

Misterton

Village Magazine



May 2021



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HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

As a mark of respect and an acknowledgement of a lifetimes work in so many aspects of life in our country and of the steadfast support and devotion he has given to the Queen, the editors think the whole village would like to join in recognising his many achievements by having HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's Coat of Arms as the front cover for this months magazine.

On the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1997 HM the Queen said of Prince Phillip "He has quite simply been my strength and stay all these years and I and his whole family and this and many other countries owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim or we shall ever know."

Geoff Albert

Note from the editors

This month our spotlight falls on a number of Misterton topics, as well as a Misterton resident, Kim Boalch, interviewed by John Coquet. Natasha Rand tells us how she revitalised the telephone box in Silver Street and the SCC bridges team have very kindly given us an account of Misterton Bridge's history and current repairs. Many thanks to John Dyke for organising this as we are sure it will be of interest to many in the village.

We would like to thank Geoff for his thoughtful words on the death of Prince Philip.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the June magazine is Friday 21st May.

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

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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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April's parish council meeting was cancelled in line with guidance for local councils in a period of national mourning so there is no news to report this month. However, the Bridge Team at Somerset County Council has been kind enough to put together an account of the repairs to Misterton Bridge together with a brief history which they hope readers will find of interest.

Misterton Bridge repair – April/May 2021

Misterton Bridge is in the middle of Misterton, just outside The Globe Inn, and carries the A356 (Middle Street) over a small unnamed stream. The bridge is in the form of a circular arch with a span of 2.1m and a rise from the stream bed to the soffit (underside) of the arch of 675mm. The depth of fill over the top of the arch is just 145mm, which is taken up by the road surfacing.

The bridge was reportedly constructed in the 17th century, meaning the bridge is now well over 300 years old. It became part of the 18th century turnpike road, Seavington St Michael to Maiden Newton. The bridge was constructed of ashlar blocks of Hamstone from a local quarry. It was originally built to a length of about 5.5m, probably wide enough to take horse drawn wagons and carts. Later extensions were added at each end in a similar construction method to the original structure. The downstream (northern) end was extended by approximately 1m. The upstream (southern) end was extended by about 1.8m and kinked at 25° to the centre line of the rest of the bridge. The total bridge length is now 8.29m. In 1933 a 100mm thick concrete invert (on the stream bed) was constructed. The structure was given a Grade II listed status in 1987.

A bridge inspection in 1994 advised there were structural inadequacies, and these were attended to in 2002. A system called Archtec was inserted into the masonry arch barrel, comprising stainless steel rods grouted into accurately drilled holes from the road surface. These helped to strengthen the masonry arch. Unfortunately, in the three years from 2005, there were three traffic accidents which impacted on the western end of the upstream parapet wall. The third accident seriously damaged the parapet, and this had the effect of

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opening up a significant crack at the downstream end of the arch barrel. Since then, regular inspections have shown that several of the masonry stones forming the arch have slipped down, and in some cases have fallen out of the arch altogether.

The remedy for this state of the bridge was first to apply a temporary 18t weight limit over the bridge. Now construction work is underway to re-grout the masonry arch and provide strengthening of the bridge. This work will entail removing the road surface and fill material down to the top of the masonry arch. A lime-based grout will then be poured by gravity into the gaps between the stones forming the arch. The strengthening work needs the whole width of the highway and consequently a complete road closure has been necessary for the duration of the works. This is estimated at eight weeks.

This strengthening work method required the agreement of the Environment Agency, the Somerset Lead Local Flood Authority and South Somerset District Council (for listed building consent). An ecology survey was also carried out. Further to this an archaeologist has been contracted to inspect the fill removed from the arch, as it is suspected this may be the first substantial uncovering of the structure since the extensions were added.

Specialist advice was sought about a suitable lime grout for this repair work. Usually lime mortar and grout require a very long time to cure; in this instance our suppliers have developed a pre-bagged mix utilising additives that allow the initial cure time to be hours, rather than days, while maintaining the essential qualities of lime mortar - flexibility, strength and malleability.

Once the repair works are complete the bridge will be able to carry all normal highway traffic loads up to 44 tonnes.

Somerset County Council Bridges Section

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Irish Bridge - Newbery Lane

This bridge consists of three concrete pipes running beneath the road. It is a pinch point for the stream where blockages occur regularly after heavy rainfall. The water rises quickly and can eventually flood the road, sometimes making it impossible to pass across. (Height of flood water above road 6th February 2016 was 4 feet/1.22 metres.)

