

# Misterton

## Village Magazine



February 2022



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## Note from the editors

We were very pleased to get so many responses to our new year quiz and even more pleased that everyone who took part seemed to find the challenge enjoyable, if a little frustrating at times! Although no one got all nine letters right, two people were tied for joint first with eight correct answers and the winner is... Laura Bright of Unity Lane! By the time of publication, our treasurer Leo should have presented Laura with her well-deserved winnings. Well done to all those who entered - it was very close! The answers are published below.

For our last winter issue we bring you a welcome sign of spring with Maureen Albert's lovely primroses on the front cover. And to cheer you up even further, John Coquet's hilarious account of the 1975 village hall fundraising antics should definitely raise at least a smile if not a guffaw or two - it certainly made us laugh!

*Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt*

**Deadline for entries** for the March magazine is Friday 18th February.

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

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**Misterton Village Magazine is now also online!**

<https://mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk/village-information/village-magazine/>



### New Year quiz answers

**M** = Monarchs Way signpost at the entrance to Church Lane

**I** = WI Hall sign

**S** = Cedrics sign

**T** = Misterton First School sign

**E** = The Globe sign

**R** = Backboard to the basketball hoops on the MUGA

**T** = Footpath sign next to Cedrics

**O** = Signs on the telephone box on Silver Street

**N** = St Leonards Church sign at the entrance to the churchyard



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## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

Now we are into the new year, we are getting back into the swing of routine support activities. I will start with the positives; firstly the Omicron variant seems to be under control, which is good news. As part of a Covid support group I attend regular meetings and get the latest advice from Spark Somerset. I would like to share their information but at present advice and guidance are changing so quickly it will probably be out of date by the time it gets to you. The message that is consistent, from all the experts, is the importance of vaccinations so this is the message MERT support and would like to add if you need any help or information, please let us know.

The next piece of good news is that we ran an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) course at the beginning of January, which was attended by twenty members of the village. The aim of the course is to give those who attend a better understanding and more confidence to use a defibrillator, should the need arise, and thereby assist someone who has had a cardiac arrest. We will organise more courses if there is demand, so please let us know.

Where we have most challenges, in these winter months, is with flooding and drainage. We work with the Parish Council, the District Council and Somerset Highway Services to try to keep excess water under control. As you will appreciate, they are limited by budgets and so all we report cannot be addressed straight away. We will keep following up options to reduce the flooding issues and advise as we progress.

Here's hoping 2022 will be a better year for us all.

*Phil*

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

01460 73815

### 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

**Pete and Jackson Marshall** on 01460 73507 or 07909 967319 / 07980 768125

**Emergency Number** 01460 455602 - for best endeavours response from MERT

**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.***

## News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



The Parish council held a meeting on Tuesday 18th January which started with a tribute and a minute silence for Geoffrey Restorick who sadly passed away the week before. Geoff had been a councillor for some years and was always ready to do his bit even when he was clearly not in the best of health. The council passed on a condolence card to his family.

Councillor Iain Rowland attended St Bartholomew's church on Thursday 13th January for the Institution and Induction of Reverend Christopher James Davis as Rector of the Wulfric Benefic which includes Misterton. The ceremony saw your Chairman, together with the Crewkerne Town Mayor, present a map of the area.

The meeting heard from Tony Foot about problems he was having with access to a field owned by the Owsely Trust a charity that gives support to the less fortunate living in the village. It was agreed to let him seek legal advice on behalf of the Parish council.

There were no planning applications. The council are looking at the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device in an attempt to remind drivers of their speeds

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th February at 6:30pm at the WI Hall.

*Cllr Iain Rowland*  
Chairman

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Lisa worked in retail over Christmas, she once had a role as a barista and spent some time as a nanny. All of that experience has led her to a rewarding role she feels comfortable with and thoroughly enjoys.

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## Letter from the Vicar

### Keeping the Rumour of God alive

One of the images I have found helpful in my Christian life, which actually came from my very wise father, is that of a train journey. God is on the train, and as we travel through life, sometimes we are there with him. Sometimes we are stood on the platform hesitating whether to climb aboard, and sometimes we are miles away wandering over the hills in the opposite direction.

As it is sometimes said – when God seems far away, who moved?

1 John 4:16 *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them*

God is with us always, but whether we sense his presence seems to determine how much we want to be on that train. At times of crises, many of us come sprinting over those hills and leap aboard. When all is going well in life, we may well be wandering in the meadows without a thought of faith or God, but still admiring his wonderful creation.

