

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News

AUGUST 2022

Cover photo: © Jon Durrant



Church Services – August 2022

Sunday, 7th August	10am	Holy Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 14th August	10am	Morning Worship	All Saints, Oakhill
Sunday, 21st August	10am	Holy Communion	St. James, Ashwick
Sunday, 28th August	10am 4pm	Holy Communion Wild Church & Camp Out	Holy Trinity, Binegar Simbriss Farm

Would you like to support the churches in our parish?

Please scan the QR code and make a donation online.

Thank you.



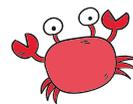
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Binegar Fair Field after hay-making. Photo: Richard Priestley.





View from the Hill

Many years ago now, I visited Iona, a small island off the west coast of Scotland. We lived in Dundee at the time. It was

May and an usually warm weekend. We had a Great Dane dog at the time and drove across the country and the Isle of Mull before staying in a B&B overlooking the short stretch of water to Iona.

Next morning, we caught the first ferry across the most beautiful blue water. We followed in the steps of St. Columba (though he came from Ireland) who arrived in the 6th Century with twelve followers, built a monastery and from there began to spread Christianity across Scotland and on into England.

Iona is considered 'a thin place' in terms of Celtic Christian spirituality, "those rare locales where the distance between Heaven and Earth collapses". Where the Divine seems so close. Over the years there have been many times I felt this and almost always outside. I have to say that I don't think we have to travel far.

I am involved in looking at developing local pilgrimage, travelling with the purpose of encountering the Divine. Iona is a place of pilgrimage. But so too is Masbury, when I set out to not merely walk to the ancient fort but to travel with an awareness of the environment such that I appreciate the beauty and wonder of creation, where I sense the energy that brought a tree into being from a seed, or marvel at the detail of wild orchid and see a bee flying from flower to flower.

A pilgrimage is a journey to a special place for a particular spiritual reason. Many people make a pilgrimage every year at Christmas, visiting a church for that special service. Our church buildings are visited by hundreds of people every year but not every week. Weddings, funerals and baptisms could be seen as a type of pilgrimage too. They are important journeys and can have significant impact on people's lives.

Perhaps you have been on some sort of pilgrimage, or perhaps you go for a walk some days, hoping to feel something different, something that will lift you, inspire you. You do not need to go to a place like Iona, or an old church, you can go to the end of your garden, simply go with the intention of seeing something different. Use your senses to be aware of your environment, look for something you have never seen before, reflect on how it feels to see something for the first time. And be grateful.

Take the time to connect with your spiritual side, you maybe surprised at what you experience.



Community corner



Oakhill Village Festival 2022

What an amazing occasion – probably the best ever and certainly very well supported. Thanks to Richard Priestley and the Festival Committee for all their hard work in planning, financing and carrying out such a splendid community event. Richard's prayers for fine weather definitely worked! Thanks also to all those who assisted in setting up and dismantling the many marquees and gazebos – much needed on such a hot day. The generosity of our sponsors and many individuals also contributed to a successful Festival. If you would like to be a member of next year's Festival Committee, do please get in touch with Richard – vicar@beacontrinity.church.

Bob Foster Cup Winner

Congratulations to Victoria Smith of Maple Class, Oakhill Church School who won the **Bob Foster Cup** for the best decorated cake. It was lovely to see Sam, Bob's wife, at the Festival and to have her present the cup to Victoria. (Photo: Mark Adler, Mendip Times)



Platinum Jubilee Cup Winner

Congratulations to Indie-Rose of Elm Class, Oakhill Church School, first winner of the **Platinum Jubilee Cup for Creativity**. The cup was donated on behalf of The Beacon magazine. (Indie-Rose's artwork pictured below.)



