



The Phoenix

Ashwick, Oakhill
& Binegar News



April 2025

Binegar in Springtime © John Law



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H2SJ/P28802 05/18



A Foreword from the Phoenix

We apologise for the error in the crossword last month - the answer to 9 Across acquired an additional “e” - so we offer our congratulations to those who spotted the mistake and continued nevertheless to complete it correctly. (We like to keep our competitors on their toes!)

We have an additional competition this month which we hope many families will enjoy. With Easter falling in April, we are holding an Easter Egg Competition for all ages and abilities and look forward to seeing photographs of your decorative eggs. A prize goes to the best entry - watch this space! (See page 16 for further details.)

You may have noticed that we have not had an Announcements page for a while. Please do let us know of any personal milestones for your family and friends so we can include an announcement in *The Phoenix*.

We would also remind you that we are looking for information on local people who appeared on the Roll of Honour so they can be remembered at the time of the 80th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day. You can email us for this and any other subject at phoenixmagazine2023@gmail.com.

The Phoenix is a non-profit magazine run by volunteers who give up their time freely to support the local community. If you enjoy reading *The Phoenix* and wish to support us by making a donation, email phoenixmagazine2023@gmail.com or make a bank transfer to the following account.

Phoenix Community Magazine CIC

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Whats On

VILLAGE EVENTS

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

9th April Visit by Anna Sabine MP 10.00

19th April Easter Egg Hunt 10.00 - 15.00

Binegar Memorial Hall

26th April Quiz Night 19.30

4th May VE Day Street Party

15.00 - 23.00

BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND

5th - 6th April The Big Southwest Wedding Fair 10.00 - 15.00

13th April The Big Bark 10.00 - 16.00

20th April Giant Flea Market 09.30

23rd April Field to Food Learning Day
09.30 - 15.00

26th - 27th April The Great British
Landrover Show 10.00 - 17.00

SHEPTON MALLET

15th April Kilver Court Toast 4 day sample
sale 09.30 - 17.30

19th April Easter Egg Hunt
Collett Park 11.00 - 14.00

19th & 20th April Miniature Railway Easter
Gala at Cranmore from 10.00

27th April Sunday Market 10.00-15.00

OPEN GARDENS

10th April Yeo Valley Blagdon

13th April Watcombe at Winscombe/
Corsham Court & Seend House

16th April Cassion House at Combe Hay
visit findagarden.ngs.org.uk for details.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY

26th - 27th April Medieval Fayre
10.00 - 18.00

BISHOPS PALACE

10th April Palace Lectures

Fences & Fight Books 18.00 - 19.00

3rd & 4th May Civil War Weekend

5th May The Silver Swan Madrigal
Concert Bishops Chapel 19.00

10th May Garden & Country Fair
09.30 - 19.00

FROME

2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th April & 7th May
Frome Collectors & Flea Market 09.00
Cheese & Grain

