

Misterton

Village Magazine



February 2026



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Note from the editors

If you entered the new year quiz in last month's edition you can now rush to page 13 for the answers and to find out if you were the lucky winner!

Readers with long memories will remember that we published part one of John McComb's 50th birthday motorbike adventures around the world back in June 2025. If you've been waiting for the next instalment, the wait is over as part two is published this month, starting on page 16. Our grateful thanks go to John and Jane for committing their trip to paper for your entertainment, as the story is as epic as the adventure must have been.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

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

Submissions for inclusion in the magazine please to mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

Magazine committee contact details

mistertonmagazine@gmail.com

Jacquie Lyus Editor 01460 78526

Sarah Watt Editor 01460 351212

Leo Bacigalupo Treasurer and advertising 01460 354174 or 07973 797417

Diana Dyke Distribution 01460 77233

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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

At a recent parish council meeting the councillors set the budget and precept for the 2026-27 financial year. I am delighted to report that there will be no increase in the precept, and every household will pay the same amount as they have for the current year. A Band D property will again pay £64.10 per annum (the amounts for all bands of properties are available from the clerk on request).

Also discussed at the meeting were the ongoing issues with street lighting and parking. In September 2025 a number of street light poles were replaced. Since then, a number of streetlights have not worked. These are in addition to those in The Avenue which have not functioned for a long period. The parish council is trying very hard to get this problem resolved with constant emails and telephone calls to the National Grid, Somerset Council and the contractors who did the replacement work. Parking is always an issue in the village and recently there has been the addition of new signs restricting parking in the car park between The Avenue and Turnpike Green. The legality of these signs is being sought, especially as it is the space where staff from the learning centre have been encouraged to park to try to improve congestion nearer to the school.

The council continues to monitor the two proposed developments in Misterton. We have heard that the developers have been told to resubmit their plans for the 325 houses off Station Road and that the new plans will be put out for consultation in due course. The application for 31 houses off Turnpike Green by Misterton crossroads is now live on the Somerset Council website and will be discussed at the next parish council meeting on 17th February.

There is also a new joint initiative between the parish council and the village hall. The idea is to make the village hall a more effective hub for the Misterton community, particularly in times of emergency. There will be more information on this project in due course.

And finally, a little bit about the recreation ground. I think we all agree that it is a great village asset which we are very lucky to have and enjoy. It was purchased in 1921 from the Rt Hon Viscount Portman and is held on trust for the people of Misterton. The parish council (as a whole) acts as the sole trustee for the rec, a charitable trust, and is responsible for its day-to-day running. The finances for the recreation ground are independent of the parish council and are discussed along with other matters at a monthly recreation ground trust meeting. More information can be found on the village website mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk.

With best wishes to you all.

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

Bob Taylor 01460 271658 or 07931 657312

Bruce Martins 07770 744531

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A reminder for all Misterton gardeners
The Misterton flower show will be held on Saturday
22nd August - save the date!



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After having a break from WI events for the latter part of December and January, our January meeting on the 12th was held for the first time in our new meeting place, the beautifully refurbished village hall. Lovely to have lots of space, which means we are now able to welcome many more new members. We were joined by Mike Rendall, who spoke with great knowledge and passion about the art of papercraft. Not what we were expecting, but totally fascinating. We also held a ballot for two lucky members to win this year's bursaries, giving them an opportunity to learn a new craft or skill of their choice. We are delighted to say that these were won by two of our newest members. On this evening, we also welcomed five visitors to our meeting and hope they will return for more that we can offer - we are growing!

Hopefully during the coming year (and depending on availability of the hall) we will be able to invite village members to join us at some future exciting events and demonstrations.

The efforts from Christmas craft making meant that we were able to donate £700 to the Crewkerne Community Bus. Thank you to all members who joined in making craft items, and of course to our mentor Jean. We are happy to report that we have very little Christmas stock left! We shall be resuming our sessions on 6th February. Our aim is to make beautiful things for Easter and the summer. Members will decide upon the recipient of profits from the spring and summer craft sessions.

Our January informal meet up was an afternoon tea at Jan's on the 20th. It was decided by the committee to continue with our coffee mornings or afternoon teas on a monthly basis, alternating at Jan's on Newbery Lane, and Mallabones. A donation in lieu of payment for refreshments at Jan's will this year be rolled over in order that we can make a one-off donation to 'Crisis at Christmas' in December. Ladies, come and join us!

