

# Misterton

## Village Magazine



June 2021



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## Note from the editors

It's so lovely to see social events starting to pop up in Misterton after what seems like a long time without any. A browse through this month's magazine will give you several dates for your diaries!

This month's cover is by local artist Sara Langford who makes cards and prints from her original lino prints and watercolours. You can find her work for sale at <https://www.facebook.com/MrsSkiffle>.

For those who are longing to travel (or who prefer to read about it from their sofas!) we have a fascinating account of a trip around Europe made last summer by two intrepid explorers in their converted white van. And a bit closer to home, we have an update on the bridge repairs which may well be finished by the time you read this.

*Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt*

**Deadline for entries** for the July magazine is Friday 18th June.

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

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We hope this issue of the Magazine finds you all well and enjoying the relative freedoms that the easing of lockdown has brought us. The Misterton Covid-19 support network does, however, continue to operate and is happy to carry on supporting any villager who gets in touch. It was good to see the sterling efforts of Phil Clifton (who co-ordinates this network of volunteers) recognized by Somerset County Council as one of the unsung heroes of the Covid pandemic. Announced on Somerset Day, the newly launched Somerset Medal will be received by a list of worthy recipients - including our very own Phil! Congratulations.

As restrictions ease, the Government legislation allowing Parish Councils to hold online meetings has expired so we will be looking to ease back into face-to-face meetings in a Covid-safe way over the next few months. The Parish Council is still permitted to hold informal meetings online, which will likely be the next step while social distancing requirements are still in place. Details of all meetings will be published on the website [www.mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk) and all are welcome to attend.

At our recent AGM, I was pleased to be re-elected to serve another year as Chair, along with Vice Chair Geoff Restorick. We are looking forward to being able to hopefully resume usual community activities later in the year, including arranging a village litter pick. Thanks to all councillors for their efforts over the past year as well as those who help support our village in other ways – from acting as trustees for our local charities, co-ordinating the marvellous magazine, tidying and monitoring our parish paths, organising village events, right the way through to planting beautiful floral displays for us all to enjoy – there are too many of you to thank individually but thank you all!

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.

*ClIr 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.***

### Official names for commonplace things

The metal or plastic bits at the ends of shoelaces: Aglets  
Strips of wood, plastic, or metal between panes of glass: Muntins

*John Coquet*

## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

As the rain falls and a stream runs down the lane outside, this month's submission seems particularly apt as the weather reminds us that one of Misterton's perennial problems is with us again. Recently the Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) has been working on our flood plan and despite April being a really dry month May seems to be making up for it.

We are working with Somerset County Council, in particular the rivers and highways departments, to try to keep water flowing where it should and not flooding down roads or into properties. To bolster our position we are collecting data so we have proof of the challenges Misterton faces, which we can use to inform the council and raise with our MP if necessary.

To make a strong case we need as much evidence as we can collect, so we are asking the village to contribute by providing any records available with respect to flooding and any actions taken to tackle it. Photographs and notes would help the case, together with the dates when the incidents occurred, so we can produce a timeline of the problems. If you can contribute please do so by emailing information to us, and we will gather the evidence together for future reference when needed.

Stay safe.

*Phil Clifton*

MERT member

### 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)

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— Stanley T. Client

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## Misterton Bridge repair – update

Many villagers were astonished to learn from last month's magazine that the bridge over our village stream (actually named the Paddockslake) dates from the 17th Century.

These two photos reveal what it was like when it was built, and it is amazing to think that the bridge has stood the test of time so well for over the last 300 years. One of the photos also shows the secondary tunnel containing the overflow channel. And the pipework (ugh!) which was put down more recently by Vodafone to carry its broadband service.

Just imagine the masonry skills of our village forebears and their use with the local hamstone. Without, of course, of any of the machinery and other resources we have today.