5th April Bike Jumble 10.00 - 16.00
Frome Community Bike Project

6th April & 4th May Magpie Market
Cheese & Grain 09.00 - 14.00

6th April Frome Independent Market
10.00 - 15.00

6th April Easter Chocolate Fair
Cheese & Grain 10.00 - 15.00

12th April Frome Farmers Markets
Boyles Cross 09.00 - 13.00

13th April Frome Flea Market & Craft
Fair 09.00 - 15.00

West Woodlands Showground

25th April Aled Jones Concert 19.30
Frome Memorial Theatre

27th April Frome Car Boot Sale
Cheese & Grain 09.00 - 13.00

April Services

Sun 6th, 10:30am Ashwick

Sun 13th, 10:30am Oakhill

Fri 18th, Good Friday, 2pm Litton

Sun 20th, Easter Sunday, 10:30am Ashwick

Sun 27th, 10:30am Binegar

Church Wardens

Ashwick

Caroline Stevens - 01749 840170

Rachel Norris - 07787 131074

Binegar

Patsy Scadden - 01749 841163

David Stone - 01749 840300

Oakhill

Peter Dennis - 01749 840526

Open Yourself Afresh

Letter from Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Did you ever wonder where the term 'Lent' comes from? The word is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon past. It means 'lengthen', a naming of the longed-for reality of this time of year when we become aware that, at last, the short days of winter are coming to an end, the nights are drawing out and the days are getting longer, they're lengthening. As well as naming what we're seeing, Lent has its meaning within the life of the Church. Its season of 40 days is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter, our annual celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. It reflects the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism. So, for much of Christian history it's been a time of prayer and fasting - the origin of our 'giving something up for Lent'.

Lent developed from the practice of the early Church. Back then, as still happens today, converts entered into the faith through baptism. The main time that baptism took place was Easter Eve, the night before Easter Sunday. Lent marked the final, intensive 40 days of preparation experienced by those to be baptised (known as catechumens) in readiness for their embarking fully on their new life with Christ.

The time to get ready for Lent is now. This year its first day, Ash Wednesday, falls on the 5 March. There's so much we can do to bring this season home into our hearts. Why not join your church's Lent Group? Read one of the Lent books available at this time of year? Take something up? Commit to a regular time of prayer? Find out about getting confirmed? Lent is a rich gift to us to go deeper into our Christian life. As the days lengthen and the light comes, I encourage you to use this time to open yourself afresh to the one who comes to us afresh with new life at Easter - the risen Lord, Jesus Christ himself.



OAKHILL BREWERY

Sale of Property

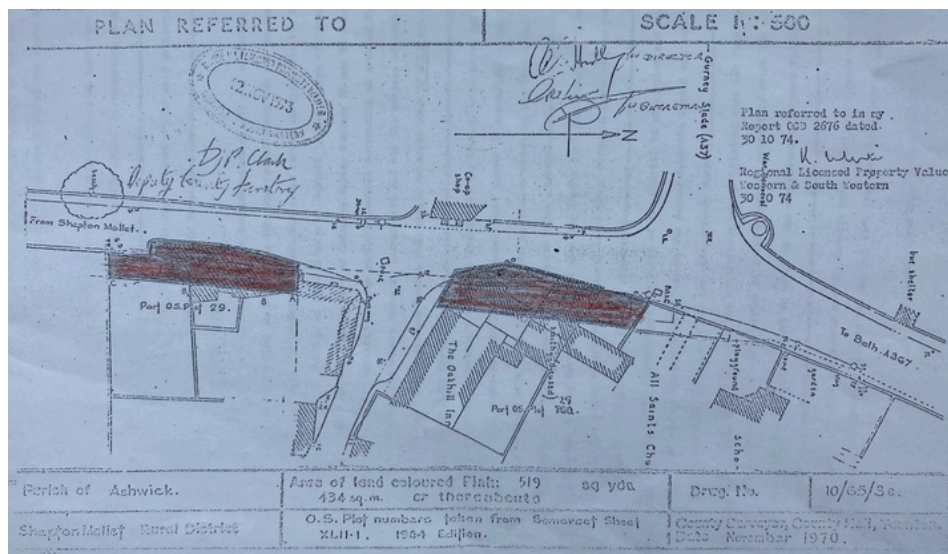
Do you live in any of the houses mentioned in the chart opposite?

The Oakhill Brewery is often said to have owned most of Oakhill. ‘Most’ may be a slight exaggeration, but they certainly owned a substantial amount of the village: from shortly after its beginning in 1767 the Brewery either built or bought the properties needed to house its workforce, so their workers were also their tenants. But they were good landlords, providing secure employment, free water, gas, and parties and coal at Christmas, among other things.

