

5 ALIVE!

September 2024



Office & Café

**“Come in for a chat,”
says PCSO Will
Page 22**

**News from
Buckland Dinham, Chantry,
Great Elm, Mells with Vobster and
Whatley**

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FROM THE EDITOR

I APOLOGISED LAST MONTH for causing the very non-summery weather we've been having by putting the parasols out. To make things worse, when we had that brief (all too brief) heatwave, I went out and bought a new lawn sprinkler – and guess what happened immediately afterwards. Yes, it started raining and the sprinkler has hardly been used ever since. Heigh ho!

Anyway, despite the irregularity of the weather, I hope you all had a great holiday!

There's a lot to read about in this issue of 5Alive so enjoy it, especially if you suffer from insomnia – only joking! – but please support our advertisers. Without them there would not be a magazine. *Pete*

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

WELL, HERE WE ARE in September, traditionally towards the end of summer. I hope everyone has found enjoyment during our odd one-day-at-a-time summer. It seems as though we must just accept now that our summers consist of the odd brief heatwave between torrential and rains and often constantly cold north east winds.

In spite of (or because of?) the variable weather flowers have flowered and tree and shrubs have blossomed so that abundance of autumn seeds and fruits should be around for wildlife (and humans) to gather. And, oddly, most things have peaked earlier than usual – perhaps owing to the mild winter giving them an early start? But flora and fauna seem increasingly out of sync. Because of cold, wet conditions insect life was scarce when insect eating birds such as swifts and swallows needed flying food and blue tits etc needed aphids and caterpillars so that many early broods failed.

Butterflies, too, I have found scarce until the past couple of weeks when they now seem to be in abundance, just too late for the National Butterfly Count. But, as with other mistimings, my buddleias are almost over. Just a few tattered and frayed

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett, 01373 466536, mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for October is **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20th** but do check!

Printed by Frome Printworks 01373 800 300

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy. For any enquiries please contact the church warden in your parish. For weddings contact the benefice administrator, Mrs Catherine Brown, email catmellsgroup@gmail.com. She works on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Church laymen and women Church wardens

Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller,
07887 556936

Chantry Hazel Tovey 836384
David Rawlins 836252

Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833
900947

Mells/ Vobster Mrs Diana
Sylvester 812386

Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175

Parish council chairs and clerks

John Reckless 01373 461841
Diane Sleight 07907 156735
parishclerk@bucklanddinham.org

John Earl 01373 812450
Joy Book 07704 584953

Andrew Bramston 01373 836513
Rachel Nash
clerk.whatleyparishcouncil@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am Frome: Saturdays 5.30pm.
Wednesdays 11.30am Sundays 10.00am

Somerset Councillor: Philip Ham 01373 812152

Others to be confirmed

Chantry and Whatley Francis Hayden 07970 839532

fronds of fading flowers (whoops! How's that for alliteration?) are clustered with greedily feeding butterflies. Bumble bees seem to be fewer too. I usually have to rescue several huge furry ones daily in my bug-sucker (wonderful device from Lakeland, gentle, harmless and saves a lot of climbing). But this summer I have had perhaps two per week. Wasps, I am not keen on – too quick in speed and temper – but they do a valuable job of pollinating as bees, so I tolerate them. At the moment, I have a huge – and growing daily! – nest in the rafters of my store-room next to the garden shed. Also we have one in the churchyard grass which meant we had to re-locate a social gathering planned there to celebrate the completion of our new heating, lighting, carpeting and pew cushioning in the church.

Anyone reading this who has not yet seen our newly transformed Chantry church, do please come and look. The church is open every day and there is a service every Sunday to which you will be warmly welcomed and plied with coffee and cake afterwards. Only on the first Sunday of each month the services rotate around the four churches so see the magazine (that sounds like a spinning congregation, but you know what I mean!).

I was speaking the other day to someone after church who was dreading a session with her dentist, so I encouraged her by passing on my antidote for undergoing any unpleasant procedure. I just imagine I am lying in a field of buttercups and wild flowers, listening to the larks singing high above, bumble bees floating over and grasshoppers creaking all around. Afterwards I thought when did I last hear a

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skylark? And grasshoppers? I've almost forgotten what they sound like. Am I re-living a childhood experience? The last time I laid in long grass I heard a wood pigeon, a distant blackbird and a bored sheep and I ended up with a stiff back and several mosquito bites. Has anyone heard grasshoppers recently? If so, do tell me where and I'll go and have a listen and recall my long absence.