Festival Sponsors – Thank you

Grateful thanks to those sponsoring the Oakhill Village Festival 2022:

Ashwick Parish Council

LKAB

Drews Garage

Animal Phyz

N Maggs Funeral Services

Morris & Perry

Chew Valley Generators

And other individuals (you know who you are)

Holy Trinity Church Flowers

August 6th-7th

Anne Caley

August 13th-14th and 20th-21st inclusive

Jenny Eyres

August 27th - 28th and September 3rd-4th

Julia Hill

September 10th-11th and 17th-18th

Sue Stone

Weekend of 25th September - Harvest -

All decorators please

Local clubs

Oakhill and Ashwick Local History Group:

There is no meeting in August. Our next event will be on 21st September - more details nearer the time.

East Mendip Gardening Club

On Tuesday 23rd August the East Mendip Gardening Club will hold their Summer Social in a member's garden. If you are thinking of joining our club do come along and meet the members, further details from our Chair Mark Manley: markamanley81@googlemail.com

Oakhill Short Mat Bowls Club:

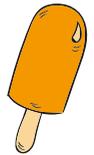
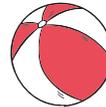
The club meets in Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall on Tuesdays from 2-4 pm. All welcome. Details from Kate Baker 01749 343589 or Chris Sully 01749 840083.

Thank you!

From Pauline West – Can I say a very big 'THANK YOU' for all the cards I received after my recent stay in hospital, as well as the many kind offers of shopping, car lifts, etc. They have all been very much appreciated!

This month's cover...

This month's cover photograph of a sunflower was taken by Jon Durrant. Please send photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church
Thank you.



Dorothy House Coffee Morning

in aid of Dorothy House Hospice

Friday, 23rd September

from 10 am until 12 noon

at Simbriss Farm, Ashwick, Oakhill BA3 5BA

Book, Bring 'n Buy and Gift Stalls. Raffle.

WEATHER REPORT: JUNE 2022

From Roemead Farm.
Written by
Gerald Esain.

June was a changeable month with very warm days and, at times, cool days for the time of year.

Highest temperature reading 30.0°C on the 17th.
Lowest 6.3°C on the 3rd. Total rainfall 71.3mm, around average for the site.

OAKHILL VILLAGE FESTIVAL



Photographs by Denise Bailey, Pam Dennis,
Jon Durrant, Andy Ladhams & Robin Slater.

2022





AUGUST TRIVIA

August is named after the Roman Emperor Augustus

August 1st is traditionally known as Lammas Day, a festival to mark the annual wheat and corn harvest. Lammas also marked the mid-point between the summer solstice and autumn equinox, and was a cross-quarter day.

**August 10th is St Lawrence's Day –
"Fair weather on St Lawrence's Day
presages a fair autumn"**

August 19th brings National Aviation Day, chosen for the birthday of Orville Wright who piloted the first recorded flight of a powered heavier-than-air machine in 1903.

August's full moon is the full Sturgeon Moon (not Nicola!) which reaches peak illumination on the night of August 11th. It's also the final supermoon of 2022!

(www.almanac.com, Wikipedia and buildingbeautifulsouls.com)

UKRAINIAN SUPPORT DROP IN CENTRE

Every Tuesday, 10.30am-12 Midday

**Oakhill Village Hall
Zion Hill, Oakhill, BA3 5AN**

A warm welcome
Open to all

Informal coffee
and chat

Access to Laptop & Internet with support if required
Advice and signposting services
A chance to meet other host & Ukrainian families

Call in or contact vickibridges74@gmail.com
or 07588 836257

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Hi, we are a small group of local residents who, so far, have applied for around 30 visas under the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Oakhill and the surrounding area.

Many people have asked if they can donate or support our Ukrainian peers so we have decided to set up this "gofundme page". We have provided for most of their immediate needs, however, we are very aware that as more families arrive, especially with children, there will be things we have not considered. Most of our counterparts are eager to find work and we would like to support them in doing this and becoming independent members of our local community.