Then in 1925 the Brewery succumbed to a catastrophic fire, after which the village was never the same. The company was taken over by Bristol United Breweries (BUBs) and while malting remained in Oakhill brewing moved to Bristol, later into Shepton Mallet. The houses, though, continued in the ownership of the original Oakhill Brewery Company, itself under the prevailing firm. In 1956 Georges Brewery took over BUBs. Georges then sold off a small number of the Brewery’s properties. Then in 1961 Courage took over Georges. Gradually, most of the remaining properties were sold off by Courage.

To take one of these as an example, No 5 Elm Tree Cottages was sold by the Oakhill Brewery Company on 6th November 1961, to Mr Harold Henry Tucker and Mrs Dorothy May Tucker, for £500. One of the two Directors who signed the deed was Hugh Cam Hobhouse (1917-86), then living at Ashwick Court. He remained a Director of the company until his retirement in 1975, when he moved away from Ashwick.

Another sale, not part of the Brewery’s divestment of domestic property, was for part of the Oakhill Inn. In 1962 ownership of the Oakhill Inn had been transferred by the Oakhill Brewery Company to Courage. In 1975 Somerset County Council wanted to widen the road at the junction by the Inn, so bought two sections of the Inn’s land from Courage, for £11,000. It measured 134 square metres and resulted in the loss of the Skittles Alley.



Date	Property	Sold To
1958	3 cottages, Little London	M J Reeves
	Tiny Kot, now Oakend Cottage	E Cook
	The Cottage	Mrs Elkin
	Hillview House	P Lambert
	Rose Cottage, next to Townsend Store	E Massey
	Mendip View	F Fear
	Cottage in Dye Lane	A Godfrey
1959	Beech House, Dean Lane	E Emery
1960	No 3 Elm Tree Cottages, called Greystones	O Bryant
	Mendip View	G Bailey
	Highlands	S Bevan
1961	No 1 Elm Tree Cottages, called Oaklea	F Reeves
	No 2 Elm Tree Cottages	R Mitchell
	No 5 Elm Tree Cottages	H Tucker

Date	Property	Sold To
1961	Sunnyside	F Layzelle
	Coombe House	Mrs Griffin
	Hill View	A Barnett
	The Conifers	H Skirton
	The Cottage	B Cullen
	2 cottages, one now called Oakleigh	Mrs C Barnett
1962	Emohym	Mrs Mitchell
	Bay Cottage	M Chivers
1963	Coombe Cross	Mrs D K Dewdney
	Land formerly a weighbridge	SWEB
1964	Rose Cottage, opposite Sunnymead	M Barnett
	Rose Cottage, by Congregational Cemetery	R Padfield
	The Laurels	K Brine
1966	Daronel	Mrs N Fear

With thanks to Lin Thorley

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CHAPEL OF REST

CONTACT JONATHAN AND FAMILY ON 01749 840 350

E-MAIL jbemery22@aol.com



Binegar & Gurney Slade News

binegarpc@hotmail.co.uk | www.binegar-pc.org.uk

Next meetings: Tue 1st April and 6th May at 18:30, Binegar Village Hall



BINEGAR PARISH
COUNCIL



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 22 APRIL

6.00 to 7.00pm

BINEGAR MEMORIAL HALL

Everyone welcome

COME ALONG AND
CHAT TO YOUR
PARISH
COUNCILLORS

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

2025

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**Every Sunday - Oakhill & Ashwick Village Hall -
BA3 5AN (9:15 - 10:00am)**

GET STARTED TODAY!



Ashwick Parish News

David Barlow & Kate Egan | clerk@ashwickparish.org

Next meeting: Wed 16th April 19:30 - Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

PLANNING

2025/0326/FUL Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erect new 4-bedroom dwelling and associated works. Beacon Cross Farm, Old Frome Road, Maesbury.

Recommendation: The Parish Council recommended approval.

2025/0306/OUT Application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved for development of six detached houses and a pair of semi-detached houses and garages.

Land at 363907 147136 Fosse Road, Oakhill. *Recommendation:* The Parish Council recommended refusal.

