



5ALIVE!

July/August 2026

**ELLA (AND FRANKIE) TO
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IN EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS
See page 28**

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

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FROM THE EDITOR

I SAID IN THE LAST ISSUE that a volunteer has come forward to take on the 5Alive admin role. We're going to have a natter shortly so I hope to reveal in the September magazine who they are, who to contact about advertising and so on and also who is going to take responsibility for the financial side of things – something, even though I am married to an accountant, which I am not very good at!

And while I'm on the subject of not being very good at - sorry about the dramatic changes in the weather earlier in June. All my fault! I put the parasols out in the heatwave and the next day ...Heigh ho!

Fingers crossed that the weather will all settle down in time for the school holidays. Hope you all have a good break – and that the many and various disputes around the world don't affect you wherever you go. See you in September.

Peter

ROUND AND ABOUT

FROME PUBLISHING FAIR

THE FROME PUBLISHING FAIR CELEBRATES its tenth anniversary this year and is set to take place at the Silk Mill, one of the best-preserved former textile mills in the southwest. It is one of the highlights, in the town's annual summer festival, an event that attracts thousands of visitors each year.

This special one-day event will be bringing together traditional and small press publishers, publishing service providers, editors, authors, booksellers, artists and designers. During the day they will be sharing

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett 01373 466536
mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for SEPTEMBER 2026 is AUGUST 14th

but do check as it could change

Printed by Frome Printing Company

01373 455222

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy.

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks
Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller, 07887 556936	John Reckless 01373 461841 Diane Sleigh 07907 156735 clerk@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk
Chantry Dolly Blacker 836668 Valerie Rawlins 836252	
Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947	
Mells/Vobster Hilary Ingram 01373 311073	John Earl 01373 812450 Joy Book 07704 584953
Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175	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

Quaker Services

Quakers (The Society of Friends) hold a Meeting for Worship every
Sunday. 10.30 - 11.30 Christchurch Hall, Park Road, Frome, BA11 1EU
Children's meeting 10.10

Local PCSO

PCSO Louise Perry
Louise Perry, louise.perry@avonandsomerset.police.uk

practical guidance and offering opportunities, connections and inspiration for all writers and book lovers.

Visitors can ask a writing or publishing question at the Frome Writers' Collective information table, and whether they write for children or adults there will be advice on editing, proof-reading, agents and publishing. There will be opportunities to meet authors, illustrators, book designers, browse through an impressive number of books and network with others, enjoying it all in the Silk Mill's historic gallery.

The organisers, Frome Writers' Collective, are proud of the fact that their fair is completely

self-financed and highly successful despite its tight budget. With a team of willing volunteers already busy planning, all tables advertised in January were booked within two weeks of being offered.

One of the secrets of this event's success is its setting within Frome's mediaeval charm, the town having been identified as one of The Times' Best Places to Live in Britain. It is known for its unique artistic spirit and vibrant community, and it is the perfect home for the Festival and this popular Fair. With its centuries old



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charm and a host of things to do, the town will be bubbling with excitement and ready to share the joy of its heritage and love of literature and the arts. **The Frome Publishing Fair is a celebration of reading, writing, connecting and networking, bringing together all those who have a love of words.**

UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER. NO WOMAN WALKS ALONE.

On July 4th 2026, Dorothy House's Women's Walk hits the streets of Bath city centre. United in care, walkers on the five or 12-mile circuits will walk alongside fellow carers to raise awareness of the shocking lack of support of women at the end of life. Women are dying alone, dying in poverty, women already taking on the majority of care roles.

Last year in the UK, 29% of working age women died in poverty. Last year in the UK, 15% of women at pension age, died in poverty

Raising vital funds

Dorothy House is lobbying the government for long term sustainable funding for end of life care. The hospice charity still only receives 20% of funding from the government, this is not acceptable.

The Women's Walk will help to raise vital funds to ensure Dorothy House is able to walk alongside women at the end of life. Helping Dorothy House provide expert advice during the darkest times, to hold hands through the lonely hours, to be the shoulder to cry on when women at their most vulnerable.

For every goodbye. Every hug. Every memory. No one walks alone

- **£42** could fund a full hour of care on our Inpatient Unit for a patient receiving essential care, symptom control and pain relief.
- **£75** could fund an expert counsellor to run a support group session for young adults with a life-limiting illness, helping them feel less alone.
- **£100** could fund 4 hours of care, delivered at a patient's home, during the night, by a compassionate, skilled and experienced Hospice at Home carer.