Still, mustn't grumble. At the moment, I am sitting in the stable yard on one of our "proper" summer days, drowsed by the heady lemony perfume of several huge magnolia grandiflora flowers, newly opened. The sky is cornflower blue, flecked with just a few slowly drifting chalk scribbles and, the sun being really hot, I am relishing the shade of my jungly garden. I am used to its jungly state and so are all my friends but town living cousins visiting recently suggested helpfully that the next time they came, the man of the party would willingly cut back the greenery on my path, assuming it was too hard for me to do. They seemed puzzled when I explained that I preferred to be hidden away and anyway, being only 4'8" tall, I mostly walked under anything overhanging. And any visiting friends who got flicked by leaves or twigs either brushed them aside or snapped them off in passing if they found them a nuisance.

I did have a surprise in my orchard a few weeks ago. When the campion and queen Anne's lace were waist high prior to its summer strimming I stopped to retrieve a useful forked branch from a pile of brushwood and out leapt what I thought was a large rabbit. A friend with me recognised it as baby muntjac deer, probably left by its mother to hide in my quiet orchard, possibly having given birth to it there. I avoided the orchard for a few weeks but when I did go down there

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the little deer was still there but almost fully grown. It dashed out, circled the stable yard and bounded back to the orchard. I left it undisturbed for a few more weeks but haven't seen it again so presumably it has joined its mother in the surrounding woodland. Quite an exciting little encounter but when I discovered several trees and bushes had been "pruned" at deer level I was quite glad it was only a brief encounter.

Well, I've wandered away from the churchyard again, so I'd better stop. Anyway, my dear cavalier, Ebbie, short for Ebony as she's almost black) says its feeding time so that is definitely it. Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in October,

Hazell

ROUND AND ABOUT

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This service has been created to provide transport for any local resident living in the BA11 postcode area to help them get to important appointments. This could be a visit to the doctor, dentist or hospital – it could be to get to a therapy or fitness group meeting, or perhaps to visit a loved one in a care home or a hospital. It could even be for some essential shopping.....

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Church services in September

	1 st September	8 th September	15 th September	22 nd September	29 th September	6 th October
Chantry		11am: Matins Val Rawlins	6pm: Harvest Festival Followed by a bring and share supper at Bird Stables	11am: Holy Communion	11am: Matins	10.00am: Group Service: Holy Communion
Great Elm			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isberwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King		
Mells		9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer Liz Lal		
Whitley	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Clarke	9.30am: Matins Hazel Tovey		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		

Hardington Vale Church Services – September 2024

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	LEADER
Sunday 1 Sept (green)	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast	F & R Stewart P Swithinbank S Kivett
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion	
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion	
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place	
Monday 2 Sept	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 3 Sept	11.00 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion	
	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 4 Sept	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 5 Sept	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 8 Sept (green)	9.00 am	Rode , Informal Breakfast	F & R Stewart J Perrett
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Iona Service	
Monday 9 Sept	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 11 Sept	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 12 Sept	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 15 Sept (green)	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship	B Day S Kivett/B Day F & R Stewart P Reid
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion	
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Worship	
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion	
Monday 16 Sept	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Tuesday 17 Sept	5.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer	
Wednesday 18 Sept	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 19 Sept	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 22 Sept (green)	9.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion	S Kivett B Day S Kivett P Reid
	9.00 am	Rode , Contemplation & Coffee	
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion	
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins	
	6.00 pm	Buckland Dinham , Harvest Service	
Monday 23 Sept	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 25 Sept	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer	
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer	
Thursday 26 Sept	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer	
Sunday 29 Sept (green)	10.30 am	Rode , United Holy Communion	S Kivett/F Stewart
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place	
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Pet Service	P Reid

Version 1.0

We have 24 volunteer drivers, three of whom live in Whatley or Nunney, and we are happy to go anywhere in the Frome area as well as further afield. Trips to hospitals and so on in Bath, Bristol, Shepton are not a problem.

Our drivers are happy to wait for you to finish your appointment before bringing you home.

