

# Misterton

## Village Magazine



February 2023



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## Note from the editors

Despite the cold weather we're having at the time of going to print, bulbs are pushing up everywhere, and daffodils are even out in bloom in some parts locally so our thoughts are gradually turning to spring. Clearly Maureen Albert's are too, with her lovely illustration for our front cover this month. Hopefully it will inspire us to get out in the garden this month!

Another Misterton resident is in the spotlight this month - Zena Durrant, who, despite her protestations to the contrary, has led an interesting life both locally and further afield. And following the runaway success of last month's New Year crossword, we can reveal both the winner and the answers... on page 27.

*Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt*

**Deadline for entries** for the March magazine is Friday 17th February.

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

### Magazine committee contact details

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



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## Misterton Emergency and Resilience Team

Despite the snow this morning MERT are looking to the spring and various activities that we are planning. We have agreed with the parish council to reinstate the village clean-up which used to be regular events before the lockdown due to Covid. The date we have in mind is the morning of Sunday 5th March when we hope to have small teams of villagers dispersing around the village to pick up litter, so we have the village spick and span for further events like the coronation celebration on Sunday 7th May. More details will follow in the March magazine but please put this in your diary now if you are willing to help.

As usual we need to mention water challenges. MERT are keeping busy reporting, managing, and monitoring drains. In addition, the Misterton Parish Council clerk has been very proactive with Somerset Highways trying to get some action on issues we raise. The drains have behaved quite well, generally, during our 'wet season'. We also continue to keep an eye on the stream and run-off from the fields which is particularly challenging in certain parts of the village.

Finally, we will organise an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) course if the village wants one. We do need to know if you are interested in doing a two-hour course for the first time or as a refresher. If you did not get an email from me recently, about this, then we are not aware of your interest.

*Phil*

MERT member

### MERT Contact Details

If you would like our assistance 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)

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

**Bob Taylor** on 01460 271658 or 07931 657312

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I am writing this in mid-January as the snow is falling on Middle Street and I near the end of my first year as a Councillor. I hope my reports each month are useful and help to provide a better understanding of the work and objectives of your Parish Council. For example, at our January meeting we considered twelve matters arising from our December meeting, such as placing a three-year contract for grass cutting and installing a new bench in the cemetery, all of which had been successfully actioned. (Full details of decisions and actions can be found in the minutes of the meetings which are available on various noticeboards and also on the Parish Council website <https://mistertonparishcouncil.org.uk/>)

Perhaps the most significant decision for residents was the approval of the 2023-24 Budget and Precept. After careful consideration and ensuring that the services for which we are responsible are retained, it has been possible to reduce the village precept by 4.9%. Unfortunately, our changes are minor in comparison with the county and police part of your Council Tax, but it is a small help in the current climate.

Our plans for the coronation celebrations on 7th May at the recreation ground continue and we will give more details as events are confirmed. Currently you should expect music, food and drink, either brought by yourselves or bought on site, classic cars, dog competition, children's activities and more. Entrance will be free for all Misterton families and their guests and we are hoping that residents from all parts of the village will join us for a memorable day. We are determined that everyone living in Misterton should feel the benefit of a country village residence and to this end we now have a representative of Old Mill Estate on our council with the objective of encouraging much more integration between residents of Old Mill and the village.

Finally, I must return to what seems to be a perennial problem of dog activities on the recreation ground. Misterton residents are actively encouraged to use this area, but it is essential that dogs are kept firmly under control. Recently we have received several complaints of dogs that were not under their owner's control. This is not acceptable - dogs must not be allowed to run amok and, if necessary, must be kept on a lead - and we shall be adjusting our CCTV cameras to gain evidence of offences. We suspect some of those responsible may be outsiders arriving by car so we will try to get the message to anyone from Crewkerne or elsewhere to whom it might apply.

*Paul Bradly*  
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](mailto:mistertonpc@gmail.com). ***Village businesses who advertise in this leaflet should forward any amendments to the Parish Clerk.***

## Thank you

We would like to say thank you to Mr Andrew Callow and all of the kind people that helped us to get our central heating repaired.

Thank you.

*David and Margaret Venn*



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## Letter from Anne

Sometimes I see words on Facebook that are just so thought provoking, and this one I wanted to share with you all this month. I do apologise if you have come across it before.

