

# Misterton

## Village Magazine



July 2021



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## Note from the editors

When we were putting this month's edition together it struck us just how many people give up their valuable time to contribute to the village in many varied ways - from running village social events to looking after our various institutions to providing emergency help for anyone who needs it. A lot of this work goes on behind the scenes so many people may not be aware of how much it takes to keep our village going. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all those who volunteer in one way or another to the benefit of us all.

This month's beautiful watercolour cover is by another local artist, Natasha Rand, who runs a local art club and has transformed our village phone box into an art gallery-cum-book swap. And we have turned the tables with our interview subject, who is none other than our resident writer, John Coquet. He was interviewed by his wife, Sue, who we feel is giving John a run for his money in the writing stakes!

*Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt*

**Deadline for entries** for the August magazine is Tuesday 20th July.

Contributions please to [mistertonmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:mistertonmagazine@gmail.com) or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

### Magazine committee contact details

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## News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



The Parish Council was able to hold its first informal Zoom meeting in June. Now that remote meetings legislation has expired and we have a scheme of delegation, this is how we plan to ensure it is 'business as usual' until we can hopefully get back to face to face meetings in September. Everyone is welcome to attend as usual - the next informal meeting will be on 20th July and all details are published on the website [www.mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk). Remember that the Parish Council does not meet in August and we will circulate details of the September meeting closer to the time.

Thank you to a couple of local volunteers who strimmed and trimmed the lane behind Cedric's - if you do spot an issue with the local footpaths, please do let us know as the Parish Council employs a Parish Ranger. If we know about it, we can ask her to attend to the issue on her days in the village.

We would like to thank Misterton Football Club for their efforts again this year in helping to keep the Recreation Ground green and healthy. You may have seen our tree surgeons around undertaking the third year of tree works - these were identified by our arborist in a tree management plan for the village. Some trees are being removed for safety reasons or to allow others to flourish; some are being coppiced which looks drastic but actually will ensure longevity and better, healthier growth. We do plant dozens of trees in the Parish each year and hope to plant an additional fifteen in the autumn. The Parish Council was also pleased to be able to donate fifteen rowan and silver birch trees to the Old Mills estate for their communal green space.

As always, any issues you wish to raise with the Parish Councillors/Rec Field Trustees can be sent via email [mistertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:mistertonpc@gmail.com), or by telephone to the Clerk on 07917 753361. The PC mailbox is now situated just inside the WI Hall gates and post is collected weekly. Stay safe and well.

*CLlr Iain Rowland*  
Chair

**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](mailto:mistertonpc@gmail.com). ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the Parish Clerk.***

### Change of date for the garden party

This is going ahead at the same place and time but will now be on Saturday August 8th. If Boris can move the goal posts so can we! Please note there is limited parking for disabled only. Donations of cakes and plants are still required.

## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

The Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) continue to address potential flooding issues in the village. To progress this we met in the week with representatives from Somerset County Council (SCC) and walked around the village looking at the areas that suffer most when we get heavy rain.

The positives that came from the meeting was their interest in our village and that they are already aware of many of the issues we have to deal with. One of the challenges is that the Highways Department contract out the work so when it comes to drains they use three different subcontractors to flush out drains, identify blockages between drains and then clear those blockages.

Inevitably SCC cannot offer immediate solutions to flooding problems, rather they will continue to work with us to improve things where possible. Their message is that the community should continue to report all problems we come across to council via their website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/contact-us/>.

MERT will also continue to work on this and thanks to those who have provided information and photographs regarding past flooding incidents as they all add to the evidence we have. More experiences are welcome so please let us know what you have.

On 14th August Misterton is having another sale day and MERT will have a table on located on Iain's drive at Laburnum, Silver Street. Money raised will go to good causes in the village, including supporting the activities of the MERT team.

Hopefully next month Covid regulations will be relaxed to the point where the village can meet up again and when this happens we have some plans to provide training on how to use defibrillators for those who would like to practice just in case the need arises. More on this in due course. In the meantime please stay safe.