To help prevent large stones and gravel entering the pipes the Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) constructed a trial barrier of large stones approximately 15 feet/4.5 metres upstream from the pipes.

Sometime on Saturday 27th March someone dismantled the barrier and created a path of stepping stones to the pipes, then pushed sizeable stones into all three pipes.

We do not believe it was a malicious act, but it was very irresponsible. We know that most youngsters are fascinated by moving water and have the urge to get into it to play. Most of us will have done so.

Would any parents who know or suspect that that their children do play in this area, please ask them not to move any stone structures in the stream, or push stones inside the pipe-work. Many thanks.

Pete Meakins
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

Peter Meakins on 01460 74220

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Misterton Church of England First School

A day of HOPE



Inspiring Hope was an idea the Go Team from the Bath and Wells Diocese had for Lent 2021. At Misterton we decided to join with them and celebrate Easter in a different way this year and link our Easter Celebration Day to the value of 'hope'.



The children thoroughly enjoyed focusing on their aspirations and hopes for the future. This year due to Covid they created their Easter bonnets at school and made a procession around the school grounds – admiring each other's creations from a distance.

A huge thanks go to the Misterton WI who once again provided an Easter egg for each child to enjoy. This really does make the children feel like an important part of the community.

The value of hope is very close to our hearts at this time as we continue to process the implications of the Cabinet Meeting Decision to progress with the closure of Misterton First School at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year.

A legal team from Irwin Mitchell have now launched legal proceedings against the schools restructure plans which challenges the lawfulness of this decision. We continue to thank everybody who is raising awareness of our school's plight. We are especially grateful to Taylor Larcombe and the group of parents who have worked together to facilitate this legal challenge.



We can now share that we have had confirmation that should the legal challenge be unsuccessful, the staffing framework that is in place at Misterton will remain unchanged for its final year. Any reductions in the numbers of children attending Misterton caused by children moving to new schools before the end of the year will not affect this important decision. Misterton will continue to serve its community with excellent education for as long as we remain open.



Nicola Ball

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Letter from the Vicar

I do not know about anybody else, but I found this last lockdown much harder than the previous ones; maybe it was the dark days of winter that seemed to compound the isolation and teenagers trapped at home without any obvious means of escape! Trying to make sense of home schooling with dodgy Wi-Fi did not really help either. This time coming out of lockdown does feel more promising though and I do not think it is just the weather, although that helps. The vaccination programme means that many of those who are especially vulnerable to the coronavirus will now have received their injection(s); the NHS is not under the same strain – at least in terms of caring for those affected by the virus and schools are in a better position to maintain continuity with children and young people. Families and friends can begin to meet up and mix again. Organisations, including the Church, have started to open; sport and other recreation activities can begin to happen again. Let us hope that this progress will continue and that together we will be able to avoid yet another national lockdown.

However, Misterton faces some real challenges over the months ahead; under the proposed reorganisation of education in the Crewkerne and Ilminster area, the village school has been earmarked for closure. This would be a huge blow for the village as the school is so much part of the history of this village, but the reality is there may just not be enough children to keep so many schools going. St Leonard's Church too faces a difficult future – we do not have sufficient people to take on the necessary tasks to keep a Parish Church functioning and with less and less people coming to Church on anything like a regular basis, then there are fewer people to call on. There may be a huge range of reasons for this, but there do not seem to be many obvious solutions! Any ideas will be always welcome!

With every blessing for the month ahead

Rev Jonathan Morris

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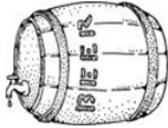


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Liz Neville (landlady)



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

Kim Boalch

Kim hails from Abingdon in Oxfordshire where she was born in 1960. Her father served in the Royal Navy and was based in Yeovilton when he met Kim's mother. After he left the Navy, they lived in Abingdon before returning to Yeovil to enable him to join the family business, which was started by Kim's grandfather in 1932. The company, now called G.A. Helliar & Son, is involved in all aspects of commercial cleaning, including laundry services and pest control. It is now run by Kim's brother, Garry. When Kim was a child, the family moved to Odcombe where her mother was born. The two children had a wonderful childhood growing up in such a friendly village. Their parents live in Odcombe to this day.

