

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News

SEPTEMBER 2021

Cover photo: © Andy Ladhams



BEACON
TRINITY



Church Services – September 2021

Sunday, 5th September	10am	Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 12th September	10am	Communion	All Saints, Oakhill
Sunday, 19th September	11am	Harvest Festival	Binegar Fair Field
Sunday, 26th September	10am	Communion	Holy Trinity, Binegar

Would you like to support the churches in our parish?

Please scan the QR code and make a donation online.

Thank you.



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The summer is over, and winter is on its way! Well, hopefully, we will have an Indian summer before we enjoy autumn.

I am excited for our Harvest this year. You may remember last year we were under restrictions and had a Drive-in harvest festival. Thankfully we don't have those same restrictions although we are still being cautious and caring for each other, especially those who are most vulnerable. We are having a Harvest Festival Day on 19th September at Holy Trinity Binegar and the Fair Field.

There is a poster on page 6 with more details. This is a chance to get together in a safe way and have a celebration. Bring a picnic and listen to the live music, buy a cake, or visit the beautifully harvest-decorated church, join in the family games, or just come and see friends.

We will also be planting three fruit trees as the start of our community orchard in the Fair Field, and you can find out more about the plans for the space.

As I look ahead, I am cautiously optimistic that we will have more safe gatherings in our community in the coming months. Harvest is the first and that is outside. We are planning for Christmas and pray that we will be able to have some of the more usual celebrations this year. Going forward it is time to plan for 2022.

I have always said that the church events are not primarily about raising money but growing community. But raising funds is a secondary purpose and after the pandemic stripping us of all community fund raising this priority is in danger of becoming top.

This is why we have other ways to give like the QR code and through the website. Some people do question me about this because there is an impression that the church is so wealthy - why do we need people to give? The reason is that the Church of England nationally may own land and property of real value, but this does not fund the local church fully. The Parochial Church Council of any parish is responsible for the day to day running of church buildings and contribute toward the presence of a vicar in the community, alongside other ministry. In Beacon Trinity we have three listed church buildings, which all need insuring, maintaining, heating etc. even before we think about the cost of a vicar and the cost of ministry. Most people I speak to like the fact that there is a vicar living in Oakhill and that the three church buildings are still here. If this is to continue, we need to have the funds to pay the bills.

If you would like to become a regular donor toward the running costs of the parish please get in touch with our treasurer Rachel treasurer@beacontrinity.church or if you would like to make a special donation today please use the QR code on page 2 or send a cheque via the Rectory, Fosse Rd. Oakhill BA3 5HU

Hope to see you at Harvest Festival on September 19th.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rachel', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Community corner



Farewell Celebration!

Katy Beauchamp has worked for a number of years at Ashwick & Oakhill Playgroup and, latterly, at Oakhill Church School Nursery. She has decided to leave her role as Nursery Lead this year and will be much missed. At a leaving party at Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall in July many of the children she taught over the years came to wish her well for the future.

Simbriss Farm Open Garden

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped me to prepare to open my garden, supplied and served refreshments or came along to support fund-raising for Dorothy House Hospice Care. The amount raised over the two days, including donations, was an amazing £745. I'm very grateful to you all.

Pauline West

Whist Drive

Do you like playing cards? Why not join us? **2nd Tuesday of each month in Oakhill Church Room at 7.30 pm.** For further details contact Mary Dampier on 01749 840649.



Knit & Natter

Come and join our very friendly Knit and Natter group at **Binegar Village Hall**.

From 10.30 am to 12 noon for just £2 on the second Wednesday of each month, starting 8th September. You don't have to knit just come for coffee and chat. Contact Carole on 07980 979365.



Oakhill and Ashwick Local History Group

September sees our first meeting indoors since the Pandemic began, and our first in the newly renovated **Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall**.

We meet at **7.30 pm on Wednesday, September 15th with a talk from Dr Francis Burroughes on 'The Man who rebuilt Wessex, Benjamin Ferrey'.**

We hope to see you – both old friends and as many new faces as possible! Non-members welcome, £2 on the night. Refreshments and chat after the talk. More info on 01749 840200.



East Mendip Gardening Club

(Chair: markamanley81@googlemail.com)

28th September

Nick Mann: Wildflowers and Meadow areas in the garden

26th October

Christine Pritchard: 'The designed garden - A thing of beauty and a job forever - apologies to Keats'

23rd November

Richard Ricketts: A Buzz in the Garden. Gardening for Bees.

14th December

AGM and social evening

Meetings start at 7.30 pm in Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall.