Things that your money will contribute towards..... bedding, clothing, technology to enable them to remain in contact with families left behind in Ukraine, bus passes, therapeutic activities such as horse riding, school uniforms and equipment the list is endless and we will always report back with how your money has been utilised.



We have been overwhelmed by the amount of people who have offered help and support and hope that

this provides an easy and simple way for you to do this. I know that our Ukrainian families are overwhelmed by the love and kindness they have received in the UK, and in particular our local community. Many Thanks, Vicki Bridges

This is the link to our "gofundme page" named "Oakhill supports Ukraine":
<https://gofund.me/fef0784c>

Tales of old

George Shakerley is a great mystery. Born in 1716 into a noble family, he was educated at Westminster School and Oxford University. In Wells in 1740, Bishop Wynne ordained 24-year-old George and gave him Dulcote prebend. George had good connections: the Bishop had come to Wells from St Asaph, in the heart of the Shakerley lands.

Yet better was to come. Two years later, George succeeded an 82-year-old as Archdeacon of Wells and got the wealthy living of East Brent parish. He became a canon, one of the Bishop's inner circle.

Archdeacon at 26 was some achievement! His predecessor waited 80 years! However, those whom the gods love die young: George was dead within seven years.

The April 1749 issue of *The Gentleman's Magazine* listed George's death from an 'apoplexy'. An early death was unfortunate but no more. The curious, however, might ask why the Cathedral neither buried George nor commemorated him as it had done his predecessors

There things may have rested except six years later, *The Magazine* reported the extraordinary confession of a prisoner in Salisbury jail. "He says he lived a few years ago with Dr Shakerley... and knowing his master had received a considerable sum, when he was asleep... he put a pistol in his mouth, which immediately killed him; he then put the pistol in his master's hand and left another upon the table. 'Twas universally believed that he had killed himself."

Two months later, *The Magazine* listed the death sentences of the Salisbury Lent assizes. It included highwayman Joseph Taylor, the man who confessed to the murder. George's real manservant – a man of "unblemished character," however, said Taylor's story was a lie.

Questions hang in the air. How did a low-life like Taylor come to know enough of George's death to make up a story that people believed? Taylor said his confession was "to wipe away an infamy." What infamy? *The Magazine* first reported a natural death but later mentioned Taylor's faked suicide. Suicide: is that why Wells Cathedral cancelled George and airbrushed him from its history?

As we shall see, though, the mystery of George Shakerley deepens.

Richard Higgins

Grenville's Ramblin's...



My ramble last month, having taken me back to the beginning of my working life, opened up an opportunity for another ramble or two (or perhaps even more) to do with days now long gone. As I've already mentioned, with my first job in Shepton Mallet having come to an end, my next place of work began much nearer home; home at that time being in part of what was then Harry Snook's three storey farmhouse at the top of the hill out of Gurney Slade.

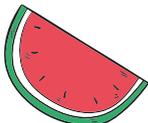
My new job was working for Mr. Colbourn who was at that time the village carpenter, wheelwright and undertaker, at his now long closed workshop that was situated on the corner of the road near Clarks Pool at the top end of the village. The old sad looking double workshop doors that used to open out over the pavement are still there for all to see! So, it was for the next four years much of my working day was spent on jobs in that workshop or out and about the village.

In those days, the parish was surrounded by various small farms which like some of the village cottages were rented from the Church Commissioners. Properties that in later years were sold off into private ownership. However, the situation at that time led to a variety of the workshop jobs involving making or repairing pieces of wooden farming equipment. Come haymaking time (before silage was invented) various pieces of equipment that in some cases had been left out under the hedge since last year needed repairs, swaf boards, tedder rails, tumbler sweep teeth and so on. A farmer would tend to rush down after morning milking with the broken pieces, together with the plea "Can,ee do summit with this Ernie, we shall have dry hay presently", often to be rewarded with the response "Ah leave it there farmer, if we can't do summit with it, we'll put it in such a state that nobody else can". From both the work and the banter shared with visitors to the workshop I found it all very educational!