Our next meeting is at the village hall on Unity Lane on Monday 9th February at 7pm. Our February speaker is Emma Randall, who will give a demonstration on Tai Chi. Our meetings always begin with our speaker, so ladies please join us. The February coffee morning will be at Mallabones on the 19th from 10:30am to 12pm.

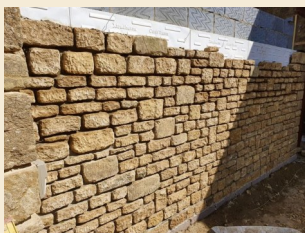
So ladies give us a try! For any further information please contact president Judy on 01460 78931, secretary Jane on 07970 988383 or vice president Jan on 01460 77599.

The committee



Our photos show our large group at the January meeting, our speaker, and our afternoon tea session

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Quiz Results

Apologies to readers for a typing error in question 13 of this year's quiz which should have read "7 B for 7 B". As a result, the question was voided. Thanks to everybody who entered and congratulations to Alison Stewart of Silver Street whose name was drawn out of the hat and wins the £25 prize!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 2001 A Space Odyssey | 9. 99 Red Balloons |
| 2. 3 Times a Lady | 10. 12 Years a Slave |
| 3. Around the World in 80 Days | 11. When I'm 64 |
| 4. 1 Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest | 12. Lock Stock and 2 Smoking Barrels |
| 5. 24 Hours from Tulsa | 13. 7 Brides for 7 Brothers |
| 6. 3 Men and a Baby | 14. 8 Days a Week |
| 7. 50 Ways to Leave Your Lover | 15. 4 Weddings and a Funeral |
| 8. 101 Dalmatians | |

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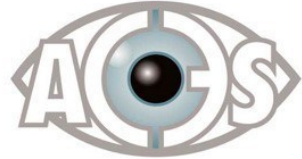
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Turning 50 on two wheels - part 2

26th Mar 2011. Day 246. 20,644 miles. We arrived back in Thailand and were both, well John actually, feeling really knackered and not having the motivation to deal with the challenges of India and central Asia.

We headed for Bangkok to meet with some travellers we knew and decide what we did next. Being rested and encouraged by our friends in no time at all we were arranging visas, flights, and the shipping of the bike to India. We both felt this was fast becoming a round-the-world trip!

10th April 2011. We arrive in Delhi, India and found a hotel near the airport to start the process of getting the bike out of India customs. What a palaver! It took nearly a week of navigating the bureaucracy, corruption and multiple cups of chai tea before we finally rode away with our bike and luggage!



Meeting up with traveller friends in Bangkok



Putting the bike in the crate



Waiting and keeping our MANY files company!



Eventually we get the bike but we have to get it out of the crate

During that week between the meetings with customs we were able to visit the Qutab Minal, Bahao Lotus Temple, Humayuns Tomb, the Jama Masjid Mosque, India Gate, Red Fort, Connaught Palace, Gandhi Smati, Indira Gandhi Smati, the Taj Mahal and Akbars Tomb. In some ways the sights, sounds and chaos that is everyday life in Delhi was the highlight.



The spot where Ghandi was assassinated



Lotus Temple



Taj Mahal



India Gate



Red Fort

From Delhi we rode through northern India visiting Chandigarh, Amritsar and The Golden Temple. Some of the accommodation we had was quite poor. However, every now and then we would spend a little more and stay at guesthouses like Mrs Bhandari's which was near the Ahari border crossing with Pakistan. Apparently, Charlton Heston stayed there once.



*If two lanes are not enough
make a third!*



Golden Temple



Road open to all traffic

Because of the tensions between the UK and Iran we were unable to get Iranian visas and therefore Pakistan transit visas so we had to make the decision to travel into Nepal and ship the bike into Turkey so we could continue into Europe.



Mrs Bhandari's



The Indian/Pakistan border

So, from Ahari we continued to DharamShala, McCloud Ganj (home of the Dalai Lama in exile), Manali and by the end of the month we were in Shimla, the summer capital of the Raj. Shimla was cold in comparison to Delhi but still quite warm for us. After a couple of days around Shimla we rode to the Indian border with Nepal visiting Rishikesh, Haridwar, The Jim Corbet National Park (JCNP) and Nainital. At the JCNP we were lucky to see white elephant, monitor lizards, spotted deer, hog deer, wild boar, peacocks, serpent eagle, kingfisher, samba deer, bird of paradise, crocodile and a male tiger.