A moment of reflection

Join fellow women for a moment of unity and celebration, carrying a memory stone for loved ones.

On your return, as the sun sets, add your stone to the display at the end of the walk; a powerful symbol that care is never carried alone.

Event details:

5km accessible walk or 12km walk with free hot food and drink

Early birds entry: £20, Standard entry: £25

Location: Henrietta Park, [Henrietta Rd, Bath BA2 6LY](#)

BUCKLAND DINHAM

NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

We are in a happy state of waiting at St Michael's – waiting for our new Rector, Rev. Jess Nyander, to arrive. Of course, she won't be 'ours' – we will be sharing her with the other six churches that make up the Hardington Vale Diocese. But the fact remains that we will finally have someone to inspire us and watch over us alongside our very own Rev. Pauline Reid, who has been such a blessing to us in the interregnum.

Jess's arrival leads to some dates for the diary:

- 1 Licensing Ceremony, Tuesday August 4th, 7.00pm at Norton St Philip
- 2 Welcome Service, Sunday August 9th at Norton St Philip, 10.30am

There will be no Buckland Dinham Service on August 9th. Lifts from Buckland to Norton St Philip and back can be organised if people would like them: email me on hello@jonny-griffiths.net.



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Mells Group of Churches

July 2026

	5 th July	12 th July	19 th July	26 th July	2 nd August
Chantry		11.00am Matins Val Rawlins	11.00am Holy Communion Anthony Davies	11.00am Matins Val Rawlins	11.00am Holy Communion Barry Davies
Great Elm	10.00am Group Holy Communion Service Catherine Llewelyn-Evans		9.30am Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King	
Mells		9.30am Holy Communion Martin Weymont			
Whatley				09.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	

Mells Every Wednesday at 09.30, Matins/Morning Prayer, in St. Andrew's, Mells

Great Elm At 7.30am on Wednesdays Richard King leads a prayer session in church

Mells Group of Churches

August 2026

	2 nd August	9 th August	16 th August	23 rd August	30 th August	6 th September
Chantry	11.00am Holy Communion Barry Davies		11.00am Holy Communion David Gatcliffe	11.00am Matins Barry Davies	11.00am Holy Communion Martin Weymont	
Great Elm			9.30am Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King		
Mells		10.00am Group Holy Communion Martin Weymont				
Whatley				09.30am Holy Communion David Gatcliffe		10.00am Group Holy Communion Service Catherine Llewelyn-Evans

Mells Every Wednesday at 09.30, Matins/Morning Prayer, in St. Andrew's, Mells

Great Elm At 7.30am on Wednesdays Richard King leads a prayer session in church

Hardington Vale Church Services July 2026

Wednesday 1 July	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 2 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 5 July	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast Rode , Holy Communion Laverton , Holy Communion Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Tuesday 7 July	9.00 am 11.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 July	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 9 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 12 July SEA SUNDAY	10.30 am 11.00 am	Norton St Philip , United Holy Communion Buckland Dinham , Iona/Taizé Service
Tuesday 14 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 15 July	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 16 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 19 July	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship Rode , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Informal Worship Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Tuesday 21 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 22 July	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 23 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 26 July	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Rode , Coffee & Contemplation Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Tellisford , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Iona/Taizé Service
Tuesday 28 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 29 July	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 30 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer

Version: 15 June 2026

Hardington Vale Church Services August 2026

Sunday 2 August	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast Rode , Holy Communion Laverton , Holy Communion Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Tuesday 4 August	9.00 am 11.00 am 7.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion Norton St Philip , New Rector's Service of Welcome
Wednesday 5 August	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Sunday 9 August	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , United Service
Tuesday 11 August	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 12 August	5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Sunday 16 August	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion Rode , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Informal Worship Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Tuesday 18 August	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 19 August	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Sunday 23 August	10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Tellisford , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Iona/Taizé Service
Tuesday 25 August	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 26 August	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Sunday 30 August	10.30 am	Rode , United Holy Communion

What of our other news? Our lychgate continues to be a major project under the superb leadership of Rob Waller. The scaffolding to keep the structure safe has been in place for some months now, and the required paperwork is being inched into place. We have a fine contractor to take the work on. Hopefully the real action will begin in the autumn.