As well as being one of the drivers I am honoured to be the Director of this CIC (Community Interest Company). We charge an admin fee of £5 for each return journey plus a mileage cost of 80 pence per mile (40 pence if you have a valid bus pass).

If you would like to know more about the service, see details on our website, fromecommunitydrivers.co.uk. To talk about using our services please ring:

07596 591391.


Gerry Copsey

WHATLEY QUARRY OPENS DOORS TO BIODIVERSITY PARTICIPANTS

Heidelberg Materials' Whatley quarry is opening its doors to participants in the sixth round of the company's Quarry Life Award, its biodiversity research competition. Participants from more than 15 countries worldwide can pitch their project ideas for sustainable quarry management and compete for prizes totalling €300,000 (approx. £250,000).



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SOUTH WEST

The Quarry Life Award was first established in 2011 to support and increase biodiversity at quarry sites, strengthen communication channels with neighbours and educate and raise awareness about the importance of nature and habitats. The award has since received more than 1,500 submissions and has generated over 450 innovative project ideas to promote and protect biodiversity.

Kyle Smith, Unit Manager at Whatley quarry, said: "The protection and enhancement of biodiversity is a key part of our sustainability strategy, so our aim is to encourage projects that can support the work we are already doing to improve biodiversity and the quality of restoration at our sites.

"We would also like to hear from people who have ideas which will create a better understanding of the importance of quarrying and its vital role in constructing and maintaining the built environment like our homes, schools, roads and hospitals.

"The Quarry Life Award aligns with our 2030 commitment to build a nature positive future and, by increasing dialogue with academics, NGOs and our local communities, is helping to inform the development of biodiversity action plans at all our sites."

At a national level, projects can be carried out in either the 'research' or 'community' streams, both of which offer a £4,000 top prize.

The research stream focuses on scientific projects that increase knowledge of quarry-specific ecology and/or lead to improved biodiversity, landscape, or water management while the

community stream is for projects that help the quarry to better connect with its neighbours and raise awareness among the wider public of the biodiversity at extraction sites.

National winners will advance to the international stage of the competition, with prizes awarded in the following categories: biodiversity management, habitat and species, beyond quarry borders, biodiversity and education, connecting quarries and communities, and nature-based solutions. The best projects in each of the six categories will be rewarded with a prize of €10,000 (approx. £8,400) each. The best project overall will receive no less than €30,000 (approx. £25,300) in total.

Project proposals based at Whatley Quarry are invited to be submitted on the Quarry Life Award website by November 18th 2024. A panel of experts will then select six of the proposals to become projects to be carried out between January and September 2025.

'BUS IT' THIS SEPTEMBER

September is an important month for bus users and for all those thinking of switching to going by bus. September is "Catch the Bus Month".

Also in Somerset, September is one of the only two opportunities in the year

that bus companies can change their bus timetable, so bus operators have been looking at their schedules, checking their passenger numbers. Some will have made changes from September 1st to optimise their returns.

So, if you can go online, do check your local bus routes to see what your bus times are from September 1st. The best way of doing this is to go to www.bustimes.org, put in the number of your local bus route and bus times for your local stop will appear. Somerset Bus Partnership has also listed all the bus services which will change in September including a link to the new timetables: somersebuspartnership.co.uk/busservices.

Given the financial emergency declared by Somerset Council, Somerset hasn't the money to increase its funding of buses so the best way of ensuring you keep your local buses is to BUS IT whenever you can... especially this month as it's Catch the Bus Month!

By supporting your local bus services whenever you can, you're playing your part in ensuring there are buses for those in your local community, young and old, who don't drive or don't have access to a car, hence are dependent on buses. Transport accounts for 45percent of carbon emissions in Somerset, so you can reduce your environmental impact if you travel by bus. It's good for your pocket too, as a single bus fare costs just £2 or less and that's guaranteed through to the end of the year.

So BUS IT during September's CATCH THE BUS MONTH!

Peter Travis, Co-Chair, Somerset Bus Partnership

BUCKLAND DINHAM

CHURCH NEWS

The September services as per rota. You will see that there are two special services this month, Harvest and Pet Service, details below. The Harvest Service, this year on September 22nd, is very popular and it is always nice to see so

many people who come to this service and then enjoy the food which is followed by the auction of produce donated for the decoration of the church. These can be brought to the service or contact Peggy Harris on 01373 465388 who with her team of "flower ladies" who will let you know which day they will be arranging the gifts.

