

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News



DECEMBER 2021

Cover photo: © John Law



**BEACON
TRINITY**

At the heart
of Christmas



Church Services – December 2021

Sunday, 5th December 10am Communion St. James, Ashwick



Sunday, 12th December

4.00pm

Christingle Service

All Saints, Oakhill



Sunday, 19th December

6.30pm

Carol Service with
Mendip Brass Band

St. James, Ashwick

Tuesday, 21st December

6.30pm

Carols Round the
Christmas Tree
with Brass Quartet

Holy Trinity Cemetary,
Binegar



Friday, 24th December

4.00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service

All Saints, Oakhill

6.30pm

Carol Service

Holy Trinity, Binegar

11.00pm

Christmas Communion

St. James, Ashwick

Saturday, 25th December **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.00am

Christmas Communion

Holy Trinity, Binegar

10.00am

Christmas Communion

All Saints, Oakhill



**At the heart
of Christmas**





November 28th is Advent Sunday, the beginning of

Advent. This is often a surprise to many as most households will have an Advent Calendar which starts on 1st December with 25 windows. Advent has 4 Sundays before Christmas Day so this year has 28 days not 25 and next year, with Christmas Day on a Sunday, it will be 29 days.

In my childhood we decorated the week before Christmas; when we moved to USA we were surprised that people started decorating for Christmas the weekend after Thanksgiving, which is the last Thursday in November. On returning, I was pleased that we still tended to wait until later in December.

Last year we had all been stuck in for so long and needing a little cheer and many people, including me, put the lights up early. I expect the same this year and I think it always looks lovely.

But what is Advent about and are we missing something?

Advent means "the coming into being or arrival of...", for example the advent of spring. Of course, we know Advent to be the time before Christmas and in the Christian church it is about waiting for the arrival of Jesus as the Light of the world. Advent therefore is the time of waiting or preparation for Christmas.

So decorating is good and wrapping presents, preparing for a feast and family get together. It's a good time. My disappointment is that all too often Christmas ends before New Year.

For Christians, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus and this celebration goes on for 6 weeks!

I wish you a safe and enjoyable Advent and hope you have a wonderful Christmas and encourage you to remember the reason for the season.

Richard

Would you like to support the churches in our parish?

Please scan the QR code and make a donation online. Thank you.



Community corner



Service of Light

A Service of Light was held in All Saints Church on Sunday, 31st October when we remembered loved ones who have died. Candles were lit in their memory, and we celebrated their lives, praying for comfort and hope in the future.



Volunteers Needed!

All Saints Church, Oakhill is looking for volunteers to help keep the interior of the church clean and tidy. This would involve low level dusting, vacuuming, occasional floor washing, etc. If you are able to help for a couple of hours on an ad hoc basis, please contact Peter Dennis on 01749 840526 for further details. Ideally, we would like a few volunteers to enable us to set up a cleaning rota!



The East Mendip Gardening Club

The club will meet on Tuesday, 14th December for a Social Evening and their Annual General Meeting at 7.30p.m in the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall. Further details from our Chair Mark Manley - markamanley81@googlemail.com.

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

In December, the History Group will meet on Thursday, 16th December (note a different weekday to usual!). This will be our Annual Christmas Frolics - aka a Skittles evening, with hot buffet supper. Please let David (01749 840200) know in good time if you plan to come - the more the merrier!

Thanks to all who came to the Mini-Exhibition and helped to make it a great success. An especially big 'thank you' from David and Lin to those who worked so hard to get the show up and running: David and Marilyn Barlow, Jan Ladhams, Norbert Kursten and Matt Brookbank. A great team!

Whist Drive

Please note we are temporarily moving from Oakhill Church Room to Ashwick Church Rooms on Tuesday, 14th December starting at 7.30 pm. Any queries to Mary Dampier 01749 840649.

Binegar Knit & Natter Group

Meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 am until 12 noon in the Memorial Hall. Details from Carole Simmons 07980 979365.