Further to the above, Rob has taken on the Treasurer role for the Benefice (how does Rob keep all this going?). He does have the help of a bookkeeper, but it is still potentially an onerous task, and Rob could use all the support that we can muster.

Just to remind you: we generally have three services a month at St Michael's.

- *Second Sunday of the month:* 11.00am, Taize/Iona service led by Jenny and Rob.

- *Third Sunday of the month:* 11.00am, Holy Communion led by Rev Pauline.

- *Fourth Sunday of the month:* 6.00pm, Taize/Iona service in the side-chapel led by Meg and Jonny. On a different theme each month, as suggested by the congregation beforehand.

Additionally for the *First Sunday of the month* many of us generally go to Breakfast Church, 9.00am at Norton St Philip. There is no service at Buckland Dinham on the *Fifth Sunday of the month* (if there is one). There may be an extra service from time to time at St Michael's (eg All Souls, Ascension). More details about services can be found at achurchnearyou.com/church/10938/.



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CHANTRY

RIP MICHAEL RALPH

Michael, who died a few weeks ago, lived in Chantry with his wife Deirdre for many years. He was a great supporter of the church and was church warden for some years. The funeral will be held at Shepton Crematorium, a report will be in next month.

WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE

Welcome to the new family at Bullen Mead, Laura and her three daughters Megan, Edie and Ren joined us in early June, we hope that you will settle in and be happy here.

CHURCH NEWS

Church services had some excellent words spoken this month from our lay preacher Val and our faithful vicars who always give us food for thought. Thank you to all.

This month we had the lovely Christening of our grand-daughter Elodie. As it was a group service the church was full and what a delightful service. Thanks

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go to Barry Davis who took the service and coped with more children than I have ever seen in the church at one time!



Watch this space for a child friendly service in the new term. Elodie was given a wonderful start on her journey, blessed by God parents and family alike. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

Janice Bramston



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Anna Hammond
BA DipArch MSc ARB
e: annahammond@ymail.com
m: 0772 941 1360
t: 01373 834439



FRIENDS OF CHANTRY NEWS

Sunday July 5th

Whatley Quarry Loop. We need as many as people as possible to walk the Loop to help us secure our sponsorship. It's a really lovely walk. Make it a family day, bring your friends. Refreshments along the way. Registration is at the Whatley Quarry entrance. Please check the website, Facebook and your emails for more information.

Friday July 10th

A very special music event as part of the Frome Festival – Sam Sweeney and Grace Smith will be performing in Chantry Church. They are two of England's leading fiddle players, known for their powerful and deep connection to traditional music. Tickets can be purchased through the Frome Festival website.

Thursday July 16th

Our regular Thirsty Third Thursday will feature our summer barbecue – don't miss it. Chantry church from 6.00pm.

Thursday September 24th

Night River presents Robert Vincent – Holy Trinity, Chantry

Advance notice for this one in September. After the success of the first intimate gig at Chantry Church, Night River returns with one of the most acclaimed artists on the UK Americana scene, Robert Vincent is known for his beautifully soulful voice, magnetic live presence and top-level songwriting. His voice has attracted admirers including Bob Harris, Paul Carrack and Mary

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Chapin Carpenter. In 2016, Bob Harris awarded him Emerging Artist of the Year at the inaugural UK Americana Awards, describing him as “absolutely magnetic” and “the real deal”. His album I’ll Make The Most Of My Sins went on to win UK Americana Album of the Year in 2018, and led to Robert being invited to perform on BBC’s Old Grey Whistle Test: For One Night Only, where he closed the show.

With support from Nuala Honan, a magnetic songwriter and performer, blending fearless vocals, sharp lyricism and beautifully off-kilter folk-pop. Tickets available at nightriver.net

GREAT ELM

Great Elm will be hosting the Benefice Communion on Sunday July 5th at 10.00am. Catherine Llewellyn Evans will be taking the service.

Sunday July 26th– 1.00pm - Great Elm Gathering at Glebe House Family Fun Day. Bring a Picnic and Food to BBQ. Swimming and Croquet. All children to be accompanied by an adult at all times. **On Saturday September 26th 7.00pm** **Great Elm Harvest Festival Supper in the Village Hall, tickets from the website £12 per head. Or call Gemma 01373673140**

At the moment the approximate outline for Mary Magdalene celebration plans are for a ‘Bring your own picnic lunch’ with a barbecue on hand to do some cooking and have an afternoon of shared food and conversation with the backdrop of croquet and the swimming pool being open. Other activities may be added. Open to all ages.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR ARTHAUS GREAT ELM

Renowned as a hive of art production, Arthaus sees the launch of a new venture, this time into literary fiction. As one might expect, Lynn Baxter’s novel, *Crimson Joy*, has a ditistic and literary dimension: shades of the poet William Blake are embedded in stinctly arthe storyline.