Our thanks as a village should go to the firm named Walters carrying the reconstruction project. Their foreman Shaun Simons was most interested in the job and said, 'they don't build things like this any more'. All his team were very understanding and approachable. And thanks must also go to the residents on either side who have had to put up with a long detour to get to Crewkerne or Bridport. There's another side to this, however: lack of traffic through Middle Street. As Rayph Bradshaw said to me 'it's like Misterton was when I was a young boy'.

*John Dyke*



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## Misterton Church of England First School



This month Miss Ball has asked me to share Oak Class school news with you all. Our topic this term is dinosaurs and the Jurassic Coast. This has already been a huge hit with the children especially as we are lucky enough to live near this beautiful landscape. Our topic began with the children taking on the role of a palaeontologist. They dug for fossils and bones, investigated different eggs and dissected dinosaur poo! Over the past few weeks, we have been focusing our learning on the sections of a non-fiction text. The children have enjoyed being authors and have been able to edit and offer each other super facts to include in their writing. The children have impressed me with their knowledge and have been teaching me how to pronounce the names correctly! Using all this new learning each child will be creating their own unique dinosaur book, which they will share with each other. Look out on our class

web page for some pictures. <https://www.mistertonfirstschool.co.uk/oak/>

After half term, we are looking forward to a virtual trip with the Charmouth Heritage Centre where we will get to meet a real life palaeontologist! Following their interest and excitement during this topic, some of the children are aspiring to be a palaeontologist and are looking forward to sharing some of their knowledge with them.

*Shared by Mrs Dawson*



## Your Parish Church

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

There will be a public meeting on **Tuesday 29th June at 7pm at the WI Hall** 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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## Letter from the Vicar

In the last two issues of the magazine there have been appeals for help in the running of St Leonard's - your Parish Church, but we have been unsuccessful in finding people to take on the key responsibilities necessary for the running of the Church. At the Annual Meeting, it was decided to hold a public meeting where all people who live in the Parish would be invited.

So you will see in the magazine that the PCC of St Leonard's has arranged a public meeting to be held on Tuesday 29th June, 7pm at the WI Hall. The aim of the meeting will be to look at what the future holds and what options there are for St Leonard's Church. In the absence of people willing to take on some of the key functions of a Parish Church, like Churchwarden, Secretary and Treasurer, then we will also have to consider the option of closing the Parish Church. To help the meeting along there will be somebody there from the Diocese of Bath and Wells to make clear what the options are. This meeting is important, so if you have any interest in the future of your Parish Church then please do come along.

With every blessing for the month ahead

*Rev Jonathan Morris*

01460 72356

[jonbea@cooptel.net](mailto:jonbea@cooptel.net)

## Thanks to Maureen

At the Annual Meeting held at the end of April, Maureen Shepley retired as Treasurer for St Leonard's Church after over thirty years of service. This represents an extraordinary commitment, and it was with much gratitude that those who gathered said thank you to Maureen for so many sterling years of service. Maureen was presented with this beautiful basket of flowers prepared by the Flower Guild and a cheque to mark her achievement.

With thanks from us all Maureen

*Jonathan Morris*



*Photo credit: Jessica Watt*

# B.Young

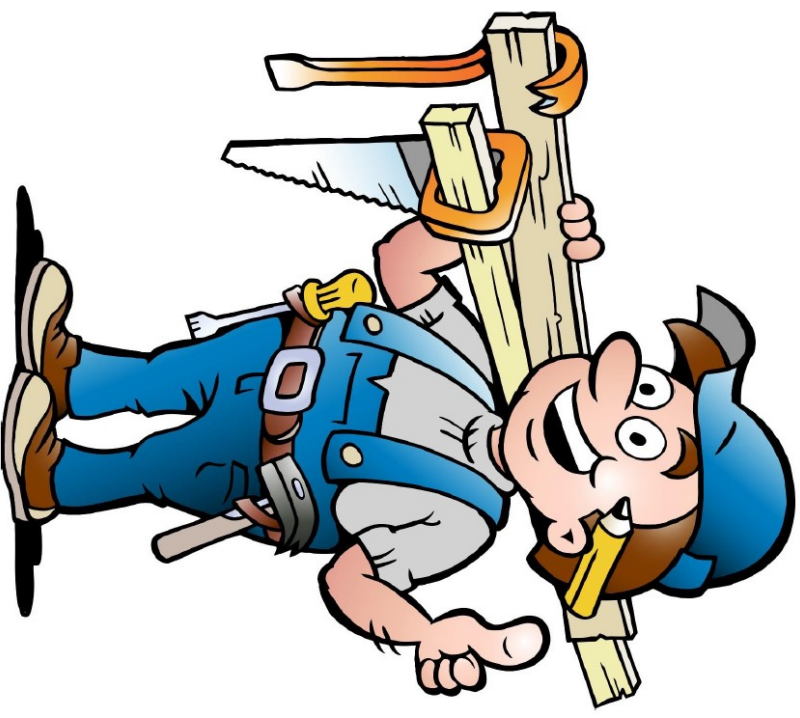
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## Misterton Pre-School