Picture of flamingos at Slimbridge, taken by Pam Dennis

NEW Baby & Toddler Group

Little Acorns in Ashwick

Tuesdays 9.30 - 11.30am

Ashwick Church Rooms

Real coffee or tea

plus snack for little ones. £1 per family.

Begins September 14th



Picture of a Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly, taken by Mike Knight

This month's cover...

This month's harvest themed photograph was taken by Andy Ladhams. Please send photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church Thank you.

WEATHER REPORT: JULY 2021

From Roemead Farm.

Written by
Gerald Esain.

July was changeable with some very warm days, five over 30.0°C. The highest reading was 31.8°C on the 18th.

Rainfall at times was heavy with thunder, 45mm recorded on July 24th. Total rainfall 135.7mm, above average for this site.

Sunday 19th
September

Bring a picnic and
enjoy an afternoon of
fun on

Binegar Fair Field

Cake stall, East
Mendip Gardening
Club stall, produce,
refreshments, games

Live music with
*Midsomer Norton &
Radstock Silver
Training Band & The
Somerset Russets*



11am
Outdoor service

Harvest festival

And afternoon of fun
and games with Bar-b-q & live
music



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Oakhill
Methodist

office@beacontrinity.church



New Head Teacher

@ Oakhill Church School

My name is Jude Clements and from 1st September I will be the new Head Teacher at the Primary School in the village.

It is my privilege to be taking up the post at the beginning of my 24th year of teaching. I grew up on a dairy farm in South Oxfordshire and after my university training I settled in Surrey where I began my teaching career. I now live in Bath with my husband and the two youngest of our six children. I'm so grateful I live close to beautiful countryside where I enjoy a short run and walks with my family.

I am committed to the Church of England's Vision for education and see the outworking of it at Oakhill: part of my role is to strengthen and develop this, leading Oakhill Church School into its' exciting new chapter.

I am keen to continue and further develop the good relationships between the local community, businesses, the church and school: over the coming months, restrictions permitting, I hope to meet many of you at various community events. In the meantime, please feel free to email me or drop by to introduce yourself and tell me your Oakhill Story.



Jude Clements

London Marathon – Sunday 3rd October 2021



We're inviting every school across the country to take part in the 2021 Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon in schools. It is a chance for children and young people of all ages and abilities to be part of something amazing by running, jogging, walking or wheeling 2.6 miles in their schools, between Monday 27 September and Friday 22 October.

By taking part, children will be part of the world's greatest marathon, joining 50,000 runners completing 26.2 miles on the streets of London in the mass Virgin Money London Marathon, and a further 50,000 people running a virtual event of the same distance across the world.

Last year more than 100,000 children took part in the Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon in schools. This year, we are aiming to inspire 500,000 children to finish the event between Monday 27 September and Friday 22 October.

Every child who takes part – up to 500,000 – will receive a free commemorative Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon in schools pin badge. There will be lots of other resources available, including downloadable running numbers, posters, certificates, and videos, to help get the London Marathon buzz going at your school.

#WeRunTogether

September Message

*Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton*



Looking to the next chapter

'Back to school!' perhaps has never sounded so good. For those of us who found last year disrupted in terms of school, college or University, some of our young people and their parents might be really looking forward to the doors re-opening! And perhaps their teachers too!

Of course, things will not be the same as they were. A new school year always means change. New classes, new goals, new possibilities. An opportunity to start with a clean sheet, open the next chapter of the book of our lives.

Here in Bath and Wells we are also looking to the next chapter in our story of faith together. This month we will be bringing together all we have learnt from listening to others about where we are as a diocese and what sort of bishop we now need to lead us into the future. If you haven't already done so, please have your say by attending the open consultation Zoom meeting on September 20th. We have already heard the thoughts of almost 1000 of our children across schools in the county, as well as hundreds of adults!

It will be some time before we know who our next Diocesan Bishop will be but now is the time to start praying for him or her so that they might hear from God as we also seek God's wisdom and guidance. And let's pray too for ourselves and all those within our diocese, that each of us will find God's will for the next stage of our journey.

None of us can know what that might hold for certain. The last year or two have shown us how difficult it is to predict anything! Some of us have lost loved ones and livelihoods. It will take time to recover and to renew our hope.

There will be challenges along the way and we have much to face together. However, our hope is in the Lord and we hold to the promises of His word...

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Proverbs 29:11

Bishop Ruth

The search for a new bishop

Following the retirement of Bishop Peter in May, the diocese is now looking to the future and taking the necessary steps to appoint the next Bishop of Bath and Wells.