The timber that we used was mostly Oak, Ash, and Elm, brought from the local sawmills from trees sawn into slabs of various thicknesses and stored in the open-air plank shed over the old saw pit at the back of the property. Oak was used mostly for the main frames of carts and wagons, axels and wheel spokes. Ash was, generally speaking, quite strong and flexible and used for all sorts of jobs that needed its strong and straight grain. Elm was used for floors of putts (carts) and wheels that had to endure the hauling of wet dung from farmyards to fields.

There was no electricity even for lights and the various hand power tools that are so prevalent these days hadn't been invented. Sawing and planeing, chopping and chiselling were all done by hand. So it was that callused hands and aching muscles all became part of my day's work.

Grenville Reakes





Binegar and Gurney Slade Parish Council News



Somerset Household Support Fund

Financial support for vulnerable households who are struggling to afford household essentials.

Are you Struggling with bills? Support is available

The Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term urgent financial help to Somerset residents who are struggling to afford household essentials such as buying food, paying for energy and water bills, and other essential household items such as beds and white goods.

Interpretation Boards

The Parish Council will shortly be starting work on Interpretation Boards for the villages of Binegar and Oakhill. We are looking for ideas about what to include, our thoughts are walking paths, historic or local information and wildlife. Is there anything else you think might be of interest?



Somerset Bus Partnership

Somerset Bus Partnership have recently updated us with their news. Binegar and Gurney Slade still need a bus representative to feedback to the partnership. There is likely to be announcements of further County wide cuts to services in October. In September a campaign to use the bus will take place.

Commemoration Stone

The Parish Council is considering a Commemoration Stone to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Initial suggestions for its siting are: The Batch; in front of the playground; or on the Fairfield. Please let us know if you have any thoughts for its location or any other ideas for a commemoration.



Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 23 August at 7:00pm.

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

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

August Message

*Christopher Foster,
Honorary Assistant Bishop
Bath and Wells*



I'm new around here. Following retirement from ordained ministry last year Somerset has become my adopted county and Bath and Wells my adopted diocese. Sally and I are delighted to be full time now in this lovely and stimulating area. We join many of you who have been part of this diocese and county for a lifetime or for decades, and also some who have recently arrived like us.

We have chosen to be here. Others arrive here because of a range of circumstances and decisions. Perhaps sometimes the journey seems haphazard or inexplicable. Some people come here as refugees fleeing persecution, injustice, or war, especially from Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. They arrive with uncertainty, and often anxiety or trepidation in an unknown and entirely new place far from home.

In our churches and Christian communities, we are committed to welcome everyone – those settled here and also those who are newer. We know we are sisters and brothers in God's family, regardless of background, nationality or indeed any other thing which distinguishes us. God's family is the family of humankind. It's not that we pick and choose whom to call family; we share the same flesh and blood.

St Paul tells us that each one of us has been adopted into that family which is divine and human. God sent Jesus "so that we might receive adoption as children" enabling us to be gifted with the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 4:4-7)

We don't belong out of personal choice, in contrast to my decision to choose here as my adopted diocese and community. We don't pick and choose our ultimate citizenship. God chooses and calls us without us desiring or deserving such adoption. That's why, following God's adoption of us, we never select who to welcome into our church or parish. All belong and all are welcome without hesitation.

We have been adopted into God's family and we are thrilled to adopt everyone into our communities. Thank you for welcoming me!

Christopher Foster



Ashwick Parish Update

July 2022 – David Barlow & Kate Egan
(clerk@ashwickparish.org)

Were you there?

It was a memorable evening on Wednesday 15th June at Mendip District Council Offices. On the Planning Board's agenda was the Chapelfield Development. The residents were well represented – Thank you.

