

Misterton

Village Magazine



March 2022



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Note from the editors

Early signs of spring are definitely here; green shoots pushing through in our gardens, snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses already in bloom, and of course the energetic March hares boxing on our front cover! The local resident in the spotlight this month is former Misterton magazine editor Maureen Albert, who clearly has many other strings to her bow.

Have a great month.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the April magazine is Monday 21st March.

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

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



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Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team update

As the rain has been falling all day it means I have a chance to put together the submission from the Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT). It also acts as a reminder that even though spring is on its way there is still likely to be plenty of inclement weather for the next couple of months. To this end we are continuing to try to get on top of the flooding challenges that face us. Our aim is to mark up the drains, identify where there are problems and work with groups within Somerset to improve drainage and reduce runoff from the fields around the village. South Somerset Highways contractors were in the village in mid January to clear and jet out the drains and whilst all support is welcome we are aware that they can block up again very quickly.

Due to our relationship with the council we have been asked to speak to others in Ilminster who are setting up their own resilience group. We will share what we have done and hopefully some of the ideas we have had will be some use to them. This will cover the extended MERT group who came to the fore when we needed help with Covid support, our AED progress (four units and recent training) and the initiatives we are trying to develop to deal with flooding.

As ever comments and input welcome.

Phil

MERT member 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

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

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News from the Parish Council and Recreation Field Trust



The parish council (PC) had a meeting on Tuesday 15th February.

There were no planning applications needing action. The PC are applying for a change of use for the land kindly donated to enable an extension to the cemetery. This is now with SSDC and we have been advised that due to a large backlog it may take some time to get approval.

The precept has been decided. The PC agreed to an increase of 6%. This decision was made with the following in mind. Inflation is currently around 6% and rising which will in turn mean dearer costs all round. The PC are arranging to have the gates posts at the cemetery moved. This is to allow vehicles to pull into the cemetery without danger to passing traffic. There have also been a couple of incidents where vehicle have collided with the gate posts rendering them unsafe. The PC are considering purchasing a speed indicator device. This will be used to supplement the existing Speed Watch. Several villages in the area are now using these devices as a means of driver awareness. The increase will mean that a band D house will have an increase of £5.25/month.

Elections are to be held in May. If you are interested in helping the village and would like to become a councillor then please consider standing for election.

To celebrate the Queens Jubilee the council have decide to plant a tree. Because June is not the best time to plant trees it was decided to delay this until November.

Residents should note that Henley Road will be closed for five days starting 14th March.

Cllr Iain Rowland
Chairman

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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Letter from Anne

My greatest claim to fame was that I turned down lunch with Desmond Tutu!

At the time I was working as chauffeur, butler and liturgical chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu was visiting for the weekend. I had to drive him back to London at the end of the stay for his next engagement, and I was so nervous, that when I dropped him off at his London Hotel, and he invited me to lunch with him, I mumbled that I had to get back and sped off. It was only when I stopped at Fleet Services for a coffee, I realised what I had done.

His recent death, and the wonderful memories of that weekend spent in his company led me to revisit one of the most powerful books I have read in recent years, 'The Book of Joy' which explores a meeting between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. Please do read it if you get a chance. When two great spiritual leaders meet, the fact that they come from very different backgrounds and belong to entirely different religions matters not one jot.

Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama have both endured exile, violence and oppression. They have both been persecuted for their faith, and yet both men radiate compassion, humour and yes joy. The book follows a single week as the two men discussed the question of 'how do we find joy in the face of suffering'.

It seemed to me that whatever we might call our God, Love, a higher being, Allah, the joy expressed in this book was brought about by the fact that both men really do see a spark of God in every human being they meet, and they treat them accordingly. If we can do that then we meet others, however very different our world would be.

The very word religion stems from re-ligament, a joining together, and yet over the years it has been consistently used as a weapon to tear people apart, and sadly still is today.

The two men listed the eight pillars of joy as being perspective, humility, humour, acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude, compassion and generosity. I suspect I need to print these eight out in bold type and pin it up on the fridge!

In the concluding chapter the Dalai Lama says this 'In order to create a peaceful family, first the individual himself or herself should create and find inner peace, joyfulness. Then share with other family members. In that way, one family, ten families, a hundred families. That way, we can change and bring happier community, happy society. Then happier humanity.'

A few weeks after this visit, I received a handwritten postcard from Archbishop Tutu, thanking me for driving him around over the weekend. This great man had taken the time to remember a humble chauffeur, whom he had briefly met for three days.

Right, list on the fridge straight away!