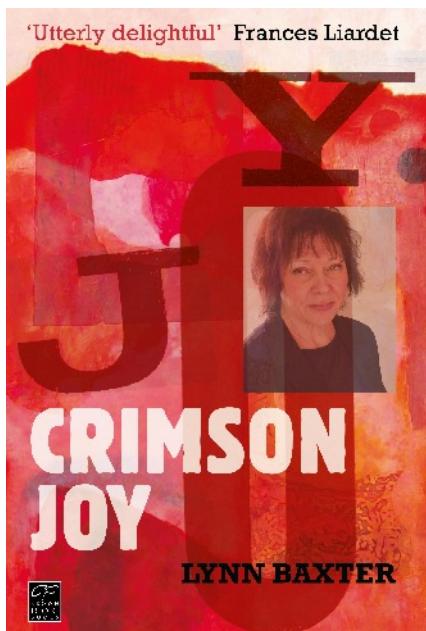
A beguiling human comedy in the form of a quest, the main characters, Mae and Damian, meet again after a ten-year rift only to find their personal growth is sabotaged as much by their own behaviour as it is through the machinations of others. The paperback is available from Winstone’s Hunting Raven, Frome, other UK bookshops and via Lynn’s author website: lynnbaxter.co.uk which links directly to the publisher.

An e-book version is available through Amazon and other sites.

'Written with wit and not a little literary genius.' 'Beautiful, precise, gorgeous.'

Arthaus Great Elm is not open for Frome Open Art Trail 2026, people wishing to visit Brian Baxter and Lynn Baxter's home, sculpture court and gallery space are welcome by appointment throughout the year:
 lynn Baxter694@gmail.com

OPEN GARDENS OF FROME - FRIDAY, SUNDAY JULY 10TH TO 12TH, 2026 10:30 AM TO 4:30PM.
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MELLS WITH VOBSTER

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (full minutes can be found at mells-pc.gov.uk). Notes of meeting held on Tuesday June 9th 2026

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Resident raised the recent construction of an additional access road from the Penny's site on Lime Kiln Hill.

Post meeting note: On further investigation the parish council had received an application in May 2024 (SCC/4095/2024: Restoration of Lime Kiln Hill Quarry – Lime Kiln Quarry) and had no objections. The access point further up the hill was considered an improvement. The Parish Council believes there

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will be an application for development on the site in the future but is unable to do anything until an application is presented.

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Barry Clarke)

Somerset Council Financial status: An independent review by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has awarded Somerset Council an overall one-star (out of five) rating for financial management, describing arrangements as "weak". Somerset Council has confirmed that it has spent £18.9 million on consultants and external advisory support since becoming a unitary authority in April 2023. Temporary Chief Finance Officer will remain in post until April 2027 costing approximately £291,000. The council will be getting £10 million less next year for schools and spends a significant amount of the budget on children's homes and care.

Planning Enforcement Backlog: Somerset Council has acknowledged a significant backlog of planning enforcement cases, particularly in parts of the former Mendip area.



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16th-19th July 2026

Friday 17th July 2026

7.00pm to 9.30pm

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MATTERS ARISING

Footpaths and grass cutting of triangles of land: The works have been carried out and the contractor will monitor and cut accordingly.

Public Space Protection Order: Cllr Seewooruttun reported that the churchyard can only be included if ownership can be confirmed and the parish council are responsible for maintaining it.

The Parish Council is considering paying the churchyard grounds contractor direct next year (up to a fixed amount) instead of offering the money as a grant which should meet the requirements of the order.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

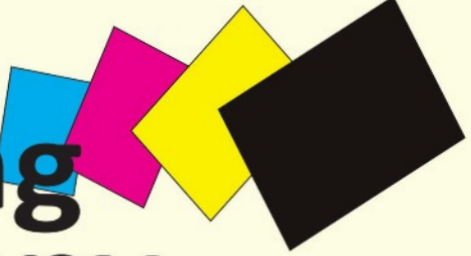
Speeding vehicles in Vobster: Cllr West has visited 40 houses and received no objections to the proposal to reduce the speed limit. The clerk will now submit the necessary documentation to Highways to start the process.

