carol service at East Chinnock. The December coffee morning was at Mallabones with the remaining crafts on offer for locals. Thank you everyone for supporting our efforts. We will resume our crafting sessions later in the new year. And a huge thank you to member Jean who hosted the events, provided crafting supplies, and taught us all something new.

In addition, we would formally like to welcome Debbie, Emma, Angela and Brenda as new members to Misterton WI.

Our January meeting is at 7pm prompt on Monday 12th January at the village hall - **please note change of venue and day of the week**. On this occasion we will be joined by Mike Rendall, who will be speaking about paper craft.

Our January informal meet up will this month be at Jan's at Lynnbrook on Newbery Lane on January 20th from 3pm - 4:30pm. We thought an afternoon tea would make a nice change! A donation in lieu of payment for refreshments to Crewkerne Food Bank.

Our meetings always begin with our speaker, so ladies, please join us. We now have lots of space for new members!

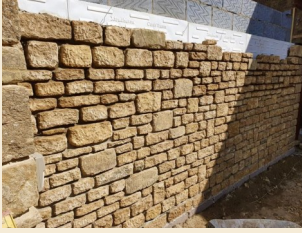
For any further information please contact president Judy on 01460 78931, secretary Jane on 07970 988383 or vice president Jan on 01460 77599.

The committee



Our photos show us at the lighting up in Crewkerne and the Christmas meal at the Squirrel Inn

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New Year Quiz

In this year's quiz, all the answers are either the title of a film (F) or a song (S). Answers can be submitted to the magazine email address or dropped into the letterbox at Broughtons at the bottom of Broughtons Drive by the closing date of 20th January 2026. The prize is £25 and if nobody scores 15 points, the highest score will win. In the event of multiple correct entries, the winner's name will be picked out of a hat so don't forget to include your contact details. The answers and winner's name will be published in the February magazine. Good luck!

1. 2001 A S O (F)
2. 3 T a L (S)
3. A T W in 80 D (F)
4. 1 F O the C N (F)
5. 24 H F T (S)
6. 3 M and a B (F)
7. 50 W T L Y L (S)
8. 101 D (F)

Happy new year!



9. 99 R B (S)
10. 12 Y a S (F)
11. W I 64 (S)
12. L S and 2 S B (F)
13. 7 B for 7 S (F)
14. 8 D a W (S)
15. 4 W and a F (F)

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COMMUNITY

DR  P in

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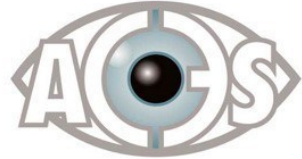
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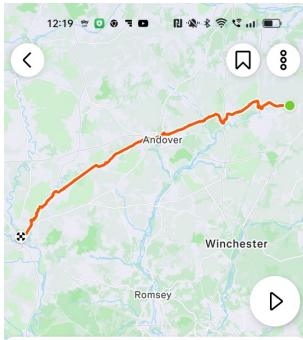
Our postie's MND journey

Happy new year everyone.

It's a privilege to be your postman, and I'm proud to serve the community of Misterton. I would like to thank you for your support and donations in my walk for Motor Neurone Disease, from London Waterloo to Crewkerne station. In total including Gift Aid, we raised a staggering £10,510, which will go into research and helping afflicted families. Once again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

So then onto the walk, Sunday 21st to Thursday 25th September. Distance covered 155.8 miles, total steps 338,800, total walking hours 50. Route: London Waterloo - Clapham Junction – Woking – Fleet – Basingstoke – Overton – Whitchurch – Grateley – Salisbury – Tisbury – Gillingham – Templecombe – Sherborne - Yeovil Junction - Crewkerne.

Weather: tropical heat and sunny all week long. After I completed my journey, a mate asked me to sum it up in one word: PAINFUL, I replied.



Darren James
23 September 2025 at 04:25 ·
Basingstoke and Deane, England

Morning Walk

Congratulations, this activity is your longest walk on Strava!

Distance	Steps
36.19 mi	81,688
Moving Time	Elevation Gain

Day 1, 08:15 I take my first steps from under the clock at Waterloo and head the four miles towards Clapham Junction, where I would meet a pal of mine Tom Fry, who would keep me company for the next 48 miles. As it was mainly flat the first day and not too strenuous, we made good time and arrived in Woking around 17:00. 28 miles done, felt sore but not tired.