As part of the process of finding our new bishop, people across the diocese are being asked to share their views. Hundreds of people completed surveys expressing their hopes for the new bishop in the summer and in September the Archbishops' Appointments Secretary and the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary will meet with various groups of people in the diocese and then hold an open public meeting, where all can contribute.

The process is taken forward by the Vacancy in See Committee, a cross-section of people from across the diocese. The Vacancy in See committee has two aims, to consult, discern and prepare a diocesan Statement of Needs, a document which reflects the hopes and challenges for the ministry of the next bishop and to portray what is distinctive about the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The second aim is to elect six representatives to join the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) which is responsible for the actual interviews process.

Chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the CNC, is responsible for interviewing the potential candidates before a recommendation is sent to Her Majesty the Queen. The appointment of a new bishop is then made by the Queen following an established process.

Simon Hill, Archdeacon of Taunton and Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee says, "Everyone, young and old, church going and non-church going, has been invited to share their thoughts through surveys and consultation."

If you have any queries or views you wish to contribute, please email:
newbishop@bathwells.anglican.org

Find out more about the progress at:
www.bathandwells.org.uk/new-bishop

Tales of old

Rector Mortimer saw four bishops come and go, now it was four Whitchurch Prebendaries in quick succession. They followed George Cooper's 73-year long tenure as Prebendary.

John Harries came to Wells in 1622, a protégé of the mildly puritan Bishop Lake. In 1627, Archbishop George Abbot presented Harries to Whitchurch. At heart though, Harries was a teacher and it was for Winchester College that he resigned the Prebend in 1631. In the Civil War he took Parliament's side. This eased his life as Warden of Winchester College during the puritan *Commonwealth*.

Less lucky was James Wedderburn, Prebendary 1631-38. By then, our bishop and the Archbishop were high churchmen, imposing their ways on the Church. Though Wedderburn was a Scot and grandson of a renowned Scottish protestant, he too was a high churchman. As Professor of Divinity at St Andrews, he helped prepare the new liturgy for the Scottish Church. His rise was swift and by 1636 he was Bishop of Dunblane. However, when the 1638 Church of Scotland Glasgow Assembly deposed the bishops, they included Wedderburn specifically because, "he had been a confidential agent of Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, in introducing the new liturgy and popish ceremonies". He fled Scotland, sought sanctuary with Laud at Canterbury and died.

The King himself presented Thomas Rowe to Whitchurch Prebend in 1638. Though barely 40, he had already travelled widely, been Vice Provost of King's College, Cambridge and chaplain to Archbishop William Laud. Within 10 months, he died too, maybe of one of those pestilences that ravaged Somerset in these years.

William Piers was less than 18 months ordained before, in 1639, he was presented to Whitchurch Prebend by his father, Bishop William Piers. The Bishop appointed his son Rector of Buckland St Mary in the teeth of opposition from the patron of the Parish, puritan Sir Francis Popham. The son received a number of other livings from his father and the Archdeaconry first of Bath then of Taunton. In this way, the Bishop managed to alienate most of the Somerset gentry. William junior lived until 1682 but was deprived of his livings after the Civil War during Cromwell's *Commonwealth*.

Richard Higgins

Grenville's Ramblin's...



When I was a child there were two annual events that used to take for ever to come around. These days for some reason beyond my understanding, as soon as one has come and gone another is just waiting around the corner; one of course being Christmas, the other my birthday.

So, it was one morning recently the calendar reminded me that the anniversary of this birthday event had come around again. An occasion that Molly and quite a number of family and friends kindly marked with cards and gifts, one of which was a book written by a fellow who recently became something of a hero, both to me and I'm sure countless other people. The book, an autobiography with the title 'Tomorrow will be a Good Day', was written by Captain Tom Moore. It turned out to be quite a detailed account of his long life up to his looking forward to his one hundredth birthday.

However, two things became apparent; from an early age he'd made up his mind to do his best whatever he was involved in and to treat other people with respect.

It was a way of life that he took with him when he joined the army at the outbreak of WWII. His decision to be a good soldier soon earned him promotion up through the ranks of NCOs that was to lead on to his becoming a commissioned officer, eventually rising to the rank of Captain.

In 1941 he was posted to India travelling by ship to Bombay, then travelling across country to a Royal Artillery barracks called Kirkee; --- Kirkee!! Well just fancy that, 'cause I was billeted in Kirkee Barracks with the 20th Field Regiment R.A. in 1951; not, I hasten to add in India, but Colchester in England. But to stay with Captain Tom; it was the fifth of April 2020 that was to start him on the road from becoming unknown outside his family and friends, to in a few short weeks becoming something of an international celebrity.