We've been so busy at pre-school, it feels quite unbelievable we are already midway through the summer term! So far we have had great fun learning about mini beasts and have enjoyed getting out and about to look for them.

A huge thank you to the kind person who took the time to trim the nettles and dig over our allotment. Your work has made the area accessible to the children ready for them to plant the seeds they've been growing and to hunt for more mini beasts!

We are planning a fundraising 'treasure' hunt like Gnome other this summer - look out for more information next month!

*Hannah Palmer*

### Calling dog owners

The magazine received an email recently from a member of the public who says that the frequency of dog mess not being cleared up seems to be on the rise in the village, with several large messes left in the middle of the pavement. Please be vigilant when out walking your dog and help keep our village clear of unnecessary mess



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## From Misterton to the Arctic Circle in a white van

Hello! We are Verity and Michael, both originally from London and temporarily living in Misterton. Last summer, despite a global pandemic we set off in our self-built campervan on an 11,000 mile trip around Europe. Luckily, we had built the perfect place to self isolate.

Our campervan has everything we need to be self sufficient and wild camp in remote places. We have a convertible bench sofa that doubles as a super king sized bed, a hot shower, a composting toilet, a fridge and two ring gas hob. We completed the conversion ourselves on the street outside our rented London flat, including installing our diesel heater, water and gas systems, and solar power.



We set off in July 2020, after travel restrictions were lifted, with the intention of spending a couple of months in France. At the time, the borders of some countries had not reopened, so our original plan of heading to Norway was not possible. After spending a night on the coastal road in Dover we got up early and boarded an eerily quiet ferry to Dunkerque. On the ferry we discovered that Norway had just announced that they were opening their borders in a few days' time. With that in mind our original plan was back on.

We opted for a ferry from Hirtshals in the north of Denmark to Kristiansand in Norway instead of via the bridge to Sweden. At this time, Sweden was a red zone, so we avoided travelling through.

Denmark was operating a transit only policy to foreign visitors at this time; we learnt this after being turned around at the border by some friendly Danish soldiers. We had to wait until the day of our ferry and drive across the country without stopping. This was a reminder to us that we had to keep up to date with restrictions put in place as the situation was constantly changing.

We were travelling after the first wave of Covid and things appeared to be getting back to normal. Despite this, we never intended to spend much of our time in urban areas or cinemas, bars and cafes as these would most likely still be closed. Also, our budget did not cover many visits to restaurants, especially in Norway!

Once we arrived in Norway we headed up the west coast, passing several fjords on our way to Bergen. We then headed further inland, navigating our way through the mountain passes and various ferry routes. There were some epic drives across the Atlantic Road and down the famous Trollstigen pass. Over the next six weeks we made our way further north, reaching for our thermals whilst the rest of Europe appeared to be having a heatwave! We crossed the Arctic Circle at 66° north and visited the beautifully wild Lofoten Islands before a final

visit to Tromsø.

