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Village Magazine



February 2021



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Note from the editors

We were very pleased that our new year quiz proved popular again and can reveal that we received more than one all-correct response! Of course there can only be one winner and you can find out who that is on page 6, where we have published the answers for those who were playing along at home. Also this month we have taken a look into the archives and uncovered the story of the great Crewkerne train disaster - does anyone remember this? We hope you enjoy John's entertaining rendition of this dramatic event as well as the original article that inspired it.

Our cover photo this month is by Jessica Watt, age 15, who is studying photography as one of her GCSEs and is hoping to continue her studies at A level from September.

The magazine committee has taken the decision to publish February's magazine despite the lockdown as we feel it contains useful information that local people need and possibly even rely on. Our distributors have delivered the magazines as part of their daily exercise, observing social distancing and other lockdown rules at all times. Thank you to them for their often unseen contribution to getting this magazine to you.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the March magazine is Friday 19th February.

Contributions please to mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

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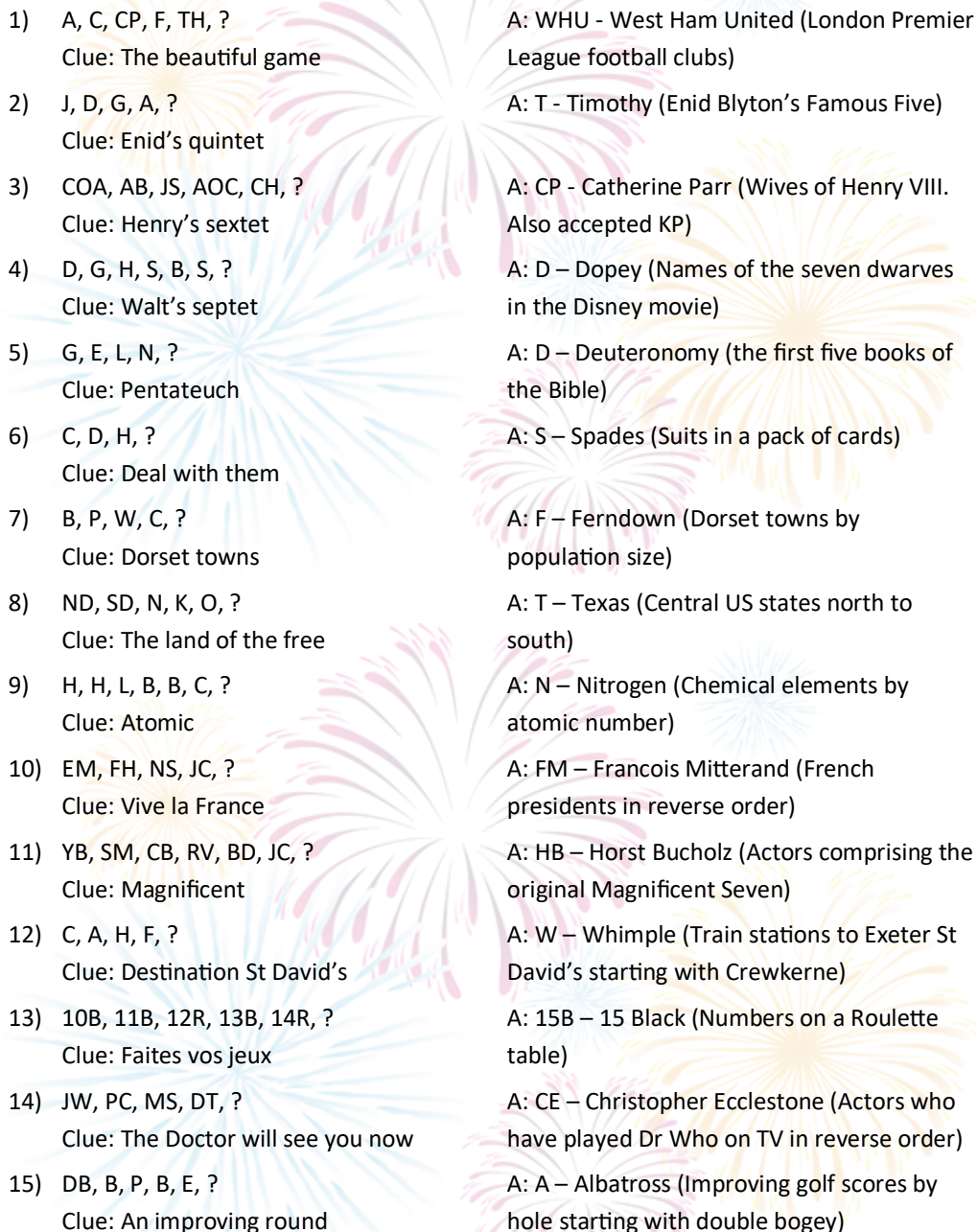
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New Year Quiz 2021 - answers and a winner!