2024/1807/FUL The removal of existing wind turbine and erection of replacement of wind turbine, up to 74m blade tip, with associated development. Land west of Warren Farm, Old Frome Road, Maesbury. *Recommendation:* Ashwick Parish Council recommended approval.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

The recently published Community Review had highlighted concerns about traffic speeds in the village specifically along the A367, past the school. This is a topic much discussed over the years; in the past the council has supported SIDs shared between parishes, This scheme is no longer active. The Councillors agreed to submit possible locations to Somerset Council for approval with a view to purchasing its own devices.

DOG BIN.

The Council RESOLVED to donate a dog waste bin to the Village Hall Committee, to replace the damaged and rusting dog bin sited at the entrance to the Recreation Ground.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council co-opted and welcomed Stephanie Dowley, Head Teacher of Oakhill Church School and Nursery, onto the Parish Council. Membership is now 9!

LITTER COLLECTION

Our thanks to Catherine Brown who has been giving her time to collect litter from along the lanes and hedgerows of the Parish.

Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 16th April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Parishioners are welcome to join us!

Your councillors: Jackie Bally, David Barlow (Chair), Philip Blatchford, Phil Briscoe, Stephanie Dowley, Sarah Emery, David Hine, David Simons and David Thorley.



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We sell everything from local produce and household goods to pet food and garden supplies. Our shelves are stocked with local honey, milk and cream, West Country cider, homemade cakes and homegrown fruit and veg, to name just a few things!

The Café is now open 7 days a week, as is the whole site.

There's no need to book, but if you have a special occasion coming up or just want to make sure you don't miss out, get in touch and we can help you plan your visit.

**Open Monday – Saturday 9am to 4pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm**



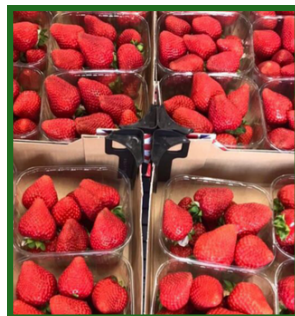
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Letter from Stephanie Dowley, Head Teacher

It is with pleasure that I became a parish councillor for Oakhill this month! In school we are looking forward to working with the Parish Council in supporting their work for greater road safety through the village.

Spring is certainly in the air with the staff - we have 3 expectant mums on the staff! We have welcomed new baby Nancy and are looking forward to 2 more new-borns later in the summer

In other news - the children are looking forward to holding the annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday 5th April from 10-1pm. Everyone in the village is most welcome to join in.

Care to join our team?

We are also looking for a parent governor to join our team on the governing board. Please contact the school if this is something you might be interested in. We really do welcome all - you do not need a background in education - just a curiosity about it!





Clubs & Societies

If you would like to promote a local club or society
please email phoenixmagazine2023@gmail.com

EAST MENDIP GARDENING CLUB

On Tuesday 22nd April the East Mendip Gardening Club will meet in the Ashwick & Oakhill Village when Richard Rickett will be 'Introducing the amazing honey bee'. We meet at 7.30pm. Annual subscriptions are: £15 Individual, £25 Household, Visitors £4 per meeting. For details please contact our Chair Mark Manley, markamanley81@gmail.com or see <https://www.ashwickparish.org/clubs-and-societies/east-mendip-gardening-club>

BETLECRUSHERS

Clog and step dance - Wednesdays at 7.30pm, Gurney Slade & Binegar Memorial Hall. email beetlecrushers@hotmail.com or phone 01373 812227. Weekly practise and tuition sessions are held each Wednesday evening and new (adult) beginners are welcome to come for instruction, which is free. Clogs are available on loan. Musicians also welcome.

ASHWICK & OAKHILL SHORT MAT BOWLS

We are looking for new members for our friendly small group. You do not need to be able to play bowls as we are there to help, also to provide bowls for you to try. Come along and give it a go, and join us for tea and biscuits at half time! If you are interested, please come along on Tuesdays 2pm-4pm at Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall. Please call Kate on 01749 343589 for more information.