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INSPIRING WOMEN Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March at 7:15pm. The speaker is Emma Duke (Driftwood Art & Design); Competition: A wooden article. Teas: Rachael Harding and Helen Johnson; Flowers: Sandra Crabb. We are slowly trying to get back to normal. New and prospective members always welcome to come along to our meetings. In April, we are hoping to re-commence our monthly coffee mornings - weather permitting! Enq. Carol Walker (cewalker@hotmail.co.uk or 01460 74808).

Carol Walker
01460 74808

Proposed sale of Misterton WI hall

No doubt many of you will have heard a rumour that our hall is to be sold, so this is to put the record straight! The decision to sell has not been taken lightly nor without consideration for its value to the village. Much fund raising is required to at least break even and with our increasing years (only three members under 70!), it is proving too onerous a task to fund-raise at the scale necessary to keep our heads above water and the hall up to scratch. The Covid pandemic has not helped matters! We do intend to keep the hall open until such time as it is sold, funds permitting. Existing hirers have been notified and it will continue to be available for other events as well. Enq: Carol Walker (01460 74808) or Susan May (01460 73934).

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Misterton Action Group

Misterton Action Group (MAG) would like to report that over the past eighteen months we have been able to make donations to many local groups, thanks to your generous support at our fundraising events. You have helped us raise over £1,500 so far.

The Misterton Calendars were a big hit, and we were able to cover the costs with sales. Thank you to everyone for the lovely photos of our village and the surrounding area.

In the past 18 months we have made donations to:

Misterton Pre School 🏠
Misterton Gardening Club 🌻
St Leonard's Flower Guild 🌸
The Owlsley and Norris Trust 🐦
MERT team 🧰
Misterton First School 👥
Misterton Parish Council 🏆
The fourth village defibrillator ❤️
MAG for flower tubs around Village 🌺 🌻

Our next event will be Saturday July 9th when we will hold the third village sale day. Please put the date in your diary ... and remember we always are grateful for raffle prizes to help us raise money.

Viv and Jan would love some help with organising future events for the village so please contact them if you would like to help in any way, no matter how small.

Jan and Viv
MAG

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Misterton tennis club



The Club is sad to report that long serving member Tom Regan died in early January. Tom, in past years has been a regular at Club Sessions. He was on the committee and supported social and fund raising events organised by the Club. His family are kindly donating a bench in his memory.

The Mixed Team are still doing well in the Winter League and are midway in the League Division Two table, with a reversal result against Charmouth.

Bookings for the Tennis Club Quiz are going well, although we are limiting numbers to a maximum of 40 people, while Covid is still with us.

Chris Ellis

Thank you

I would like to thank all those people who bought plants at my gate in Church Lane, especially those who left more than they needed to. Over the past eighteen months I have donated £100 to the Children's Hospice South West at Barnstaple and £30 to Lupus UK.

Many thanks

Kath Barter

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Further to last month's article about the village hall fundraising, this photo of the village hall opening ceremony was sent in by John Dyke, whose father was in attendance. Cutting the tape is William Barnes, who was a retired architect and the impetus behind the project. John's guess at the year is 1981, but if any readers have more information, or recognise any of the attendees please let us know!

Maureen Albert

Maureen is yet another villager who has worked and travelled widely. She was born in the Portobello area of Edinburgh in 1946. Her father was a bank manager with the Royal Bank of Scotland and had served in the Royal Artillery throughout the North African Campaign during the Second World War. Maureen's mother was a secretary who volunteered as a fire fighter at Waverley railway station in the war. Maureen has a younger brother who became a research librarian at Edinburgh University.

Her first school was a school for girls. It was on the other side of Edinburgh, to which she travelled independently on the tram and bus from five years of age, at first in the care of a neighbour only two years older.

In 1957, the family moved to Dumfries where Maureen, having passed her eleven-plus exam, went to Dumfries Academy for six years, leaving as Head Girl. She then spent four years at a teacher training college before having her first job working in a nursery school affiliated to the college. Moving on, she did primary teaching for five to seven-year-old children. During this time, she shared a flat with three other young women. 'We had a wonderful time,' she says without going into any detail.

She left Scotland in 1973 to work in Singapore for SCEA (Service Children's Education Authority) where again she taught infants. While in Singapore, she had ample time during the school's holidays to visit Bali, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Australia. She had her own flat which she soon realised was above a residence of 'ill-repute', and once had to gently redirect a drunken sailor who was climbing her stairs. The flat overlooked a local Kampong where she watched immaculately dressed children helping to brush the yard and chase the chickens before school each morning. At the end of 1975, Maureen returned briefly to Scotland before heading for Tasmania, where she taught both infants and nursery-aged children - the age she most enjoyed teaching.