‘When a torch grows dim, or stops working, do we just throw it away?

*Of course not, we change the batteries.*

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do we just cast them aside?

*Of course not! You help them to change their batteries.*

Some need AA... Attention and affection

Some need AAA... Attention, affection and acceptance

Some need C... Compassion

Some need D... Direction.

And... if they still don't seem to shine... simply sit with them quietly and share your light.’

Jesus tells us time and time again to love our neighbours, not judge our neighbours, just love them. In this time of institutional decline in social care it is more important than ever that we keep an eye out for those in our community who need help keeping their torches bright, and if your own light is dim at present, I pray that you have neighbours who will notice and be there for you.

*Rev Anne Charlton*

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## Seville orange marmalade

(recipe from The Proper Marmalade Company)

You will need enough jars and lids for 6kg/13lbs of marmalade. This recipe can be halved (shorten final cooking time by 5 minutes before testing) but it is only making 26 half-pound jars, so think of it as one for every fortnight of the year.

### Ingredients

6lbs/2.7kg Seville oranges

3 large lemons

6 ½ pints/3.75 litres water

Granulated sugar (Have at least three packets to hand; the exact quantity will depend on the juice content of the fruit, as below)

Wash the fruit to remove all dust and dirt. Seville orange skins are not treated but lemons often are. If you can't get unwaxed lemons, scrub them in hot soapy water and rinse.

Cooking the fruit whole makes the skins easier to cut. Put the whole fruit in a saucepan, lemons on the bottom, cover with the water and bring to the boil. Once boiling, reduce to a simmer and cover.

After about 20-30 minutes turn the fruit over so the lemons are at the top and the top fruit submerged. Simmer for a further 20 minutes. They are done when a knife pierces the orange skin with little resistance.

Take off the heat, keep lid on and allow to go cold, preferably overnight.

Keep all the cooking water. Cut the fruit in half and squeeze. You can use an electric squeezer or scoop out the flesh with a spoon and fork. Add the pulp and juice to the cooking water but discard all pips.

Slice each half-orange skin in half again, then cut width-ways into strips as thick or thin as you like. Add the shredded skin to the reserved juice, cooking water and measure. For each pint of this mixture, you will need 1lb/454g sugar.

Return the prepared fruit mix to the saucepan and add the sugar. Bring to a rolling boil and boil for 30 minutes only.

Test for a set: with a metal spoon take a small sample of the liquid, dribble a little onto a saucer placing the spoon and the saucer in the fridge for a few mins. One or other of the samples should wrinkle when nudged with your finger. Stir, then let the marmalade stand for 15 minutes before potting for even distribution of peel. A skin may start to form which can be stirred in before potting. If the wrinkle test didn't work and no skin starts to form, re boil for no more than 5 minutes.

Pour into sterilised jars and seal immediately.

Good luck and happy marmalade making!



## The Church of St Leonard, Misterton

Rector: Rev CJ Davis, 07707 719137, [cjdavis.wulfric@gmail.com](mailto:cjdavis.wulfric@gmail.com)

### Church services February 2023

#### Sunday 5th February 2023

Haselbury: 9:30am HC-CW Rev Andrew Daynes

Wayford: 9:30am HC Rev CJ Davis

Hewish: 9:30am HC Rev Bob Key

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC Rev CJ Davis

#### Sunday 12th February 2023

Haselbury: 9:30am HC-BCP Rev CJ Davis

Misterton: 11:00am HC-CW Rev David Newman

North Perrott: 9:30am HC-CW Rev Gerry Reilly

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC Rev CJ Davis

#### Sunday 19th February 2023

Haselbury: 11:00am Family service Home team

Misterton: 9:30am HC-CW Rev CJ Davis

Wayford: 9:30am HC Rev Bob Key

Hewish: 11:00am HC Rev Gerry Reilly

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am HC Revs David Newman and Bob Key

#### Sunday 26th February 2023

Haselbury: 11:00am HC-CW Rev Andrew Daynes

North Perrott: 9:30am HC-BCP Rev CJ Davis

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11:00am All age Rev CJ Davis

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February 12th	Mrs D Dyke	-	Mrs S Crabb
February 19th	DD to check	-	-
February 26th	-	-	-