*Phil Clifton*

MERT member

[philclifton@hotmail.com](mailto:philclifton@hotmail.com)

## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

If an incident occurs in Misterton and you would like the assistance of the emergency and resilience team please call:

**Iain Rowland** on 01460 78951 or 07968 232998

**Phil Clifton and Sally Gray** on 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 [philclifton@hotmail.com](mailto:philclifton@hotmail.com)

**Peter Meakins** on 01460 74220

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## Misterton Church of England First School



Despite the current situation we find ourselves in, we at Misterton School have continued to find a love of learning, a love of life and a love of one another. We always enjoy a school trip and so if we cannot go to the trip then the trip will come to us!

Last week the children in Oak class took part in a virtual trip to the Charmouth Heritage Centre. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and were able to look around the centre and see the huge fossils, which were on display there. They met a real life palaeontologist and asked her some fantastic questions!

This week we held a fun beach day full of different activities. The children made Punch and Judy puppets and wrote a short script which they then performed using their puppets. After break, we were very lucky to get a visit from Mrs B's son the ice cream man. All the children enjoyed an ice cream and so did all the adults! Before lunch, Oak class had a water battle against Mrs Dawson. She was by herself but gave as good as she got! Luckily, we had dried out by the time it was time to go home. During the afternoon, Mrs Diaper taught the children different games they could play on the beach. We never knew how competitive Oak class were until they played volleyball! We had a fantastic day and wished every Wednesday was a beach day.

Our Year Four children enjoyed a fantastic trip to Magdalen Farm with the Year Four children from Ashlands First school, who will be their classmates as they move to Maiden Beech this year. The children had the opportunity to feed chickens, pigs and goats. They built dens in the woods but the most popular activity was the mud slide. After all the rain we had in May, you can imagine how muddy the mud slide was and how muddy the children were! The day finished with a campfire and roasting marshmallows. A fantastic day for everyone.

Our Year Threes are waiting patiently to find out what Miss Wines has in store for them - just wait and watch this space...





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## Letter from the Vicar

Just when we thought we were going to be back to something resembling normal... well, at least the revised date of July 19th will be in time for the school holidays, which will be a relief for many families. Let us hope that this time around the removal of restrictions will be able to go ahead as planned. It does mean that we have had to postpone the planned public meeting about the future of St Leonard's. This will now be held on Monday July 26th 7:00pm at St Leonard's Church (not the WI Hall as was the case).

We do hope that as many as are interested in the future of your Parish Church will be able to come along. Misterton has had a tough year with the threatened closure of the village school and uncertainty about the future of the Parish Church. Both church and school have played a big part in the life of the village for generations but maybe times change, and people look elsewhere for their sense of belonging and community. As we have more choices, we are no longer so wedded to the place where we live as being central to how we live. That does not make it any easier though when we realise that organisations that we assume will always be there, no longer are. It is unsettling - particularly as these threatened changes in Misterton come at a time when so much of our way of life has been disrupted because of the pandemic.

I would encourage you to come along to the meeting on the 26th to see if together we can find a way forward for the future of your Parish Church.

With best wishes

*Rev Jonathan Morris*  
01460 72356  
[jonbea@cooptel.net](mailto:jonbea@cooptel.net)

### Your Parish Church

*Please note the new time and date for this meeting*

What does the future hold for St Leonard's Church?

There will be a public meeting on Monday 26th July at 7:00pm at St Leonard's Church to look at all options - including closure.

If you have an interest in the future of your Parish Church then please come along.

*Rob Jeffreys*  
Churchwarden

*Jonathan Morris*  
Vicar



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## Misterton Pre-School

This term so far our preschool leavers have been preparing to transition to their 'big school' with time being spent at Misterton First School, Parrett and Axe, and St Bartholomew's in order to familiarise themselves before they start in September.