Kim was educated at Preston school in Yeovil. Rather to her surprise, she became sports captain in her final year. As she says, 'I wasn't a good runner and remember hiding with friends halfway round the cross-country course and popping up through a hedge to make out that we'd run all the way round. But I must have been good at the other sports to be given the title. I loved throwing the javelin but hated hockey.' She finished her education at Yeovil College before taking her first job in the accounts department of Haynes Publishing Group in Sparkford. She then held secretarial posts across Somerset and Dorset.

Her final position was the Alumni Relations Manager at Queen's College, Taunton, holding it for nine years. Her role was to build links between the school and its alumni, and she met many interesting people from all walks of life. She organised events in London on HMS Belfast and the London Eye as well as many lunches and dinners at the Palace of Westminster and tours of The Elizabeth Tower among other venues throughout the South West of the country.

Kim met her future husband, Tim, at a birthday party when she was only seventeen. He was serving in the Army at the time and is the younger son of Gordon Boalch who also lives in Middle Street. They were married nearly 39 years ago and moved to the hamlet of Crupton in Dorset. After the birth of Prudence, their daughter, Kim worked for BT's Directory Enquiry Service. Prudence trained as a Norland Nanny over ten years ago and now lives in Berkshire. She has looked after many charges for what Kim describes as lovely families. Her parents are rightly proud of Prudence's achievements in what is a very rewarding job.

They moved to Beaminster and then to Mill Farm in Misterton so that Tim could work with his cousin, Graham White. They stayed there for eleven years before moving to Greenacres.

In 2016, Kim started her own floristry business -- Flower Mouse Floristry. Why floristry? 'Simply because I've always wanted to be a florist.' Her ambition took a positive step forward while she was holidaying with a girlfriend in Austria. The pair of them were talking about what they would do for a living if they had a choice. Kim did not need to think. She said unhesitatingly: 'I'd like to be a florist. It's what I've always wanted to be.' Her friend replied, 'Well, be one.' So Kim did, after attending a floristry school in Bath. And she has not looked back since. It is a thriving business, and she is always in her workshop. Thriving it may be, but it means lots of early starts to go to the flower markets. Sadly, during the Covid-19 pandemic all her wedding work has been postponed. Sympathy flowers and bouquets are the order of the day at the moment.

During the lockdowns she has been busy enlarging her cuttings garden with Tim's help. The flowers will be used in her floral designs, which will help cut down on air miles. Kim now looks on gardening as one of her interests. She cannot wait to get planting once again.

A glance through the images on her website, flowermousefloristry.co.uk shows that her floral arrangements are all very natural – a style that is relaxed and informal with a twist of wild interest. Kim is happy to guide and advise her clients and helps them achieve the style of flowers they want for their occasion.

Ever since their marriage, she and Tim have gone on holidays in Austria where they spend their time walking in the mountains enjoying the fresh air and the delicious food and wine. It was also the perfect place to holiday with their daughter when she was younger. One of Kim's favourite places to sit is on the shores of Lake Fuschl, a small lake near Salzburg. It is unspoilt, peaceful, and a good place for reflection. She also enjoys taking her dog, Buzz, for local walks.



While taking a break from her floristry on holidays, Kim likes to read fiction – The Hobbit being one of her favourite books. As for films, the ones she likes most are Pretty Woman, The Shawshank Redemption and all the James Bond series. She has broad tastes in music. They range from George Michael to Meat Loaf and from Luciano Pavarotti to Mozart. And, while working in her flower room, she likes nothing more than singing along to music that is turned up very loud. 'It's a good job that we have no close neighbours,' she says.

Kim is a prime example of making a commercial success of something she has always wanted to do. Long may her business flourish.

John Coquet

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Misterton Football Club



Hello readers,

It has been very quiet on the footballing front. The only games played, since the last edition of the village magazine, were those involving the Vets. Two home fixtures resulted in a 5-2 defeat and a 2-2 draw. In the first game the Vets found themselves trailing 4-0 early in the game before regaining some composure and winning the remainder of the fixture by two goals to one.

The second fixture was a more even affair with the Vets coming from behind on two occasions with goals from Gary French and Gareth Taylor. The equaliser coming in the final seconds of the game.

Misterton First are due to commence their PSL mini league fixtures late in April and have two fixtures arranged for May.