The Pet Service is something new so we hope all the villagers with their pets will come on September 29th to share the joy of having a pet. Both services start at 6.00 p.m. All welcome.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday September 22nd 2024, 6.00 pm. Join us to celebrate the harvest, followed by our traditional Harvest Supper and auction. Please bring gifts of food for the auction if you can.

To lead our service, we are delighted to welcome the Reverend Pauline Reid who has recently retired to Buckland Dinham.

All welcome!



PET SERVICE

Sunday September 29th 11.00 am.

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COFFEE MORNING

The next one is on September 21st, usual time 10.00-12.00, and those who have been before will know what a good selection of cakes are also available. We look forward to another happy get together and to welcome all new comers. These are always held on the third Saturday monthly, so if sometimes there is no notice in this magazine it does not mean that it is not happening, just that I am away and not sending a note to our editor Peter Corbett. *Jill Wright*

BUCKLAND BUDDIES

The next meeting is on September 3rd at 7.15 for 7.30 when there will be a speaker to tell us how she fosters puppies that are then trained to become Guide Dogs. These meetings are for villagers and are open to anyone in the village if they see we have a speaker that is talking about something that interests them. The cost for anyone attending is £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee.

CHANTRY

CHURCH NEWS

We start this month with a begging letter! The harvest festival service will be held on Sunday September 15th at [6.00 pm](#). As in other years we are asking for donations of tinned and dried foods to be given to the Frome food bank. We will be decorating the church on Saturday September 14th from 2.00pm so if you are



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able to donate, please leave your goods in the church or bring along on Saturday. We have always been astonished by the generosity of the village and hope that this year will be equally as good. The service will be followed by a 'bring and share' supper at Birdshadows, courtesy of Mrs Hazel Tovey.

The church is now warm, dry and light thanks to donations from the quarries and locals. It was in a bad way with the roof leaking, the electrics dangerous and the boiler not working at all. There have been a few complaints about using the church as a community hub but in order to obtain enough money to carry out all the work needed, we had no choice. It was either let the building deteriorate or go down the path we have taken.

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Maintenance

Date	Flowers	Cleaning
07-09-24	Val	Sonia
14-09-24	Hazel	Clare
21-09-24	Laureen	
28-09-24	Val	Sue

BEREAVEMENT

Sadly, John Lewis died in the early hours of Tuesday August 13th. John moved to Chantry with his brother and parents in the early 1960s and has been a stalwart member of the church for many years. He will be missed by many of us and we would like to pass our sincere condolences to his brother Robert. Thank you, John, for your help in supporting the church for so long.

GREAT ELM

GREAT ELM CHURCH NEWS

The HARVEST SUPPER will be on Saturday September 28th, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets £9.00.

RSVP by September 23rd.

It's a Safari supper which involves gathering for the main course in one house and then moving to a different house for pudding and finally everyone gathering in the church for cheese, port and coffee.

We are looking for people to host the main and pudding courses. Recipe and ingredients will be supplied for the main course. Pudding hosts will be given £6.00 to

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cover the costs of an apple-based pudding or whatever you would like to make. Apples will be available in the church porch.

Please contact Gemma 07810 550030 to book or contact Judy 01373 812215 or Sally 07833 900947 to offer to host. Gemma has created a poster which will be on the Great Elm Mutual Whatsapp group.

NEW SEASON AT JACKDAWS MUSIC EDUCATION TRUST IN GREAT ELM

Weekend courses from September 2024 to September 2025 are now available to book. There's a wealth of courses for Voice, Piano, Woodwind, Strings and more! View the full programme on our website, jackdaws.org.uk/music-courses/ or get in touch 01373 812383.

TOPIARY AWARD IN GREAT ELM

When one thinks of topiary one immediately thinks of Levens Hall in Cumbria started in 1606, nearer to home the Abbey House Manor near Malmesbury or many other renowned gardens all over the country. However private gardeners also have a go, with the elephants in a street in London, a Welsh dragon as a garden hedge and other pieces including steam engines, birds and wacky shapes, etc.

Now, a private garden in Great Elm created by Hugh has won highly commended in the National Topiary awards sponsored by Henschman tools and the European Boxwood and Topiary Society, for outstanding topiary in the Home Gardener category.



