

Misterton

Village Magazine



December 2022



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Note from the editors

We were absolutely sleighed by this month's cover by the talented Natasha Rand, who is an artist and creative teacher. She has perfectly captured her subject, clearly pausing in his festive duties to check the book swap phone box in Silver Street!

Her artwork is even more appropriate given that John Coquet was lucky enough to be granted a rare interview with Santa himself (by phone, obviously), which can be found in the centre of the magazine.

As this is the last magazine of the year, all that remains is for us to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the January magazine is Friday 16th December.

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

Magazine committee contact details

Jacquie Lyus Editor 01460 78526

Sarah Watt Editor 01460 351212

mistertonmagazine@gmail.com

Leo Bacigalupo Treasurer and advertising 01460 354174 or 07973 797417

mistertonmagazine@gmail.com

Diana Dyke Distribution 01460 77233

John Coquet Writer 01460 78430

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



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Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

As we reach the end of the year Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team (MERT) are keeping an eye on winter challenges particularly related to flooding issues. To this end we have made contact with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAGSW) who have visited Misterton and taken back our concerns about water runoff from the fields. FWAGSW have contact with farmers and enable us to raise issues as they arise.

We are also keeping an eye on the stream as the increased rainfall will, of course, mean there is more water running through the village. We have recently sent an email to all Misterton residents who have riparian rights and have given us permission to contact them. If you did not hear from us, have the stream running past your property and would like our updates including those from Flood Wessex please let us know and we will add you to our distribution list.

We have had some interest for the AED course in January but still need a few more to make it worthwhile, once again please let us know if you would like to attend.

MERT now have two representatives on the parish council which will make for a more coordinated effort from all involved and allow us to focus our respective support. We are looking forward to building our relationship as we move into the new year.

Finally, it just remains for me to reiterate that we are always keen to hear from our community and in the meantime to wish you a very good and peaceful festive season on behalf of all the team.

Phil

MERT member

MERT Contact Details

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

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

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Christmas approaches and I have completed my first six months in office and our new clerk has gone past her three-month probation with flying colours. Together with our fellow councillors we become more confident that we are heading in the right direction. Reference to the issued guidance from County Council and Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) ensures we keep our spending correctly controlled, and our management is properly regulated. Already we have had issues with some of our residents who are mistaken in the interface they are entitled with the council. We will always listen to views, but they cannot demand our action, it will always be that which is regulated.

Our latest meeting on November 15th took place in what had in the past been our office in the village hall and we intend to negotiate a future arrangement that suits both village hall and council management. The ex-WI hall was sold at auction to a Misterton resident who is keen that it might be used both for his personal professional use and that for the community. I have spoken once, and we are meeting for a second time when one of the subjects I plan to discuss is the database results from our October questionnaire.

Other ongoing issues that were brought closer to conclusion at the November meeting include our next draft budget which was worked up by members of the finance working committee, most of whom had undertaken the SALC budget setting course. Residents wishing detailed information should check on the council website which itself will be updated over the future months. The new noticeboard for byelaws and individual safety notices will shortly be in place around the recreation field. Efforts were agreed to speed up the cemetery gate repairs and the road speed indicator devices, both programmes having been under discussion for several years. Another task that should be performed shortly is to examine and, if necessary, repair the MUGA lighting to make sure it cannot operate during the hours 21:30 to 07:00 in accord with the approvals. The minutes will contain the full story so all that remains is for me to wish all Misterton residents and their families a very joyous Christmas.

Paul Bradly
Chairman

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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.*

A graphic for a window dressing business. It features a central white rectangular area framed by a patterned green curtain with gold tassels. The text is centered within the white area.

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A graphic for Footprintz. It has a dark background with a colorful logo of four overlapping circles (orange, yellow, pink, blue) on the left. Text is arranged in various orientations and colors (white, orange, blue, yellow, pink) to highlight services and contact information.

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Letter from Anne

In a moment of reflection recently, I asked my grown-up daughters what they had enjoyed in their childhoods, what special memories they had. Their answers were about picnics in the car whilst the rain poured down outside, wobbly pink blancmanges, getting stuck in the mud on a forest walk, being 101 dalmatians on a brownie carnival float, and so the list went on.