- 
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) A, C, CP, F, TH, ?
Clue: The beautiful game | A: WHU - West Ham United (London Premier League football clubs) |
| 2) J, D, G, A, ?
Clue: Enid's quintet | A: T - Timothy (Enid Blyton's Famous Five) |
| 3) COA, AB, JS, AOC, CH, ?
Clue: Henry's sextet | A: CP - Catherine Parr (Wives of Henry VIII. Also accepted KP) |
| 4) D, G, H, S, B, S, ?
Clue: Walt's septet | A: D – Dopey (Names of the seven dwarves in the Disney movie) |
| 5) G, E, L, N, ?
Clue: Pentateuch | A: D – Deuteronomy (the first five books of the Bible) |
| 6) C, D, H, ?
Clue: Deal with them | A: S – Spades (Suits in a pack of cards) |
| 7) B, P, W, C, ?
Clue: Dorset towns | A: F – Ferndown (Dorset towns by population size) |
| 8) ND, SD, N, K, O, ?
Clue: The land of the free | A: T – Texas (Central US states north to south) |
| 9) H, H, L, B, B, C, ?
Clue: Atomic | A: N – Nitrogen (Chemical elements by atomic number) |
| 10) EM, FH, NS, JC, ?
Clue: Vive la France | A: FM – Francois Mitterand (French presidents in reverse order) |
| 11) YB, SM, CB, RV, BD, JC, ?
Clue: Magnificent | A: HB – Horst Bucholz (Actors comprising the original Magnificent Seven) |
| 12) C, A, H, F, ?
Clue: Destination St David's | A: W – Whimble (Train stations to Exeter St David's starting with Crewkerne) |
| 13) 10B, 11B, 12R, 13B, 14R, ?
Clue: Faites vos jeux | A: 15B – 15 Black (Numbers on a Roulette table) |
| 14) JW, PC, MS, DT, ?
Clue: The Doctor will see you now | A: CE – Christopher Ecclestone (Actors who have played Dr Who on TV in reverse order) |
| 15) DB, B, P, B, E, ?
Clue: An improving round | A: A – Albatross (Improving golf scores by hole starting with double bogey) |

There were three correct entries and the winner drawn out of the hat on 20th February was

John Cross of Packer's Way

Congratulations John! Leo will be in touch shortly about your prize. A big thank you also goes to Leo for organising the quiz. We hope you all enjoyed taking part.

News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



As February and hopefully early signs of spring are now upon us, I am hoping this finds you well. At the time of writing, lockdown continues whilst the vaccination roll-out picks up pace. Should you need any assistance whilst isolating, please do not hesitate to contact the Misterton Emergency Team, ably co-ordinated by Phil Clifton on 01460 73815 or philclifton@hotmail.com. Our ongoing thanks to Phil and all the team for their work on this for almost a year now.

The fingerpost at the Misterton crossroads has been removed by the forge for restoration works. It may be back by the time you read this. These works have been in the pipeline for a while as the forge has been running a waiting list due to the volume of fingerpost works from all over the county! We hope to be able to restore the other post at the end of Silver Street at some point in the new financial year.