After leaving Tromsø we headed towards Finland. At this point we were missing the sunshine and warm weather and so we made some long drives south, avoiding reindeer on the road, visiting a husky reserve, and making a stop in Lapland along the way. We visited Turku and Oulu and finally Helsinki where we took the ferry across to Estonia, which featured live music, dancing and cocktails during the 9am crossing...

We did not know what to expect from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but were pleasantly surprised by both the scenery and the cities. In our haste to get to warmer climates we left the Baltic states too soon and will definitely go back.

After Lithuania we crossed into Poland, another country that we loved - we tried traditional pierogi and wild boar stew. We visited part of the vast Masurian Lake District before spending time in the vibrant cities of Warsaw and Krakow and then travelling south to the

Tatra mountains for a few days hiking on both the Polish and Slovakian sides. It was September by now, and here the world almost felt back to normal. Shops were open and restaurants were buzzing - we were able to enjoy pit stops for cheap beers as we passed mountain huts. We enjoyed the freedom of eating out, not knowing that the pandemic was about to get worse again.

We had caught the last warm days in Slovakia, but snowstorms were expected imminently. We crossed the country to Bratislava - a trip down memory lane for Verity, who had studied as an Erasmus student there in 2013, and a chance to meet up with some fellow British van

dwellers that we had met through Instagram! After ten weeks of only each other for company, we were thrilled to spend an evening sharing stories of our travels with some new people.

We then parted ways and crossed into Austria where we spent the next couple of nights parked by vineyards before heading into northern Italy and a quick visit to Lake Garda before making our way towards the west coast.

On the day we arrived in Italy, it was made compulsory to wear masks both indoors and outdoors. After spending the last few months in the relaxed Nordic countries, it felt like reality had hit again. Covid-19 cases were starting to rise once more across Europe, and Italy introduced orange and red zones where travel was not allowed.

The weather was still beautiful, and we enjoyed some coastal spots all to ourselves, which were available to park at for free as the official Italian summer season had ended.

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Our travel options became more restricted by November. The UK had gone back into lockdown, and there were only a few regions of Italy that remained open for free movement. We had made it as far south as Bari, before having to turn around.



We headed back to a region further north and met up with our friends again, who we spent the next month driving in convoy around the Lazio region with. When restrictions were relaxed slightly, we managed to book a fourteen hour ferry to Sicily together to spend our final part of the trip.

We spent time in lockdown making some upgrades and repairs to the van. A tour of the UK is on the cards and once restrictions ease again we will be back to Europe and beyond.

*Michael and Verity*

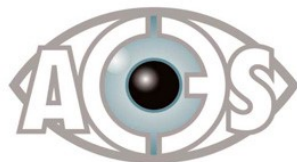
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## **The Church of St Leonard, Misterton**

Vicar: Rev Jonathan Morris 01460 72356

Churchwarden: Rob Jeffreys 01460 279827

### **Church services June 2021**

#### **Sunday 6th June 2021: Trinity 1**

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

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

#### **Sunday 13th June 2021: Trinity 2**

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

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

#### **Sunday 20th June 2021: Trinity 3**

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

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

#### **Sunday 27th June 2021: Trinity 4**

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

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

|           | <b>Flowers</b>         | <b>Brass</b> | <b>Cleaning</b> |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| June 6th  | -                      | -            | -               |
| June 13th | Mrs J Nichols          | -            | Mrs C Newman    |
| June 20th | Mrs J Nichols to check | -            | -               |
| June 27th | -                      | -            | -               |

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## Misterton Football Club



Hello readers,

Just as grassroots football returns from Covid-19, the season ends!

Perry Street football culminated in a series of 'mini leagues' that saw Misterton play Crewkerne, Ilminster Reserves, Merriott and South Petherton. The team remained unbeaten throughout this period securing wins against Crewkerne and Ilminster and draws against Merriott and South Petherton.

The Vets managed to complete their season's fixtures finishing with two entertaining draws at home to West and Middle Chinnock and Ilminster.