Current fixtures are:

Date	Time	Team	Opponents	Home/ Away	Competition
01/05/2021	14:30	First	South Petherton	H	PSL Mini League
02/05/2021	11:00	Vets	Ilchester Vets	A	Somerset Legends
08/05/2021	14:30	First	Ilminster Res	A	PSL Mini League
TBC	TBC	Vets	Ilminster Vets	H	Somerset Legends

We look forward to seeing you at the recreation ground to cheer us over the next few weeks. As you will be aware, Covid 19 and lockdown guidelines will be changing between now and the middle of June. Your support and attendance at any of our fixtures should adhere to the Government guidelines in place at the time.

Regards,

Martin French

MFC Treasurer

Keep Misterton Tidy

There has been a recent complaint to the Parish Council from a member of the public of littering at the Rec. As well as the obvious result of litter spoiling the look of the village, it can also present a danger to wildlife, livestock and pets. It is everyone's responsibility to look after our village so please make sure you dispose of your rubbish safely or take it home with you.

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Vicar: Rev Jonathan Morris 01460 72356

Churchwarden: Rob Jeffreys 01460 279827

Church services May 2021**Sunday 2nd May 2021: Easter 5**

United Service Wayford and Hewish: 9:30am Holy Communion (CW) Rev J Morris

Sunday 9th May 2021: Ascension Day

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

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

North Perrott: 7:00pm Holy Communion Rev J Morris

Sunday 16h May 2021: Sunday after Ascension

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

North Perrott: No service today

Haselbury: 11:00am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 23rd May 2021: Pentecost

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

The above is not an error - the service is being reintroduced

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

Sunday 30th May 2021: Trinity Sunday

St Bartholomew's: 10:00am United Benefice Service Rev Bob Key and Rev David Newman

	Flowers	Brass	Cleaning
May 3rd	Mrs S Dyke to check	-	-
May 10th	Mrs M Field	-	Mrs K Whire
May 17th	Mrs L Redbond	-	Mrs L Boalch
May 24th	Mrs L Redbond to check	-	-



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Misterton telephone box becomes a community space

Whilst on one of our many family walks in lockdown, I had a look at the old telephone box. I know the plan is to put in a defibrillator but currently the money is being raised. On closer inspection it got me thinking. I have seen the telephone boxes used for all sorts and wondered if it could be a venue used as a temporary art gallery and a community space.

So, I wrote to the Parish council and they agreed to pay for the materials to smarten up the telephone box. It had already been painted but needed the window panels replacing and a good clean and tidy. I decided to add in a “grass” floor and I designed and printed vinyl lettering stickers made for signage (cheaper and flexible solution).

As a community engagement artist, producer, and creative tutor I had been working on digital art challenges with the community all the way through the lockdowns. I knew I could print out the work I had been sent and display in the “gallery”. Much of the work produced was made by children in Misterton who attend my Creation Generation art club in Crewkerne. Maiden Beech and other local schools had been involved and some care home residents from intergeneration projects.

I left plain postcards and paper, and hand sanitizer, in there for people to use and then asked for their work to be returned to me via the cardboard post box. I then decided a book swap* would also work well, for those times the space was not being used as a gallery. Recently some shelves (thank you to Allan Newton) have been added and we are pleased to see people using the space. We have even managed to fix in the defib! Triple use. A real bonus!

I am now working on a new audio and visual art project that will tell the stories of residents of Misterton. I have just completed a successful intergenerational podcasting project available on yeovilartspace.uk/together and I am going to adapt this work for the Misterton Telephone Gallery. The Creation Generation kids are helping, and I am currently approaching long standing residents of Misterton to interview via Zoom. So, keep an eye on the telephone box on your way by in the summer months.

As for the future of the space, I am hoping other local artists in the village may like to exhibit. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Natasha Rand

natasha.rand@creation-generation.com
creation-generation.com

FB Natasha Rand Creation Generation

*Please note it is important to swap books. Take a few and replace the same number if you can. Please do not leave whole bags of books. The swap element is important and the space is then clear for access to the defib. Thank you.