KNIT AND NATTER OR CROCHET AND CHAT

2nd Wednesday of the month, 10:30am-12:00 at Gurney Slade & Binegar Memorial Hall. Whether you're a total beginner, a knitting expert, or just want to come along for a chat, you'll receive a warm welcome. We have a group of ladies of all ages, some of us knit, some crochet and all of us chat! Please call Carole on 07980 979365 for more info.

OPUS III

Thursday evenings, 7:30-9pm, Downside. The ability to read music is not essential as we spend plenty of time to learn things thoroughly and at a steady pace. Our choice of music can vary from modern, pop, folk, ballads, to classical etc. For further details, email annstilton@btinternet.com or call 07803 038287.

THE BEACON PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions about the group, please contact either John Law (johnplaw@btinternet.com) or Jon Durrant (durrantjon5@gmail.com).

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Gurney Slade & Binegar Memorial Hall



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 26th April 2025 - 7.30 pm

TEAM PRIZES | MIDDLE ROUND | CASH BAR

Do you have what it takes to be the best quiz team? Bring your friends and family, join us for a fun evening. This is your chance to show off your knowledge in a friendly competition.

£10 PER TEAM OF 4

To book contact Steve on 07528 169533 or email:

sdrawings@mbzonline.net

A BAGS (Binegar & Gurney Slade Societies fundraising) event

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

Saturday 19th April 2025

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

Easter Eggstravaganza

10.00 AM - 3.00 PM

£5 per child (inc Prize)

Egg Hunt
Easter Games
Games & Competitions
Face Painting/ Temp Tattoos
Photo Booth
Plant Sale
Bunny Boot Camp with Joey Ledbury: 12pm-1pm

FAMILY FUN

ZION HILL, OAKHILL BA3 5AN

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

The Oakleaf Cafe will be open for drinks, cakes, bacon/sausage baps, toasties, homemade soups & more!

Easter Egg Competition



Paint an egg for Easter and win a prize!

Use either a hard boiled or blown egg and paint any design of your choice.

Open to all ages!

Send a photo of your creation to phoenixmagazine2023@gmail.com by 15th May and we will let you know if you are the lucky prize winner!

The winning entry will be published in the June magazine.

Do please enter.
The more the merrier!



GURNEY SLADE & BINEGAR MEMORIAL HALL

VE DAY 80TH CELEBRATIONS

STREET PARTY

Join us to celebrate on
Sunday 4th May 2025
from 3pm till 11pm

FREE EVENT - but booking is ESSENTIAL.
Contact: Steve - Email: sdrawings@mbzonline.net
Mobile: 07528-169533

Bring your own:
Picnic and Refreshments

Featuring music from the era.

40's Fancy dress (Optional)

Joan Oakley

PEACH BLOSSOM THYATIRA BATIS

This lovely little moth is found throughout Europe. It is a striking species with brown forewings marked with five pink and white blotches which do rather resemble the petals of peach blossom. It flies at night in June and July and sometimes a second brood emerges in late August and September.



Its Latin name, *Thyatira*, is the name of a city which in classical times lay in the far west of Turkey, about 50 miles from the Mediterranean, now called Akhisar. It was and still is famous for its dyeing of cloth, particularly of royal purple colour. There is a story in the bible of Lydia of Thyatira, who was a cloth merchant for purple dyed fabric; she was converted to Christianity by the apostle Paul on his visit to that area. Thyatira in early Christian times was home to a significant Christian Church, mentioned as one of the seven Churches of the Book of Revelation. Maybe Linnaeus, who named this moth, thought the blotches of colour on the wings were reminiscent of tie-dyeing patterns in ancient times!

In 1922 the Patriarch of Constantinople appointed an Exarch for Western and Central Europe with the title Archbishop of Thyateira, who resides in London and has pastoral responsibility for the Greek Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom. The other half of its Latin name – *Batis*, Greek *batos* = prickly shrub, for example the Bramble which is the foodplant of the caterpillar.

