

Misterton

Village Magazine



July 2023



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Note from the editors

The eagle-eyed among you will recognise the painting on the front cover as being Old Court in Church Lane. What you may not know is that this painting was by a well-known artist who lived in Misterton in the mid-20th century and is the feature of our local spotlight article this month, by John Dyke.

The cover and other related pictures are reproduced from the book Arthur Henry Knighton-Hammond by Peter Norris with permission from the publishers, The Lutterworth Press.

Jacquie Lyus and Sarah Watt

Deadline for entries for the August magazine is Friday 21st July.

Submissions for inclusion in the magazine please to mistertonmagazine@gmail.com or through the letter box at Chestnut Lodge, Broughtons Drive.

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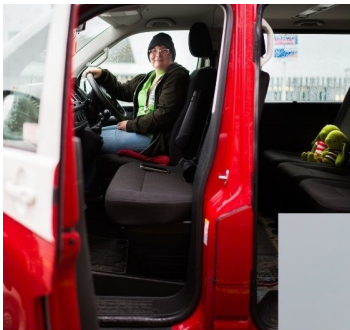
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Misterton Village Magazine is now also online!

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



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With the lovely weather we have been experiencing MERT have been relatively quiet.

What has occurred to us is that the hot weather might bring a new risk, that of fires which could be caused by litter. With this in mind, if anyone would like to keep a particular area tidy, don't forget that MERT have litter pickers and high viz vests that can be lent to villagers wishing to improve their part of the community.

When the weather does break, we may be in for heavy rain and flash flooding, so please let us know if you spot any drains that look like they might cause a problem.

MERT will be contactable as usual throughout the summer.

Phil

MERT member

MERT Contact Details

If you would like our assistance please call:

Iain Rowland 01460 78951 or 07968 232998

Phil Clifton and Sally Gray 01460 73815 or 07775 841204 philclifton@hotmail.com

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

Bob Taylor 01460 271658 or 07931 657312

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Last month I submitted the parish council annual report that I had made available for the May AGM. In addition, our celebration of the coronation of King Charles III was separately reported in the middle pages of this excellent magazine. I thought it gave a wonderful summary of the event, but I take no credit. The concept and photographs were those of our magazine editors; I was just asked to provide a 200-word summary of the event and was amazed how well it all came together. The National Lottery, one of our sponsors, and our Lord Lieutenant had both asked for photographs of our celebrations and our clerk has gained approval to send those from the magazine.

I am in no doubt that our magazine is an enormous benefit to the village and should be protected and preserved. No other local town or villages benefits from a monthly independent magazine such as ours. I trust you all agree with me.

Our coronation event is nearly concluded. Despite all efforts to keep costs to a minimum, we made profits of £2,100 which will be returned to village amenities. Our Misterton coronation mug will soon be distributed freely to all the Misterton residents' children that registered during the event. Hopefully it will be a lifelong reminder of the children's events that were enjoyed so much during the celebrations. The parish council's efforts to celebrate the coronation worked well but it is for others if they wish to answer the calls for future fetes or other community events. Small grants may be available from the parish council with requests considered on a case-by-case basis.

Our council tasks are continuing. We believe we have succeeded with revised planning approval for our cemetery extension but that needs a couple more weeks for final approval. Hopefully I will be able to confirm this in the next edition and also report that the SID is up and running - we are currently still waiting for the posts to be installed.

Paul Bradly
Chairman

Reminder – There is no parish council meeting in July this year. The next meeting will be held on 15th August 2023.



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Misterton Preschool farewell get-together

Misterton Preschool has been around for 31 years and has touched the lives of many. If you or any of your family members have ever attended the preschool, worked there or served on the committee, we would love you to join us to say farewell to the preschool as it closes its doors for the final time.

If you have any pictures or memories you wish to share, please contact committee@mistertonpreschool.co.uk.

Coffee and tea will be served. Donations of cake appreciated.

Everybody welcome.

Sunday 16th July 2-4pm at the village hall.



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th July but will NOT be held at The Globe in Misterton as we will be enjoying an afternoon meeting out instead. 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

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Misterton Gardeners Association

We have no formal speaker this month. Instead, we are planning to hold a garden party. The venue has still to be decided, as is the date. This is because we are so weather dependent and obviously do not want to hold this when we are likely to be deluged by rain (or for that matter during a heatwave). Probably it will be on a Sunday afternoon. Members will all be notified when details are finalised.