I hope that we have seen the worst of the Covid pandemic and can look forward to a life of normality. All being well Misterton FC will enter two teams into next season's Perry Street League and a team into the Somerset Veteran's League.

As always, a football club is nothing without local support. Our number one goal is to provide entertainment and enjoyment to those of you who come and watch us play. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the village, its residents and supporters of the club for sticking with us in these unprecedented times.

We look forward to seeing you next season and until then, be safe and enjoy the summer.

Regards,

*Martin French*  
MFC Treasurer

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## Another local train accident

Following on from February's article about the Crewkerne train disaster, there was another local train accident, the previous year on 25th Oct 1952, that you may not be aware of.

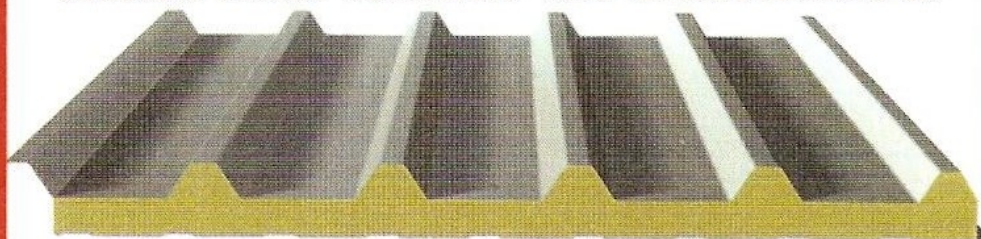
A train with eleven coaches was travelling from Crewkerne towards Sutton Bingham at 75mph when the tender's brake hanger detached and dropped onto the track causing a eleven foot long three hundredweight 'check rail' to be torn out of position. This big rail travelled through the battery box and the floor of the leading coach. It passed through three passenger compartments and emerged through the roof of the fourth!! One child was seriously injured, and seven other passengers received slight injuries.

The train stopped at Sutton Bingham station where a doctor and ambulance attended. After thirty minutes of temporary repairs the train left Sutton Bingham for Yeovil.

Bit of a shock for the occupants!!

*Mark Heseltine*

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## Misterton Gardeners Association

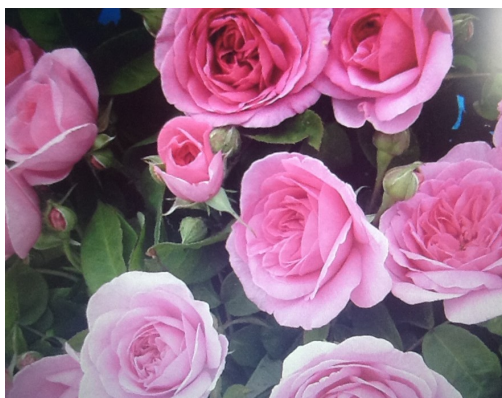
Misterton gardens have been late this year by as much as two or three weeks. An illustration of this is that we still had a few daffodils in flower in mid May and usually they will have long gone by this time. But as I have said before, every season is different.

Nonetheless by June you should have planted most things, perhaps progressively throughout the month. Lettuce, beans, radishes and beetroot benefit by successive plantings and will extend the season for you. Keep your greenhouse well ventilated and if you have tomatoes pick out side shoots regularly.

In the flower garden, do look after the plants you have set out earlier. Give everything a feed of liquid fertiliser (I use Tomorite for most things) and, in periods of hot weather, water plants in the late evening or early morning. The same goes for hanging baskets of course. You will be well rewarded for the care you give all your flowers and vegetables.

Of course, June is the month when roses are at their best. We have a fair number of them. My favourite? This varies but in June Gertrude Jekyll takes some beating. It is colourful and has a wonderful scent.