## 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



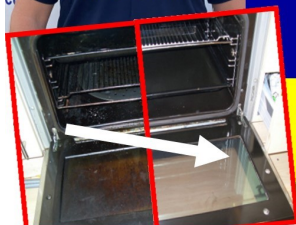
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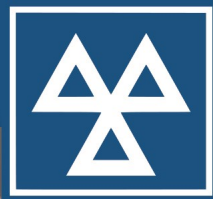
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## Zena Durrant

Zena, whose maiden name was Thornicroft-Taylor, is the eldest of five children - four girls and a boy. She was born in 1954 at Epsom Hospital. At the time, her father was in the merchant navy, sailing mainly to and from South Africa and gaining experience for his career as a marine engineer. Her mother was a dental nurse. Having started her education at a prep school in Guildford, the family moved to Hampshire, where Zena attended the village primary school and then Eggar's Grammar School in Alton. The family moved again, first to Ascot in Berkshire where Zena went to Windsor High School, then to Somerset where her parents bought the Half Moon Inn at Horsington, near Templecombe, and she attended Bruton School for Girls. She took her A levels at Yeovil College, where she became editor of the student newspaper and realised she wanted to be a journalist.

Her first job was with the *Chard and Ilminster News*, travelling to reporting assignments on her 150cc Lambretta scooter. She met her future husband, David, at a wedding in Chardstock where they were both guests. They got engaged in 1976, then Zena moved to London to take a job as senior writer for the Metropolitan Police's in-house magazine, *The Job*. In 1979, the couple married at Stockland, Devon, after Zena had returned to Somerset to work as senior reporter for the *Western Gazette* in Yeovil.

The honeymoon was spent in Paris and their first marital home was in Merriott, where their three children were born and where Zena served for eight years as a parish councillor and as a governor of Merriott First School. She also founded *The Merriott Messenger*, a free monthly magazine delivered to every house in the village, and which is still published. In 1996, the Durrants moved to their present home in Misterton's Silver Street. Their elder daughter Katharine is a former Misterton Parish Clerk and is now Crewkerne Town Clerk. Daughter Holly and family live in north Devon; son Alex and family live in Derbyshire. There are eight grandchildren.

After a number of senior editing roles at the *Western Gazette*, Zena worked for three years as a part time volunteer coordinator at St Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil, and a further four years for a Christian charity - Sharing of Ministries Abroad - with whom she travelled to Uganda.

She and David are members of St Leonard's Church and in 2012 Zena was invited to join St Leonard's parochial church council. Reluctantly, she recently stood down from this role but continues to attend services at the church.

Sports at school were a mixed bag. By her own admission, Zena was useless at hockey and tennis. On the other hand, she represented her Alton school at county level for hurdling and long jump. She was also captain of her house rounders team





at Bruton. She recalls enjoying cross country running, although she never excelled, but she still enjoys “running” around the village to keep fit.

Her interests include gardening, sewing, writing, DIY and decorating, although many of these activities have had to be abandoned or cut back due to her failing eyesight. On the positive side, at least this gives her more time to spend with her grandchildren.

Like several other women in the village, Zena was once something of a rock chick, admiring Queen, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. Moreover, she has camped at three Glastonbury Festivals, seeing bands

ranging from Coldplay to Killers, Elbow to Pet Shop Boys, and memorable solo acts who included Rufus Wainwright, KT Tunstall, Neil Diamond, Leonard Cohen and Joan Baez. Zena was particularly moved by the singing of the late Amy Winehouse. Lingering evidence of her rock chick days is her predilection for wearing skinny blue jeans. She enjoys classical music too, travelling to London and Bristol for concerts and operas featuring the works of Handel, Bach and Tchaikovsky. She has more than seventy CDs of music by Handel, her favourite composer.

As for TV, Zena would never willingly miss the BBC’s *News at Ten*, *Have I Got News For You* and *Would I Lie To You*. She used to enjoy sitcoms like *Dad’s Army*, *The Good Life*, *Fawlty Towers* and *Yes, Minister*. She is a fan of comedians Lee Mack, Rob Brydon and the late Victoria Wood. She supports England in Six Nations rugby on TV and listens to a lot of BBC Radio 3 and 4 programmes. What she cannot abide are reality TV shows such as *I’m a Celebrity*, *Love Island*, or competitive cookery shows like *The Great British Bake Off*. Authors of some of her favourite novels include Sebastian Faulks, Joanna Trollope, Ernest Hemingway and Nevil Shute. As to non-fiction, she favours well-written memoirs like David Niven’s and Bill Bryson’s. If marooned on the BBC’s fictional desert island, her single record of choice would be Joni Mitchell’s *I Could Drink a Case of You*, and would dedicate it to her husband.

