

The Beacon

Ashwick, Oakhill & Binegar News



DECEMBER 2022

Cover photo: © Peter Dennis



BEACON TRINITY



Church Services – December 2022



Sunday, 4th December

10.00am Communion St. James, Ashwick

Sunday, 11th December

3.00pm Christingle All Saints, Oakhill

Sunday, 18th December

10.00am Communion St. James, Ashwick

Friday, 23rd December

7.00pm Carol Service
with Brass Band St. James, Ashwick

Christmas Eve – Saturday, 24th December

4.00pm Crib Service All Saints, Oakhill
11.00pm Christmas Communion Holy Trinity, Binegar

Christmas Day – Sunday, 25th December

10.00am Christmas All-age
Communion St. James, Ashwick

Sunday, 1st January

10.00am Communion St. James, Ashwick



Carols Around the Tree

Holy Trinity Church, Binegar – please join us in the churchyard for Carols around the Tree on Tuesday, 20th December at 6 p.m. and sample some Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at the same time! Parking available on the Fair Field. See Binegar & Gurney Slade Parish Council News on Page 13.





Christmas is coming and my prayer is that we are all able to celebrate with our families and friends this year.

I remember the excitement as a child waiting for Christmas, hoping that Father Christmas would bring me what I wanted. I remember when I was engaged to Mandy trying to think of what to buy her as a gift and enjoying giving and receiving from someone extra special.

I remember when children came along, seeing their excitement... but then I had to get used to the emphasis being different. I remember when we became the home the wider family came to because we had to be at home at Christmas. And now I am a grandparent and the focus changes again.

When I look back, I have been aware how I struggled to come to terms with the changing seasons of my life. I am so thankful that I have people around me who know love me, people I can talk to when I need. I am not alone and have never really felt alone.

Christmas, however, can be a very lonely time. Some struggle with a change in life circumstance, some have nowhere to turn when things are tough and the world around them expects a particular demeanour.

There will be people in our community who do not feel the way we feel. It doesn't mean we shouldn't celebrate but I hope we can be aware of everyone around us and, if needed, stop, listen and care.

If you are someone who needs someone to talk to please ask. A friend will listen. My prayer for this Christmas is that we are an inclusive community that cares, and no-one is left alone this year.

Please visit www.beacontrinity.church or:

Find us on 
facebook.com/beacontrinity

Follow us on Instagram! 
instagram.com/beacontrinity

Community corner



Christopher Sully

We were deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Christopher Sully of Oakhill. Chris and Sara moved to the village in 1978 and have a daughter, Emma, and two grand children – Millie and George. Chris was an active member of Ashwick Parish Council for a considerable time, serving for a while as Chair. He also served as a Governor at Oakhill School. He and Sara organised the local Walking Group and were enthusiastic members of Oakhill Short Mat Bowls Club. A Thanksgiving Service, attended by family and many friends, was held for Chris in St James Church, Ashwick on the 2nd November. Chris's beloved labradors, Ruby and Henry, were also in church to say their goodbyes. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sara and family. RIP Chris.

Friends of Leigh Church Christmas Tree Festival 2022

Is taking place in St Giles Church, Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QJ on **Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December** between 11.00am and 4.00pm This beautiful 14th century village church will be filled with sparkling, brightly lit Christmas trees to usher in the festive season. Entry is free and delicious light lunches, home-made cakes and refreshments will be available. See poster on p5, opposite.

Holy Trinity Church, Binegar

Please join us in the churchyard for Carols around the Tree on Tuesday, 20th December at 6 p.m. and sample some Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at the same time! Parking available on the Fair Field.

Christmas Gifts for Mendip YMCA

Once again, there will be an opportunity to donate non-perishable food, toiletries, etc for the YMCA to give Christmas gifts to young and old needy people in Mendip. Contributions may be left in Binegar church or in the front porch at The Galleons, Binegar Lane – **no later than Thursday, 8th December**, please.