Pavement resurfacing was a welcome start to the New Year – the new surfaces are much easier to navigate and we will keep pushing the County Council to schedule the remaining pavements for work when finances permit them to do so.

January's Parish Council meeting considered a resolution to withdraw from the joint Neighbourhood Plan with Crewkerne Town Council. After much careful research and consideration, the Parish Council has now concluded that a joint plan may not be in Misterton's best interests.

Finally, I would like to remind Rec users that while well behaved dogs are permitted on the main part of the Recreation Field, under no circumstances should they be taken into the children's play area.

As always, any issues you wish to raise with the Parish Councillors/Rec Field Trustees can be sent via email 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. ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the Parish Clerk.***



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Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

As we enter one of the most challenging and yet optimistic periods of the pandemic the MERT continue to meet with a view to supporting the community, if needed, either directly or with the help of the extended team.

With regard to impact of the pandemic on the village we have heard about other groups in Somerset developing a buddy system which is aimed at reducing isolation. We are considering doing this for Misterton with the intention of putting those who want company in touch with those who will support others. Of course this will be via the phone, given the current restrictions, providing a chance to chat to others and raise issues which can be picked up by MERT. We realise a lot of the village will already be doing this but if you would like support or can give it please let us know.

The second biggest issue to us is the risk of flooding. The team have contacted those with homes adjacent to the stream that runs through the village, namely those with Riparian rights and responsibilities. To assist anyone with a risk of being flooded we are increasing our stock of flood resistance bags (these are a modern version of sandbags which contain a substance that will swell when wet and act in the same way). If anyone would like some bags to protect property and/or can offer help to the team please let us know.

In the meantime we hope you can stay safe and positive as we progress out of the current situation.

Phil Clifton

MERT member

01460 73815

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

Peter Meakins on 01460 74220

Train timetable changes

South Western Railway has reduced the number of weekday services they are running from Monday 11th January 2021. PDF timetables are available on their website at www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey/timetables.

However, further changes to timetables may need to be made at short notice, so they strongly recommend customers check their journey closer to the time of travel at www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey.

Walter Wall

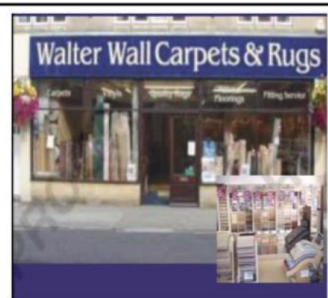
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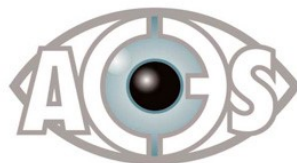
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Misterton Gardeners Association

Gardening notes

For me February marks the start of the gardening year. Not in the sense of getting out in the garden and doing things. More about planning for the gardening year ahead. Clean and sharpen up all your tools. And if you have any power tools (like a hedge trimmer or a lawn mower) start them up and give them a once over. Never leave this until the better weather comes when you will want to be using them. Think about seeds and the plants you wish to grow during the season. In this context, may I remind you that the Gardening Club has vouchers which you can use to get 25% off purchases (but only before the end of this month) at Brimsmore Yeovil or Castle Gardens Sherborne. To get a voucher just join our club at the reduced rate of £7.50 for the year. Through these vouchers you can easily get your money back...! Give me a call.

Of course, many Misterton gardens will by now displaying the 'harbingers of spring'; in other words a superb array of snowdrops. Nothing better. For fragrance, some years ago I was given a Daphne odora plant – this gives off a wonderful aroma in February or early March. You may get a waft of this if you walk past our house in Unity Lane.

Finally, plants which are gaining in popularity are hellebores. Plant breeders are producing more and more colourful varieties of these and they do come out in February year after year. My favourite is the so-called Christmas Rose (see photo). Mine never emerges until this month. But it is always very welcome.