Zena curates the book swap in the former phone box in Silver Street. Since David’s retirement as building control manager for South Somerset District Council, the couple have enjoyed the extra time available for country walks, and Zena also helps David in his capacity as the Parish Paths Liaison Officer.

*John Coquet*



## Time to get walking again!

With spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Somerset <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset> has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

*John Harris*

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# Walter Wall

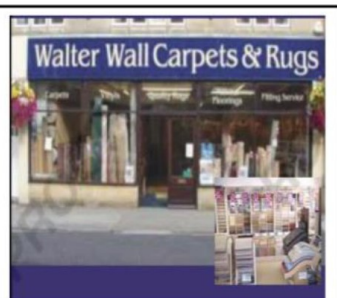
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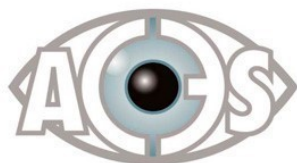


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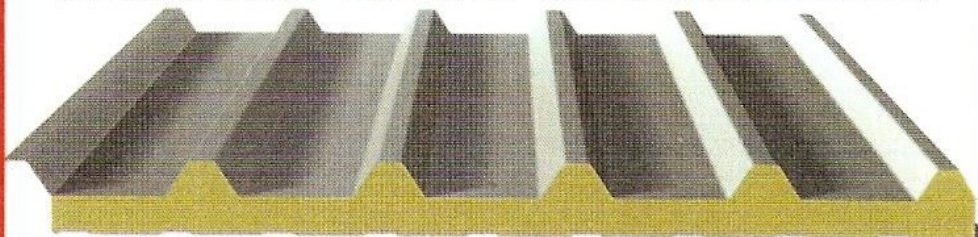
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### Closed footbridge

There is a footbridge on footpath CH 20/13 which has been temporarily closed by Somerset Council as it is unsafe. The bridge is scheduled to be repaired in the summer.

*Misterton Parish Council clerk*



### Misterton WI

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th February commencing at 7pm at The Globe in Misterton. Our speaker on this occasion is Misterton-based Debbie Wallis who is going to talk about her job as a Development Manager at Barber's Cheese. The title of her talk is 'Cheese is for life, not just for Christmas' and will include a tasting session. Ladies, you are welcome at any of our meetings as guests or prospective new members and we look forward to meeting some of you in the future.

*Susan May*  
01460 73934



## Misterton Gardeners Association

As I mentioned last month, we begin our programme for 2023 by having lunch together at the Admiral Hood in Mosterton on Sunday 26th February. I have had an excellent response for this and at the moment we have no further room. However sometimes people do drop out so, if you would still like to join us, give me a call and I will put your name on our waiting list.

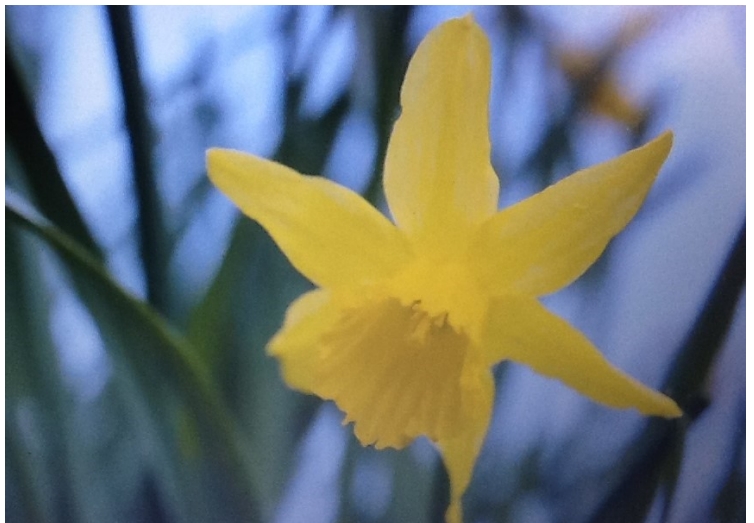
We are now preparing our list of talks for the year, beginning on Friday 31st March. For a small annual fee members will hear from a range of speakers on gardening topics, as well as enjoying a lot of good Misterton company. Existing members are already in receipt of a voucher giving them 25% off virtually everything at Castle Sherborne and Brimsore Yeovil Garden Centres. The vouchers are valid throughout February and many people will in effect redeem their membership fee through using them. I still have a few vouchers left for potential new members.