After listening to the Planning Officer's introduction, Rob Westell was given his allotted 3 minutes to give the residents' views. Rob's analysis was excellent, thorough and focussed. Rob had also prepared a briefing paper for distribution to the Mendip Councillors via Sam Phripp. Cllr. David Thorley, representing Ashwick Parish Council, came next, explaining in great detail the Parish Council's reasons why permission should be refused. The representative from Persimmon also spoke.

The discussion opened up to the Mendip Councillors and following their input, it went to the vote, resulting in a unanimous decision to refuse permission. An excellent result, applause all round! Thank you, Rob and David!

Planning - the following applications were discussed at our July meeting:

2022/1272/CLE Application for a certificate of lawful existing development for demolition of existing bay window, erection of a single storey flat roof rear extension. Replacement of a single rear window with French doors. Park Farm, Ash Lane, Neighbourne

2022/1204/HSE Ground / first floor rear and side extension to dwellinghouse and extension to garage. Glencroft, Heckley Lane, Ashwick

2022/1262/VRC Application to vary condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval **2021/2503/FUL** (Demolition of 2no. existing dwellings, a single storey garage and a single storey stable building, and construction of a new single storey office building) to reduce the scale of the office building.

Following concerns raised at the Parish Meeting in May, the Council is exploring the installation of SIDs. (Speed Indicator Device). The previous scheme, run by Somerset County Council ended some years ago. County Councillor Edric Hobbs has also been asked to investigate the Council's request to re-site speed limit signs along Galley Batch plus he is liaising with Somerset County Council over our discussions regarding bus shelters in the village.

Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 14th September in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Council members: David Barlow (Chair), Phil Briscoe, Jessica Elliott, Sarah Emery, David Hine, Monica Mundy, David Thorley and Bryan Wells. **Clerk - Kate Egan**



Building work at the Hall continues apace, and the new interior areas that are being created are looking incredible. We think this will really change the way the Hall is used, opening it up, and making it a far more useable and sociable café / meeting space – perfect for the next Village Festival and other events!

Since the original plans were drawn up, a number of improvements to the design have been discussed and agreed – including the much larger café space, smart new fire doors, improved flooring reaching out to the foyer area, and details of the kitchen fittings and equipment – including a fabulous coffee machine that will make the Hall the place to be for your caffeine hit!

We are certain that all of these tweaks are the right thing for the Hall – we envisage a community hub in the future, a perfect stop off for your weekend walk, as well as a destination for planned social events and groups – but of course they come at a cost and our estimated budget has been adjusted accordingly, so we are now reaching for our new target of £85k. This month we had good news from a grant we applied for some time ago – we were awarded £4k from The Somerset Community Foundation, meaning we are within £10k of our new target.

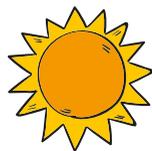
Phase 2 of the building work – which was to focus on a new separate space for changing rooms – has been temporarily put on hold.....for now... we will come back to this. Instead, once the kitchen and café space are completed, we will be switching focus to the outside play and leisure equipment.

Children and families in the village are key users of the outside space – we know this – and we want to focus on giving them what they want from the Rec next. The play equipment is well used and loved but is in need of constant upkeep – many thanks to committee member Martin Rymes for his continued hard work on this. So, our next focus will switch to improvements to the equipment available for leisure for children, families and adults alike. We would love to hear your comments and suggestions for what you and your family would like to see at the Rec.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank Wayne Nutt for fixing the broken guttering at the Hall. We really appreciate your help, as always!

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

The August Garden



EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB – JANE EVANS

August, the last official month of summer, the perfect time to enjoy your garden while still at its best. Children are on school holiday, lawns are in full use, and there's plenty of delicious fruit and veg.

Top up ponds and bird baths regularly.

Water fruit and veg plants daily.

Prune summer flowering shrubs, such as climbing hydrangeas, once blooms are finished.

Keep on top of weeds as they compete with your crops for nutrients and water.

Water evergreen shrubs like camellias and rhododendrons thoroughly this month to make sure next year's buds develop well.