Thinking on this led me to reflect on our village churches and their future. And I suppose the big question that must be faced is would you miss your church if it was no longer there? It is becoming increasingly difficult to find officers to take on roles such as treasurer and church wardens. At a (Covid aware, lateral flow tested) party over Christmas far away from here I was talking to a couple who were baptised and married in a local village church, and like many people they thought that the government looked after the upkeep. The thought that it might close horrified them, and their immediate response was what could they do to keep it open?

Do we need a train or a church building to see God? Of course not, but to me to lose that centre of love, that centre of pastoral care in our villages, which is happening all over the UK is a source of great sadness, and one that we should be actively fighting, otherwise apathy will win.

God *is* love *is* community – from Isaiah 40 ‘those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.’

I long to see a new energy in our churches, churches that work for the good of the community that they are there to serve... or perhaps I just need to get back on that train and let God handle things.

With every blessing

*Rev Anne Charlton*



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## Misterton Church of England First School

Christmas is not over until Misterton sings!



On Thursday 13th January the children from Misterton First School performed their Christmas Nativity at St Leonards Church. This year's performance was called 'Manger Mouse'. The story was told through the eyes of a family of mice who played a very important part in the Christmas story. The run up to our nativity began with the children auditioning for the role they would most like. It was then up to Miss Wines and me to pick the cast. This was very difficult as they auditioned extremely well. We were proud of how all the children supported each other during their auditions and gave each other encouragement. Compassion and friendship in action!

During our performance, the children's acting brought all the roles to life. They learnt their lines and spoke clearly and confidently when it was their turn. Throughout the performance, songs were enthusiastically sung and enjoyed by the children. The Kings rode on camels to a funky beat while the Angel appeared during a beautiful, slow lullaby. There was not a dry eye in the church when 'Mary' sang a solo during the long journey to Bethlehem. At the end of the nativity, a celebration of the birth of Jesus and Christmas was encapsulated in our final song 'So Wonderful'. They are a truly aspirational bunch of children!

The finale of our nativity was a performance of 'Jingle Bells' played on the glockenspiels by Cedar Class. This was their first public performance and they were amazing. The children played the song first and sang along, then for the second time they played again and all the congregation joined in. It was very special and made me think about all the wonderful nativities we have performed at St Leonards over the years. We definitely raised the roof with our glorious singing.

*Kay Dawson*

All the children and staff at Misterton First School wish you a Happy New Year.



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## Misterton tennis club



Winter league tennis matches have started well, with our teams winning four out of the first six fixtures, including a good win over the Sherborne team.

Tournaments for junior players have been arranged for Sunday 30th January, Sunday 27th February and Sunday 27th March starting at 12 noon. Any young players from the village who enjoy tennis are welcome to come along.

The Chairman's Christmas Bash was eventually held out in the open air, following the usual Sunday morning rounds of tennis. The next social event will be the Misterton Tennis Club Quiz Night. This will be held at The Globe on Saturday 26th February 7pm for a 7:30pm start. If anyone would like to take part, please choose a name for your team and submit the team name and list of members (up to six people maximum per team) via email to [catherinecarins@aol.com](mailto:catherinecarins@aol.com). Prior booking and full payment for your team to be made by 22nd February please. £10 per person to include light refreshments such as sandwiches etc. Buy your own drinks from the bar. There will also be a raffle.

As we are still taking precautions to restrict the spread of the Covid virus, please take a lateral flow test prior to attending the quiz night. In the event of you testing positive or experiencing symptoms, a full refund for you/your team can be given.

*Chris Ellis*

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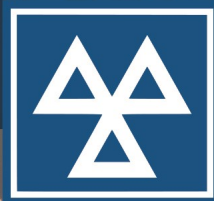
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## The Village Hall

1975 was an important year for Britain. Margaret Thatcher paved the way to her premiership by defeating Edward Heath in the Conservative Party's leadership election. The year was marked by inflation reaching 24.2%, so it was no surprise that the National Union of Mineworkers cheerfully accepted a 35% pay rise.

Of more local importance was the building of Misterton's village hall. It remains one of the biggest in the area, high enough internally to accommodate the playing of badminton. But after some 20 years, the building needed updating during the 1990s. For instance, the heating proved inadequate for such a large space and the kitchen needed improvement. Apart from the kitchen and the main hall, there was only one other room, which was used to house tables and chairs. The roof, windows and doors were giving trouble and there was no provision for lavatory facilities for the disabled as was required by law.

The original flooring was parquet, perhaps more suitable for a gracious drawing-room in, say, Knightsbridge, than in rural Somerset. But parquet blocks have a tiresome habit of becoming irregular under pressure. The resultant rickety floor surface was inappropriate for the players of short-mat bowls and interfered with the subtle trajectory of the woods. It also presented a trip 'n' fall hazard for badminton players, not all of whom were young enough to be considered sprightly and capable of surviving injuries.