What struck me was that not one of their memories included a present, an object. Like most parents, I had scrimped and saved to buy them the latest Barbie, or My Little Pony, and yet they remembered none of them.

All their memories were of presence and not presents. Sadly, Covid has prevented many of us from being present to our friends and neighbours over the past few years, and yet it is just so important that we physically socialise with others, not just for their benefit but for ours too.

As the festive season approaches, may I suggest that we forget the presents, and focus on just checking that we are physically present to those we love, and even those we find hard to love, as surely that is what the Christmas season is all about, pure non-judgemental love brought to us in a lowly stable.

Rob and I wish you every blessing for Christmas and the year ahead.

Rev Anne Charlton



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Words, words and more words

Of the 600,000 or so words in the Oxford English Dictionary, it is thought that as many as 80% of them are of foreign origin. Among them are: hamster, haversack, kindergarten and plunder (from German), fiasco, lottery, quarantine and violin (from Italian) and avocado, chocolate, guitar and platinum (from Spanish).

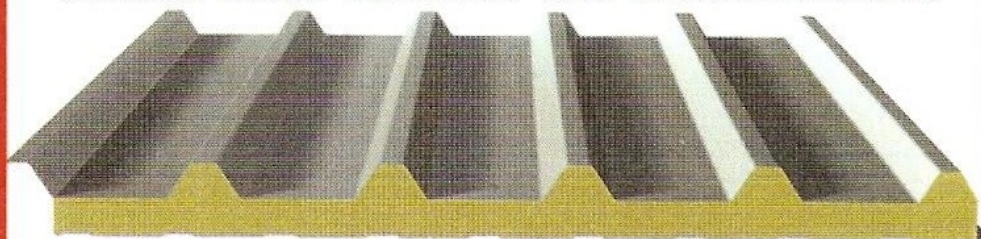


It is not a one-way trade by any means. Despite the disapproval of their authorities, French people freely use English words such as business, camping, networking and weekend. The Japanese word for a man's business suit is *bijnesusutsu*, and the word for a bespoke suit is *sebiro* - derived from Savile Row.

As German dictionaries typically contain a mere 135,000 words, it is no surprise that they have no word for 'gloves'. They settle for calling them *handschuhe*, literally 'hand shoes'.

John Coquet

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Misterton WI

Upon completion of the sale of the WI hall our new venue for 2023 is The Globe in Misterton at the new time of 7:00pm. Our last meeting in 2022 is at The Globe on Tuesday 6th December at 7:15pm. Our speaker is Clinton Bonner of Bonner Butchers.

Susan May
01460 73934



Misterton Flower Guild Christmas arrangements

We are again making and selling Christmas door hangings £9, festive table centres £6 and memorial arrangements £7. This is the same price as last year.

Please order by 7th December to collect by 14th December.

Phone Sue on 01460 78430, Christine on 01460 76824 or Cheryl on 01460 75025.

Sue Coquet



The club hosted a very successful presentation evening for all trophy winners at Misterton Village Hall on Sunday October 23rd. We had both child and adult presentations, and it was a pleasure to see so many new and familiar faces. The mini tennis and table tennis kept everyone entertained. On Saturday November 12th we also had our annual dinner at the Crooked Swan in Crewkerne. A big thank you to Catherine Carins for organising both events.

On Monday December 12th we are having our annual bingo night at the village hall – doors open at 6:30pm and eyes down at 7:30. This is a highly popular event which is taking place for the first time for a few years. Get there early to guarantee a table. Refreshments will be provided.

The mixed winter team had their first fixture away to South Petherton on Sunday November 13th, but sadly lost 2-8.

If anyone from the village fancies a knock of tennis, please come to club sessions on either Sundays 10am-12pm or Monday evenings 6:30pm-9:30pm. Contact Bob Waterhouse on 07675 35117.

Bob Waterhouse
Chairman

Church services December 2022

Please note that it is yet to be decided on who will lead the services. More information may be available on the Wulfric Benefice website.