Easter Eggstravaganza Saturday 19th April 10.00-15.00

Fun for all the family! £5 per child (includes prize). There will be an Easter Egg hunt, Easter games & competitions, Face-painting, and a Photo booth. PLUS Bunny Boot Camp with Joey Ledbury from 12pm-1pm. Browse our plant sale while the children have fun, and finish off with a coffee and a delicious cake, toastie or maybe some homemade soup from the Oakleaf Café.

Village Hall Spring Clean: Saturday 5th April 11.00-13.00

We are planning our annual spring clean of the village hall, playground and recreation ground and are looking for volunteers to help. No job too small – we are hoping that many hands will make light work and we can get the Hall and grounds spruced up ready for the spring. Free cuppa and cake for all volunteers! Please come and help if you can – we would really appreciate it.

Anna Sabine MP visit: Wednesday 9th April 10.00-11.00

Anna Sabine MP will be visiting Oakhill on Wednesday 9th April, and will be in the Oakleaf café 10.00-11.00, to meet with volunteers and customers.

Date for the Diary: Bingo 29th May

We are planning our next popular family-friendly Bingo night on Thursday 29th May. That's during half term, so a perfect evening of entertainment for the little ones. More details to follow in next month's Phoenix, and on social media.

New Picnic Benches have arrived

Our 3 new all-weather picnic benches have arrived and are in place. Many thanks to the Parish Council who provided a grant for two of these – the third was provided from funds raised by the Oakleaf Café, and all three have already been put to full use over the last few weekends of glorious spring weather!

Free Community Talk: Estate Planning

We have been approached by an Estate Planning Company – called Silvertime Legal who are offering a Free Community Talk to spread awareness of Estate Planning and how important it is. The talk will last approx. 1 hour and will cover Wills, Trusts and how these protect your assets, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Managing Care fees, and Sideways disinheritance in case of remarriage. We have been assured that speakers do not bring business cards and the focus is on raising awareness, not promoting a commercial agenda. To make this happen we need a minimum of 10 people to attend – if you would be interested in this please let us know at aandovillagehall@gmail.com so that we can work with Silvertime Legal to find a suitable date and time for the talk.

Café Volunteers needed – can you help?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help at the Oakleaf café (taking orders, making coffees, clearing up) – but in particular, we need more afternoon helpers to be able to keep the café open until 3.30pm. Please do get in touch if you can spare just 3 hours a month on a Wednesday or a Saturday afternoon, we'd be so happy to hear from you!

Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall



The **Village Hall** on Zion Hill (BA3 5AN) is a great local venue for parties, wedding and christening celebrations, clubs, societies, meetings and fundraisers. The main hall has a capacity of 125 (70 seated). Hire includes use of a kitchen, tables and chairs, and piano.

Other Facilities for hire include a football pitch & various sound/lighting equipment.

Oakleaf Community Café
Outdoor Gym



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

Availability and Booking Information:

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

Oakleaf
Community Café



Everyone welcome,
including well behaved dogs!

Located at Ashwick & Oakhill Village Hall

Open every Wednesday & Saturday
9:30am–3:30pm

**Delicious hot bacon, sausage
or vegan baps, homemade
soups, quiches, toasties,
cakes & bakes, barista
coffees, teas, juices, cold
drinks, lollies and ice creams.**

(Gluten free options available)



Follow us:

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Email: oakleafcomcafe@gmail.com



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SURF AND TURF ON TOAST

Zac Cambourne

The picture is of the dish cooked on Valentine's Day – it was lovely!