We are looking forward to holding a sports day before the end of term and giving our leavers a fun-filled morning to mark the end of their time with us and celebrate the next chapter in their learning journey.

Thank you to our brilliant preschool team Wendy, Justine, Jennie and Chelsea who have continued to work hard in what has remained a challenging time. We are so proud of the high quality care and education they provide in a beautiful setting that gives children the space to grow.

Have a great summer and look out for those Gnomes!

*Hannah Palmer*

### The Great Misterton Gnome Hunt

We need your help to find the mischievous gnomes who have cheekily invaded our village gardens, but can you find them all?



You can take part in the Great Misterton Gnome Hunt between Friday 23rd and Monday 26th July. Entries cost £2 with all funds raised going to Misterton Preschool.

To find out how to take part and receive your clues please email [info@hannah-lucy.co.uk](mailto:info@hannah-lucy.co.uk) or telephone 01460 75049.



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## **John Coquet (by Sue Coquet, his wife for 55 years)**

John's paternal grandparents, Romain and Pharailde, arrived in England with their five children as refugees after the Germans invaded Belgium where they then lived. It was the second time that Coquets came here. At some point in the 13th or 14th century they bought or, more likely, stole what is now Coquet Island off the Northumberland coast.

John was born in a Sussex village in 1941 and can just remember sheltering on the steps of the house's flooded cellar as German planes flew over on their way to bomb London. He also saw tanks and troops coming down the village road on their way to the D-Day landings. There was an Italian prisoner of war camp on the outskirts of the village. His mother used to take him there to let the POWs hand him through the barbed wire the little toys they had made for him.

His first memory of his father, Joe, was when he arrived in the village after being demobbed in 1946. The Royal Artilleryman had fought in North Africa, and then in Italy where he was involved in the battle of Monte Cassino. Later, in Germany, he guarded SS prisoners. Apart from a scorpion bite sustained in the desert, he was unwounded.

The family moved to Wandsworth in London where John went to a prep school and then a grammar school, both in Wimbledon. Some years later, they moved to New Malden in Surrey, just down the road from where I lived. I can vividly remember fancying him as I trailed down the road behind him – I on my way to school and he on his way to the station to take the train to work. They then moved to nearby Worcester Park.

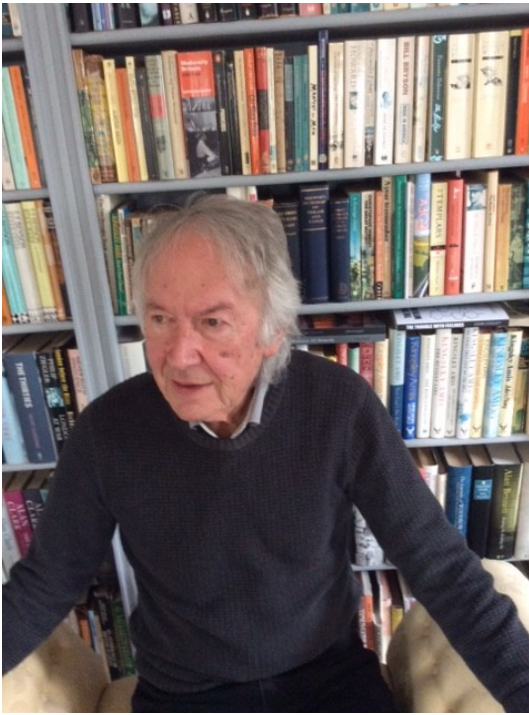
He worked at the insurance market, Lloyd's of London, before moving to a marine insurance company in the City. Having passed his professional insurance exams, he eventually became a marine underwriter, occasionally writing articles for insurance magazines.

We met at a party where John was with his then-fiancée. When he left home in 1962, I used to visit him in a succession of invariably squalid flats and bed-sits that he sometimes shared with a mate. He proposed to me in Trafalgar Square, but still maintains that it was I who proposed!