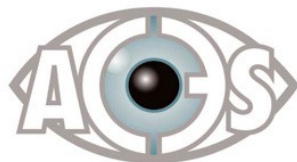




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Misterton Gardeners Association

Gardening notes

May is the month to get cracking in the garden. For the most part Misterton soils will have warmed up - so now is the time to start getting things in. In the vegetable garden a sowing of most seeds can be made. Beetroot, lettuce, beans and carrots come to mind. And if you have brought on courgettes, these can be planted out. Of course, there is always the danger of May frosts particularly at the beginning of the month – so do take care. Fleece is useful even if there is just a hint of frost. If you have grown tomatoes from seed, do prick them out and put them in the greenhouse – or outside later in the month.

In the flower garden it is time to get going also. Plant out your hanging baskets using good quality compost, slow-release fertiliser and water retaining crystals. Keep them frost-free until later in the month – the same goes for dahlias and half-hardy plants. If you have a greenhouse, do remember to open doors and vents on warm days - and dampen everything down if there is really hot weather to increase humidity.

Some of you will have seen our wonderful magnolia (pictured below) in Unity Lane before it was hit by a severe frost in early April. I think it is 100 years old this year. When I was young it was in Teddy Harwick's garden – which was then part of Providence Cottage. Whilst I was in my teens Teddy told me that his mother had planted it 'after the war'. I had always assumed that he meant World War Two. But last year I saw a photograph of an identical magnolia in Kew Gardens. This was planted after the First World War.

So working things back I believe it was highly likely that Teddy's expression 'after the war' meant the First World War. And probably it was planted in memory of the many Misterton soldiers who died in that war.

John Dyke
01460 77233





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Misterton WI

We are working towards having our first meeting post-lockdown in July - more in the June magazine. Meanwhile, we are in touch with our regular hirers with a view to them starting back at the Hall from July - we decided to leave it until Boris' road map is finished on 21st June and we will no longer need too many restrictions - we all hope! I am pleased to report that all our members have re-joined so we hope to resume events gradually. New and prospective members are always welcome. Enquires please to Susan May 01460 73934 or Carol Walker 01460 74808. Meanwhile, here are the minutes of the May meetings 100 years ago for your interest!

The monthly meeting was held on 2nd May. There was a good attendance. An interesting address on First Aid was given by Nurse Smith, bandaging being practised by the members. An exhibition of Items of Interest was held and a splendid collection of articles were on view. After tea the Jazz Band by Master Haslock was much enjoyed. On Monday 19th May members made the journey to the Bath Exhibition by char-a-banc, the proceeds of the Jumble Sale being used to partly pay the cost - each member only paid 2/- fare. The whole day was much enjoyed and the Exhibition considered excellent. On Friday 27th May an entertainment was given in the School Room by the Kydds Concert Party in aid of the Institute; the balance after expenses was £2.19s.3d. The entertainment was much enjoyed by a room full of people.

Carol Walker

Somerset Day

The WI are being encouraged by their Federation to celebrate Somerset Day which is on the 11th May so the hall will be bedecked with yellow bunting and a Somerset flag. Should anybody else wish to do their bit to brighten up the village as we progress through the road map to normality we would love to see it!

If you would like to find out more about Somerset Day, there is a dedicated website at somersetday.com.



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Dates for your Diary

April 2021

Tuesday May 18th

Parish Council Meeting

6:30pm

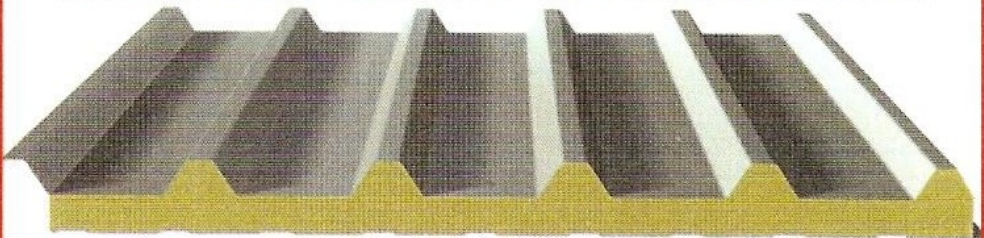
Zoom

Plant donations wanted!

The plant sale that had been arranged for earlier in the year and for obvious reasons had to be cancelled will now be held on a smaller scale at the Garden Party on July 11th at Dry Close. We still want lots of plants so if and when you are potting up you have any surplus to requirements could you keep them for us please. If you could keep them until nearer the time that would be fantastic but if not then we will be only too happy to collect, just call one of the numbers below. All proceeds will go to St Leonard's Church.

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