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MELLS WITH VOBSTER

ST ANDREW'S CHURCHYARD

We are inviting all Mells residents, or anyone with a family connection to the church, to come together to help tidy up the churchyard on Sunday September 29th, 10.00am-12.00pm. If you would like to help the other volunteers to keep our wonderful churchyard looking its best, do join us (please bring your own tools/strimmers etc). All welcome, tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

NEWS FROM MELLS

The summer months have been busy for the church with weddings, and, sadly, funeral services. It is a joy, however, to have such a lovely church in our village for these very special occasions, and which is simply "there" for any who wish to just come in and sit and find peace. And it has been busy also with the many visitors who come to the village. We welcome walking groups, visiting groups from other parishes, and, on the last Saturday in August there will be (or have been, depending on when the magazine is available!) a group visiting from a church in East Clevedon. At the end of their visit, they will be celebrating a sung Evensong, and anyone else visiting at that time will be most welcome to join in. We have been very grateful to Sean for keeping the churchyard grass under control so well! What a difference – thank you Sean!



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m: 0772 941 1360
t: 01373 834439



On Sunday September 29th there is to be a churchyard tidy-up morning between 10.00 and 12.00 – see note elsewhere in the magazine. Refreshments will be available. Do join us!

R.I.P. VIRGINIA STOWELL

On July 2nd, family members gathered in the churchyard of St. Andrew's for a service of burial of ashes of Miss Virginia Stowell in her parents' grave. Rev. Robin Isherwood led a short and simple service. Miss Stowell had lived a long and interesting life into her nineties. Her parents, Margaret and Roger Stowell, had lived in Great Elm and were buried in Mells. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. May Miss Stowell rest in peace and rise in glory.

R.I.P. SHEILA VALERIE EDWARDS, 16TH OCTOBER 1939 – 18TH JUNE 2024

A service to celebrate Sheila's life was held at St. Andrew's on July 5th July, led by Rev. Martin Weymont. The church was filled with family and friends who gathered to pay their last respects to Sheila. She had lived in the village for many years and was a well-known, kind-hearted, hard-working member of Mells community. She will be greatly missed, and our love and thoughts are with Dave and all the family at this time. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY, SAMUEL GOULD AND JESSICA ANSTICE

Samuel and Jessica were married at St. Andrew's on July 6th, and the church was beautifully decorated. The service was led by Rev. Stephen Miles. The hymns

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were *Give me oil in my lamp*, and *All things bright and beautiful*. We wish Samuel and Jessica every happiness in their life together and hope to see them again when they may be able to visit.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY, ELEANOR LITTLE AND ADAM LAUGHTON

St. Andrew's was lovingly decorated for the marriage of Eleanor and Adam on August 3rd and the service included a musical feast! Rev. Neil Parker conducted the service, and hymns were *Love Divine*, *All my hope on God is founded*, and *Glorious things of Thee are spoken*. All the music sung and played had a special significance to the couple. We wish them a long and happy life together and do hope they may visit us again when they can.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY, JENNIFER LUNNES AND HENRY STRATFORD

The wedding of Jenny and Henry was celebrated at St. Andrew's on Friday August 9th with Rev. David Gatcliffe officiating. Friends and family gathered to join the celebration, and the hymns *Guide me*, *O thou great Redeemer*, *Love Divine, all loves excelling*, and *Jerusalem* were sung to the accompaniment of the organ played by David Bednall. We wish Jenny and Henry every happiness in their future life together and look forward to welcoming them at our services in the future.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Mells Parish Council would like to provide a second FREE session of defibrillator and CPR training for residents, sometime in the next few months.

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The training takes approximately two hours, is limited to a maximum of 12 people and would be in the day time. In the first instance, priority will be given to those who live or work near one of the village's defibrillators.

If you wish to be considered for this training, would you please email Joy Book, Clerk, parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com. A list of possible dates will be emailed once they have been put together. The date that most people can attend will be booked.

“COME MEET US,” SAYS PCSO WILL MORTIMER

“We are pleased to inform you that the following dates have been agreed to take place in the café at Mell’s. Charlie has kindly allowed us to use the café where I look forward to meeting you and discussing any crime related incidents or queries you may have.”