It all began when he was recovering from repairs to a broken hip. He told the daughter and her family with whom he was living, that he had decided to take his walker out and do a few laps of the twenty-five-metre drive. So it was, one thing leading to another, the family offered him a pound a lap, encouraging him to do a hundred laps by his birthday. He decided if he could make £100 it could be given to the NHS who had looked after him so well. The family went one better setting up a fund-raising page with a target of £1,000 called Walk with Tom!

Well, we all know the results; I, like thousands of people all over the world, followed the news day by day as he pursued his goal of one hundred laps before his one hundredth birthday. As we hoped and I'm sure some of us prayed, he did it! His tomorrow was Certainly a good day for Captain Sir Tom Moore!

Grenville Reakes



Letter to the Editor from Wendy Treasure (nee Flagg)

‘Treasured Memories’

Dear Editor,

I have been clearing paperwork from years ago and found this old magazine.

I was married in Binegar church in 1963 and from a toddler lived in Binegar although being the youngest of 7, we were all born at Haydon Farm, West Horrington, a 5-bed farmhouse as my dad was the manager which then belonged to George Phelps, Palace Farm, Wells. He moved to a tied house in Binegar to work for Jack Martin. However, he had one heart attack and then another fatal one in 1950 when I was 6. We then had to move to Dalleston. My two elder sisters were already married as was my brother John.

Three of the boys did National Service; John was stationed at Troon in Scotland, secret service, Malcolm in the R.A.F went to Aden and Donald went to Korea. He received a medal. Kevin just missed it. Donald came back and went working for Mr Devenish & Priddy who is buried on top of our dad in Binegar church. All used to pump the organ, I can remember Marjory Hill played it. I went to Sunday School, and I think the vicar then was Rev. Cox. The Church Army came in a big caravan and took lessons etc which was parked in the vicarage opposite. We all had access to go and play snooker, tennis table etc in the vicarage.



When we called the banns, we had to apply as Emborough was our parish, but it was then Rev. Langley who was then in East Horrington vicarage - we could remember all the cats over his desk when we went to see him! I was confirmed in the church there years before with the Flower boys.

I have since met Molly Reakes, Grenville's wife, when they opened up the church and invited all people who were married in the month of March 1988, re their Silver Wedding. Also met school friends, David Stone, Margaret Penny (nee Hockey), Linda Burr (nee Spratt), and many more when going to see to our grave and more headstones bearing names of school friends. So many in the cemetery now of my family's friends and colleagues. They were happy days very carefree,

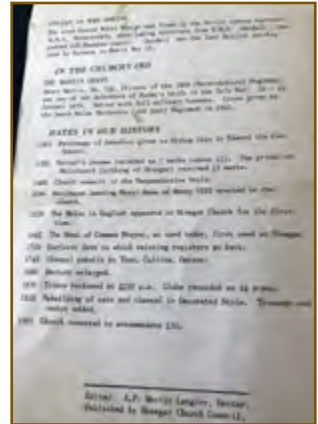
and everyone knew one another and all very neighbourly, helping one another.

B. Mitchell is my nephew, and he was also in the choir when we got married. See picture of the Church Army on right.

So glad my story will be published as I normally pick up a Beacon magazine left in the new porch/gate where I park. In the George Inn in Gurney Slade there was photos of the



football team, darts etc, my brothers played and also The Horse & Jockey when Mrs Carter had it and there was a Jug & Bottle on the roadside. The building opposite the green in Binegar we called the Corn Stores and Mr & Mrs Ted Wareham had chickens above a garage there. We were allowed to go and pick the eggs up. The sons then had the garage in Gurney Slade. Basil & Norman. They had two daughters as well. My brother Malcolm also used to break in his horses and also took some to Binegar Fair in the field by the side of the church. Our Sunday school outing was on the S&D train from Binegar to Bournemouth station and Joe Boucher worked at the station.



I've so many lovely memories of growing up in Binegar, going to the school there and the Shepton Mallet school in Waterloo Road by the old hospital. Allyn Saxon and his wife were teachers at that school. In those days we walked from assembly there, and lessons could have been in Paul Street, also the cookery, sewing, biology and hockey was at Whitestone Road, nearly opposite Allyn Saxon Road, in Shepton Mallet. We went by a side gate down an alley past the prison high gates back up the hill to both.