*John Dyke*  
01460 77233



## Crewkerne Probud Club



Probud 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 Probud 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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## Misterton tennis club



Club tennis has continued well for those able to play at the moment despite current restrictions, not least of which is the weather, so a little nostalgia may be in order. With regard to the Recreation Ground and the Tennis Club, many years ago in the mid 1970 the entrance to the tennis club was via a gate on the Upon Hill/Newbery Lane end of the courts. Perhaps there are some who will remember the metal sign on that gate. This printed sign was an acknowledgement of a grant made through the National Playing Fields Association towards the development and upkeep of this recreational facility. In view of the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh and his part in starting the Playing Fields Association, it is interesting to realize that the recreation ground enjoyed by so many today had some benefit from this. The metal sign has long since gone and the entrance to the tennis club was relocated, but it would be interesting to hear if anyone else has memories of this.

*Chris Ellis*

## ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

With all the allotments looking so good, we are re-introducing the Allotment Competition - no need to enter as all allotments (on both sites) will be judged

**Judging will take place during the last two weeks of June!**

**1st prize £20 National Garden voucher and cup**

**2nd prize £15 National Garden voucher**

**3rd prize £10 National Garden voucher**

Winners will be invited to the prizegiving at the WI Hall on a date  
TBC



# Dennis Evans

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## Misterton WI

Subject to Government Regulations, we will be opening the hall to the regular hirers as from 1st July and will hold our first WI meeting on the 6th July all being well - more information in the July magazine. The hall has undergone some updating during lockdown and we have been catching up with running repairs/maintenance and are having the floor re-varnished. We have continued to keep in touch with members by various means and delivering a few treats to boost spirits!! Sadly, we have lost a few of our members over the past twelve months but our membership has thrived and we still plan to have a belated Centenary Celebration at a local venue once they are up and running. Like all organisations, we look forward to getting back to normal. Enq. Susan May 01460 73934, Carol Walker 01460 74808.

*Carol Walker*

### GARDEN PARTY

*July 11th 2:30pm at Dry Close, Newbery Lane, Misterton*

To be opened by the Rev Jonathon Morris

This promises to be a great afternoon so please come and join us on the lawn in this lovely old garden - no admission charges

Tea, coffee and home made cakes for £4.50 with free teas and coffee refills. Sausage rolls can also be purchased for the savoury choice.

For those who like a glass of wine we have our very own bar with red and white wine on offer plus soft drinks. Unsure what to choose? Our three knowledgeable barmen will advise.

A treasure map - buy a flag for 50p and place it where you think it might be buried. £10 prize for the closest!

Produce for sale - local jams and chutneys etc. - far superior to the supermarkets

Plants - we are hoping for a great selection and once again the two ladies selling will help the undecided

Raffle - £1 a strip with great prizes

Bring and buy - not too early to start Christmas shopping

All proceeds to St Leonard's Church.

Can you help by donating cakes and/or plants - any kind, we cannot have too many. We can collect or you can deliver straight to Dry Close. Enquiries to Pam on 01460 929915 or Libby on 01460 77471. Anything you think you can donate please don't hesitate to ring us. Thank you.

*See you all on the 11th!*

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## Dates for your diary

**June 2021**

|                    |                              |        |                         |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday June 15th  | Parish Council meeting       | 6:30pm | Zoom                    |
| Tuesday June 29th  | Parish Church public meeting | 7pm    | WI hall                 |
| Tuesday July 6th   | WI meeting                   | TBC    | WI hall                 |
| Saturday July 11th | Garden party                 | 2:30pm | Dry Close, Newbery Lane |

## Two exciting forthcoming events

### **Sale day** - Saturday August 14th

Last summer in between lockdowns the village held a very successful sale day and this year we are happy to say we would like to do the same again. We will once again be holding a raffle to support local causes. Any donations can be given to Viv on the Avenue, or Jan on Newbery Lane.

### **Village fun show evening** - Saturday October 9th

Jan and Chris invite you to join them for: **VIVA LOST VEGAS**

Further details of both events to follow next month!

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## **Consideration for wildlife**

It seems that a village resident's cat may have been poisoned, although whether maliciously or not is unknown. However, what is known is that it was not a natural product. Please would residents be mindful of the products used or left out in their gardens particularly if they are potentially harmful to other wildlife.

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