Vegetation on Vobster bridges: Highways has removed the tree and cut back the vegetation on both bridges.

Moving finger post by Vobster Inn: This has now been fixed.

PLANNING MATTERS

2026/0951/FUL: Widen existing access in the farm – Branch Farm – no objections.



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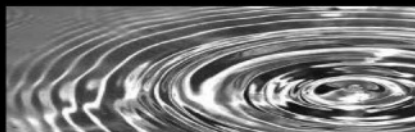
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FINANCIAL MATTERS

Internal auditor's report: The internal auditor has approved the accounts and raised no areas of concern. The clerk will submit the exemption certificate to the external auditor by the deadline date of June 30th. The Notice of Public Rights and Publication was advertised on the required date of June 1st.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Condition of Selwood Street: Clerk to report to Highways.

Neighbourhood Policing monthly meetings: An alternative venue has not been put in place while the café is closed and the meetings are likely to be postponed until it reopens.

Café: Several applications have been received and are currently being considered. Interviews will take place mid to late June.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday July 14th 2026 at 7.15pm in the Barn.
Joy Book, Clerk, Email: Clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07704 584953

WHATLEY

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

The team would like to thank Mary Scott for her organisation and the quiet 'extras' she does for the church, with thanks also to her frequent helper, Judy Urhmacher

CHURCH CLEANING AND FLOWERS

July 4th Alice Kettle. **11th** Judy Urhmacher **18th** Pippa Witt **15th** Katie Gay

August 1st J Norris **8th** A Kettle **15th** S Pollock **22nd** M Scott **29th** M Ransome.

VILLAGE NEWS

Brian Powell, of Egford Hill, died suddenly, aged 72, on April 3rd. His funeral took place on May 12th at St. George's church, led by Jean Caudwell. He was buried in the graveyard, the resting place of his parents and many family members. They have farmed at Egford for many generations and felt strongly affiliated to Whatley. There were a hundred

people at his funeral, their voices ringing out with the farmer's hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter.'

ELLA TO REPRESENT ENGLAND IN EURO CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FRANCE

The Norris family are very proud that Ella and her pony Frankie have been selected to ride in the Under 12's England team. They will be representing Great Britain at the European championships in France, riding with their pony club team, Wylfe Valley. Ellie rides for both the Wylfe Valley Pony Club and also for Dyfed, a Welsh team, part of the Mounted Games Association.

Ella works hard to achieve the very best she can in representing both her county and her country. It is a great honour that she has been selected to ride for England in the international championship in France. Ella would be very grateful if you would like to support her efforts through fundraising or sponsorship.

Contact her mother, Debbie Norris, if you would like to do so.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES at St George's church, Whatley

NO pop up pub Friday July 3rd July, since

AGM and celebration BBQ and boules on WHATLEY PARISH FIELD

(If raining, it will be hosted at St. George's church, Whatley)

5th July 5pm onwards.

Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, cutlery etc and boules (if you have them) Free drink on arrival!

Friends of Whatley monthly meeting. ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 14th July 6.15-7.45pm

No August meeting.

COFFEE MORNINGS 10.00am-12.00

Saturday July 11th

Saturday August 8th

POPUP PUB AND SKITTLES

Saturday July 18th

Saturday August 15th

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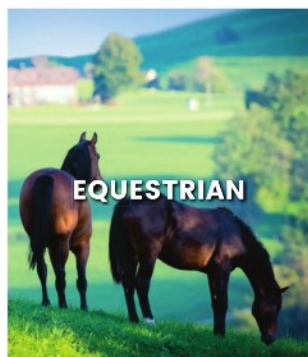
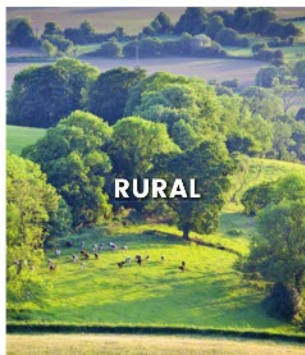
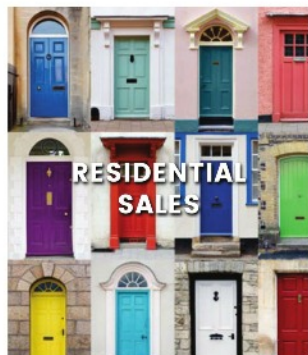
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