One of the Buddhas at McCloud Ganj



Buddhist prayer wheels



The view from our guest house in McCloud Ganj



Wise words!



The Ganges at Haridwar

India is so vast and so wonderfully interesting and stimulating it's impossible to do it justice with such a small number of words. Sorry....

17th May 2011. Day 297. 22,834 miles. Today we rode from India into Nepal crossing the border at Bambasa. The day was quite hot at 40°C in the shade and the roads were very very dusty. In comparison to India customs the transfer of the bike from India into Nepal was so easy. We travelled towards Kathmandu on the less popular roads and on the way we stayed in many places including the Bardia National Park, Pokhara, Bandipur and Kakani. The countryside was so green and fresh.



Farming on the terraces



Female Rhino in Bardia NWP



Tea stop

The roads up to Kathmandu were very busy with high drop offs to one side. We passed several vehicles that had gone over so the concentration level remained high!!

8th June 2011. We arrived in Kathmandu. The city is so polluted compared to the surrounding countryside and gone are the lovely fresh mornings in the mountains, replaced by a lot of noise and smog.



Road to Kathmandu



The city from the roof of our guest house



Blood donor clinic at a roundabout



Shrines in the middle of the city



Durbar Square and the Temple Kumari Bahal of the Living Goddess

Whilst in Kathmandu in addition to sightseeing we also had to arrange for our flights and shipment of the motorcycle from Nepal to Turkey. Whilst there we had researched a shipping agent in the city called Eagle Eyes Shipping run by Jeewan. We visited their office, more like a shop actually and made all the arrangements including our flights. On the 12th June the bike was crated, we paid the money and said goodbye to the bike and Jeewan. All being well we will see the bike again on the 16th June in Istanbul airport customs.

To be continued...

John McComb and Jane Cavell



Mount Everest from the aircraft at 37,000ft

Thank you

My sincere thanks to my knight in shining armour who came to rescue me when I tripped and fell in my friends drive on Sunday 21st December at about 2:30pm. He stopped his white car and with Diane helped me get up.

I don't know who he was, but I would like to say a very big thank you for stopping and helping and being so very kind.

Sincerely

Margaret Darch

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Misterton village hall

The fundraising element of the committee has been busy and identified a number of different events that we intend to pursue over the course of this year to raise funds for the hall. The first 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 18-year-olds) 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 (contactable via our Facebook page). After this, we have further bingo sessions over the Easter period, followed by our big event for this year - the village hall summer ball. A subcommittee has recently formed to thrash out the detail, but please put Saturday 20th June 2026 in your calendars and if you would like to help in any way, please contact one of the village hall committee members. In August and following on from last year's very successful event, another flower show is planned for Saturday 22nd August 2026. Finally, we are planning to hold a Halloween party in October and round the year off with more bingo in December. So, it promises to be a busy year of fund-raising, and we would love to see you at some/all of the events as your support ensures our village hall continues to flourish.

Don't forget that the village hall electronic calendar can be found on the Misterton Village Hall Facebook page so residents can see exactly what is happening at the hall. And in a further positive development, on the same Facebook page, we expect to be able to offer an online booking service for the hall in the next couple of months as well. This will complement our current telephone booking system, and it is hoped that it will give hall hirers the maximum flexibility and convenience when choosing our hall as a venue for their event. Make sure you follow us on Facebook so that you kept informed of the latest hall developments, including the go-live date for the new online booking service.

We are also pleased to announce that the village hall has recently managed to secure funding from the National Lottery for the old kitchen to be transformed into a bar area. We have yet to decide on exact timings for this work but anticipate it will start in April and be completed in time for our summer ball in June.

A reminder to residents that the hall has three indoor bowls mats available, so if you are interested in a game for just a one-off hire or are thinking about starting a regular bowls club, then check our online calendar to see when space is available and book your slot.

Finally, the committee is always on the lookout for more willing volunteers so if you can help us out in any way and particularly if you would like to join the committee please contact our secretary, Kim Boalch, via our Facebook page to express your interest.