Best wishes Wendy & Paul Treasure

The origins of sayings

Enough to make a sailor a pair of pants

Posted by Victoria S Dennis on December 30, 2006

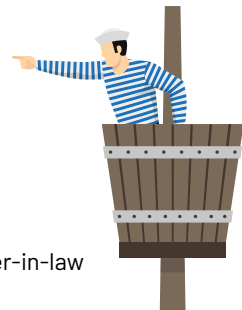
In Reply to: enough to make a sailor a pair of pants posted by James Briggs on December 30, 2006

:: on seeing a patch of blue sky on a cloudy day my mother-in-law would say "is it enough to make a sailor a pair of pants?" anyone ever hear of that?

: Quite common in the East End of London when I was a boy, except it was 'trousers' and not 'pants'.

: I still hear it from time to time and it doesn't seem to be a dead saying. I guess 'sailors' because they have always had a traditionally blue uniform and the service is much older than air forces, which, in any case, often started off wearing khaki, eg USAAF before it became USAF.

Another traditional version is "to make a Dutchman a pair of trousers". The image here is of the huge baggy blue trousers of Dutch national costume. British sailors have always traditionally worn bell-bottomed trousers, so perhaps the allusion in both cases is to the size as well as the colour. (VSD)



The September Garden

EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB – JANE EVANS

September is here, and there's plenty to be done. Harvesting crops, tidying and maintaining plants and equipment will keep you busy!

Divide herbaceous perennials to keep them healthy and increase your stock.

Net ponds before autumn leaf fall to reduce debris entering the water.

Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils, crocus and hyacinths.

Keep camellias and rhododendrons well watered to ensure next year's buds develop well.

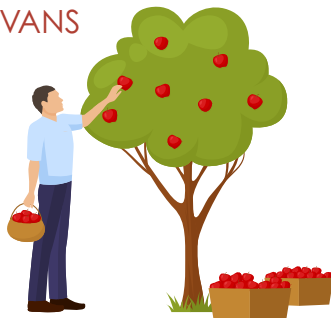
Keep deadheading annuals and perennials to extend their performance.

Prune climbing roses and rambling roses after flowering (repeat-flowering varieties can be left until later).

Pinch out the tips of outdoor cordon tomatoes to concentrate the plant's energy into ripening fruits.

Pull/cut off the foliage of main crop potatoes at ground level three weeks before lifting them, this prevents blight spores infecting the tubers as you lift them and helps to firm the skins.

Spread newly dug potatoes out to dry for a few hours before storing them in a cool, dark place. Use paper or hessian sacks to allow the crop to breathe and store only undamaged, disease-free tubers - one rotten tuber can ruin your whole crop!



Raise pumpkins and squashes off the ground to prevent rotting, remove leaves shading the fruits to assist ripening.

Continue to feed and water French and runner beans to keep them producing, harvest regularly to stop them setting seed.

Once finished cut bean and pea plants away at ground level, leave the roots which will slowly release nitrogen back into the soil as they break down.

Start the autumn cleanup. Remove old crops that have finished, clear away weeds to leave your plot clean and tidy for winter.

Cover brassicas with netting to prevent birds making a meal of them.

Pot up mint and parsley for the kitchen windowsill throughout the winter.

Tidy strawberry plants, clear away used straw which will harbour pests and diseases. Pot up strawberry runners.

Cut back canes of summer fruiting raspberries, leaving new green canes for next year's crop, tying them to support wires or fencing.

Take hardwood cuttings of currants, gooseberries and figs.

Pick rotting fruits of pears, apples and stoned fruit - they will spread disease if left.

Close greenhouse vents and doors late afternoon to conserve heat to ensure your plants crop for as long as possible.

Remove shading from your greenhouse towards the end of the month so plants get the maximum light available.

Clean cold frames and greenhouses ahead of autumn sowing and growing and reduce the risk of pests and diseases next year.

Empty pots - old compost and decaying plant material can harbour unwanted pests.

Taken from Thompson & Morgan's "What to do in the Garden this month"

www.thompson-morgan.com/in-the-garden-this-month

Create a new lawn from turf or seed - autumn weather is favourable for good lawn establishment.

Raise the height of mower blades as grass growth slows down.

To avoid water logging and compaction of your lawn carry out essential lawn maintenance. Aerate with a garden fork, remove thatch with a rake and repair dead patches. Apply a special lawn top dressing, carefully following the instructions.

Improve clay soil before it becomes too wet or frozen by incorporating organic matter and/or horticultural grit.