Molly and Grenville Reakes

Local clubs

Oakhill and Ashwick Local History Group:

Christmas-time is nearly here again! The History Group will be having its usual **'Xmas Frolics and Skittles Party, at 7pm on Thursday, 15th December at the Poacher's Pocket, Chelynch**. (Note it's not the usual History Group night). It's a very popular event, open to non-members (welcome!), so **book early!** We will have a Hot Buffet (provision for special diets and allergies) – cost TBA. To book email: lhg.oakash@btinternet.com
Further details from 01749 840200.

East Mendip Gardening Club:

On **Tuesday, 12 December** the East Mendip Gardening Club will meet in Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall at 7.30p.m. for their Christmas Party and AGM. New members are always welcome so do come to meet our members and learn about our programme for 2023. Further details from our Chair Mark Manley: markamanley81@googlemail.com or see <https://www.ashwickparish.org/clubs-and-societies/east-mendip-gardening-club/>

Oakhill Short Mat Bowls Club:

Meets in Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall on Tuesdays from 2-4 pm. Details from Kate Baker 01749 343589.



Flower arrangers wanted!

Would you like to add to the beauty of our lovely church at Holy Trinity, Binegar, by being a member of a group of enthusiastic flower arrangers, commencing in 2023? If so, please contact Sue Stone on 840300.

This month's cover...

This month's cover photograph of a stained glass window in the Lady Chapel at St James' Church, Ashwick taken by Peter Dennis. Please send your photos for the cover (portrait orientation, in colour) to: magazine@beacontrinity.church

We wish our readers, contributors, advertisers, sponsors and deliverers a very merry Christmas and thank you all for your support this year.



FRIENDS OF LEIGH CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST GILES' CHURCH, LEIGH ON MENDIP,
BA3 5QJ



***Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 December 2022
11am - 4pm***

Come and see our beautiful 14th century village church decorated with sparkling Christmas trees!

Free admission

**Delicious light lunches, home-made cakes
and refreshments served all day**

Friends of Leigh Church, registered charity number
(England and Wales): 1174913



Volunteer to be an Independent Visitor or Advocate for children in Somerset.

These are fascinating and inspiring opportunities, which can bring real benefits to vulnerable children and young people. (Travel and reasonable expenses are reimbursed.)

You can help children and young people understand their rights and ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are heard.

What is an Independent Visitor?

Independent Visitors are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. By law all local authorities have to provide an Independent Visitor service.

In Somerset our intention is to encourage the relationship between the Independent Visitor and young person to continue beyond care. This way the care leavers continue to benefit from support, while making the transition to young adulthood. Independent Visitors are highly valued by the young people as they may be the only person involved in their lives who is not paid to be there.



What is an Advocate?

An Advocate is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people to have their voice heard when meetings are taking place concerning their wellbeing. It's the role of the Advocate to speak up for the young person, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings. Why not join our bank of advocates? You choose when you're available.

Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability. Your life experience will be highly valued and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills.

Please contact us and we will arrange a short visit or call to explain more and discuss your options.



For more information, visit our website at

www.route1advocacy.co.uk

Route1businesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk

01749 822801

Follow us on social media:





Oakhill Church School & Nursery

At the end of Term 1 the children learnt about 'Black History Month' and how various individuals have changed the course of

History. They have written reports, biographies and completed artwork (see pictures). This was reinforced by a Mufti Day for Racism by all the school wearing something red.

Term 2 started with all the children enjoying a School Disco which was organised by the PTA.

We also have planned an 'Inter-faith week' where the children will have first-hand experiences to explore the culturally rich and diverse society, we are proud to be part of.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The school is looking for Sponsorship for an 'Oakhill Sports Kit'. If anyone is interested in helping us please contact: Rowena.Robinson@oakhill.bwmat.org

Dee Bulmer



Gurney Slade and Binegar Memorial Hall

KNIT & NATTER.

"Laugh & Chatter."

Our lovely group meet every second Wednesday in the month.

10.30 - 12pm

£2

Always a warm welcome, if you don't knit or natter...you can just laugh & chatter!!!

Tea, Coffee & Cake.

For more info contact Carole 07980 979365.