Sunday 4th December 2022: Second Sunday of Advent

Haselbury: 9:30am HC-CW

Wayford: 9:30am HC

Hewish: 9:30am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC

Sunday 11th December 2022: Third Sunday of Advent

Haselbury: 9:30am HC-BCP

Misterton: 11:00am HC-BCP

North Perrott: 9:30am HC-CW

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC-CW

Sunday 18th December 2022: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Haselbury: 11:00am family service

Misterton: 09:30am HC-CW

Misterton: 6:00pm evening carols

North Perrott: 3:00pm carols and nativity play

Wayford: 4:00pm carol service

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 6:00pm carol service

Monday 19th December 2022 Hewish: carols by candlelight

Thursday 22nd December 2022 Haselbury: 6:30pm village carol service

Saturday Christmas Eve 2022 St Bart's, Crewkerne: 4:00pm Christingle

Midnight services Haselbury, Wayford & St Bart's: 11:30pm HC

Sunday 25th December 2022: Christmas Day

Haselbury: 11:00am HC-CW

Misterton: 9:30am HC-CW

North Perrott: 9:30am HC

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC

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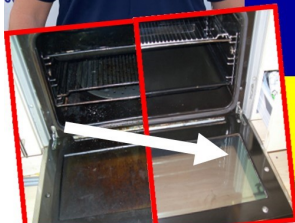
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My interview with Santa Claus

This is a verbatim account of an exclusive interview I had by phone with Mr Claus earlier this year. I can vouch for its accuracy because our conversation was recorded. The only editing has been to delete the questionable words he occasionally used – quite unsuitable for those readers of a genteel disposition, or with young and impressionable children.

Me: 'I'm grateful to you for agreeing to be interviewed.'

SC: 'Yeah, mate, this is my first one ever. I reckon it's not before time, either.'

Me: 'Well, let's get started, then. Tell me, what do you when it's not the Christmas season?'

SC: 'Loads of stuff. For a start, I have to keep an eye on the elves making toys in their workshops. If I don't, they tend to lark about. And that's when I'm not looking after the reindeer. That Prancer one, for instance. I'll give him prance. That's all he ever does – prance about the place and showing off. What he needs is to get some sleigh-work done. All the other seven are pretty good at it, but not him.'

Me: 'So how does one get to be Santa Claus?'

SC: 'It's a family thing – has been for ages. It goes from father to son. When my old Dad retired, I was grateful, I can tell you. It saved me from having to look for another, non-snow-shovelling job in this God-forsaken wilderness. I've been Santa Claus for several years now. It was lucky Dad decided to retire, if only because he wasn't up to the job. For instance, he started messing up the kiddies' presents – shoving dolls down chimneys for little boys and binging down toy cars for little girls. A complete nightmare, in fact. He used to reckon that when he was young, he actually went down the chimneys himself. But even if that was true, he couldn't do it when he was older and got fat. He developed a real jelly-belly. Frankly, I've





piled on the weight too. But I have to, you see, if only to fill out my red Santa robe. Wouldn't want to have it hanging off me, would I? But he got to be really mixed up with the toys – made a total mess of it. That's when my missus suggested I take over from him. Lucky for me that she did. Me, I never

get mixed up. Well, you wouldn't want to, not fiddling about on a slippery roof.'

Me: 'I didn't know you were married, Santa.'

SC: 'I count myself lucky that I am, squire. It's not every woman who'd put up with her husband coming home every evening reeking of elves and reindeer. If the smell gets too bad, I can always hose down the reindeer, but I can't really hose the elves. It's bad enough having to live at the North Pole and not going on holidays. That's because half the elves would down tools if I don't keep on at 'em. And as for the reindeer – they'd find a way of wandering off while we were away. The missus says it isn't fair that I go away every year and travel all around the world. Needless to say, that's the English-speaking world. I've no idea what happens to the others, but I've heard that they rely on casual workers to deliver Christmas presents. Mrs C, though, is constantly banging on about visiting the South Pole for a change. She won't believe me when I tell her that I've heard it's much the same as here, but without any elves or reindeer. I say to her how would we get around without reindeer to pull my sleigh? My ones get worn out doing it the once, never mind twice. I'll tell you another thing. The wife keeps going on at me about my white beard – says I ought to dye it or shave it off completely. She says it's very ageing and that she doesn't like to be seen about the Pole with an old-looking bloke. Look, mate, I'm going to have to hang up the phone now. It's reindeer-feeding time again. They get really uppity if it's late.'