July is often the hottest month of the year and a great time to be sitting out in your garden after all the hard work in earlier months. Inevitably there are some things to be done. So, keep your plants looking good by regular dead heading as in this way you will enjoy a longer season of top-class blooms. Perhaps the most important other thing to do is to keep watering your plants, especially those you have put in in the spring. Feed them regularly too, with a general-purpose fertiliser such as Tomorite.

Finally, roses. I think they have been superb this year. Some seem to go on and on. One of these is called deep secret (see photo). Not only does it continue to flower for many weeks, but it also changes colour from a deep dark red to a more vibrant crimson colour. I don't know what causes this - it may be the weather or changes in the daylight hours.

John Dyke

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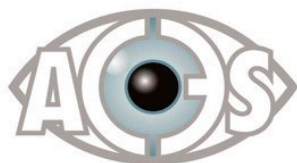


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Crewkerne Probud Club

Probud 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 Probud Club organises meetings for lunch on the last Wednesday of each month. These are held at the **Windwhistle Golf Club** at 12:15pm for 1:00pm. The two-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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Arthur Henry Knighton-Hammond

Over the years most of us have been up the pathway leading to Misterton church. But have we ever peered into the drive on its right-hand side? This leads to the house known as The Old Court which is thought to be oldest house in Misterton. It was once the home of a famous painter named Arthur Knighton-Hammond.



Avenue of trees at Old Court

The Old Court is now divided into four but in Knighton-Hammond's day (he lived there from 1940 to 1955) it was all one. With the usual array of maids, cooks and so on. They included the parents of Betty Symes, who still lives in Silver Street. Betty's father was the head gardener at The Old Court and along with his family lived in the house which we now know as Finials.

Arthur Hammond - he added Knighton (his mother's maiden name) and the hyphen later by deed poll as he thought it more distinctive - was born in 1875 at Arnold near Nottingham. He left school when he was eleven and worked at his brother's grocery store and then served an apprenticeship as a watchmaker, a job he hated. In the evenings he studied at the Nottingham School of Art. There he started painting and became determined to make a living out of it. He moved to an art school in London. And began to paint (both using oils and watercolours) picture postcards and then horses and hunting scenes, both of which were in demand at the time.

Knighton-Hammond saw opportunities in painting industrial landscapes and it was this that gave him his biggest break when he was given a commission to paint these in the USA by the Dow Corporation. Later another break came his way - an instruction by the former Prime Minister David Lloyd George to paint a life-size portrait of himself. He and Lloyd George subsequently became personal friends. His works were shown in the Tate Gallery as well as galleries in Paris, New York, and South Africa. In the 1930s he reverted to his first love, landscapes and the use of watercolours. A passion which he continued on his move to Misterton.

The 15 years that Knighton-Hammond spent in Misterton were extremely

Wayford Manor





Mr Jeffrey attending his sheep

a couple of cows and some chickens. He loved the landscape setting of Henley, Wayford and of Kingshays Barton and painted the farmer there (Johnny Jeffrey) at his work. He disliked being overlooked when he was painting, and teenager Betty thought he was quite grumpy. On one occasion he painted Betty and her mother outside their house, but the painting cannot be traced. Grumpy or not, on a number of occasions Misterton's village fete was held on the lawn of The Old Court.

We never saw much of him during the winter months and there was a rumour that he hibernated. The reality is that he disliked the winter light of England and went to the South of France - certainly a number of his paintings are of Menton right on the Italian border. To this day, Menton is noted for its winter light. Eventually The Old Court became too much for an 80-year-old. But he loved the rolling countryside of our area and the inspiration which it gave him. So, he sold up and bought Higher Farm in neighbouring Seaborough. He converted a barn into a studio and gave lessons to budding young painters. His talents were recognised when he was featured in a live television broadcast from the studio barn featuring him amongst his collection of paintings. He died at Seaborough in 1970 aged 94.