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



Please join us with the band
"SOUL'D OUT"
for our

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 3rd December 2022

7.30 - 11.00 p.m

Gurney Slade and Binegar Memorial Hall.

Tickets: £10 per head

Bring your own Food and Drinks

To book: Call 07528 169533 or visit our Hall Facebook page

December Message

*Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells*



His light is never extinguished

As 2022 comes to a close, our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine whose country was invaded by Russia on the 24 February this year. In the months since, we have watched in horror as civilians, cities and infrastructure have been attacked, land occupied and atrocities committed.

The UK has received more than 100,000 people fleeing from the conflict. The gift of their presence among us reminds us that this is no "quarrel in a far away country, between people of whom we know nothing".

As we recall once again the coming into the world of Jesus at Christmas, our challenge is to connect our celebration of his birth with the realities and consequences of the conflict that is happening. Sadly, it's not hard to see the links. Jesus was born in a land (Palestine) that had been annexed by an expansionist foreign power (Rome) in pursuit of its territorial ambitions. The demands of the Roman occupiers meant that Jesus' birth happened not at home in Nazareth, but at a counting centre - Bethlehem. He was born in a stable because 'there was no room at the inn'. While still a baby, Jesus became a refugee when taken to Egypt due to warnings of atrocities to come.

Viewed this way, the Christmas story is no sentimental fable. It is a brutal foreshadowing of the events that Ukraine and our whole world have encountered this year. At the same time, it is also a story of hope. For it tells us that even in the very worst that can happen the Christ child whose birth we celebrate knows all too well the realities of the human condition. As a result, in any darkness his light is never extinguished. For he is Emmanuel – God with us.

So, as we come to the end of 2022, we give thanks that God is always with us in whatever we face. May he be with Ukraine. May he be with Russia. And may he be welcomed by us all.

A very happy Christmas.

Bishop Michael

Tales of old

Throughout the 1730s, Edward Willes rose through the ranks of the clergy. In 1730, he became a prebend of Lincoln Cathedral then, courtesy of King George, its Dean. The historian Casson was disgusted, writing in 1829, “the race is not only *not*” always but very rarely “to the swift and the battle to the strong.”

From the Deanery, he was raised to the See of St David’s and then to Bath & Wells in 1743. Casson: “Here he sat, for the long period of 30 years, retaining the mysterious office of *Decypherer to the King*”. Jointly with his eldest son Edward.” The duties required a very active, laborious and incessant exertion allowing little time for anything else.

Here is a clue to his character: he promoted the careers of his children. Not only his eldest but also his youngest son and then his grandson became official *Decypherer*, a job that seems to be a Willes heirloom.

His four daughters survived into adulthood and married well: one to Sir Alex Powell and three to men appointed Archdeacons of Wells. Son Henry became our Whitchurch Prebendary, Chancellor and Precentor of Wells. Son William became Prebendary of Compton Dundon, Chancellor and Archdeacon of Wells. Only son John did not enter the church, instead becoming a Royal Naval sea captain.

This nepotism seems to have done little harm to Bishop Edward Willes at his death. He was buried with due pomp in the north aisle of Westminster Abbey (having spent most of his life in London rather than Wells.) The inscription on his grave reads:

“Under this stone lyes interred the remains of Dr Edward Willes, many years a Prebendary of this Church afterwards Dean of Lincoln, Bishop of St David’s and of Bath and Wells who departed this life Nov 24 1773 in the eightieth year of his age truly thankful to God for the long and prosperous life he enjoyed here, but much more for ye comfortable hope of a joyfull resurrection to everlasting life thro the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ.”

The coat of arms at the top shows the arms of the Bishop of Bath and Wells “impaling a chevron between three mullets” (or stars) for Willes.

I wish you a joyous, peaceful and very happy Christmas.

Richard Higgins

Grenville's Ramblin's...