Me: 'Fair enough, Santa old chap. Thanks for talking to me, and I hope you have a very happy Christmas.'

SC: 'No chance of that, mate. I'll be well busy, innit? But do have one yourself.'

Me: 'Cheers, Santa.'

John Coquet





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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.

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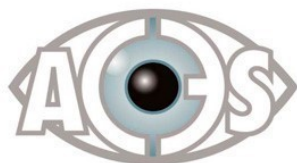


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Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes flat rate fare proposals

Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes the Government's plan to provide up to £60 million, to enable bus operators to cap single adult bus fares at £2. The £2 flat fare comes in from the beginning of January and will continue through to the end of March 2023. Most bus operators are expected to adopt the scheme.

This means millions of people across England will save money, at a time when many households are suffering massive pressures from the rising cost of living. The move will help people travel for work, education, shopping, and medical treatments and provide a much-needed saving in daily expenditure.

The current average single fare for a three-mile journey is estimated at over £2.80, meaning that the new fare will save passengers almost 30% of the price every time they travel.

In addition, Somerset County Council currently plans to introduce a £1 single/£2 return bus fare in Taunton, as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan. Somerset Bus Partnership welcomes this initiative but emphasises the need to procure further funding to enable this flat rate fare to be extended across all of Somerset.

Somerset Bus Partnership co-chair, Peter Travis, said, "Bus usage declined in Somerset in the last decade, and even more so during the pandemic. We need initiatives like these to restore and improve passenger levels. Encouraging people to choose buses over cars helps to reduce carbon emissions. It is estimated that the Government's £60 million will reduce car journeys by at least 2 million and cut pollution and congestion for all of us."

Somerset Bus Partnership will continue to work closely with Somerset County Council to encourage bus use and ensure implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan across the county.

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Christmas greetings

The following people have kindly donated money instead of giving Christmas cards to friends in the village. All the money donated will go to Crewkerne Voluntary Transport. Many thanks to all who have participated in this scheme.



Steve & Jackie Lyus

Ann Taylor

Carol Walker

Maureen Shepley

Paul & Diane Bradly

Rob & Jill Jeffreys

Margaret Darch

Jean McCoy

Sally Gregory

Mark & Maxine Field

Pam Glazier

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Jacks, Kieron & Niall O'Donnell

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Festive recycling

Waste collection dates

Christmas and New Year mean kerbside waste collection changes. No collections on Monday 26th December or Monday 2nd January so both weeks' pick-ups are one day later, including Fridays on Saturday. No garden waste collections in festive fortnight. Usual services from Monday 9th January. Recycle sites unchanged except all close 25th-26th December and 1st January, and Crewkerne has extra day open on Tuesday 27th December. More: somersetwaste.gov.uk/festive.

... and your Christmas tree choices

Unless you make your own with recycled materials, or keep a false tree for many years, a real tree is the best eco-choice. Later, it can be composted or dropped off at any recycle site. Garden waste subscription? Decoration-free trees up to six feet can go out with your first 2023 collection. Or arrange a charity tree pick-up with donation, such as from St Margaret's Hospice or Dorothy House Hospice Care. To book a collection, go to just-helping.org.uk/register-tree.



Misterton Gardeners Association

December is the month for fireside garden planning. What do I mean by that? Several things... firstly, think about what did well in your garden this year. Make a note of it or otherwise you will forget by next year. Most of our gardens have different aspects, some sunny others shady so you might have to consider moving some plants around. Of course, it is tempting to think that you cannot move mature plants and shrubs, but this can be done reasonably easily. At our last meeting Pauline Wright told us that they moved seventy large plants from their garden at Tatworth to their new home in Yeovil and all but one survived. Now is the time to think about it – and get to work with the job in early spring.

Think too about the seeds and bedding plants you will be buying next month. And if you need any small tools or pots, garden gloves (which seem to last only a season or two) or pruners, these can make ideal Christmas presents. Worth dropping a few hints like this to your children or grandchildren!