Keep patio container plants well watered and feed with a liquid fertiliser every fortnight.

Stake tall or top-heavy dahlias and lilies to prevent wind and rain damage. Dead-head lilies for a better display next year.

Dead-head annual bedding plants and perennials to encourage flowering into the autumn and stop them self-seeding.

As penstemon flowers fade, cut back to just above a leaf to encourage more flowers.

Cut back herbs to encourage new tasty leaves you can harvest before the frost.

Prune wisteria after flowering by removing all the whippy side-shoots

from to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem).

Trim lavender plants after they've finished flowering to keep them compact.

Collect ripened seeds and store for next year. Leaving some heads in place can be attractive and allows self-seeding.

Mow meadows to help scatter established wildflower seeds.

Take cuttings of your favourite tender perennials such as pelargoniums and fuchsia to propagate for next year.

Finish dividing clumps of bearded Iris so they can form roots and flower buds for next year.

Prune climbing and rambling roses after flowering (unless they're repeat-flowerers).

Look out for symptoms of 'clematis wilt' including black discoloration on the leaves and stems. Cut out infected plant material and dispose of it in your household waste. Water sweetcorn plants regularly and feed with tomato food to get the best cobs.

Apply a high-potash fertiliser such as tomato food once fruits start to form on peppers, cucumber and aubergine plants.

Continue to feed tomato plants and remove lower leaves to help with air circulation and prevent disease. Pinch out the top of plants to concentrate the

growth into the fruit that has already formed. Aim to leave 5 or 6 trusses of fruit per plant.

Cut back herbs to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves that you can harvest before the first frosts. Dry or freeze excess herbs for use later on.

Thin parsley to help establish a good root system before winter. Leave 25cm between plants.

Pinch out the tips of your runner bean plants once they reach the top of their support. This encourages side-shooting and more beans at a manageable height. Harvest French and runner beans little and often to prevent them from setting seed. Pick runner beans regularly to prevent them becoming stringy and to make room for developing pods. Leaving mature pods to set seed can prevent further flowers developing and reduce your crop.

Take cuttings of herbs such as rosemary, sage or mint now to bulk up supplies. Put cuttings in moist, well-drained potting compost (one part grit to one part compost) and place in a cold frame. Established clumps of chives can be divided.

On a sunny day, collect seeds of herbs such as dill, bronze fennel, caraway and chervil and dry in a warm spot out of direct sunlight. Chervil must be sown immediately.

Keep an eye out for potato and tomato blight and remove and destroy affected plants immediately to prevent its spread.

Check for cabbage white butterfly eggs under brassica and leafy green leaves and squash any that you find. Alternatively use nematodes to kill the caterpillars. If you have plants fruiting in containers, ensure you give them a high potash liquid feed to keep them healthy and productive.

Remember to feed your lemon tree (and other citrus fruit trees) throughout summer with a special citrus fertiliser.

Tidy up strawberry plants and remove old straw from around the plants to improve ventilation and reduce the risk of pests and diseases. Plant out any rooted runners for a good crop next year.

If you have a glut of autumn raspberries, blackberries or loganberries, freeze on trays for a couple of hours and then bag up to use over winter.

Prune the fruited stems of your blackcurrant bushes after harvesting.

Cut back fruited canes of summer raspberries, leaving the new green canes for next year's crop. Tie in the canes to support wires or fencing.

Direct sow spinach 'Perpetual' for autumn and winter cropping.

There's still time to make direct sowings of fast-maturing carrots such as 'Adelaide'.

Take photos of your garden if you want to rearrange things over the winter — it's much easier to do this if you have a reference point.

Oakhill & Ashwick Local History Group

The Memoirs of Alfred Ernest Feltham (Alfie), 1915-2004, in his own words – Part 1.