Many years ago, Molly's father acquired an unwanted Damson bush and planted it among the other trees and bushes growing in our bit of woodland. There, being left to its own devices and gradually reaching toward the sky, the bush eventually produced flowers, some of which escaping the early frost went on to produce fruit. As the fruit ripened, I saw fit to lean a wooden ladder against this, what had become a tall bush, in order to pick some of the fruit growing near the top. However, my weight on the ladder overpowered the bush causing us to fall together in a big heap on the ground. Fortunately, there were no broken bones, but the tip of my ear getting pinched between my hearing aid and the ladder must have caused a bit of damage that recently required surgery.

So it was, as I lay on the operating table in the Royal United Hospital recently, feeling the surgeon's knife on and around my ear and wondering what the outcome would be, I was reminded of my father who lost a piece of one ear during the latter end of the last war; not I hasten to add, in actual warfare, but in an accident in a haymaking field!

In those days, the great heavily laden Lancaster bombers, taking part in daylight raids on targets that only they knew where, would come roaring down off the Mendips so low that as we stood in the fields, we were able to see the men in the cockpits of those great machines.

On the day of the accident my father was helping with the haymaking in a field near the Mendip Inn. Being used to horses, he had been given the job of driving a horse drawn machine for clean raking the hay field, which he was in the course of doing, when a huge formation of bombers came roaring over the field, frightening the horse which tried to bolt. Father, used to driving horses, had the horse under control when, unfortunately, one of the shafts on the machine broke and father was thrown under it and trundled round and round by the tines. The machine, still being dragged by the panic-stricken horse, hit a large bump in the field causing it to jump off the ground, leaving father behind but tearing off part of an ear as it did so.

No 999 in those days. However, those who went to his aid were fortunately able to locate the local doctor who came and wrapped a bandage round father's head and the wounded ear, which, while never again looking very elegant, eventually, healed up of its own accord.

I, thank God, was in the hands of a surgeon of our wonderful caring NHS.

Grenville Peakes





Ashwick Parish Update

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



The Council was saddened by the news of the passing of Chris Sully. Chris had been a valued member of the Council and had served as Chair. He was keen to protect the character of the village and showed great interest in environmental issues. We send our condolences to Sara and his family.

Parishioners have respected the double yellow lines at the junction with the A367. However, any motorist parking on the yellow lines needs to be aware that, in the future, a Traffic Warden will visit on his rounds and tickets will be issued for any infringements.

Planning – the following applications were considered:

(a) 2022/2049/FUL Change of use of land for the siting of 6 no. bell tents for holiday accommodation, 3 no. compost toilets and shower sheds and parking. Land at 363417 146983 Bath Road, Oakhill. The Council recommended approval.

2022/1983/CLE Application for a certificate of lawful existing development for deviations from planning permission ref: 034627/002 – (Conversion of building to form holiday letting accommodation), to long term tenancy. Councillors raised concerns about parking on the road.

Initial discussion on the budget took place for the next financial year 23/24 with possible approval at the December meeting.

The Council voted to donate the recently purchased wooden table and seats to the Village Hall Committee for use within the Playing Fields. The table will replace one of the picnic tables near the children's play area and is wheelchair/pushchair accessible!

A proposal for the Village Hall Committee to care for, and maintain, the Jubilee tree along with other newly planted trees within the Playing Field was tabled and agreed.

Mendip District Council is preparing a Greenspace Audit, mapping greenspaces across Mendip, with a focus on the settlements. The audit updates previous open space studies undertaken in 2008 and 2012 and consolidates and aligns with the assessment work carried out whilst preparing the Local Plan Part 1 and Local Plan Part 2. The Draft Supplementary Planning Document from Mendip District Council on Greenspaces within the Parish was discussed and a response agreeing the identified green spaces in the Parish was submitted.

Date and time of next meeting: - Wednesday 14th December 2022 in the Village Hall starting at 7.30p.m. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

Council members: David Barlow, Phillip Blatchford, Phil Briscoe, Sarah Emery, David Hine, Monica Mundy and David Thorley.

Merry Christmas to everyone. Enjoy a restful festive season!



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.

Coronation Celebrations – Weekend of 6 May 2023

The Coronation of His Majesty the King will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023. There are plans across the nation to celebrate please share any thoughts and ideas you might have for our villages.