Community Orchard

On Saturday, 13th November members of Beacon Trinity Churches planted some fruit trees, including Heritage apple trees, on the Fairfield in Binegar (behind Holy Trinity Church). If you would like to help by buying a tree, then a gift of £30 will buy a Heritage apple tree – contact Richard Priestley at vicar@beacontrinity.church. (See photos below.)

This month's cover...

This month's photograph of an advent window was taken by John Law. Please send photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church Thank you.



What's on in December

A Christmas Gingerbread Trail
Binegar Parish Council

Saturday, 11th December
Beer & Carols
Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

Saturday, 11th December
Village Christmas Party
Binegar Memorial Hall

Sunday, 12th December
Children's Christmas Party
Binegar Memorial Hall

Monday, 27th December
Binegar's Bonkers Barrow Race
The Horse & Jockey



Photos above & top left © John Law

Photo bottom left © Derek Webb

Service of Light photo on opposite page
© Caroline Stevens

December Message

*Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton*



The heart of Christmas

What is at the heart of Christmas for you? Is it the feasting and festivities? The carols and the candles? The stockings and the gifts? Or the presence of those you love?

This Christmas we may find ourselves investing more in our preparations, as last year Christmas plans were curtailed and for some even cancelled. A year ago we were to have had all our family gather for Christmas at our house and then just before, my husband Howard had a positive Covid test. Everything changed and in fact neither of us felt well enough to enjoy a special meal together let alone welcome others. So, this year I want to pull out all the stops!

The children and grandchildren will be with us and Howard tells me that Father Christmas will be paying a special visit! However, we are also wanting to make sure that we don't get carried away with all the tinsel and trappings and forget the heart of the story. So, we shall limit our spending on pressies but make sure that we really value the presence of one another and particularly of the Christ child at the heart of it all.

This year as you anticipate Christmas, through the stories told through Advent windows, or carol services in your church, or Nativities on the move, how might you prepare your heart for the coming Christ child? The wonder of Christmas is that God has never given up on us and in fact loves us so much that he wants to spend time with us. The birth of Jesus, God's Son, into a humble human family, brought God into our very midst, into the heart of our homes. This Christmas let's make space for Him once more and listen to the words of love, hope and joy He wants to share with us. And may that inspire our faith in the future, for ourselves and our world.

Wishing you much joy and peace this Christmas!

Bishop Ruth

**At the heart
of Christmas**



BAGS Presents

Binegar's 'Bonkers Barrow Run'

Monday 27th December 2021

Meet at The Horse and Jockey

FOR A 3.00PM START

**Team of 4
£10 a team**



Prizes for:
Best fancy dress team
Best scarecrow
Best children's team
Fastest Team

A festive wheelbarrow race around the village with a decorated scarecrow in your barrow....refreshments en route! Return to the pub for hot food and enjoy the evening's entertainment

LIVE MUSIC with LEE JAY and HEIDI

**For details please call Steve
07528 169533 pre-booking essential!**

Raising funds for

The Mendip School



Please join us with the
HARLEM RHYTHM CATS
for our

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 11th December 2021

7.30 - 11.00 p.m

Gurney Slade and Binegar Memorial Hall.

Tickets: £5 per head

Bring your own Food and Drinks

To book: Call 07528 169533 or visit our Facebook page

This event has been supported by grant funding received by the Parish Council

Childrens Christmas Party

GURNEY SLADE AND
BINEGAR MEMORIAL
HALL

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER
2021
3.00 - 5.00 PM

GAMES - DISCO - FESTIVE
TEA

TICKETS: £2 PER CHILD

TO BOOK: CALL DEBBY 07890
422217 OR MESSAGE US ON
FACEBOOK

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY
FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE PARISH
COUNCIL



Tales of old

Meet George Hellier III. He bought our Prebend – the house (now Whitchurch Farm, near Ston Easton) with Whitchurch and Binegar manors. The Civil War had barely started when Parliament abolished bishops, seized their lands and started selling off Church assets.