Accordingly, and after much discussion, some members of the Bowls Club generously took on the task of striking a deal with the National Lottery for a hefty contribution to the refurbishment costs. My chief confidante claims that a certain amount of chicanery was used by them to persuade the Lottery to stump up money. Eventually, though, the deal was done. The Lottery's contribution would be limited to matching the amount raised locally.

There then followed a frenzy of activity to raise the village's share of the money needed for improvements, which now included an extension to provide an extra room suitable for meetings and as a changing room for entertainers. The fund-raising proved very successful, reaching many thousands of pounds to be matched pound by pound by the Lottery. Money was saved by courtesy of the Bowls Club, whose members took on the internal decorating in return for a fish and chips lunch and a handsome cake.

At various times six cabaret concerts were held, three in the village hall and three in the WI's. The emphasis was on fun and frolic for the audiences. And so it proved. The grand finale of one concert was rather risqué. It involved a youngish woman being strapped to a large wheel; her diaphanous clothing augmented by balloons tethered to it in strategic places. Graham White, who made all the props for the concerts, made a sort of blunderbuss. John Gregory, a well-respected dentist, was tasked to fire it as the wheel revolved. However, the first and very loud bang filled the WI hall with smoke and singed off all the hairs on Steve Lyus's arm. The front row of the audience was supposed to be reserved for children, but one elderly lady decided she would have a better view if she joined them there. She did so while ignoring their muttered protests. Much to their amusement, her false teeth flew out at the explosion.



One of the many village hall fundraising events - do you recognize any of these reprobates?

On another cabaret evening, Jeff and Anne White performed their special version of Billie Jo Spear's *Blanket on the Ground* with Anne in an all-enveloping nightdress, and Jeff in his underwear combinations. And Ray and Margaret Darch won first prize in a fancy-dress competition.

At a different concert, Trevor Lowe and Derek Wood together with two ladies danced (choreography by Trevor) to the pop group Bucks Fizz song *Making your Mind Up*. And, yes, as in the Bucks Fizz video, the ladies' skirts were ripped off by the two gentlemen to coarse roars of approval from male members of the audience, heedless of their wives' disapproval. A further sketch featured Carol Walker as Andy Pandy, Diana Dyke as Looby-Loo, and Sue Coquet as Teddy. Another sketch had a troupe of local ladies dancing to *And all that Jazz* from the musical *Cabaret*. They wore bowler hats and black fishnet tights. Again, the performance evoked cries of tasteless appreciation from the men in the audience.

Gordon Glazier was tireless, even driving twice to the Cotswolds where he had heard that some garden centres were closing down. He was able to snap up plants at keen prices. Later, the plants were sold in Misterton – the profits going to the restoration fund. He also spent two full days clearing the village stream for a race involving 100 plastic ducks. Maureen Albert's father travelled down from Edinburgh to organize the betting. The event proved so popular that it was repeated. Stormin' Norman, as Maureen's father had become known, was presented with a certificate of thanks and was granted the Freedom of Misterton.

Another evening provided a band – what did they call themselves? – no one seems to remember. Dr Mark Field was noteworthy for playing a double bass fashioned from a broom handle and a tea chest – skiffle style. At a further concert, three local men performed (in drag) *Three Little Maids from School* from the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *The Mikado*. Their pockets were full of sweets, which they threw into the audience for children to catch.

## The Village Hall continued

One sweet hit an old lady in the eye. A successful fashion show was also organised with volunteer models strutting their stuff on a purpose-built catwalk. Maxine Field was one of the models. Clothes were on sale at the back of the hall, and someone wandered into the changing room, took a liking to Maxine's own top and bought it. A certain amount of detective work was need for its retrieval.

The village hall hosted craft shows that offered knitting, jewellery, and woodwork to buyers. Fund-raising bingo sessions were well attended. So much so, that groups of players would arrive by coaches from Crewkerne and local villages. They were encouraged to buy teas, coffees, cakes and to invest in raffle tickets. Every penny was important. Betty Symes found a coin in the road and handed it in to boost the fund.

Yet more enterprise was shown when two Misterton ladies toured the village, offering to clean cars inside and out for a nominal £3 a time. One of these ladies had a garden stall. Its proceeds paid for the stone steps that lead down to the recreation ground from outside the village hall.

Paddy Ashdown, the constituency Liberal Democrats MP, accompanied by his successor, David Laws, opened the refurbished hall in the millennium year.