It was in Australia that she met her future husband, Geoff, who was serving in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, having come to Tasmania through an exchange scheme with the Australian Army. While there, Maureen was a keen member of the Caledonian Society's Scottish Country Dancers, even dancing in front of the Queen at a tattoo in Hobart as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Each participating team wore its own individual tartan skirts and boleros. Maureen remembers her team's being the Royal Stewart

Maureen at the tattoo - she is in the front right of the group of six in red tartan in the middle of the photo!

Maureen left Tasmania in 1981 and returned to Scotland. Geoff was working in Nottingham by now, and they were married in Edinburgh, honeymooning in the Cotswolds. After spending two years in Leicester, Geoff retired from the Army with the rank of major, and in 1983 they moved to their present 18th century house in Misterton's Silver Street. Geoff was then commissioned



in the Somerset Infantry (Volunteers) and served with them at Yeovil and Taunton for the next twelve years. Maureen, meanwhile, worked at Reckleford Infants' school as a teacher in the Nursery Department before specialising in teaching children with special and social needs, and going on to work for Somerset County Council with children who had more general needs. Then, after courses at Exeter and Swansea, she worked with children who were visually impaired. This required her to learn braille as well as undertaking home visits. She fondly remembers reading a braille book on a train journey when a ticket collector, wrongly believing her to be unsighted, kindly offered to help her down from the carriage when she reached her destination.

Geoff has four adult children from an earlier marriage: a daughter who lives in Brazil, a son in Australia and a further son and daughter in England. Visiting them has led to some wonderful experiences abroad, including one Christmas Day spent sailing on the Mekong River eating wonderful food, floating past local fishermen and water buffalo while opening presents and enjoying being with the family. Maureen says, 'I don't think of them as my step children. On the contrary, I consider them to be good friends.'

In the early 1970s, she liked to ski in Aviemore in Scotland as well as playing tennis and, of course, Scottish Country Dancing. Now, though, she limits herself to gardening and to spinning wool with friends. She enjoys and is adept at both. The most recent book she read was *Those Who Are Loved* by Victoria Hislop. Her musical interests are varied and depend on her mood. Accordingly, she has time for Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* in addition to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. But her favourite song is ABBA's *Does Your Mother Know?* She also has time for Don McClean's *American Pie* (all eight and a half minutes of it) lamenting the death of Buddy Holly in a plane crash. Maureen has also been a past editor of this magazine for more than six years, aided by her husband who was the treasurer.

Her entire working life has been dedicated to helping children. We are grateful to her for that.

John Coquet

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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 March 2022

Sunday 6th March 2022: Lent 1

Wayford: 10:00am Fr G Reilly

Hewish: 11:45am Fr G Reilly

Sunday 13th March 2022: Lent 2

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

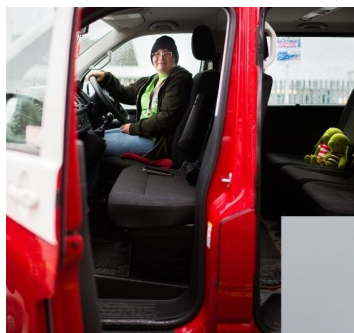
Sunday 20th March 2022: Lent 3

Misterton: 9:30am Holy Communion (CW) Rev CJ Davis

Sunday 27th March 2022: Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday

Misterton: 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) Rev CJ Davis

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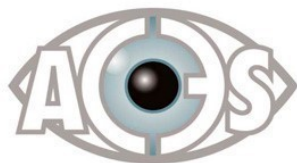
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Misterton Football Club



Hello readers,

It only feels that a few weeks have passed since I wrote the opening script for the season. But here we are in March and I am writing to tell you that this month sees the culmination of the Perry Street fixture list. Misterton's league fixtures will be completed by the middle of March. Hopefully, the league will be rearranging the cup competitions that were deferred as a result of the recent Covid-19 restrictions. This will allow us to enjoy some more football at the recreation ground through the remainder of March and into April.

Recent results have been positive for the club's teams. The first team's 2-1 defeat against Chard United was followed by a 5-0 win at home to Ilminster and a stunning 10-0 (yes, ten!) victory away to Perry Street. The team now sit mid table in the Premier Division with two fixtures to play.

The reserves saw victories away to Forton (6-1) and at home to Dowlish (2-1). These results were followed by an unfortunate 1-0 defeat at home to Pymore. As with the first, the team now sit mid table in Division One with two fixtures to play.

The vets' sole fixture for February was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch at the recreation ground.

The remaining fixtures are as follows; but as I mentioned earlier, we hope there will be additional fixtures in the various cup competitions. As always, we look forward to seeing you at the recreation ground to cheer us on over the next few weeks.