George Hellier must have bought Whitchurch in 1647. We know this because Sir Edward and Dame Mary Alford sued Hellier in the Court of Chancery in 1648. Alford's *Bill of Complaint* and Hellier's *Answer* survive in the National Archive. They are hand written on vellum – calfskin – each with more than 100 lines, each line with 60-70 words.

The writing is beautiful but tiny. It is also mainly illegible though you can pick out some complaints: taking into the Hellier estate land belonging to others, demanding rent from land Hellier did not own, diverting roads to prevent others using them, closing a ford across Wellow Brook, evictions, boundary disputes and more. It resembles a landed gent's objection to 'new money' elbowing the old order aside.

George Hellier's *Answer* was as long and detailed with lists of payments made for this piece of land and that. He even lists the thousands of pounds he paid the Alford's agent. History does not record the Court's verdict but the Helliers prospered at Whitchurch.

Sir Edward Alford was an MP and a big landowner including Stanton Drew Manor. He fought on the King's side in the Civil War but was caught in the surrender of Exeter in 1649. For this "delinquency", Parliament punished him severely with a fine of £5,389 (£550,000 today). It looks like George Hellier had the last laugh.

History remembers George's grandfather George (I) as a clothier in Wickwar, Gloucestershire. George's father George (II) traded in iron. He was Sheriff of Bristol in 1638 and Mayor in 1653. He was a ruthless merchant with dozens of law suits. He married well. Wife Sarah was the daughter of Humphrey Hooke, lord of the manors of Midsomer Norton and King Weston. For his son's generation, however, the relationship between the families would become very sour.

George's son, George (III) is the one who bought our Prebend when he was around age 30. It must have been a Christmas to celebrate that year. George, I am sure, wishes you a Happy Christmas this year.

Richard Higgins

Grenville's Ramblin's...

At the heart
of Christmas



The unusual and beautifully clear view of Binegar church, especially of the tower, in the October magazine, brought to mind many fond memories of what was nigh on a lifetime of my involvement with the church. It all began in 1932 when I, like my mother before me, her father and her grandfather (who was for many years sexton and parish clerk) were, as was the custom in those days, Baptised at the ancient Font just inside the church door. However my regular attendance began when I was about 10 years old and had been encouraged to join the choir; I was always there early for 6.30 Evensong and it being before the days of electricity in the village, I helped the churchwarden (Frank Lambert, in whose footsteps I was to follow many years later) to light the big brass oil lamps hanging on counter balanced chains from the roof timbers. My next step was to be invited to learn to ring a bell and join the team of bell ringers; so began my long involvement with the church affairs and in some ways especially with the tower.

When I'd got to the age of 14, I went to work for Ernest Colbourn, the village carpenter, wheelwright and undertaker and having by that time become involved in caring for the bells, I began making and replacing broken bell stays etc.

What could I suppose be called my next step up the ladder, came with the retirement and moving away of churchwarden Frank Lambert, when at the age of 24 it was decided by the PCC that I should take his place. So, it is looking down on the photo of the tower roof and the flagpole reminded me of the countless times that I, having in those early days being able to run up the ninety steps, had stood there for one reason or another!

It also reminds me of an occasion concerning the flagpole, when I was stood up there talking to steeple jack David Dawson about how quickly the wooden poles got rotten, when he said we've got some 4-inch alloy tube back in the yard; we could make you up a pole that won't rot. Well, to cut a long story short, the new pole being duly delivered, all that was left to do was to get it to the top of the tower and fixed into place. Of course, a twenty odd foot pole isn't the sort of thing that will go up tower stairs. So, one Saturday morning with the aid of rope and pulley and fellow church members Peter Manders and John Salvidge the pole was hoisted up the outside of the tower and fixed in place.

So it was, it became my delight to fly the flag for church festivals and other special occasions, as long as the wind was not blowing a gale, because a flag measuring some three yards by one and a half will quickly fray all to pieces. But most of all I remember the Christmas mornings when the flag was flying in time for the 8am communion service.