John Dyke
01460 77233



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Letter from the Vicar

This time last year we were just beginning to hear about the spread of the coronavirus, although the full lockdown would not arrive until late March. Not many would have predicted just how devastating the virus would be on so many levels. The roll out of the various vaccines has given some cause for hope and it seems that the programme is going well. We know though that while vaccinations will save lives and protect the National Health Service from being overwhelmed (we hope) there remain huge challenges over the months and possibly years ahead. If we think of children and young people, they have faced massive disruption to their education at all levels and face a fragile labour market as they begin the world of work. The Prince's Trust published its latest happiness and confidence survey, which is an annual survey, and the results make for grim reading. Many thought they were missing out on being young and feared for their employment prospects. A staggering one in four said they had felt unable to cope and were looking to the year ahead with dread.

These challenges and others are going to require us to show the same resolve as we have seen in the development and administration of the vaccines. And to be prepared to invest in finding solutions – adequately funding our school and youth services, taking seriously the mental health pressures that many are under and committing the resources to help children, young people and families facing huge problems.

Our Churches remain closed right now and will remain so until the spread of the virus is brought under more control. The position is always under review and we hope that we will be able to open in time for Easter.

I really enjoyed the inauguration of President Biden; there were lots of words and songs to savour but for me the star of the show was Amanda Gorman, a young 22-year-old poet whose recitation I found spell binding. Here are two quotes from *The Hill we Climb*:

We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.

And finally:

*The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Have a good month and keep safe.

Rev Jonathan Morris

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Crewkerne train disaster - one person slightly hurt

There was a time, back in the 1950s and '60s, when train-spotting was a schoolboys' hobby. Some more mature locals must still remember perilously leaning over railway bridges or loitering on station platforms in its pursuit.

Many spotters used Ian Allan's books listing regional steam locomotives and rejoiced when able to pencil through the numbers of the more elusive trains when they saw them for the first time. It was a competitive hobby, and cheating was considered to be the mark of a total rotter.

In the October of '52, the notorious Harrow and Wealdstone rail crash occurred. It caused 112 fatalities and injured 340 passengers. The next month brought a crash at Guildford with 2 fatalities and 37 injured. Accordingly, it was a relief that an accident at Crewkerne station in April 1953 was less serious with only one injury to a Mr Eric Bowditch whose hand was injured while salvaging goods from the train.

The incident was front-page news for the Somerset County Mail, a Crewkerne-based newspaper of the time. The headline was: ENGINE DRIVER'S PROMPT ACTION AVERTS MAJOR RAIL DISASTER. The report said that as the Exeter to Waterloo Express (yes, there were express trains to Waterloo in those days) approached Crewkerne station, the axle of the 6ft driving wheels gave way, turned inwards, and ploughed up the rails for nearly a mile. The report claimed that only the skill of the driver, Chas. Lodge, saved the train from toppling over the embankment, which would not only have injured many of the passengers, but might also have crashed through cottages at Misterton. The locomotive was of the Merchant Navy class and named Bibby Line. Its number was 35020. It would have been more poignant had it been the West of England class train – Crewkerne, numbered 34040. Do any retired trainspotters remember logging either of them?

A passenger said, 'I felt a lurch and bump, and, as we were almost into Crewkerne, something flew past the window. Then a number of men ran on to the platform, waving their hands and shouting, presumably to attract the attention of the train crew, and stop the train, but I was then thrown forward, apparently by the application of the brakes. I looked out of the window, and a strip of metal was sticking out of the side of the engine. I conclude that it snapped off at the base of a pillar in the station. It fell off and rolled down the embankment just before we stopped. The carriage I was in made a rocking motion, and the wheels were making a grinding noise – I thought we were off the rails. When we stopped I let out a sigh of relief. I had expected we'd crash at any minute.'

As the train roared through Crewkerne station, part of the overhanging roof was brought down. Seeing the train rocking from side to side, the signaller set his signals at danger and warned boxes up and down the line to stop any other trains approaching the station. The driver 'with a cool head and steady hand' nursed his train to a standstill on Perrott Bridge. The track was buckled and twisted but local repair gangs were at work within 20 minutes.