So do contact me as soon as possible to benefit from this great concession.

This month shows early signs of approaching spring with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light and temperatures increase. As our gardens come to life again it is time to get pruners and shears out and get to work on climbers, wisterias and of course roses. Get your flower and vegetable seeds and begin to sow some under glass. If you grow early potatoes, chit them inside as this will allow them to start growing shoots and hence crop a couple of weeks earlier. Incidentally at Castle Gardens you can buy potatoes individually (i.e. just one potato if you wish!!) and carry out a small trial in your garden to see which suits your soil the best. The potatoes there are of the best quality, and they have a huge range of roses this year, all at very reasonable prices (even before the 25% discount).

In the flower garden, this year Diana and I are experimenting with different daffodils and seeing how far we can extend their flowering season. I will let you know how we get on and show an appropriate photo for each of the next three months. The first is February Gold. It is the earliest we have (I know there are some which come out even earlier) but on a nice February day it is good to see this particular daffodil glistening in the wintery sun and, like snowdrops, give you a feeling that spring is just around the corner.

*John Dyke*  
01460 77233





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## New Year crossword



It seems many of you enjoyed our crossword last month as we had a record number of entries, which was lovely to see. Thank you to all those who entered and we're just sorry you can't all be winners! Names were drawn out of a hat and the ultimate winner is...

Bryon Hawken of Henley! Congratulations Bryon, you win the £25 prize and everyone's respect for your excellent local knowledge. For those who are interested (or stuck), the answers are reproduced below.

### Across

- 2. One letter different from here (9)  
**Mosterton**
- 6. Runs from 19 across to 8 across (5,4)  
**Unity Lane**
- 8. Building next to the Recreation Ground (7,4)  
**Village hall**
- 9. Bridge Road (7)  
**Cathole**
- 12. Cafe (4)  
**Sues**
- 13. Wine bar in oldest building in Crewkerne (6)  
**Oscars**
- 14. Local dairy products maker (10)  
**Pattemores**
- 16. You can play basketball here (4)  
**MUGA**
- 18. \*\*\*\*\* Green, off 4 down (8)  
**Turnpike**
- 19. Route through the centre of the village (6,6)  
**Middle Street**
- 20. Place of worship (2,8)  
**St Leonards**

### Down

- 1. They used to box eggs here (7,3)  
**Packers Way**
- 3. Spherical pub? (3,5,3)  
**The Globe Inn**
- 4. This local route is not paved with gold (6,6)  
**Silver Street**
- 5. Boarding house for man's best friend (4,6)  
**Owls Barton**
- 7. Pub near the station (3,10)  
**Old Stagecoach**
- 10. Drive off Station Road (10)  
**Broughtons**
- 11. Neighbouring villages, one called North one called South (7)  
**Perrott**
- 15. Bin yer since 1957 (7)  
**Cedrics**
- 17. Manor on the hill (6)  
**Henley**



## William Shakespeare trivia

William Shakespeare, our greatest playwright, spelt his name in six different ways on his will and other legal documents: Shacksper, Shakspear, Shackspere, Shakspea, Shakspere and Shakspear.

Apart from his relaxed attitude to spelling his name, he also made several blunders of fact in his plays.

The Winter's Tale: He implies that Bohemia (the present Czech Republic) has a coastline. It is actually a landlocked country.

Hamlet: The ghost of Hamlet's father speaks of purgatory and absolution - both of them being Christian beliefs. But the Danes were pagans at the time.

Julius Caesar: Shakespeare refers to a clock that strikes. However, the first mechanical clocks were invented some 1,400 years after Julius Caesar's lifetime.

Henry IV: Set in the early 15th century, a character speaks of turkeys. Unfortunately, it took another 150 years before they were first discovered in America.

Two Gentlemen of Verona: Reference is made to travelling from Verona to Milan by ship. Both cities are inland.