Grenville Reakes

The December Garden

EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB – JANE EVANS

Don't think because December is on us there is nothing to do in the garden! With limited daylight hours as we approach the shortest day of the year, this month's crisp, wintery weather can be strikingly beautiful and bitterly cold in equal measure.

Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot to protect them from the harshest weather.

Wisteria, fruit trees, roses and Japanese maples are just some of the plants to benefit from a winter prune.

Look after the birds - clean feeders, stock up on fat balls and make sure they have access to fresh water.

Plant deciduous, climbing honeysuckle now, but make sure to avoid any frozen or waterlogged ground.

If any of your roses suffered from blackspot or rust this summer, gather up and remove any fallen leaves to reduce the chance of infection next year.

Check climbers and climbing shrubs are securely attached to their supports with ties.

Take root cuttings of oriental poppies and grow them on in cold frames.

Spread fresh gravel or grit around alpine plants.

Remove yellowing leaves from your brassicas they may harbour pests and diseases.

Dig a trench for next year's beans, fill with compostable kitchen waste (not cooked food) and re-cover with soil. This will rot down and dramatically improve sowing conditions.



Keep fleece to hand to protect hardy salad crops.

Cover heavy clay soils with polythene to keep it drier and allow winter digging.

Lift and divide established clumps of rhubarb to renew the plant's vigour. Sections taken from the outside of the plants are better than those from the centre.



Protect wall trained peaches and nectarines from wet winter weather which spreads the peach leaf fungus. Construct a screen of clear polythene over the plant but not touching it.

Protect the tips of fig tree branches, cover with fleece or straw. They will carry the fruits for next year and are susceptible to frost.

Wash and disinfect capillary matting before storing it away.

Protect your poinsettias from cold draughts and allow to dry out slightly between waterings to make them last for the whole Christmas period and well into January.

Avoid walking on your lawn when it's blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this damages the grass.

Send your lawnmower and shears to be serviced and sharpened.

Wash down your garden tools and give them a wipe of linseed oil on the wooden and metal area to help prevent rusting.

Choose a dry day to clear out the garden shed in preparation for the spring.

Check the security of your shed. This is particularly important in winter when you visit it less often.

Repair fences and apply a wood preservative to prevent them from rotting.

Plant bare root edible hedging now while the plant is dormant, for a homegrown foraging experience in your garden.

Did you know the colourful wrappers of Quality Street sweets are compostable? They're made from cellulose, derived from wood pulp, so add them to your compost heap.



Taken from Thompson & Morgan's "What to do in the Garden this month"
www.thompson-morgan.com/in-the-garden-this-month



Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

The House before Pondsmead – a Detective Story – *Lin Thorley*

Working on local history can sometimes feel like being a detective! Researching the house that preceded the present day Pondsmead is a good example. I had a theory about the name of this house, which took a while to prove.

A trawl through the records yielded the following: Frederick Spencer, co-owner of the Brewery, built Pondsmead in 1875. The name Pondsmead does not appear anywhere until 1877. It was said there was a previous house on the same site, but the only evidence was one photograph, shown below. But as the name is not used until 1877, did the earlier one have another name? There have been several (polite) arguments within the History Group as to whether this earlier house was actually called Pondsmead, and if not, then what was it called – and did the house shown even stand on that site, or somewhere else... I needed to widen the search.

Going back to the owners/occupiers of the site, first it was James Jordan, one of the co-founders of the Brewery in 1767. Where did he live? We know he occupied the site as part of the Brewery land until he retired in 1803. He was replaced by William Peard Jillard. The Jillard family are known to have lived at Oakhill Cottage, which is on Zion Hill. But see below.

The Jillard Estate map of 1822 shows a house almost on the site of the current Pondsmead, but facing east towards the Bath Rd, so at right angles to it. Was this Pondsmead's predecessor? If so, what was it called?