18/9/24 10:00-11:00, 16/10/24 10:00-11:00, 13/11/24 10:00-11:00, 11/12/24 10:00-11:00

NOTES OF MELL’S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY AUGUST 13TH 2024 (MELLSPARISHCOUNCIL.ORG.UK)

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:

Reduction in Council Tax support: Somerset residents are being encouraged to have their say on possible changes to a scheme which offers financial support to working age adults (not pensioners) on low incomes. Options for consideration include reducing the maximum available discount from 100percent to 75percent. More information can be found at somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/ctr/. The consultation runs until October 1st, with any changes coming into effect from April 1st, 2025. Clerk to write expressing concerns.

Enforcement officers: There are now four officers at Somerset Council who are dealing with more than 1,000 cases. Cases where there is a health and safety issue will be prioritised.



MATTERS ARISING

Barn lease: As the PC does not have a common seal it was agreed that Cllr John Earl and Cllr John Henderson would sign the lease when it is ready.

Pavilion lease and future of recreation ground: The Estate Manager has no issue with the lease being with the company although this is not the directors preferred option. Clerk to request the directors attend the October PC meeting to discuss the way forward.

Quarry noise: The primary works shut down at 11.30pm and re-open at 6.00am. It is the movement of stock at night to load onto the trains which appears to be the cause of noise at night.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane and area in front of Vobster Inn: Cllr Turner will look into getting some topsoil raked over the area. The plan is for the grass to be allowed to grow longer near the walled area to encourage wildlife and to have a more formal cut area at the front for picnicking/seating. The memorial tree will be near the wall.

Fast traffic by Claveys Farm & Park Corner: Claveys - Evidence is required of incidences and repeat offenders. Possibility of a speed indicator device, but the PC would have to fund this. Park Corner – reflector panels will be placed behind the give way signs to make them more noticeable, reinstatement of the white lines and the addition of rumble bars will be scheduled.

Traffic on Holes Lane: Highways is looking into this.

Speeding cars through Vobster: Cllr Brady reported that the police will drive through the village at random times during the evening for the next two to three weeks.

White lines – Woodlands End: Highways has forwarded their planned improvements to the white lining etc in this area.

Streetlights – Longfield: Cllr Barry Clarke was asked to assist and now five out of the eight streetlights are working.

PLANNING

2024/1135/FUL: Change use from commercial storage (B8) to residential (use Class C3). Single storey extension & erection of garage – The Engine Shed, Upper Vobster – no objections

CORRESPONDENCE:

Idverde – grounds maintenance changes: Somerset Council is looking at moving verge cutting, litter/dog waste bin emptying and other services to be supplied inhouse (from June 2025) so their current contractor (Idverde) is offering to continue the services either as a full asset transfer or on a maintenance agreement.

They currently cut 3128 sq. metres around the village. To await further information from Somerset Council.

Somerset Council – charges for litter and dog waste bin emptying: It is the intention of Somerset Council to charge for every litter/dog waste bin empty from April 2025. The figure of £7.82/per bin lift was mentioned as being what other councils are currently charging although the actual figure is yet to be confirmed. Mells has six dog waste bins (although it is hoped that the two in Fairfield will be classed as one lift) and four litter bins. If all are emptied on a fortnightly basis (at the price above) this is an additional cost of around £1,830 to the parish council which would need to be added to the precept.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Overgrown vegetation and fingerpost on triangle at top of Lime Kiln Road: Clerk will get contractors to ask contractor to cut back to improve visibility on the junction.

Works at Bridge Cottage: To be monitored.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 8th at 7.15pm in the Barn

CO-OPTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS

Mells Parish Council has a vacancy for the co-option of two Councillors and would like to hear from Parishioners who would like to join the Council. Co-option will take place on Tuesday October 8th at 7.15pm in The Barn, Mells.

In the event that more interests are expressed than vacant positions, you will be invited to make a short presentation to the council and selection will be made via a paper ballot vote.

Previous applicants are very welcome to re-apply.

If you would like further details, discuss eligibility or request an application form, please contact the Clerk or visit the parish council website

www.mellsparishcouncil.org.uk/news

Joy Book, 07704 584953, Email: parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com

Closing Date for application forms: Friday October 4th.