A businessman on the train dug up some primroses on the embankment and said, 'I shall plant these in my garden as a permanent reminder of a near escape from death.' He shook hands with driver Lodge, saying, 'Thank you, driver. But for your care I wouldn't be here

Nor was life dull; the newspaper advertised dances in Crewkerne, Ilminster and Shepton Beauchamp. They featured Stanford Mayo and his orchestra, and, twice, Fred Tolman and his Melodians. Crewkerne's Band Festival was scheduled to take place in June on Henhayes Field. A Chiselborough lady took a small ad to threaten legal proceedings against anyone making slanderous statements about her. And there was no pandemic to deal with.

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Misterton Middle Street pavement

This week the pavement through the centre of Misterton past the garage and the Globe Inn has received well and much needed resurfacing. The road was closed throughout. Most villagers will share my delight that this repair has at last been completed. However many will not realise the problem has been long standing. It goes back a decade and I know when I was Deputy Chair of Misterton Parish Council that in those days we made several requests for the work to be done to enable villagers to walk safely through the village especially the elderly and the mums with children. It was clear at the time that apart from normal wear and tear much of the damage was caused by traffic especially HGVs frequently leaving the A356 road and mounting the pavement because of the several places where there was insufficient room for similar traffic to pass each other.

A little while ago we witnessed one of the additional effects of this damage when a gas main fractured under the pavement outside the houses opposite Knowle Lane, the cause being confirmed by the gas engineers as that of damage to the pavement above by the traffic. It therefore seems likely that if HGVs are allowed to continue mounting the pavement as previously they will quickly cause similar damage to the new surface and cease to protect the gas piping which is laid throughout under the pavement. Perhaps villagers feel they can play a part in preventing this by reporting to the local police any traffic particularly HGVs that once again mount the pavement. All that should be required is the time, place, registration number and description of the HGV or bus or tractor.

Diane Bradly
Knowle House

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Misterton crossroads 1950



A topical old photo of Misterton given that the fingerpost is currently being restored. I wonder what happened to the AA Box?

Photo courtesy of Julie Douth



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

B.Young

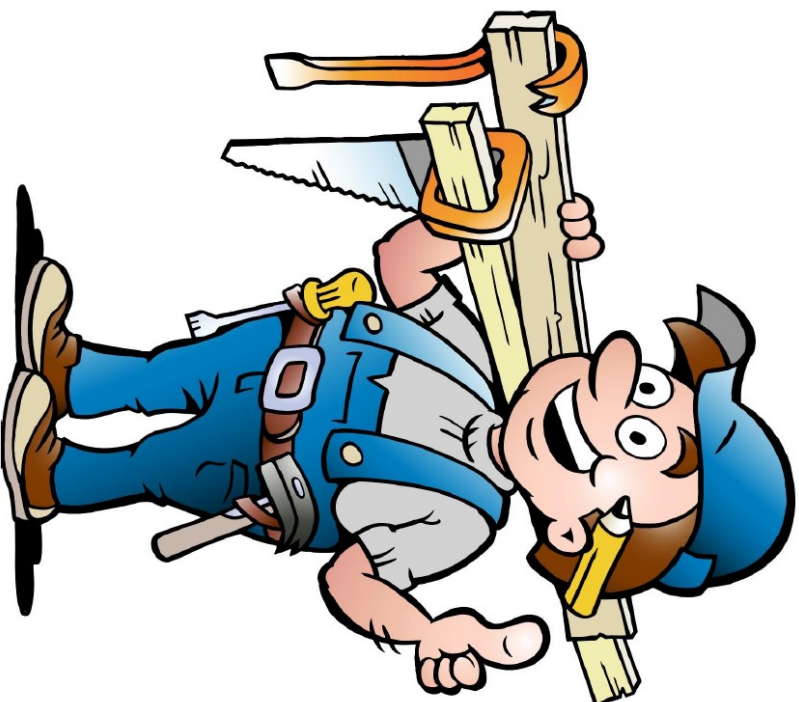
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Services for the month of February 2021

Although the current lockdown regulations do not require place of public worship to be closed, each of the six churches within the Wulfric Benefice have decided it would not be commensurate with good health to remain open in the current pandemic. Accordingly, the Benefice has been granted a Dispensation by the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells acting through Ruth, Bishop of Taunton, to suspend services of public worship within the Benefice.