To improve soil and keep weeds down over winter sow green manures such as buckwheat, clover and ryegrass.

Raise pots off the ground by using 'pot feet' or bricks to prevent water logging.

Order trees and shrubs, they will grow vigorously next spring if planted this autumn.

Plan next year's garden. Make sketches of your flower beds and vegetable plot. Reflect on what worked and what didn't.



Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

The Memoirs of Elsie Hilliar (nee Emery) 1897-1994. Part 1 – Lin Thorley

The following is the first in a series of articles previously printed in the Local History Group's Newsletter (in 1999). The account is in Elsie's own words, collected by Joan Gray. While this first episode is mostly about Elsie and her immediate family, those following have much more on other people and places and give us a real insight into many aspects of Oakhill life in the previous century, as seen through her eyes. Elsie was a well-known Oakhill character – one could say she was something of a 'marmite' person! Many of our older residents will remember her. She was born in Prospect Cottage (now Prospect House) on Fosse Rd.

"I have heard it repeated to me so many times, the day I was born which was November 22nd 1897 at 5.30 in the evening. It was a terrible November day, foggy. It was a Monday morning. My mother was very energetic, as I had two brothers and two sisters. There was a



Emily and Edwin Emery, parents of Elsie

lot of work to do, and Ellen Hann who lived a little way up the road in the cottage (I always remember her because she always wore a black chignon) was here to do the washing and she kept on saying, "Mrs, you get upstairs to bed".

And apparently my father had to go to Shepton to fetch Nurse Brown who was a midwife for all four children before. She was in

such a state because it was a breech birth and they had to try to get a doctor. Eventually I was born. The four children had been sent up to Butcher James. When they came home from school they all had to put on clean pinafores and clean collars and go up to Mrs James for tea, and she said, "What have you come for?". They said, "We don't know. We've been sent up here because our mother's busy". She said, "Well as you've



The British School, Oakhill High St, 1905

come, I'd better give you some tea". About half past six my father arrived to say that they had a baby sister, and that was me.

My mother had come from Frome. She was married at 30, my brother was born, my sister was born a year after that, my other sister a year after that, another brother was born three years after, and I was born four years after when my mother was forty.

My father was in the building trade as J & S Emery and Son. His father and my great uncle were partners in Shepton and Oakhill. When my grandfather died my father gave up the partnership and worked from Oakhill district, my uncle kept the business in Shepton until he married his fourth wife and she spent all the money and mortgaged everything he had. The [Shepton] business went to Doddimead, who was the foreman... Father kept the business in Oakhill and when the war broke out [WWI] we were employing fifty men with building, contracting, undertaking, decorating and wheelwrighting. Also we had a farm. We rented the fields from the Spencer family, all the fields from Little London through to the

Bristol Road. We supplied half the village with milk.

As we got older we all had to work in the business, we all had something to do. My brother was engineer-surveyor, and my other brother went as a clerk in the Brewery. We had to give up maids in the house because we all had to do work in the house and the farm. We all went away to school... My two sisters were the first pupils at Sunnyhill School in Bruton when it first started. We all went to the British School beforehand.

When I was four I happened to have rheumatic and scarlet fever, and the girls, instead of being weekly boarders, had to stay termly at Sunnyhill. I was isolated at home and all the children used to come up from the school and see me and wave to me. My younger brother went off to Taunton School, and I went to Shepton weekly for a bit, until they discovered we were being starved there and I was very ill and I was sent off to Weston. In 1913, we were all at home. "

(To be continued (but not next month!))

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group: 2021 – Draft Programme

September 15th	The Man who rebuilt Wessex – Benjamin Ferrey <i>Dr Francis Burroughes</i>
October 20th	The History of Glass – TBC <i>Dyan Hilton</i>
November 17th	The Founding of the SAS <i>Lorna Almonds-Windmill</i>
December 15th	Christmas Event – "Christmas Frolics" Skittles & Hot Buffet at Poachers Pocket, Chelynch. BA4 4PY 6.30 for 7.00pm; Buffet @ 8pm. NB This is a Wednesday!

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings are held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Non-members welcome (@ £2). For further details call David or Lin on 01749 840200.



Ashwick Parish Council Update

August 2021 – David Barlow & Kate Egan
(ashwickparish@hotmail.co.uk)

A message from Sam Phripp and Josh Burr, our District Councillors.

When Josh and I sat down to write a piece for the parish magazine this time last year we'd all been in the thick of Covid 19 for five months, and the optimists amongst us were hoping things would improve in time for Christmas – how wrong we were!