We were married in 1966 and lived in Horsham, Sussex. Our son, Nick, was born there. Kirstin, our daughter, was born soon after we moved to Crawley in 1972. Nick now lives in Brighton, Kirstin in Croydon. John found the commuting from Sussex a pain, so we moved again -- this time back to New Malden and to be near our families.

John then worked for a series of insurance companies -- Arab-owned, British, American, and French, now as an aviation underwriter insuring aircraft in more than a hundred countries. He did a fair bit of business travelling during his career. He worked for a few months in Jamaica and the Dutch West Indies and went to the USA, France (about thirty times while working for the French company), Spain, Switzerland, Holland, and Poland.

We stayed in New Malden until John retired, moving in 2000 to The Old Coach House in Misterton where we had owned a weekend cottage in Middle Street for several years.



He has always had strange and varied interests. Keen on Scandinavian mythology, he once hitch-hiked around Norway in search of old Viking settlements. He even wanted to name our first house Odinnheim after the chief Nordic god, but I soon put a stop to that. He was also a member of the Witchcraft Research Association, corresponding with a witch in the New Forest. Hitch-hiking was very much his thing before we married. He spent a fortnight with a flatmate travelling through England, Scotland, and Wales, sleeping in fields, in bus shelters and on golf courses. Once, in desperation, they asked at a King's Lynn police station where they could spend the night. They wound up sleeping in an empty cell, and a policeman was kind enough to bring them cups of tea in the morning. Most weekends they went hitch-hiking, mainly to Sidmouth for some reason. Absolutely not my thing.

He has been involved in many different sports in his time. Three of them – rugby, boxing, and cricket, unwillingly at school. Then tennis, table-tennis, archery, fencing, rifle shooting, badminton, and golf.

He once had a Lambretta scooter. I rode pillion on it – no crash helmets in those days. Illegally too, as he had not yet passed his test. Later, he had a Harley Davidson motorbike, which he sold soon after he retired, claiming that the local roads were not suitable for Harleys. His favourite author is Kingsley Amis, and his favourite band is The Rolling Stones. John has involved himself in painting and fretwork since his retirement. He has also published three novels.

*Sue Coquet*

### **Village Hall AGM**

Misterton Village Hall AGM is scheduled for Thursday 22nd July starting at 7:30pm. All are welcome to come along and support this valued charitable organisation.

Please be aware that the committee are looking for volunteers to fill various roles including that of secretary.

*Martin French*  
Village Hall Treasurer

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**Church services July 2021****Sunday 4th July 2021: Trinity 5**

United Service Wayford: 10:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

United Service Hewish: 11:45am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sunday 11th July 2021: Trinity 6**

Misterton: 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev J Morris

North Perrott: 9:30am Holy Communion (CW)      Haselbury: 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sunday 18th July 2021: Trinity 7**

Misterton 9:30am Holy Communion (CW) Rev J Morris

North Perrott: No service today      Haselbury: 11:00am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 25th July 2021: Trinity 8**

Misterton: 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev J Morris

North Perrott: 9:30am Holy Communion (BCP)      Haselbury: 11:00am FC (CW)

	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Brass</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>
July 4th	Mrs M Douch	-	-
July 11th	Mrs S Bacigalupo	-	Mrs R Pittard
July 18th	Mrs S Bacigalupo to check	-	-
July 25th	-	-	-

**Thank you**

This message should have been in the June magazine but it failed to reach the magazine editors:

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for which I received a cheque for £675. This I shall spend on having weekends away.

With thanks once again.

*Maureen Shepley*  
Ex-Church Treasurer



## Crewkerne Probus Club



Probus Clubs provide regular gatherings for those retired or semi-retired business or professional people who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and with similar interests.

Crewkerne Probus Club organises meetings for lunch on the last Wednesday of each month. These are held at the **Windwhistle Inn** at 12.15 for 1.00pm. The 2 course meal currently costs £15 per head and is followed by an after lunch speaker on an interesting topic.