Day 2, we leave at 05:00 and head along the beautiful Basingstoke Canal, branched off to go via Fleet, and then rejoined the canal. This was the shortest route possible, and we were going to take any advantage we could. Stopped at Odiham Castle (King John's Castle 1215) for a breather and running repairs to our sore feet. Next stop Basingstoke where Tom hopped on the train to return to Crewkerne. He informed me later he fell straight asleep, whereas I still had another four very painful miles to go to my overnight stay in Oakley. Sore feet and calf muscles were now becoming a problem for me, oh and three blisters had decided to join in the fun. Another 33 miles completed.

Day 3, the day from hell. Not kidding you, the effort to get up and get going again was affecting me both physically and mentally. My 57-year-old body was saying NO, NO, NO, but like a mate said later it's only walking. Started at 04:20, it was cold, but hey ho, I was on a mission. I had a few moments emotionally today. It was tough going, a 36 mile walk to Salisbury and my feet were sore. Imagine walking on pebbles with no footwear, that's what it felt like and the legs, well once you get going the stiffness eases. I was advised to take breaks, change socks and footwear. I never managed to do this as I knew the pain to get going again was pure agony, so I just plodded on. The best thing about day 3 was I had a bath in my room, pure luxury.



*Darren with his wife
Marianne and son Josh*

Day 4, left Salisbury at 05:00 for the 14-mile trip to Tisbury where I was to meet my mate Simon Parsons, he of the famous 'it's only walking' quote. Got offered a lift this morning, tempting, very tempting, but turned it down. So from Tisbury we set off for Templecombe and ventured through two of the longest villages known to mankind, Semley and Motcombe. They just went on and on, a bit like some of you in the village when we get talking, you know I have a job to do, ha, ha. After the troubles I had on day 3, today was a good day. Think Simon's joviality helped, even though when we reached Templecombe, his words had come back to haunt him, which pleased me, he was a shell of a man. We caught the train to Sherborne where I was staying for the night and was joined by eight mates for dinner, nice touch lads x. Another 35 miles chalked off, 23 to go.

Day 5, 05:40, for some reason I kept humming a Peters and Lee song, ha ha. Caught the train back to Templecombe and walked back to Sherborne (what idiot came up with that idea??? answers on a postcard please). On the approach to Sherborne station, Stuart Paull, one of my oldest friends, joined me with a goody bag of food, and then out of nowhere my son Joshua James appeared, who had caught the early train up from Exeter. Stuart left us at Yeovil Junction and so it was left up to Josh to get me over the finishing line. I was struggling so thank you son for seeing me home. Honestly, I'm getting emotional writing this so I am thankful that none of you (apart from some family members including my wife who was so happy to see me, can't imagine why) were there to greet me home, think I would have been in floods of tears.

So after 155.8 miles, really really sore feet, bad knees, strained calf muscle and SEVEN blisters I was home, had three days off and I was back to see you cheery lot. I can't thank the lads who joined me on the walk enough, they were a massive boost in helping me achieve my goal, and for those of you who helped me out before my walk, you know who you are.

A massive thank you to everyone in your support, I wouldn't have made it without the kind people of Misterton, love you all xxx

Darren James

Footnote: if any of you plan on following my footsteps, I shall not be joining you, but if any of you want to join me in my next planned walk in 2028 from North to South Devon, please feel free to stop me and talk about it. Thank you.



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Misterton village hall



A very happy new year to you all and we hope that you have had a wonderful break.

You will recall from the December article that in the lead up to Christmas, the bingo season was in full swing; the event on 1st December aimed to raise funds for the hall and we are pleased to report that the evening raised a staggering £1,161! This is a fantastic sum, and our thanks go to all who organised and supported the night.

Now onto 2026 and with all the renovation work carried out in 2025, our focus this year is expected to be on fundraising. The committee is looking to create a programme that generates a steady stream of funding for the hall. Our plan is still in the embryonic stages, so if any residents have any novel fundraising ideas, please contact a member of the committee and we will consider it for inclusion in our annual programme. The next date for your diaries is **Saturday 14th February 2026** when the hall will be hosting a ceilidh. Tickets for the event (priced at £12 per adult and £6 for under 18s) can be purchased from Mallabones. The dancing starts at 7pm and a bar will be available throughout. We are extremely grateful 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, Kim Boalch. Hot on the ceilidh's heels, we can expect more bingo sessions to take place over the Easter period, so please come along and support these events as they all help to raise funds for your village hall.

All these events and much more can be found on our redesigned Misterton Village Hall Facebook page. This now includes an electronic calendar where residents can see exactly what is planned to take place at the hall. Make sure you follow us so that you kept informed of the latest hall developments.