It will be for the individual Parochial Church Councils of each of the churches within the Benefice to decide when it will be safe to reopen and resume services. We at St. Leonard's hope that this will be by Easter Day, Sunday 4th April 2021 and, if possible, further information will be given in the next edition of the Misterton Village Magazine.

Your parish church - a crisis?

St Leonard's Church is YOUR parish church. It is where you, the residents of the parish of Misterton, are entitled to be married, to have a funeral service, and for you and your children to be baptised.

All parish churches are managed by a team of mainly lay (non-clerical) volunteers, chaired by the local vicar or rector, but otherwise led by two churchwardens, a treasurer, and a secretary. These, together with the other lay members, make up the Parochial Church Council or PCC (not to be confused with the Parish Council). In Misterton, we have one churchwarden, no secretary and a treasurer who, after about thirty years in the post will retire towards the end of April this year.

Without a treasurer, it is difficult to see how we can continue to operate and, if we cannot operate, then we cannot keep St Leonard's open for you.

It may surprise you to know that the posts of treasurer and secretary can be filled with anyone who has the desire for the job and either the skills or the willingness to learn them. We have enquired among those who attend church regularly as well as those who come less frequently but, after some months, no one has expressed a willingness to take either of these posts on. So, we turn to you, the residents of the parish of Misterton and the readership of the Misterton Village Magazine and ask: would you be willing to step forward and become our new secretary or, more importantly, our new treasurer?

You do not need to be a communicant member of the Church of England to do so. You do not need to go to church or even be a Christian, practising or not. The posts are open to anyone. Are YOU able to help us?

If you are interested, please contact our churchwarden, Rob Jeffreys, either by email at bobsbiking@hotmail.co.uk or on 01460 279827.

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Spiced black eyed bean and rice soup

Apparently February 4th is homemade soup day - who knew?! So why not celebrate it with this simple but delicious and filling soup, even better with some crusty bread warm from the oven.

Serves 4

1 tin black eyed beans	125g brown rice
1 carton passata	1 tsp paprika
2 tbsp oil	1 tsp cinnamon
1 onion, finely chopped	Pinch cayenne
1 clove garlic, finely chopped	900ml stock
Grated cheese to serve	

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan on a medium low heat, add the onion and garlic and soften for 5-10 minutes.
2. Stir in the rice and spices and cook for a further 2 minutes.
3. Pour in the tomatoes and stock and bring the pan to the boil. Add the drained and rinsed beans.
4. Cover the pan and simmer for 45 minutes or until the rice and beans are soft.
5. Serve scattered with the grated cheese and bread on the side.

Recipe from one of my mother's many 1980s vegetarian cookbooks - Sarah Watt



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Middle Street road closure

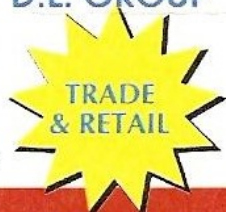
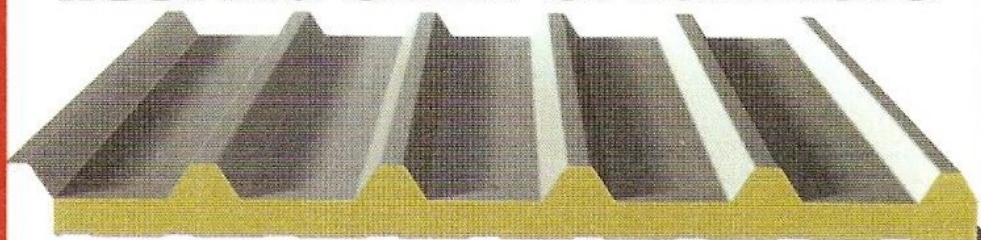
The A356 (Middle Street) will be closed for four weeks from Monday 1st February to Friday 26th February 2021 to enable repair works to be carried out on Misterton bridge next to the Globe Inn. Although the road will be closed to traffic, pedestrians will be allowed to cross over the bridge and vehicular access will be maintained to all private properties.