This is my story! I was born in one of Squire Strachey's cottages opposite Withy Cottages, Bath Rd, Ashwick/Oakhill on 30th June 1915. As my Father was stationed in London for military training for the First World War, and imminent embarkation to France, my Mother took me to London to be christened with my Father present, at St George's Church, Camberwell, in August 1915.

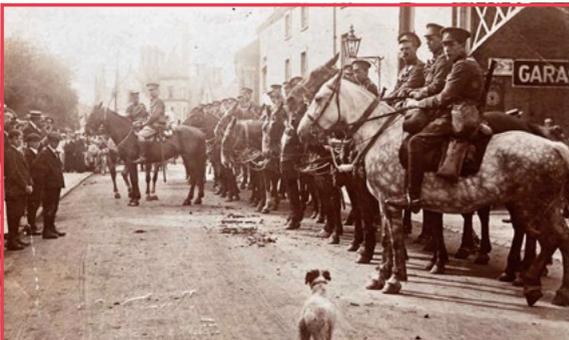
I was given the forenames Alfred Ernest as my Mother's brother Alfred Ernest had been killed in the Ypres Salient in the May of the same year. He has no known grave but is on the Wall of Honour on the Menin Gate at Ypres, as well as the War Memorial at Oakhill. My Uncle had volunteered in August 1914 together with Jack Selway (who had put on his age in order to go with him) in the North Somerset Yeomanry as they were both fond of horses, but they all too soon lost them in the mud of Flanders Fields! During the retreat from Mons, even though [my Uncle was] wounded in the knee, they rescued their wounded Commander Spencer [of the Oakhill Brewery family], who was later killed, as was my Uncle... My Father was involved in some of the most horrendous battles and returned much traumatised, but like all his comrades had to work it off as best

he and the others could, not forgetting the help of their families and their faith and trust in God.

Father was employed by the Brewery as a lorry driver and later at the Brewery Gas Works. His health deteriorated due to the hellish conditions in the Gas Works so he had to give it up and he became a baker's roundsman for the Oakhill Co-Operative Society. As Father had been employed in the Brewery he was allotted No 4, Coronation Terrace where we lived for 2 or 3 years prior to having to move to Little London to enable my Mother to care for her sick parents in one of the red brick houses [No 2 Elm Tree Villas], as well as looking after my brother Dennis, sisters Doreen and Phyllis, myself and her parents.

My disappearance one day caused quite some alarm. Apparently, I had wandered off to school with brother Dennis at the age of about three! The lady teacher, Mrs Colville, being aware of my Mother's commitments, allowed me to stay and attend on a regular basis. I enjoyed school very much indeed and progressed rather well, so much so that the Headmaster, some years on, allowed me to deliver telegrams for the postmaster, Mr Arthur Reeves, during school-time. I was eager to learn and find out how things worked.

One incident comes to mind which took place when I was coming out of school. A timber carriage was standing in the road, the horses of which were being shod by the blacksmith, Mr Alfie Moon. This huge vehicle fascinated me and on looking around I noticed a big iron handle which I played with, only to find that the vehicle started to run backwards down the slope! As it happened the coal merchant Mr Charlie Hill's horse and cart was



The scene in Shepton Mallet as C Squadron, North Somerset Yeomanry, and Alfie's Uncle, departed to War on 14th August, 1914

standing at a right angle in the road and – much to my horror – the timber carriage smashed into the cart, demolishing it, and the horse bolted with the remains of the cart! I was transfixed at the scene. Mr Hill took me in to see the schoolmaster, Mr Colville, and I had to explain as best I could as to what had happened, with Mr Colville remarking to Mr Hill “well, sir, boys will be boys”. Mr Hill came to see my parents that evening about the matter, Mr Hill being a good Christian man and Deacon of the Congregational Chapel – in those days next to our house – all Mr Hill came to say was that as long as Alfie was suitably punished that was the end of the matter. After Mr Hill’s departure, my Father said – taking off his strap – “get on upstairs, my boy,” but when it came to actually beating me he could not bring himself to do it. It was only then I realised how much he loved me and I sincerely hope that I never offended him subsequently.