Although our 2026 priority is fundraising, the committee in parallel is still keen to progress with our long-term hall renovation plan. Obviously, we completed a significant portion of the work last year, but our next priority on that plan is the reformatting of the old kitchen into a self-contained bar area. The project's timings are currently a little fluid as commencement depends on successful funding applications that have been submitted but not yet approved. Hopefully we'll have some good news in the February edition of this magazine, and we can give you an idea of exact timings of when this important work will be carried out, along with its impact on our users (which we expect to be minimal).



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Christmas cracker joke

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Touch of tartan ceilidh

The team behind last year's 1970s disco are bringing you a Scottish Love Affair on Valentines Day!

Join us for a fun-filled evening of live folk music and lively dancing with the Hambleton Hopstep Band to raise money for Misterton Village Hall.

Fun for all ages, suitable for children over 8 years old, bring your family and friends together to dance the night away on Saturday 14th February 7-11 pm.

Never been to a ceilidh? Fear not, an expert caller will guide us through the steps as we learn the dances together. Comfortable footwear is highly recommended!

In addition to the music and dancing, there will be a bar (cash and card accepted).

Tickets available at Mallabones £12 adult / £6 8-18years.

You are welcome to wear a touch of tartan!

Bingo

The Christmas Bingo was a great success with many items of tombola and raffle given to me, thank you all very much. The village hall have decided to have an Easter Bingo. If anyone has any unwanted Christmas gifts I would love to give them a good home.

Please contact me on 01460 76761, send me an email at paulbradly@gmail.com or call in to Knowle House, Middle Street. I can collect if necessary.

Diane Bradly

Letter from the vicar

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Happiness is something we all long for - arguably more than anything else. The philosopher Pascal said "All men seek happiness. This is without exception... this is the motive of every action of every man..."

Sadly, it is too rarely what people think the Christian faith is about.

Yet the angels proclaimed, "glad tidings of great joy" and Christians down two millennia have insisted they have found in Christ a spring of happiness in this life that flows even during our struggles and which will overflow for eternity.

Wishing you the greatest happiness at this time of year.

CJ



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Crewkerne Probus Club hold regular lunch meetings on the last Wednesday of each month. These are currently held at Cricket St Thomas Golf Club, and we meet at 12:15pm.

At 12:30pm we have a guest speaker who gives us an insight into an interesting topic. The two-course lunch is served at 1pm and this costs £20 per head, followed by coffee.

Crewkerne Probus Club also organises a number of special events throughout the year, including a Ladies Spring Lunch, a Christmas Lunch and other outings to places of local interest.

We have a tradition of selecting a worthy local charity each year for which to raise funds.

If you are a retired or semi-retired man living in the Crewkerne area, why not come along and give us a try? For more information you can contact our secretary or visit our website, all details are below. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code in the top right corner.

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Misterton Tennis Club is excited for the year ahead, with events, tournaments and a range of tennis coaching and opportunities to play - plenty of reasons to pick up a racket. We encourage anyone looking to improve their fitness or take up a new hobby to join us on court. New members and beginners are always welcome, and we look forward to another fun year of tennis ahead.

Catherine Carins
Chair

www.mistertontennis.co.uk



Thank you

I would like to thank all those villagers who participated in the Christmas card scheme. Everyone was very generous and this year we raised £185. We have decided to give this to Misterton Village Magazine as they do a wonderful job each month in keeping everyone up to date with what is going on in Misterton.

Happy new year to everyone.

Diane Bradly

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Dates for your diary

January 2026

Book club	Wednesday 7th January	12:30pm	Mallabones
WI meeting	Monday 12th January	7pm	Village hall
Parish council meeting	Tuesday 13th January	6:30pm	Village hall back room
WI afternoon tea	Tuesday 20th January	3pm	Lynnbrook, Newbery Lane

Church services January 2026

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		11am HC	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
Sun 11th	11am HC CW tbc			8am HC BCP 11am Morning service		10:30am HC BCP
Sun 18th		9:30am HC		8am HC 11am Morning service	9am HC BCP	10:30am Family service
Sun 25th	9:30am HC CJ tbc			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						

	Flowers	Brass	Cleaning
Sunday 11th January	Mrs J Nicholls	-	Mrs K White
Sunday 25th January	JN to check	-	-

Clean it up!

If your dog messes outside someone else's house and you are unable to clear up the mess, could you please notify the homeowner so they can either give you a bucket to clear up the mess yourself or undertake the cleaning up themselves? Please do not leave it on the pavement for someone to walk in and spread.

This will help to ensure that a member of the household doesn't inadvertently tread someone else's dog mess into their home.

Thank you

Misterton resident

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