Each year special events are held to which our partners, as well as other guests, are invited – a Ladies Lunch in May, an Autumn Supper, a Christmas Lunch and a summer outing.

If you are a retired professional or business man living in the Crewkerne area, why not consider joining us? Contact David Bryant on 01460 74422

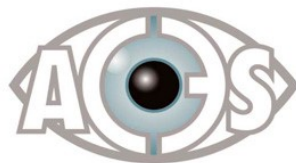


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## Old photos of Misterton



**Above:** Crewkerne railway gangers in early days had depot in the station and many Misterton men were in gang.

*These photos were kindly made available for publication by Margaret Lamb from her late father, Peter Lamb's collection. The writing on the back of each photo is reproduced here.*

**Left:** George and Annie Hunt, parents of Elsie Lamb, at turn of the century at their cottage at top of Mower Lane. They had 13 children. Also Pete Lamb's grandparents.



*F.G. Christopher*

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## Misterton Gardeners Association

Whilst it is not intended to hold any further meetings of the Gardening Club in the WI hall this year, a couple of outside events are planned. The first of these is a Sunday lunchtime BBQ on **July 18th commencing 12.30pm**. The venue is **Mike & Cheryl Newman's garden at The Poppies Silver Street**. It is free for members of the club (who paid their subs in February last year!). Other villagers - particularly those who are interested in joining the club - are welcome to join us. However as we are limited for numbers (and also for catering purposes) could anyone intending to attend contact me beforehand.

It is a BYO drinks event. So come and enjoy some good Misterton company in a lovely garden setting.

*Diana Dyke*

01460 77233

Many of us remember with affection Neil Lovesey who ran Picket Lane Nursery in South Perrott. Sadly Neil died last year after a long struggle with cancer. However his daughter Pippa (who lives in Station Road) has decided to carry on her father's work with the nursery - which Neil created and so loved. It is a big challenge and Pippa is battling manfully (or should it be womanfully?) single-handedly to produce plants of the highest quality. She does not seem to advertise but is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Almost all of her plants are priced at £6. Give Pippa a visit..!!



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**At present we have no cook therefore we are unable to open the restaurant. We are only open for drinks and Bed & Breakfast.**

### **Diary of events for July**

Monday 19th July - Wessex Morris Men will be dancing on the village green at 8:30pm followed by singing and playing inside. **Please come along and support them and join us for a drink.**

\*\*\*\*\*prior notice to book tickets for following event\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday 15th August - Musical event in pub garden to include BBQ and gin tasting. Starting at 12.30pm. bookings only at £10pp. Tickets on sale at the pub beforehand. The event is to raise money for the Yeovil District Hospital breast cancer unit appeal fund. Music by our friendly local band *One Foot in the Groove*.

## Misterton tennis club



After a wet May the club has now completed half their matches for the summer.

The Ladies are doing quite well and are currently in second place in Division 2 of the Yeovil and District league with Sherborne LA in top position. Six matches have taken place so far and we have won four out of six played with one postponed due to weather.

Wins:            9-2 v Ilminster LB  
                     10-0 v Somerton LB  
                     10-0 v Wincanton LA  
                     8-2 v Dorchester

We are pleased to welcome newcomers to the team - Ali Worsley and new member Gill Collier. Also we are lucky to have Bethany Lacey home from South Carolina University USA where she is doing a scholarship for tennis and will be available for a few more matches. So we have a nice strong team aiming to complete the season and go back to Division 1 where we were prior to lockdown.

The Men's Doubles team are lying third in Division 4 having played six games so far. After a strong start with a win over Sherborne it is fair to say wins have been hard to come by more recently. Match results do not reflect some very good performances where sets have been decided by fine margins (or foul weather).

Regards  
*Chris Ellis*

## Remembering Dottie

Many of you have been asking about Dottie's memorial afternoon which has been delayed until her granddaughter Laura - who was a big part of Dottie's life and needs to be here for the event - lives in Germany and has been unable to get back without restrictions. We hope to arrange this for some time in August and will put details in the August magazine.