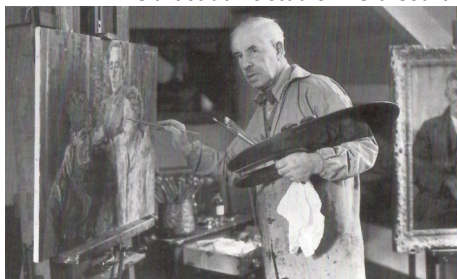
Today his paintings are largely out of favour. But they are still semi-collectables and crop up at local sales like Lawrences from time to time. However, throughout his lifetime Knighton-Hammond was widely recognised and feted by many including politicians and European royal families. The famous artist Augustus John said of him "He is the greatest artist in watercolours of our lifetime". His paintings are still hung in galleries worldwide as well as many local homes. No doubt the lost painting of Betty Symes and her mother is hanging on a local wall somewhere. Look out for it.

John Dyke

The book Arthur Henry Knighton-Hammond by Peter Norris is available directly from the publishers at www.lutterworth.com.

prolific in terms of the numbers of watercolour paintings he churned out. Some of which were donated to local people who helped him, including the father of my wife Diana who was a Crewkerne GP. The farmland adjacent to The Old Court provided a vast array of characters, animals, and farming activities all of which he relished. He bought some of the adjoining land and for a while had a

The artist at his studio in Old Court



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Letter

"Poiret," I said. "I have been thinking."

"An admirable exercise my friend. Continue it." - Agatha Christie, Peril at End House

I love going into primary schools to do assemblies, not least because of the questions, which often come thick, fast and difficult!

How can we believe in a God we cannot see? How could Jesus' death bring us forgiveness? Is it always loving to tell the truth?

Great questions and great questioning. That is vital for me as a vicar. True Christian faith is never second-hand - it always involves individual thought.

Is there not a danger though that, often, we don't keep thinking? Life takes over and, perhaps as well, so does popular opinion. 'What most people think' can easily make our minds up.

So I say let's be more like the children! Feel free to bring on the difficult questions...

With my prayers and best wishes.

CJ Davis

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Gardening season is here, time to sign up to a garden recycling collection.

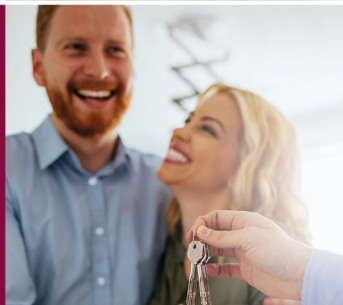
The service is run by Somerset Council and with spring well and truly here and gardens bursting into life, now is the perfect time to sign up.

Subscriptions can be started any time during the year and the quickest and easiest way to subscribe is online through the somerset.gov.uk/waste page - just use the 'Do it online/My Waste Service' feature.

Collections are made fortnightly year-round (apart from a short break during Christmas and New Year) and residents can either sign up to a pre-paid 180-litre wheeled bin or 90-litre compostable paper sacks. The price of a wheeled bin subscription for 2023/24 is £63.50 for 25 collections and for packs of ten garden waste sacks, £31.10.



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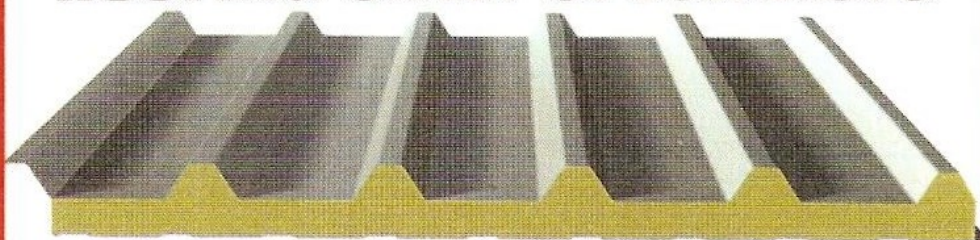
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Hewish: 9:30am HC Rev David Newman St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC

Sunday 9th July 2023

Haselbury: 9:30am HC Rev Andrew Daynes North Perrott: 9:30am HC Rev Bob Key
Misterton: 11am BCP Fr Gerry Reilly St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC

Sunday 16th July 2023

Misterton: 9:30am CW Rev CJ Davis Wayford: 9:30am HC Rev Bob Key
Haselbury: 11am Family service Rev Andrew Daynes Hewish: 11am HC Fr Gerry Reilly
St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am HC