I found hints in the records of the name 'Cottage' belonging to that site – somewhat unexpectedly for such a large house (although the word cottage does not always mean small, often simply quaint or rustic – as in some of the Royal Family's residences). The 1830 Turnpike Map names the village, 'Oakhill',



Written on the back is 'Pondsmead 1875' - but was it?

and just below that word is an intriguing but inconclusive: 'Cottage'. Putting the two words together, could 'Oakhill Cottage' be the name of Pondsmead's predecessor?

If so, what about Oakhill Cottage on Zion Hill? Surprisingly, the Zion Hill house is not named on any record that I can find – map, document or census – before the 1920's, when John and Elsie Hilliar moved in. One of the Oakhill books records the history of the house, stating that the Jillard family lived there during the 1800's. Details are given of a fire at its lodge in 1860, property of Captain Jillard (this was William Vernon Jillard, son of the co-owner referred to above, and also a partner in the Brewery). Also mentioned is that WV Jillard died there in 1871; it was then renovated by another William Peard Jillard in 1872 (WV's only son). The amount of detail made the story seem authentic. Yet some things did not add up. There is, for example, no space for a lodge on Zion Hill (the Old Church Rooms are known to have been its stables). And the Rev John Davis owned the house in 1842; his brother Henry lived in it. So how could the Jillards have also lived there? Initially I took the account as fact, but eventually became suspicious that the information had been gleaned from published

reports on Oakhill Cottage and applied to the house on Zion Hill – and checking the newspaper reports of the time this is exactly the information that can be found about Oakhill Cottage in Oakhill (no further location mentioned). Given that the new house next to the Brewery had been named Pondsmead in the 1870's, maybe the Hilliar family adopted the name Oakhill Cottage when they moved into the Zion Hill house in the 1920's? There was a Brewery connection: John Hilliar (known as Jack) worked for the Brewery as its Traveller (salesman).

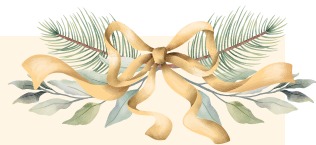
Then I found an article on the early Brewery saying that "Oakhill Cottage was demolished in 1872 as not grand enough..." Aha. Obviously

not the one on Zion Hill which still stands. The clinching evidence came from censuses. Initial checks had yielded nothing helpful.

Frustrated, I went back to the beginning again. There, lo and behold, was the answer. Instead of finding the Jillards where I had expected them to be, in Ashwick Parish (on Zion Hill), there they were in Shepton (the southern part of Oakhill was in Shepton parish until boundary changes later in the century). The 1861 census even gave the name Oakhill Cottage to their house! And it was on the Bath Rd, exactly where Pondsmead is now...

Mystery solved. But I am astonished that such an important village fact had been totally forgotten in so short a time.

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group: 2021/22 Programme



December 16th	Christmas Event – "Christmas Frolics" Skittles & Hot Buffet at Poachers Pocket, Chelynch. BA4 4PY 6.30 for 7.00pm; Buffet @ 8pm. NB This is Thursday!
January 19th	The Battle of Sedgemoor – 1685 <i>Lt Colonel James Porter</i>
February 16th	Benefits, Brass and the Gertest, Grandest Day <i>Philip Hoyland</i>
March 16th	The Founding of the SAS <i>Lorna Almonds-Windmill</i>
April 20th	Treading the Wards – A Nurse's Tale <i>Lottie Dale</i>
May 18th	Quiz & Social Evening – inc Wine & Nibbles <i>Incorporating the AGM</i>
June 15th	Guided Tour of Glastonbury Abbey (TBC) <i>Meet at the entrance to the Abbey</i>

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

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

Residents will be pleased to note that the legendary 'Hump' has been resurrected, hopefully giving peace of mind to the residents at the top of the High Street. Following the installation of the crossing outside school we had been assured the Hump had been put back but subsequent flooding following heavy rain showed that this was not so!