173 Bus Under Threat

Despite our many requests we still have no bus representative for Binegar & Gurney Slade. Somerset Bus Partnership are asking us to find somebody. Do you travel on the 173? Do you know somebody who does? With government cuts expected next March bus routes are once again under threat and the 173 bus is at risk. As one of the few Parishes on the 173 route without representative we need your help.

Christmas 2022

The Parish Council look forward to bringing festive cheer and will again be erecting a Christmas tree in Holy Trinity Cemetery. Carols around the Tree will be on Tuesday, 20th December at 6pm. Festive windows and

gardens have been much enjoyed in previous years so join in this Christmas and decorate your windows or garden.



Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 6 December 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



News from the Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall Committee

Exciting News for the New Kitchen and Caf  area Opening, and Christmas Market

We are pleased to announce that the Village Hall's brand new kitchen and indoor cafe seating area will be officially opened ahead of our annual Christmas market on **Saturday 3rd December**.

Local author, **Cath Weeks**, who was born in Midsomer Norton and attended Somervale School, has published four previous books under her own name and now has a critically acclaimed novel, **Good Husbands** under her pen name '**Cate Ray**', following her success in signing up with an international publisher. Cath will also be signing and selling copies of her new book at the Christmas market, which will have an exciting range of other select stalls to tempt all ages.



Reminder - we need your help!

Now that we have achieved our vision to provide a brand-new kitchen and cafe/coffee shop area - after much hard work and funding (mainly as a result of multiple grant applications) - we need your help for the next stage!

Does anyone have experience in running a cafe / Coffee shop and have any time on their hands to volunteer to help get it up and running? If so, we would love to hear from you!

This facility will be a real asset to our village and our surrounding villages and hamlets. A place to go, a social hub, and a lifeline to those of us feeling isolated or looking for a local meeting place or activity. Volunteering to help is a great way to give back to your community and meet loads of interesting new people. We know of other successful cafes run on a volunteer basis, but the current Village Hall Committee need your support to succeed.

Dog Control at the Recreation Field

The VH Committee are saddened to have received recent reports and seen online discussion relating to dog attacks and inadequate control/handling of dogs on the recreational field. This is clearly a major concern to us and particularly to those on the receiving end of such unacceptable behaviour and no doubt a worry for other users of this community resource that is for the benefit of **ALL** users.

Consequently, as Managing Trustees of the Recreational Field, the VH Committee have formally recorded the reports to date and are actively monitoring the situation. We have also contacted our local Police Community Support Office (PCSO) for their awareness and requested random visits at key times (something they have done for us previously).

In addition, we will be posting additional public notices at entrances to the Rec to encourage all dog owners to be mindful of all users and to always keep their dogs under full owner control and in line with the Mendip Public Spaces Protection Order as linked to this post. In the meantime, please let us know of any further occurrences via aandovillagehall@gmail.com or contact the Committee directly on 07853 112241.

Thank you in advance for your vigilance, support and co-operation.



Christmas Market

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER

FREE ENTRY | 11PM - 3PM
ASHWICK AND OAKHILL VILLAGE HALL | BA3 5AN

An exciting mix of local stalls, perfect for all your
Christmas shopping needs!

COME AND VISIT OUR NEW COMMUNITY CAFE...
serving pulled pork brioche rolls, delicious cakes,
mince pies, mulled wine, teas, coffees
AND MUCH MORE

Raffle with fantastic prizes!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

The December Garden



EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB – JANE EVANS

December is a quiet month in the garden, but there are many things to take care of. With limited daylight hours approaching the shortest day of the year, this month's crisp wintery weather can be strikingly beautiful and bitterly cold in equal measure.

Dig over empty borders and prepare soil for next year's planting.

Group potted plants in a sheltered spot to protect them from the harshest winter weather. Some fruit trees, roses and Japanese maples are just a few of the plants that benefit from a winter prune.

Dig over empty borders and prepare your soil for next year's planting.