Sunday 23rd July 2023

North Perrott: 9:30am HC Rev CJ Davis Haselbury: 11am HC Rev Andrew Daynes
St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am All age St Bart's, Crewkerne: Evening HC

Sunday 30th July 2023

St Bart's, Crewkerne: 11am combined service HC

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| 16th July | Mrs J Nichols | - | - |

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The future of St Leonard's Church

I know how much St Leonard's church is loved in the village and I have been asked to write something about its future. This is because, as you may know, those who have been managing the practicalities of church life have quite rightly now handed them over to me to manage directly. I am so grateful to them for their very valiant efforts over a long period of time. However, we are now in the unusual situation of having no church officers, so it falls to me to find a way of managing things, because I am the rector of the Crewkerne benefice, which means that I am also vicar of Misterton and the other villages around Crewkerne.

What does this mean in practice?

Well, in the short to medium term it means that I will try to keep running St Leonard's, as far as I have resources to hand from Crewkerne parish. So we will seek to provide services on Sundays (presently twice a month, on the second and third Sundays) together with weddings, funerals and so on, as usual. It is only realistic to recognise that limited resources may have an effect but we will do our best!

Longer term, we need to have a conversation about how to manage the church's future and how to provide for Misterton best spiritually over the years ahead. We will be discussing that as we go on together.

Please feel free to contact me using the contact details in the magazine.

With my prayers and best wishes.

CJ Davis



The ladies and men's summer league teams are having mixed results. The ladies are halfway through their season in the challenging division one now having played six matches and unfortunately only won one v Dorchester 8:2.

They have managed to get a team out each time but do need more players. If you are interested in playing for Misterton Tennis Club Ladies A in division one or you just want to come and play some good tennis, build up your skills and perhaps play for the team next year, do contact club secretary Tim Bradley on 07702 242000.

The men's team is playing in division two of the Yeovil summer league and is having a particularly good season so far. They have won four out of the five fixtures played so far and are currently top of the league.

Can I once again remind Misterton people of what promises to be a fantastic night of swing music at the village hall on Saturday July 22nd when the Three Counties Swing Band will be playing. Tickets are £15 per person and include a glass of wine - available from tickettailor.com/events/mistertontennisclub/942473 or events@mistertontennis.co.uk.

Bob Waterhouse
Chairman

In this month...

Events in world history that happened in July.

4th 1776: American Declaration of Independence

5th 1775: King George III proclaims the American colonists to be in the state of open rebellion

6th 1885: Louis Pasteur carries out the first anti-rabies inoculation

12th 1730: Birth of Josiah Wedgwood

14th 1789: The fall of the Bastille marks the start of the French Revolution

16th 1945: 'Fat Boy', the experimental atomic bomb, is detonated in New Mexico

17th 1453: End of the Hundred Years' War between England and France

20th 1588: The Spanish Armada sets sail for England

21st 1969: US astronaut, Neil Armstrong, is the first man to walk on the moon

27th 1953: Formal ending of the Korean War

John Coquet



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| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| WI meeting | Tuesday 4th July | Afternoon | Tbc |
| Preschool farewell | Sunday 16th July | 2-4pm | Village hall |
| Tennis club music night | Saturday 22nd July | 7pm | Village hall |

Crewkerne & District Twinning Association

If you fancy a long weekend in France in the autumn come and join us on the trip to our twin towns of Igny and Bures sur Yvette, situated just south of Paris and near Versailles.

Leaving on Friday 6th October and returning Monday 9th.

Our French friends have planned what promises to be a super weekend which includes a visit to Paris with a guided tour of the opera, lunch in a restaurant and a guided coach tour of the city.

Travelling by coach, with pick up points in Ilminster and Crewkerne and costing only £200 per person.

For more details contact Lorna on 01460 72962 or email laylanboris@gmail.com.



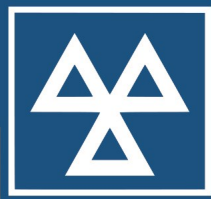
Did you know...

...that the village of Misterton contains the largest beetroot farm in the country. Sadly, not Misterton, Somerset but Misterton near Doncaster, Yorkshire. Some 4,000 acres are down to beetroot on a farm there, which is three times the size of our entire parish area. And over one billion beetroots are produced each year. Interestingly the managing director of the business is named Graham White.

John Dyke

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