Only now are things returning to normal. Bigger outdoor events are starting to take place, the majority of adults have now been vaccinated and legal restrictions on masks are starting to relax. The one thing we're really aware of, however, is that while some battles have been won, the war isn't over. There are still people in our communities who are yet to be vaccinated and still businesses that are struggling to recover from the challenge of a lifetime.

At the same time as all of this, the Government has imposed a re-organisation of councils in Somerset. Announced in July, Somerset will soon be governed by one council, delivering the services of county and district combined. It's no secret that we believed that two councils – east and west – would best serve local people, but now that a decision has been made, we have a simple goal: to make sure that service delivery and decision-making are as local as possible.

Put simply, it's easier to influence the Council's decision when you only have to go to a meeting in Shepton, rather than decamping to Taunton. It's also easier to collar your Councillor if they're local, and you see them around and about. The risk that we'll try and avoid is single councillors, representing vast areas, divorced from the truly local problems they're elected to tackle.

Where it comes to Covid 19, the response from councils, whether it's supporting the vaccine effort or administering grants to local businesses was so successful because it was delivered locally, by people who know the area. We mustn't risk losing that in a bid to cut costs and rearrange things for the sake of it.

Of course, Josh and I are elected until at least 2023, and we'll still be here whenever you need us. Please never hesitate to reach out, or, as I said, collar us if you see us out and about.

Sam and Josh

The Ashwick Parish Council was pleased to welcome Jessica Elliot on to the Council at their July meeting. Jessica brings our number up to strength – 11 Councillors!

News from the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee



Eagle-eyed visitors to the Recreation Ground may have noticed that we have been working hard over the last few weeks to continue our programme of improvements and refurbishment at the Village Hall and Recreation Field. Three lovely new benches have been installed on the playing field - The VE75 Remembrance Bench, the Rainbow Bench in recognition on the NHS and Covid Lockdowns, and the beautiful Memorial Bench for Julia Barrett. We hope you enjoy using them when visiting the Hall and take the opportunity to sit and enjoy our wonderful surroundings.

The view from the inside of the Hall has also now greatly improved due to the replacement of the old windows and doors, with secure, modern double-glazed units, and glazed fire doors. Feedback from users has been brilliant, with the Hall feeling much lighter and brighter, and, of course, you are now more able to take in that lovely view from inside of the building! The metal grille across the main doorway has been removed, and the whole building is looking a lot more welcoming.

Finally, a reminder and date for your diary - on Friday, 15th October we are hosting a Live Music Event at the Village Hall, with popular Duo Cloud9 providing an evening of music. They perform everything from laid back cocktail music to foot stomping current dance music; providing popular music from decades past to the present, so there will be something there for everyone. After the year(s) we've had, we hope you are able to join us to let your hair down, have a drink or two, and catch up with friends. For ticketing information, please see our Facebook page - full details will also be available in next month's Beacon Magazine. In the meantime, please Save the Date and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Kim Hare, Vice Chair - Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee

Village Agent News

September 2021



Community Council for Somerset (CCS), Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB
Tel: 01823 331 222 | Web: www.somersetagents.org | Email: info@somersetcc.org.uk

We are delighted to share with you a new project 'GET OUTSIDE IN SOMERSET'!

Being outside brings huge benefits for our physical and mental health, but for a majority, the Covid-19 pandemic has created barriers to getting outside, and this has amplified feelings of loneliness and isolation. That's why we're working with organisations from across the county to support people to get outside and move in more ways that suit them.

A new website, covering a wide variety of activities, events and challenges, as well as information on a wide range of topics across health and wellbeing, will be regularly updated. From yoga in the park, fishing, and geocaching, to cycling, climbing, and forest bathing, there is something for everyone. For more information, visit:

<https://getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk/> and use the easy search function to discover something near you! If you would struggle to take part, but want to, let us know and we can help find a solution!

If you are involved in any outdoor activities you would like listing on the website, contact the Get Outside team! We are also looking for passionate people to support the project and inspire the community to get outside to improve their physical and mental health – so share your passion with Somerset and become a Get Outside Ambassador!

Loneliness: We all feel lonely from time to time. Feelings of loneliness are personal, so everyone's experience of loneliness will be different. One common description of loneliness is the feeling we get when our need for rewarding social contact and relationships is not met.