The bridge is to be strengthened by re-grouting the masonry arch, which is required in order to enable the bridge structure to support normal highway traffic up to 44 tonne vehicles. The A356 is an important link in the local highway network and if this work is not carried out there would eventually be a danger to the travelling public of the bridge becoming unserviceable.

The current HGV diversion route will be maintained for all traffic for the duration of the closure. The route is to use A3066 to Haselbury Plucknett, the A30 to Crewkerne and the A356 back to Misterton and the reverse for clockwise traffic flows.

If you have any questions about the strengthening works on Misterton Bridge or the diversion route, please contact the Somerset County Council Bridge Section by emailing bridges@somerset.gov.uk quoting *Misterton Bridge 4050201 repair works* or by calling 0300 123 2224.

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Misterton WI

Like all organisations, not a lot going on! The hall remains closed until further notice with no admittance except for emergency work. So I'm filling in with the Minutes of the Committee and Members Meetings held 100 years ago! I'm sure many of you will recognise some of the names – enjoy!

The Committee meeting was held on the 2nd February 1920. It was attended by all members and sub-committees – all final arrangements were made for the Whist Drives – no other business was done.

The Whist Drive and Social was held on the 3rd February- a very successful evening was spent – 17 tables were used – many visitors not wishing to play. Songs were sung by members and visitors. The prizes were presented by the President – Mr Jeffery acted as M.C. and was most efficient.

The Members meeting was held on the 7th February - Miss Blake gave a most charming and interesting lecture on 'Drama' and was heartily thanked – tea and refreshments were enjoyed, followed by a little sketch by Misses Summerhayes, Hayball and Larcombe. This was well acted and much enjoyed. Mrs Swabey gave a short and interesting account of her recent visit to the Battlefields of France. Games, etc. closed one of the most enjoyable evenings yet spent. It was decided by the members to hold an extra meeting on March 14th in the afternoon, to hear an address by Mrs Mayo.

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Dates for your Diary

February 2021

Tuesday February 16th

Parish Council Meeting

6:30pm

Zoom

Refugee charities

There are so many people in the UK at this time suffering financial problems and so many different charities seeking our support that amidst it all it is hard to find space for the plight of refugees. So, though refugee camps continue to exist in so many countries there is little information or photographs in the media to remind us of their suffering in tents in terrible winter conditions (cold, rain, snow and ice), nor of all the items needed if adults and children are to survive, and which now include protective equipment against coronavirus.

At present Refugee Support Group (RSG) and Raft are unable to provide practical means to pass on goods generously donated by supporters to those struggling in the camps. And neither can RSG hold fundraising events for charities and volunteers working on the ground as we have previously done. Undoubtedly, many supporters will be unable to assist with financial donations, but I believe there may be others who are able to do so. Therefore, for those willing people I am suggesting a few specialist refugee charities, which can be found online and which would use your donations wisely.

Help Refugees/Choose Love (www.helprefugees.org) is present in many countries supporting people in a variety of ways, and individuals are able to choose particular items to be purchased.

Refugee Community Kitchen (www.refugeecommunitykitchen.com) speaks for itself and is highly regarded.

Safe Passage (www.safepassage.org.uk) helps unaccompanied children and vulnerable adults to join their families in Europe safely and legally.

Care4Calais (www.care4calais.org) is in Northern France and Belgium delivering essential aid to stranded refugees mainly from war torn countries.

If anyone wishes to donate but is without internet access please phone me and perhaps we can arrange something.

Thank you,

Geraldine Downey 01460 271358



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John Coquet



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