Of course, we do get a few wonderful sunny days in December, so when these come, do get out into your garden and sweep up any dead leaves and clear moss from paths which can get very slippery. Take watering equipment into your garage as hosepipes and sprinklers can be damaged by hard frosts and split. One further tip: stand your Christmas tree in a bucket of water in a sheltered spot outside your house until it is time to bring it inside.

We always try to keep a rose going until Christmas Day. Last year it was one named Graham Thomas (see photo). In our experience yellow ones seem to last the longest.

Whilst we have yet to arrange our gardening club programme for next year, we aim to begin as usual with a Sunday lunch get-together at the Admiral Hood towards the end of February. Do come and join us. Potential new members to our club are very welcome. Give me a call.

In the meantime, do have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to some excellent Misterton gardening in 2023.

John Dyke

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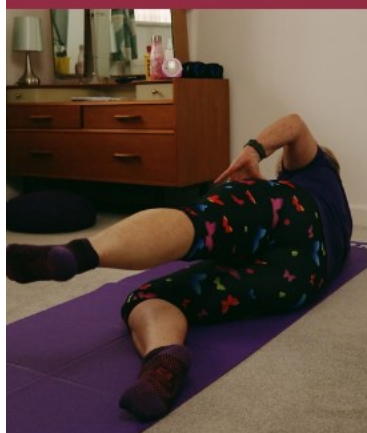
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Stronger 4 Longer

As we get older, muscle strength is reduced and some movements, such as leaning sideways or turning quickly, can cause a loss of balance. This can begin earlier than expected from our early fifties onwards. The good news is, you don't have to start weightlifting to build strength - hill-walking, yoga, team sports like tennis and cricket, or even just climbing the stairs can all help to build muscle strength and prevent falls and injuries later in life.

Stronger 4 Longer is a new campaign encouraging adults over 50 to build muscle strength to protect their future health. To find out how to get started, and to find resources and exercises you can try at home and or out and about, visit the Stronger 4 Longer website at www.sasp.co.uk/stronger4longer.

SASP has recently launched new resources which can help you to be more active at home. You can do these exercises while making a cup of tea or cleaning your teeth – take a look at the Move More with Bands resources, both seated and standing, and with resistance bands. Make these exercises part of your everyday habits.

A festive Christmas-themed poster for a bingo event. The background is dark green with pine branches, red holly leaves, and gold stars. Several clear glass Christmas ornaments with gold star patterns are hanging from the top. The text is in gold and white. The title 'Misterton Tennis Club' is in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, 'Christmas Bingo' is written in a large, elegant cursive script. The date and time 'Monday 12th December' and 'Doors 6:30 Eyes Down 7:30' are in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the location 'Misterton Village Hall, Unity Lane, TA18 8NA' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

Misterton Tennis Club

Christmas Bingo

Monday 12th December
Doors 6:30 Eyes Down 7:30

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In this month...

Events in British history that happened in December

- 2nd 1697: Opening of St Paul's Cathedral
- 6th 1921: The southern counties of Ireland are granted independence from Britain
- 8th 1980: John Lennon is murdered in New York
- 9th 1960: *Coronation Street* makes its first TV appearance
- 11th 1936: King Edward VIII abdicates the throne
- 12th 1956: The hovercraft is patented
- 21st 1988: A terrorist bomb causes a plane to fall on Lockerbie, killing 270 people
- 24th 1508: Piped water is introduced in London
- 29th 1170: Thomas à Becket is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral
- 30th 1879: First performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*

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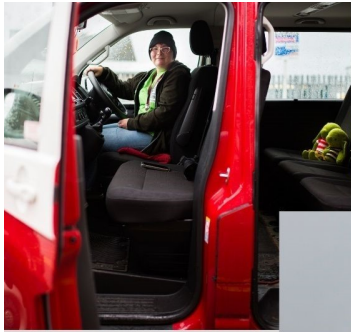
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Tennis Christmas bingo	Monday December 12th	6:30pm	Village hall
Parish council meeting	Tuesday December 13th	6:30pm	TBC



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