But loneliness is not always the same as being alone. You may choose to be alone and live happily without much contact with other people, while others may find this a lonely experience. Or you may have lots of social contact, or be in a relationship or part of a family, and still feel lonely – especially if you don't feel understood or cared for by the people around you – there is more on this here:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/loneliness/about-loneliness/#WhatCausesLoneliness>

Lockdown has amplified this for many, as groups and regular social activities temporarily stopped, but they are slowly reopening, and there is always support and help at hand from Village Agents – we have reopened many of our face-to-face Talking Cafes, as well as our Facebook live sessions – so book an appointment for a chat –

<http://www.somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/>

We can arrange free regular Talk & Support calls for you, just to have someone to chat to, arrange befriending services and link you to Good Neighbours schemes where they are set up – our Agents are skilled in helping people overcome loneliness and reduce isolation. Also, check out the many groups that meet on the Get Outside website – you might discover a new hobby and new friends!

Your local Village Agent, **Julie Brown**, can be contacted by calling **07985 680262**.



Binegar and Gurney Slade Parish Council News

New Village Hall Committee

The Parish Council sends a warm welcome to the new Village Hall Committee; David Shepherd (Chair), Deborah Rawlings (Vice Chair), Steve Rawlings (Secretary & Bookings) and Gus Halfhide (Treasurer). We wish them every success in running and looking after this very valuable village asset.

Somerset Rivers Authority – Annual Report

The SRA has recently issued its Annual Report. Here in Binegar and Gurney Slade we have been fortunate to have had the support of the SRA a few years ago through a grant to carry out flood prevention work at Binegar Bottom. This year they funded two lots of extra drain jetting in the Binegar Parish Council area. For more information on their work and to read the Annual Report visit their website at:
www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk.

Ragwort

Common ragwort is poisonous to animals, in particular horses. There is noticeably a lot of it growing this summer. Under the Weeds Act 1959, landowners/occupiers must control ragwort where it is growing in areas for grazing or forage production or where it poses a risk. This means there is a legal obligation to remove ragwort where it's growing on this land or there is a high risk of spread of it. For more information visit – the government website below: www.gov.uk/guidance/stop-ragwort-and-other-harmful-weeds-from-spreading#prevent-ragwort-spreading

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the Pickering family who have recently moved into the village. Please do let the Parish Council know if you have any new neighbours that we can welcome to our villages.

Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 5 October at 7:00p.m.



Diane Abbott Parish Clerk: binegarpc@hotmail.co.uk
www.binegar-pc.org.uk

Your councillors - Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, John Bridges,
Cath Law, Phill Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone

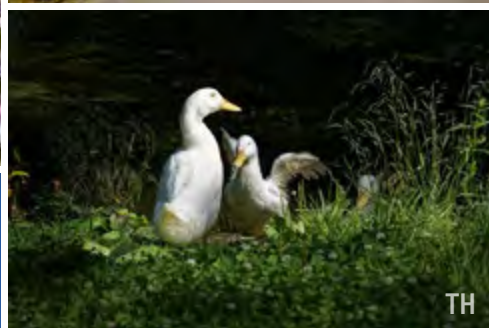
Life through a lens

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The Beacon Photography Group meets online, every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.
We welcome new members – contact Jon Durrant on 01761 232520 to find out more.



Withdraw

Sometimes you need to watch the jackdaws roost,
from a graveyard where an old soldier is laid to rest,
step from stone to stone wondering at how peaceful death can be,
a half eggshell mushroomed on the grass, two angels sharing a joke,
noticing how you cringe when a camera points at your face.

Sometimes you need permission to shed your shoes
and walk to the centre of a labyrinth,
unshackle those fears and doubts,
place them on the ground like a stone
and learn to accept what is.

Sometimes you need an invitation to a meadow,
where the hay smells sweet under bare feet,
the hot day dips below the trees and you sit in circle with a mandarin fool
and a tin of quality street.

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Deadline for October edition: Friday, 10th September

This publication has been designed using resources from Freepik.com, Pixabay.com.
Autumn elements illustrations (p2, 3, 4, 11, 44) created by freepik - www.freepik.com<; playing cards illustration created by katemangostar - www.freepik.com (p4); penny farthing illustration (p4) created by macrovector_official - www.freepik.com; ball of wool (p4) created by macrovector - www.freepik.com; wild flowers (p5) created by pikisuperstar - www.freepik.com; gardening illustrations (p10, 11) designed by macrovector/Freepik; sailor illustration (p13) created by macrovector - www.freepik.com; labyrinth background created by Clikr-Free-Vector-Images from Pixabay; roses in garden illustration (p25) designed by Freepik; ying yang illustration (p30) from Pixabay.com.



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