Date	Time	Team	Opponents	Home/Away	Competition
5th Mar	2:30pm	First	Crewkerne Rangers	A	Premier
12th Mar	2:30pm	Reserves	Barrington	H	Div One
13th Mar	11:00am	Vets	Milborne Port	A	Somerset Vets Group 5

Finally, as Easter approaches and with the reduction in Covid-19 restrictions, the club are planning an Easter Bingo. This is scheduled for Monday 11th April. More details will be provided in next month's magazine.

Regards,

Martin French
MFC Treasurer

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Misterton Gardeners Association

Our first meeting of the year is on Friday 25th March at 7:30pm in the WI hall. Our speaker is the celebrated local fuchsia grower, Derek Dexter. And his subject - surprise surprise - is 'Fuchsias: how best to grow them'. We all love fuchsias (there are so many different varieties) and it is one flower, or should I say plant, we can all have a go at bringing on. To make things interesting, everyone attending our meeting will receive a small fuchsia plug plant - courtesy of our Gold Club - and there will be a little competition to see who does the best. Judging will be at our garden party in September. We did this last year - and it was wonderful to see how some of our members turned a miniature plant into a real floral bouquet. Mine did not do very well last year but maybe with Derek Dexter's kind words, we can all turn out tiny plants into a real floral tribute.

As this is the beginning of a series of meetings subscriptions are due. Some have paid already but if you have not, this is the time to bring a bit of cash (or a cheque) with you. We will be welcoming several new members. But everyone in the village is most welcome to join us. Why not come on the 25th March for a free 'taster' session - and join the club later if you wish.

Our Flower of the Month competition also begins. So, if you wish, do bring along a favourite flower from your garden. Points are awarded by the visiting speaker at each meeting and the person with most points throughout the season receives free membership of our club for next year!!

Haven't the snowdrops been wonderful? They are such a joy to see after a long winter. They just remind us that spring is around the corner. Here is a picture of ours when they were at their best.

Diana Dyke
01460 77233



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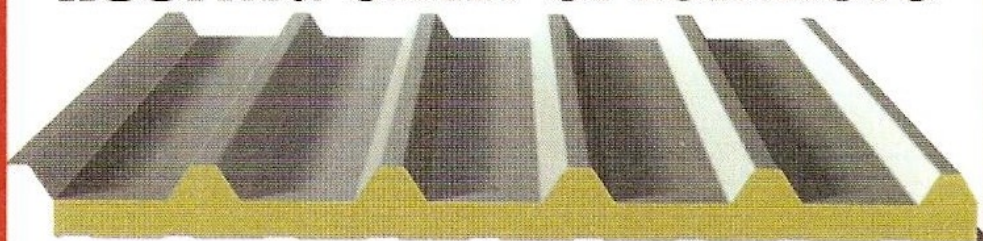
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Misterton Church of England First School



On Friday 28th January Oak and Cedar class came together to make Christingles. We found out about what each part of a Christingle represented then in small groups the children helped each other to make their own Christingles. It was lovely to see the children working together and reminding each other what to do next. After we had made our Christingles, we lit them carefully and sang our favourite song 'Light One Thousand Christmas Lights'. At the end of the day, the children took them home where they could enjoy eating the sweets!

All the children from Misterton First School would like to say a HUGE thank you to Waitrose, Crewkerne for supplying all the bits we needed.



Misterton village hall - Annual General Meeting

The Misterton Village Hall AGM is due to be held on Monday 21st March 2022. Please come along and support the hall charity and its committee.

We are always looking for new committee members, new user groups and additional help to aid the running of the hall.

Come along and support your local amenity at the AGM. Please arrive around 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,
The Committee



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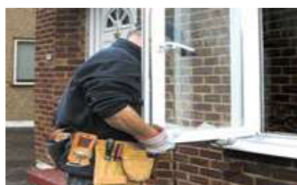
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In this month...

Events in British history that happened in March.

- 1st 1876: Bass Brewery's red triangle is Britain's first registered trademark
- 2nd 1936: First test flight of the Spitfire fighter
- 2nd 1969: Concorde's maiden flight
- 6th 1987: The cross-channel ferry, Herald of Free Enterprise, capsizes
- 10th 1886: The first Cruft's Dog Show
- 19th 1834: The Tolpuddle Martyrs are sentenced to transportation to Australia
- 23rd 1956: The Queen lays the foundation stone of the new Coventry Cathedral
- 27th 1871: First international rugby match – England v Scotland
- 28th 1912: Oxford and Cambridge's boats both sink in the University Boat Race
- 21st 1855: The novelist, Charlotte Bronte, dies

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Dates for your diary

March 2022

Tuesday March 1st	WI meeting	7:15pm	WI hall
Tuesday March 15th	Parish council meeting	6:30pm	WI hall
Monday March 21st	Village hall AGM	7:15pm	Village hall
Friday March 25th	Gardeners Association meeting	7:30pm	WI hall



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