WHATLEY

PARISH NEWS, ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, WHATLEY

The collection from the Group Service in July was £61.87 (including reclaimable gift aid) and this has been given to Fair Frome. Harvest Festival Evensong will be 5.00pm October 15th followed by Harvest Supper: (details below.)

Many thanks to those who organized the enjoyable celebration of the church's refit into a new community hub.

The talks gave us insight into the long history of the church and how our projected future use echoes its original purpose of being the center of village activities. Who knew that churches had altar rails to stop any cattle kept in the building from straying towards the altar?!

The evening gave a very happy start to our future church use.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE 5.00PM, OCTOBER 13TH 2024

followed by Harvest Supper 6pm at St George's Church, Whatley. Whatley Welcomes Everyone. Please bring a dish to share. Notify Alice in advance whether you are bringing a savoury or sweet. Friends of Whatley will provide a range of alcoholic and soft drinks. More information to follow and donations welcome.

Saturday October 12th 3.00-5.00pm. We invite all children and young people to come to St George's to paint Harvest Festival banners and decorate the church for Harvest Service and Supper. Email for RSVP Alice.kettle@gmail.com. Secretary of Friends of Whatley

CLEANING ROTA

A gentle nudge to us all to remember we are now 'back in service' after our long break when the alterations were taking place. We owe a big thanks to Mary Scott



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and Judy Boorer for maintaining the church and giving it a 'deep clean' when the builders finished. Now the whole team is 'back in harness'!

September:

7th Pippa Witt

14th Katie Gay

21st Jenny Norris

28th Alice Kettle

RIP NORMAN WHITE

Norman White, of Lower Egford Farm, was born April 4th 1945 and passed away peacefully at home on July 25th, aged 79 years. The funeral was held at St. George's church, Whatley on August 8th, attended by over two hundred of his family and friends.

Norman came from a farming family, originally from Alice Street Farm, Cloford, where he grew up, eventually moving to Lower Egford farm in 1976 to start a successful pig farm of his own, with his wife, Rosemary. He was proud of everything he had achieved in his lifetime with farming, rearing his own pigs and growing his own crops in the fields surrounding his farm.

Norman was a wonderful man, who was respected by many and will be dearly missed by all that knew him.

CONGRATULATIONS to ten year-old Ella Norris and the Wylie Valley Pony club who have won (by one point!) the local area Pony Club Championships. It's a huge achievement, winning their way through the zone trials into the area championships where the 26 winning teams from the zones compete. They are very grateful to Mrs Yeoman of Southfield House and thank her for her hospitality and encouragement.



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- Mells Recreation Ground, near Longfield, Mells BA11 3PZ
- Post office, Woodlands End, Mells BA11 3PF
- Telephone Box, Mells Green
- Vobster Inn, Lower Vobster, Radstock BA3 5RJ

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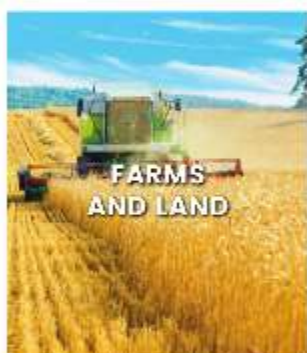
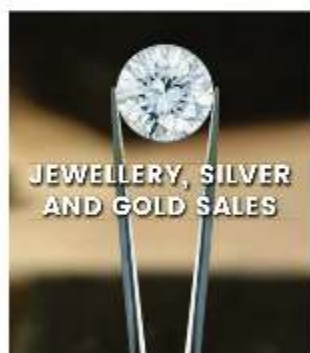
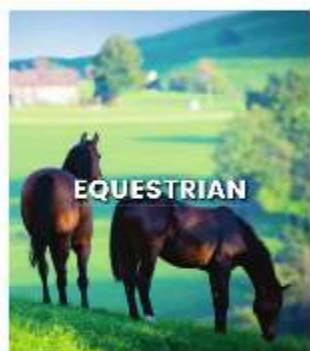
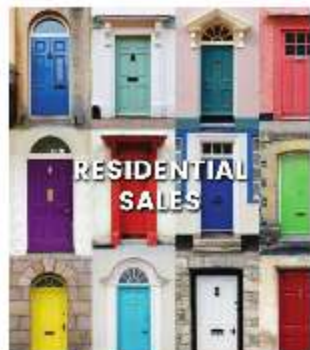
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