Planning

2021/2398/LBC - Erection of first floor extension - Oakhill Cottage, Zion Hill, Oakhill Council recommended that this planning application should be passed to the Listed Building team at Mendip.

2021/2397/FUL - Erection of first floor extension - Oakhill Cottage, Zion Hill, Oakhill Council recommended approval of this application.

Highways

The Council continues to lobby for the 30mph speed along Galley Batch to be extended beyond Greenlands Farm. This had previously been agreed but not actioned by County Highways.

Opening-up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund

The Parish Council submitted a grant application on behalf of the Village Hall. The application was successful with an award of £5000 - Congratulations!

The War Memorial

The Parish is grateful for the generous donation of plants for the flower beds around the memorial. Thank you also to Sarah Emery and her team for continuing to maintain the site.

The Parish Council meets every month, except in August, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Parishioners are welcome. Agendas and minutes are available on the parish website www.ashwickparish.org and the parish notice boards.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

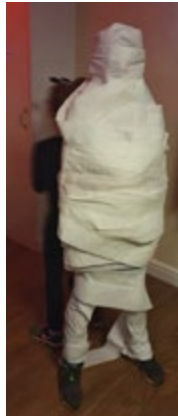
from Cllrs. **Phyll Briscoe, Roy Bailey, David Barlow, Andy Clemence, Jessica Elliott, Sarah Emery, David Gilson, David Hine, Lizzie Lewis, David Thorley, Bryan Wells and Kate Egan.**





Hallmark Accreditation: Last month we were able to pass on the good news that the Village Hall Committee had been successful in their goal of obtaining Hallmark Accreditation Level 1. Well, we have further good news to share this month! When committee members Caroline Ambrose and Andy North attended the CCS awards ceremony to be presented with the certificate, they were surprised with an additional special award, the "District Award for Mendip 2021" as a reflection of our efforts as a committee over the last year. We were absolutely thrilled with this unexpected recognition, which is now proudly displayed at the hall for all to see.

Halloween: We would like to thank all of the parents who brought their little witches, wizards, cats and ghouls to the Halloween disco last month. Together we raised over £330 which will go towards the Village Hall, recreation field and Community café project. We hope everyone had lots of fun - thank you for joining in and supporting us.



Finally - a date for your diaries: The annual **Beer and Carols** event returns this year, and will be held on the 11th December at the Village Hall. Always a popular night, we look forward to seeing lots of you there for a lovely festive evening as the evenings draw in.

As always, we would love to hear from anyone in the community - in particular, if you are interested in joining our committee, or helping out on an ad hoc basis as a member of our "Friends of Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall" group, please do contact us. We are active on Facebook, or can be contacted by email at aandovillagehall@gmail.com.

Many thanks.

Kim Hare, Vice Chair
Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee





Binegar and Gurney Slade Parish Council News

Village Autumn Clean Up

Many thanks to everyone who helped over the clean-up weekend. The villages were relatively free of litter which is a great credit to those who take a pride and pick up litter throughout the year – Thank you.

Mendip District Council – Communities Fund Grant

Over 80 applications have been received by Mendip District Council and the applications will now be considered by the Grants Committee. Successful applications will be notified by the end of November.

Opening-up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund

The Parish Council were successful with their application to the fund and two Christmas events will be organised by the Village Hall Committee with support from the funding secured. We look forward to welcoming you to the Village Christmas Party with the Harlem Rhythm Cats on the evening of Saturday 11th and the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday 12th December.

Dog Waste

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints regarding irresponsible disposal of dog waste bags. Dog waste bins are available around the village please use them or take your bags home – Thank You.

Overgrown hedges

Now is the time to cut back your roadside hedge if you have not done it already. Overgrown hedges can be a hazard to walkers, riders, cyclists, and drivers. Make sure you are not the cause of an accident.

Christmas

The Parish Council look forward to bringing festive cheer and will be erecting a Christmas tree in the cemetery. Many thanks to Morris & Perry for helping us to make this happen again this year. Last year the festive windows and gardens were much enjoyed - join in



with this year's festive cheer and decorate your windows or garden. On your winter walks look out for the Gingerbread Man Trail pictures and solve the anagram.



Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7 December at 7:00pm.

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



Binegar Parish Council invite you to

A Christmas Gingerbread Trail

FIND THE 12 GINGERBREAD MAN PICTURES HIDDEN
AROUND THE VILLAGES

&

SOLVE THE ANAGRAM

ANAGRAM HINT: GINGERBREAD MAN'S CATCHPHRASE

A collection of small illustrations related to gingerbread: two gingerbread men, a fox, a bowl of batter with a spoon, a rolling pin, a sheep, a pig, and another gingerbread man.

WEATHER REPORT: OCTOBER 2021

From Roemead Farm.
Written by
Gerald Esain.



October was a changeable month with some heavy rain at times. Rainfall total was 133.3mm, above average. The mean temperature was also above average. Highest reading 17.3°C on the 9th.



Life through a lens

images by the Beacon Photography Group



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.



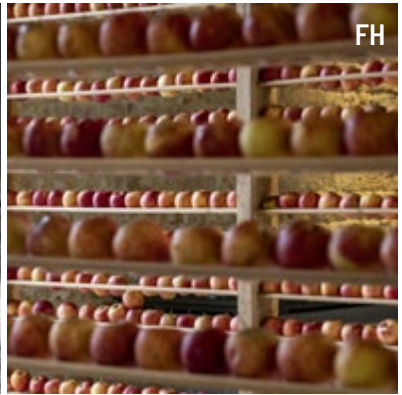
BV



RWJ



AG



FH



DW

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RS

Village Agent News

December 2021



Community Council for Somerset (CCS), Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB
Tel: 01823 331222 | Web: www.somersetagents.org | Email: info@somersetcc.org.uk

We are DELIGHTED to share that our Talking Cafes are open again, offering drop-in support at venues across Somerset! No need to book!

Talking Cafes are a place for you to find help, advice and support in an informal, relaxed environment. Just drop in to meet your local Village Agent for a friendly chat, or 1:1 support! They can help with:

- Benefit paperwork or if you are worried about your finances
- If you're feeling lonely, or isolated where you live - pop in for a chat and a cuppa!
- If you are struggling to cook for yourself and/or your family - especially if you are a Carer for others and would like a break from cooking.
- If you look after someone else - you might need some advice for them or emotional support for yourself
- If you need support with a health condition ... and so much more!

Village Agents are problem-solving, solution-finders! No matter how big or small you think the issue is, if you don't know where to turn, come and chat to us, we help often when others don't, won't or can't!

A full list of venues open can be found here:

<https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/> and below:

EVERY MONDAY: (except Bank Holiday's)

Minehead: The Beach Hotel 10am - 12pm

South Petherton: South Petherton Library, 10am - 12pm

Taunton: Great Western Hotel, Station Approach, 10am - 12pm

EVERY TUESDAY:

Burnham-on-Sea: Methodist Church, College Street 10am - 12pm

Williton: Williton Pavilion, Killick Way, 1pm - 3pm

Musgrove Park Hospital: On the concourse near M&S, 2pm - 4pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

Chard: The Guildhall, 14 Fore Street, TA20 1PH, 10am - 12pm

Yeovil: The Gateway, Addlewell Lane, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Highbridge: Hope Baptist Church, 106 Church St, TA9 3HW, 2pm - 4pm

EVERY THURSDAY:

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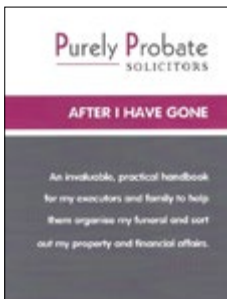
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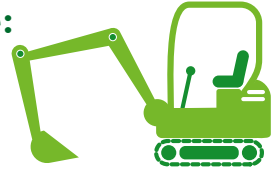
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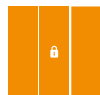
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