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Club



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

We were sorry to hear that Misterton resident Alan Kitson sadly passed away recently. Alan was a member of Misterton Tennis Club for many years and played tennis well into his late 80s. We remember him for his ability to place the ball with precision and for his support to social events and tournaments. He was awarded honorary membership of the club in 2025. Our condolences from Misterton Tennis Club go to Alan's family.

Catherine Carins

Chair

mistertontennis.co.uk

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

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Crewkerne & Neighbourhood Crisis

Crewkerne & Neighbourhood Crisis (CNC) is a community-led group formed by residents concerned about the proposed Station Road planning application (25/02044/OUT) for 325 homes on land between Crewkerne and Misterton, closing the open countryside that currently separates the town from its neighbouring parish, with consequences for Crewkerne, Misterton, Haselbury Plucknett and North Perrott alike.

This proposal would change the character of the area forever and place years of intense pressure on roads, services and the environment already stretched to breaking point.

Traffic is overwhelming our communities. Misterton recorded 4,600 vehicle movements in a single day, even before other approved developments are completed. Frequent road closures force traffic through villages, causing gridlock and danger. Large HGVs are diverted along narrow roads with no pavements, and in Haselbury Plucknett and North Perrott vibration from heavy vehicles has already caused cracking in historic houses.

Approval would mean at least five years of construction traffic on top of existing congestion. Once occupied, 325 households would generate hundreds more daily car journeys, with many residents commuting due to limited local employment, increasing pollution and pressure on roads.

Flooding is also a serious concern. Crewkerne and Misterton have experienced repeated flooding in recent years, yet without independent flood assessments there is no clear evidence showing this development will not worsen surface water runoff elsewhere.

CNC is raising £6,500 to fund independent traffic and flood surveys and obtain specialist planning advice, so that community voices are heard and evidence is taken seriously. This is a moment for the community to come together. Support this work via our crowdfunding page crowdfunder.co.uk/p/crewkerne-and-neighbourhood-crisis.

Updates are shared on Facebook: Crewkerne & Neighbourhood Crisis.

Letter from the vicar

From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I (Psalm 61:2)

As we begin 2026, surely the world feels more unstable and overwhelming than it has for a lifetime, as great geopolitical instability swirls behind and out from Venezuela, Iran, Greenland, Ukraine, the Gaza situation...

I wonder whether we feel the need of God's rock of safety. If so, the rock is God Himself. Read on - Psalm 61 is a great psalm for worrying times.

With best wishes and prayers

CJ



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Dates for your diary

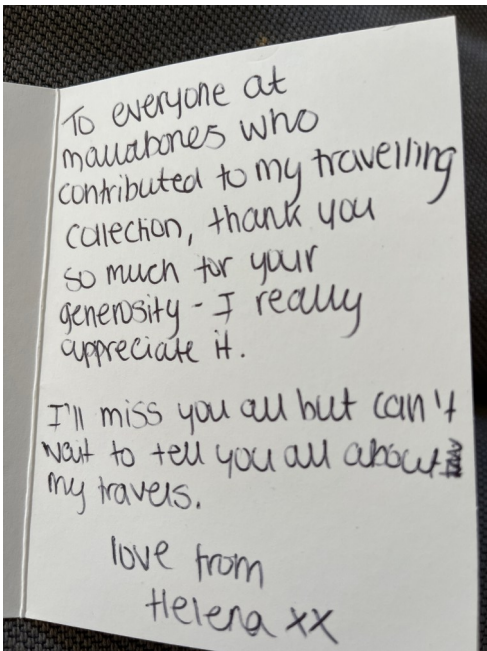
February 2026

Book club	Wednesday 4th February	12:30pm	Mallabones
WI meeting	Monday 9th February	7pm	Village hall
Ceilidh	Saturday 14th February	7pm	Village hall
Parish council meeting	Tuesday 17th February	6:30pm	Village hall back room
WI coffee morning	Thursday 19th February	10:30am	Mallabones

Church services February 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 1st		9:30am HC		11am HC	9am HC CW	10:30am HC CW
Sun 8th	11am HC CW			8am HC BCP 11am Morning service		10:30am HC BCP
Sun 15th		9:30am HC		8am HC 11am Morning service	9am HC BCP	10:30am Family service
Ash Wednesday 18th				10:30am HC 6pm HC	7pm Benefice service HC Merriott	
Sun 22nd	9:30am HC CJ			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 8th February	Mrs C Perrin	-	Mrs S Crabb
Sunday 22nd February	Lent	-	-



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