The foyer has a white, brick wall on the left-hand side. Individual bricks bear the names of people who contributed at least £5 to the restoration fund. Of course, many villagers donated much more than that. You know who you are.

Needless to say, with the inexorable passing of the years, many of the fund-raisers are no longer with us. Nevertheless, the results of their labour and financial contributions are still with us to enjoy. And we salute them.

*John Coquet*

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Suitable for beginners, or those who have some experience of yoga but want to go at a slower pace. The class includes gentle postures (asana), breathing practices, meditation, and relaxation.

## **Mixed Ability Yoga – Thursdays 10:45 – 12:00.**

**£5.50 Members / £7.50 Non-Members**

Suitable for those who are both new to yoga, or have some previous experience. The class is friendly, relaxed and adaptations are made to suit individual needs.



### **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

## **Church services February 2022**

### **Sunday 6th February 2022: Fourth Sunday before Lent**

United Service - Wayford: 10:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Fr G Reilly

United Service - Hewish: 11:45am Holy Communion (BCP) Fr G Reilly

### **Sunday 13th February 2022: Third Sunday before Lent**

Misterton: 11:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev A Charlton

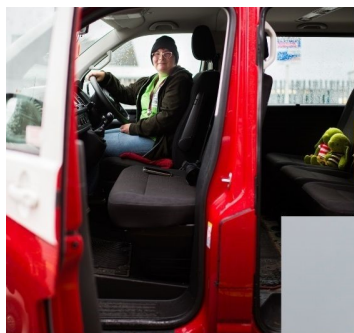
### **Sunday 20th February 2022: Second Sunday before Lent**

Misterton: 9:30am Holy Communion (CW) Rev A Charlton

### **Sunday 27th February 2022: First Sunday before Lent**

There is no 8:00am service in Misterton today

	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Brass</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>
February 6th	-	-	-
February 13th	Mrs D Dyke	-	Mrs S Crabb
February 20th	Mrs D Dyke to check	-	-
February 27th	-	-	-



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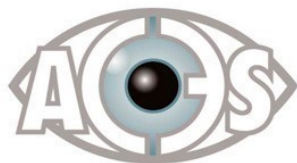
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## Misterton Football Club



Hello readers,

Firstly, I would like to apologise for not providing an input to the magazine in January. As you can imagine with Covid, the Christmas and New Year periods, and the weather, things have been quiet on the footballing front. Unfortunately, due to the Covid restrictions in December, the Club had to cancel the Christmas Bingo event. We must offer our apologies for any inconvenience caused to those planning to attend.

With all of that out of the way, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year!!

Now on to the football. As mentioned above, things have been quiet on the footballing front. At the time of writing, only three matches have been played in January. Two by the Reserves and one by the Vets.

The first team sit at the lower end of the premier division. Currently, there are five teams each with 10 points, occupying the bottom five positions.

The two reserve fixtures both ended in victory; 3-2 at home to South Petherton Reserves followed by a 6-0 victory at home to Forton Reserves. These positive results have seen the side pull away from the relegation area. They now sit in a reasonably comfortable mid table position.

Mid January saw the vets play at home against Merriott Vets. A hard-fought battle ended in a 1-1 draw. The vets now sit mid table with two fixtures remaining.

Once again, at the time of writing very few fixtures have been released by the league. The full list for the month is normally released after submitting the monthly article to the magazine. Currently, the following are available:

Date	Time	Team	Opponents	Home/Away	Competition
5th Feb	2:30pm	First	Perry Street	A	Premier
5th Feb	2:30pm	Reserves	Dowlish & Donyatt	H	Div One
13th Feb	11:00am	Vets	Beaminster	H	Somerset Vets Group 5

We look forward to seeing you at the recreation ground to cheer us over the next few weeks.

Regards,

*Martin French*  
MFC Treasurer

*Chelsea Flower Show: Gold Medal Winners*

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## Misterton Gardeners Association

It is time to be thinking about the new gardening year. What you are going to plant and where. 'Where' seems to be an unusual phrase, but different parts of most gardens do vary. In Misterton soil conditions are mostly limey but there may be parts of your garden which have been better manured over past years or, if you are lucky like us, have benefited from silt from the village stream. Perhaps even more important is to recognise which parts of your garden receive more sunlight than other areas. Trees and large shrubs do grow quickly and can create large shady areas. I well remember Judith Coombs (who lived in Dry Close) saying to me "Do you know John, I do believe that gardening is all about moving things". An exaggeration perhaps, but something worth remembering. Plants do vary in their aptitude to soils and to sunlight.