Start to winter-prune wisteria, cutting back whippy summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds.

Prune climbing roses, removing diseased or damaged growth and tying in any new shoots to their support. Prune older flowered side shoots back by two thirds of their length.

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

Prune Japanese maple trees (*Acer palmatum*) if needed, they will bleed sap if pruning is done any later.

Leave the faded flower heads on hydrangeas until spring to provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems.

If any of your rose bushes suffered from blackspot or rust during the summer, collect and remove any fallen leaves to reduce the chance of spreading the infection next year.

Keep checking over stored dahlia tubers, keeping an eye out for rot.

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

Harvest holly with berries for Christmas garlands and wreaths. Stand the berry covered twigs in a bucket of water until you're ready to use them.

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

Take hardwood cuttings from suitable trees and shrubs.

Lift your last leeks and parsnips before the soil freezes and heel them into a trench beside a path. They'll keep for several months like this and can be brought indoors when required.

Remove yellowing leaves from your winter brassicas — they're no use to the plant and 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 the growing conditions.

Prune fruit trees to maintain an open, balanced structure and encourage



quality fruit production. The exception is plums, cherries and other stone fruits that should not be pruned until the summer to prevent silver leaf fungus. Use clean, sharp secateurs to avoid damaging your trees.

Construct a screen of clear polythene over wall trained peaches and nectarines to protect from wet winter weather, which spreads the peach leaf curl fungus.

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

Apply glue bands or grease bands to the trunks of fruit trees to prevent wingless female winter moths climbing the trunks and laying their eggs in the branches.

If you haven't already done so, clean out the greenhouse thoroughly. Wash the glass, the floor and the staging with horticultural disinfectant to kill any overwintering pests and diseases. Wash and disinfect capillary matting before storing.

Work in manure to greenhouse borders to prepare them for next spring. Leave enough space to add compost later on. Wash down your garden tools and give them a wipe of linseed oil on the wooden and metal areas to help prevent rusting.

Clear out the garden shed in preparation for the spring and check the security. This is particularly important in winter when you visit it less often.

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

Plant bare root edible hedging while the plant is dormant.

There's still time to clean out water butts before they fill with fresh rainwater.

Wash and disinfect bird feeders and bird tables. Clean out bird baths. Hang fat balls and keep bird feeders topped up with wild bird food; they will then eat pests in your garden!

Pile old logs in an undisturbed corner to provide shelter for toads and other wildlife.

Sow hardy broad bean 'Aquadulce Claudia', or the dwarf variety 'The Sutton', outdoors under cloches.

Plant raspberry canes while they're dormant.

Plant blueberries for an attractive addition to the fruit garden. With pretty white flowers, berries and fiery autumn foliage, these acid loving plants provide constant interest. If your soil is too alkali, try growing your blueberries in containers with ericaceous compost.

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

Take an inventory of tools and equipment that you need for next year. Add them to your Christmas list!



WEATHER REPORT: OCTOBER 2022

From Roemead Farm.
Written by
Gerald Esain.



October was very mild with temperatures above average. Highest reading 19.3°C on the 29th. October rainfall was the highest recorded here this year with 143.1mm. This is above average for this site.

AVIAN INFLUENZA (Bird Flu)

On 17 October 2022 an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was declared by the Government across the whole of England. This was because of the increased number of cases of the disease across the country. All bird keepers (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard) are now required by law to take a range of precautions to protect their flocks. (Jeyes fluid is a Defra approved disinfectant for Avian Influenza).

There are minimum requirements for all bird keepers to follow. If your birds are not housed, they must be kept in fenced/enclosed outdoor areas. Precautions include (amongst others): feeding birds under cover where wild birds cannot access, preventing access by captive birds to ponds and watercourses, and effectively cleansing and disinfecting any hardstanding surfaces in areas where birds are kept. Further enhanced measures apply for premises with over 500 poultry or other captive birds.