Coriolanus: Shakespeare says that the Greek city of Delphi is on an island. It isn't.

Titus Andronicus: the chief character, a Roman, says 'Bonjour.' He would have spoken in Latin, not French.

*John Coquet*



Our winter mixed team continues to struggle in league two of the Yeovil league but on January 15th we had a narrow defeat of 4-6 to high flying South Petherton. We only lost due to a major injury to previous club secretary Steve Beach which meant we had to forfeit a set. Good luck in recovering from your hamstring injury, Steve.

Finally, please put a note in your diaries for Saturday March 4th 7:30pm at the Globe Inn for Misterton Tennis Club Quiz. Tickets will be £8 per person and they will include one of Donna's legendary sandwich suppers. Teams of up to six will be accepted with names and numbers to me - Bob Waterhouse - by March 1st .

Email [bobwaterhouse6@gmail.com](mailto:bobwaterhouse6@gmail.com), Tel 07967 535117/01935 891260.

*Bob Waterhouse*  
Chairman



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## Refugee aid from Taunton

Raft continues to request donations to send to those living in refugee camps and, if necessary, for those resettled in the Taunton area. They also help homeless people in need. Some refugees now volunteer with the charity, sorting and packing donated goods.

Raft requests blankets, sleeping bags, tents, but no other bedding is wanted at present. Suitable, clean, washable clothing for men (not large sizes please), women, children, and babies, plus hygiene items for all are always needed. Refugee Support Group receives your donations, and if necessary will collect, and transports them to Raft.

In addition, trustees at Raft have set up an eBay page where they are now selling individual clothing and footwear not suitable for life in camps. They need to be in good condition and would include those designated 'vintage'. Many, I expect, would be unwanted purchases or presents, and are sometimes even from businesses closing down. Raft uses the money to buy baby and hygiene products. They are also now having to find £18,000 a year for smaller premises where previously they were fortunate to have, from the council for free, a large premises awaiting redevelopment.

Many thanks to all our supporters, past, present, and future.

*Geraldine Downey*  
RSG 01460 271358



## Home help

I have some availability to help if anyone interested in Misterton - however I can travel...

Private home help - domestic chores, housekeeping, meal preparation, errands etc. Excellent references. Please contact Carolyn Cooper on 07969 053756 or email [carolynshomehelp@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshomehelp@gmail.com).



## Painting classes

Have you wanted to learn how to paint, but didn't know where to start?

Well Richard Corbett, South Perrott based artist and tutor, will be running a six-week course "Acrylic painting for beginners" starting on Wednesday February 22nd 10am - 12:30pm, £95 for the full six weeks, in South Perrott Village Hall. This course will cover all the basics on how to use acrylic paints. A list of what materials to bring will be provided. Please email [corbetrichardj@gmail.com](mailto:corbetrichardj@gmail.com) or Whatsapp 07967 094080 for more details.



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## In this month...

Events in world history that happened in February

- 2nd 1949: First 45 rpm record (PeeWee the Piccolo) released
- 3rd 1959: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper die in plane crash
- 10th 1964: Bob Dylan releases *The Times they are a-Changin'*
- 11th 1979: Ayatollah Khomeini takes control of Iran
- 12th 1921: South Africa achieves independence
- 14th 1929: Discovery of penicillin
- 18th 2005: Fox hunting with dogs becomes illegal in England
- 21st 1965: Malcolm X is assassinated
- 23rd 1959: First vaccines against polio
- 28th 1991: The Gulf War ends

*John Coquet*



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## Dates for your diary

February 2023

<b>WI meeting</b>	Tuesday February 7th	7:00pm	The Globe
<b>Parish council meeting</b>	Tuesday February 21st	6:30pm	Village hall
<b>Tennis club quiz</b>	Saturday March 4th	7:30pm	The Globe

## Apples galore!

An illustrated talk by Jonathan Hoskyns on the history of the North Perrott Fruit Farm on Friday 10th February at 7:30pm in the Hoskyns Memorial Hall, North Perrott.

Tickets £8 to include apple cake, tea/coffee, an apple quiz and a raffle from 01460 72883 or the North Perrott Farm Shop.

Cheques to Haselbury Plucknett PCC. Proceeds shared between St Martin's North Perrott and St Michael's Haselbury Plucknett.

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