So if you are thinking about buying gardening items (seeds, plants or tools) for the coming season, a final reminder that Misterton Gardening Club members get 25% off all purchases at Castle Gardens Sherborne or Brimsmore Yeovil. I have two discount vouchers remaining so give me a call if you would like to join our club and receive one of these. They must be used by the end of February.

We begin our meetings next month. But we will be getting together on February 27th for a Sunday lunch at the Admiral Hood in Mosterton. This is always a well-attended event so please phone me to book a place.

February is always (rightly) considered the month when snowdrops are at their best. But this year the aconites, which grow under our magnolia tree, have come out first. Here is what they look like. A nice sign of things to come, I think.

*John Dyke*

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## Misterton WI

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our January meeting due to concerns about Omicron, so apologies for that if you were intending to join us. We will arrange this talk by Debbie Wallis for later when hopefully restrictions will have been eased enough for us all to feel comfortable mixing again. Whilst we have picked up a few new members in 2021, regrettably we lost another of our long serving members in December; 93-year-old Pat Higdon who had been a member for some 30+ years and served as our treasurer for a long period. We will miss her.

Our February meeting is on Tuesday 1st February at 7:15pm in the WI Hall. Our speaker is Emma Green (Ferne Animal Sanctuary). Competition: 'an animal any medium'. Teas: Sandra Crabb and Margaret Small. Flowers: Margaret Turner. As always, new and prospective members are welcome to come along to our meetings. Enq: Susan May 73934, Carol 74808.

**Coffee mornings** - we hope to re-commence our monthly coffee mornings in April when hopefully the better weather will be with us and the threat of Omicron past!

*Carol Walker*

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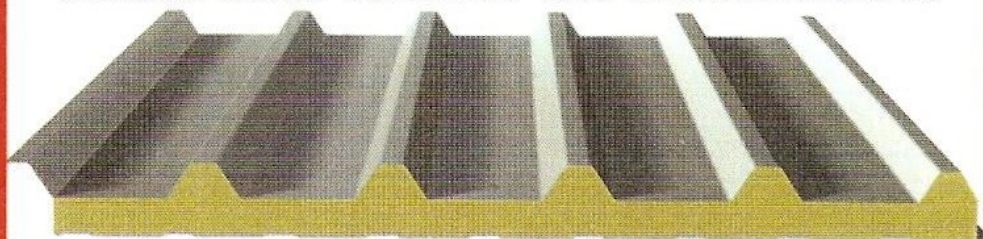
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## Model Railway Club

Did you know that we have a local model railway club? Located in the neighbouring village of Haselbury Plucknett the club was formed in 2008 as the Somerset Gauge O Group (Somergog) in order to provide running facilities for those who enjoy, or enjoyed, this hobby but did not have enough room for a layout of their own. The current club captain, John Cross, who lives in Packers Way advises that there are a total of nine running tracks in both O gauge and OO gauge and both formats can be powered in DC and DCC control systems.



Young and old are welcome to visit and there are facilities for making, and drinking, copious amounts of tea and coffee all completely under cover and out of the wind and rain. Members have interests ranging from the original 'Big 4' operating companies through the days of

British Railways and up to the present day. We also have interest in running Thomas, Percy, Clarabel and Annie and of most interest to the younger people we have 'The Rocket Man' complete with machine guns and flaming exhaust.

If anyone would like to visit the club to bring along their trains for a run or bring the younger members of the family to just 'play trains' give John a ring on 01460 78903 and be assured of a warm welcome.



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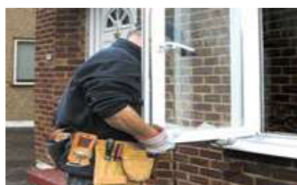
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## In this month...

Events in British history that happened in February.

- 4th 1926: Malcolm Campbell sets new world land-speed record of 174 mph
- 5th 1958: Parking meters are installed in London
- 9th 1964: First appearance on American TV by The Beatles
- 11th 1975: Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman to lead the Conservative Party
- 12th 1554: The 18-year-old Lady Jane Grey is beheaded
- 14th 1933: Oxford University students vote not to fight for King and Country
- 15th 1971: Britain goes decimal
- 19th 1985: First programme of EastEnders on TV
- 22nd 1901: Queen Victoria dies
- 25th 1570: Pope Pius V excommunicates Queen Elizabeth I

*John Coquet*

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## Dates for your diary

### February 2022

Tuesday February 1st	WI meeting	7:15pm	WI hall
Tuesday February 15th	Parish council meeting	6:30pm	WI hall
Saturday February 26th	Tennis club quiz night	7:00pm	The Globe

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