Full details of what is required can be found on the government website - www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#AIPZ

You can find a self-assessment checklist at the above link to help you put the measures in place, as well as more information about the virus. You can keep up to date by regularly visiting the avian influenza section on the government website, and by registering for email or text alerts - www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service

Remember that if you have poultry/captive birds it is your responsibility to keep updated on any outbreaks and an easy way to do this is by signing up for text notifications - register with the APHA alerts service. If you have any concerns about the health of your birds, you should promptly speak to your vet.

The risk to public health from the virus is very low, however it is important that people don't pick up sick or dead birds. You can report finding dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as birds of prey, to the DEFRA helpline on 03459 335577.

Ashwick Church Rooms

The Church Rooms at Ashwick are available for hire and are the perfect venue for smaller functions - from children's parties to intimate country weddings. The Rooms have a large well-equipped kitchen, full disabled and baby changing facilities and is centrally heated throughout. To view the Rooms, or for details of our competitive hire charges, please contact:

Caroline Stevens Tel: 01749 840170
e-mail: caroline.stevens@beacontrinity.church

Binegar & Gurney Slade Memorial Hall

A large bright hall and separate meeting room available for hire.

Suitable for a variety of events including:

Children's parties, family gatherings, fundraising events and meetings.

Well equipped with a modern kitchen.

For further information call

01749 840764 • 07528 169533

**NOW
TAKING
BOOKINGS**



Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall



The Village Hall on Zion Hill is a great local venue for parties, wedding and christening celebrations, clubs, societies, meetings and fundraisers. Recently refurbished and redecorated, the main hall has a capacity of 125 (70 seated). Hire includes use of a fully-fitted kitchen, tables and chairs, and hall piano.

Other Facilities for hire include a meeting room (up to 20 seated), football pitches, changing rooms with showers and various sound/lighting equipment.



Amenities include large car park, recreational field, toddler playground, BMX track, Truespeed Ultra wifi and projector screens in the hall and meeting room.

Availability and Booking Information:

www.ashwickparish.org (Amenities > Village Hall)
or **Email:** aandovillagehall@gmail.com
or **Phone:** 01749 841 688



OAKHILL INN

Award-winning food cooked using local, seasonal ingredients

Delicious Sunday roasts • Stonebaked sourdough pizzas

Local guest ales & Oakhill Inn house ale

Excellent wine list • 20+ wines by the glass

Sunny courtyard garden • log fires in Autumn/Winter

5 En suite bedrooms • Large dining room for private events



The Oakhill Inn, Fosse Road, Radstock, BA3 5HU
01749 840442 • info@theoakhill.com
www.theoakhillinn.com

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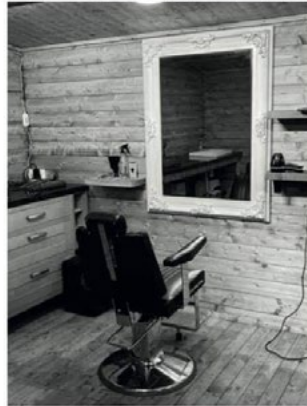
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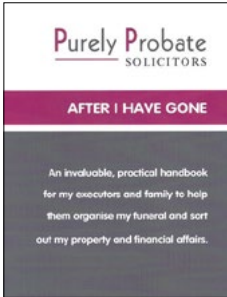
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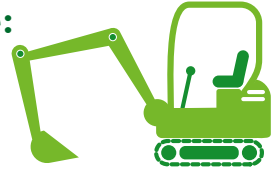
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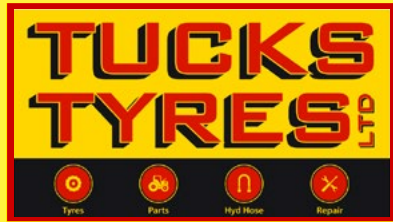
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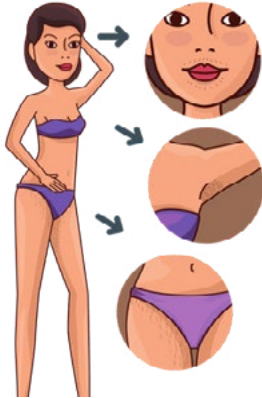


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