*Carol Walker*

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## Litter picking

My son, Oscar Phillips-Dale (aged 14) has chosen to litter pick in the village for the next three months in his spare time, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Please would you notify us if there are any littering problem areas in the village that he could tackle?

And if anyone could kindly lend us a litter spike, that would be very helpful. I can be texted on 07443 539362 and we will try our best to do as much as we can!

Many thanks,

*Carol Phillips and Oscar*

No. 1, Park View, Silver Street

## Did you know?

William Shakespeare is credited with inventing many words and expressions. They may have been in use before, but their first printed outings were in his works.

Many of his inventions are still in common use. Here are ten examples of them: Dishearten, Eventful, Eyeball, Fashionable, Hot-blooded, Inaudible, Manager, New-fangled, Pageantry and Scuffles.

*John Coquet*



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## Misterton WI

Our scheduled meeting for 6th July has been cancelled due to restrictions and will hopefully take place in August (fingers crossed!). Due to continuing restrictions, the hall will not open on the 1st July as planned, rather this has shifted to 1st August. Watch this space... Meanwhile, any queries, please get in touch. Thanks,

*Carol Walker*  
01460 74808

## Allotment competition

Nothing to report as judging will take place during the next two weeks but they are all looking pretty good - thanks to all our allotmenters. The results and further information about the presentation of prizes will appear in the August magazine.

## Misterton village sale day

Saturday August 14th 12-4pm

Please contact Viv on [varowe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:varowe@hotmail.co.uk) or Jan on [jancd136@hotmail.com](mailto:jancd136@hotmail.com)  
if you will be taking part

Last year we did a map of all stalls for people coming from outside the village so they knew where the stalls would be. As most of the stalls will be in the Silver Street/Avenue/Turnpike Green Area, if you live on the outskirts of the village please let us know, as we do have some spots in peoples' gardens available.

You keep your profits and no charge for a stall!

We will once again be holding a raffle and a tombola to support local causes

🎵 Live music throughout the afternoon 🎵

Any donations for the raffle or tombola can be given to Viv on the Avenue, or Jan on Newbery Lane.

Final details in the August Magazine.

## Dennis Evans

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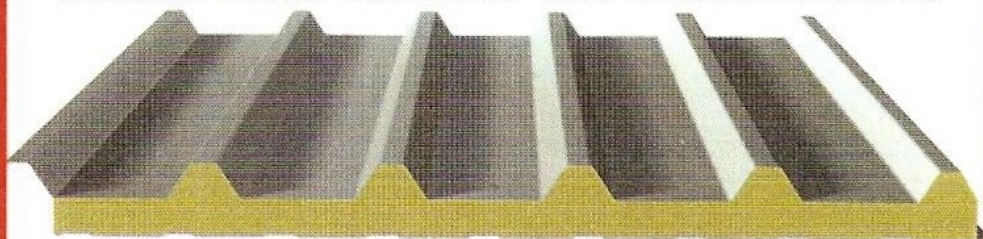
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## Dates for your diary

July 2021

Tuesday July 20th	Parish Council meeting	6:30pm	Zoom
Thursday July 22nd	Village Hall AGM	7:30pm	Village hall
Monday July 26th	Parish Church public meeting	7:00pm	St Leonard's Church
Saturday August 8th	Garden party	2:30pm	Dry Close, Newbery Lane
Saturday August 14th	Village sale day	12:00pm	Around the village

## Forthcoming events

**Village show** - Saturday October 9th.

More news to follow in the August issue of the magazine!

## St Leonard's Church Flower Festival

After a lot of thought and discussion, we have decided to postpone our biennial Church Flower Festival until August Bank Holiday weekend 2022. Hopefully then we can do it properly, without any restrictions and hopefully we will still have a church then.

*Sue Coquet*

Misterton Flower Guild

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