More from Alfie next month.

Lin Thorley

Roots Nursery
@ Oakhill Church School

We have spaces available for children aged 2 years – 4 years old.



Contact us on 01749 840426 or email enquiries@oakhill.bwmat.org to book a tour.

 'Roots Nursery at Oakhill School' www.oakhillchurchschool.co.uk/nursery




Oakhill Church School & Nursery

Oakhill Church School would like to extend a warm welcome to the Ukrainian families that have joined the school and local community.

We would especially like to give a warm welcome to Tanya & Simeon who have joined Willow class and Sasha & Uliana who have joined Maple class. A few weeks ago, the BBC came to interview some of the refugees and host families in Oakhill, you can read the story via this link:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-61761497>

Oakhill choir sang in the Somerset Spectacular at Strode theatre on Tuesday night and absolutely sparkled with their stunning performances of “How far I’ll Go” from Moana, “Happy” and “Sing”. Miss Arnold and Mrs. Ford were blown away at how confidently and beautifully they sang, and there was even a bit of audience participation during the song “Happy!”

Dee Bulmer



The Gleaning

The Gleaning is an exhibition and installation forming part of the Somerset Arts Weeks in September 2022 which will be hosted inside Shepton Mallet Church. Gill Sakakini is co-curating with Fiona Campbell, an artist in Cranmore. Please join in any of the events and workshops and be part of creating the large-scale art pieces that will become stories in 'textile-stained glass' hanging in front of the windows inside the church. Everyone is welcome and all materials are supplied. Book with revgill.sheptonmallet@gmail.com



A creative, collaborative fusion celebrating connection, care and inclusion. Leading to Somerset Art Weeks Festival 24/9 to 9/10 in Shepton Mallet church.



Poster design: Chris Lee.

Photo (church window): Dominic Weston

Event:

The Gleaning: Drawing On with Words!

Date: Tuesday 16th August

Time: 10am-12noon

Location: Collett Park

Details: A special workshop using the power of words - inspired by the beauty of Collett Park - to create stories and literary artwork with Gill and Polly. Bring your own picnic! Drawing On! A story/art-making community workshop for all ages and abilities, involving various drawing techniques and featuring work made from gathered, recycled and found materials. Some of the work produced may form part of the final The Gleaning art installations and exhibition in the church. **FREE** event.

Event:

The Gleaning: Community Art Project

Date: Thursday 18th August

Time: 2pm-4pm

Location: Shepton Mallet Church

Details: The Gleaning Community arts project, on Thursday 18th August, 2pm-4pm, to work on the fabric art installations - inside and outside of Shepton Mallet Church - some of which have been created over the Summer Series. **FREE** event.



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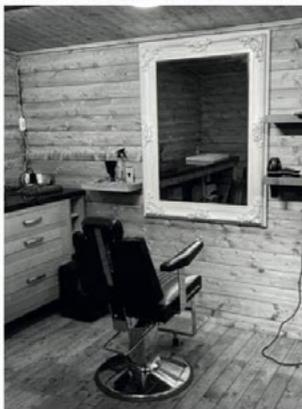


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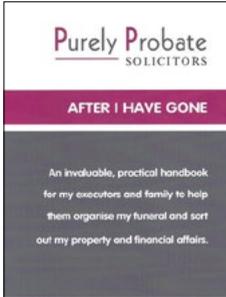
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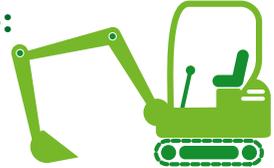
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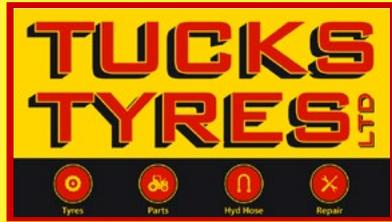
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