Ingredients

- 4 slices of sourdough bread (Queen Street Deli's seeded is particularly lovely!)
- 10 king prawns
- 2 small (150-200g) portions of venison loin (sometimes called backstrap)
- Cornichons or gherkins
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Lemon
- Sesame oil
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 red chillis
- Small piece of root ginger

Directions

- 1 Either the night or a few hours ahead of time marinade the meat and prawns. I marinaded the prawns in lemon zest, sliced red chillis, a good pinch of salt, some chopped ginger, sliced garlic and a drizzle of good olive oil. For the venison (or a nice bit of rump, sirloin or rib-eye steak) marinade in sesame oil, soy, ginger, chilli and some Chinese five spice. Place these in the fridge overnight or for a few hours, removing a good hour before cooking.
- 2 Make the sauce for the prawns by dicing cornichons or gherkins and mixing with a teaspoon of mustard, 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise, the juice of half a lemon and salt and pepper. Taste to check and set aside.
- 3 Remove the meat from the marinade, allow the bits of chilli, ginger etc to come off before cooking in a hot pan, 2/3 minutes per side then place on a warm plate to rest. Butter both sides of 2 slices of bread and toast in the same pan you cooked the meat in. Remove the toast and add a splash of wine, a red wine or beef stock pot and a little of the marinading juices to the pan scraping the bottom of the pan, add a splash of water and allow to reduce to a thick sauce. Finish with a teaspoon of mustard (Dijon, English or wholegrain depending on preference) and a small cube of butter.
- 4 While the sauce is reducing cook the prawns in a separate pan in the same way but with only a minute or so per side – as soon as they turn pink, turn them. Remove and toast the remaining two slices of buttered bread in the same pan.
- 5 Assemble by placing the prawns on their toast with the quick tartare over and then slice the meat and place on their toast with the reduced meat sauce.

Hauser & Wirth, Andy Gilbert



Wells Cathedral,
Ian Donnelly

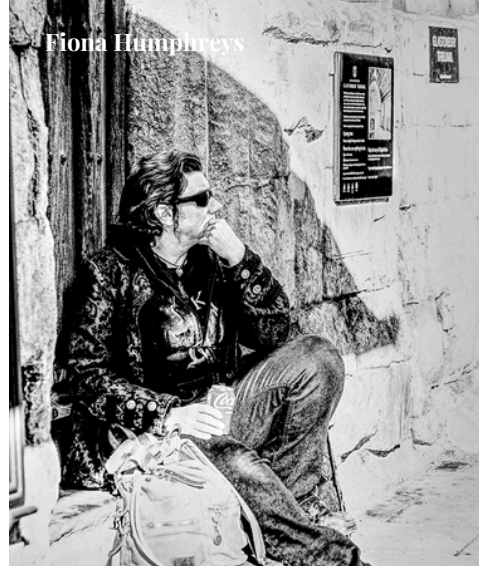


Reflections of the Tor, Tony Small





Julie McDonald



Fiona Humphreys



Kingfisher, Andy Gilbert



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Poetry Corner

with thanks to Jill Townend

AN APRIL DAY

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When the warm sun, that brings
Seed-time and harvest, has returned again,
'T is sweet to visit the still wood, where springs
The first flower of the plain.

I love the season well,
When forest glades are teeming with bright forms,
Nor dark and many-folded clouds foretell
The coming-on of storms.

From the earth's loosened mould
The sapling draws its sustenance, and thrives;
Though stricken to the heart with winter's cold,
The drooping tree revives.

The softly-warbled song
Comes from the pleasant woods, and colored wings
Glance quick in the bright sun, that moves along
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light, the green slope throws
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows.



OVER THE LAND IS APRIL

by Robert Louis Stevenson

OVER the land is April,
Over my heart a rose;
Over the high, brown mountain
The sound of singing goes.
Say, love, do you hear me,
Hear my sonnets ring?
Over the high, brown mountain,
Love, do you hear me sing?

By highway, love, and byway
The snows succeed the rose.
Over the high, brown mountain
The wind of winter blows.
Say, love, do you hear me,
Hear my sonnets ring?
Over the high, brown mountain
I sound the song of spring,
I throw the flowers of spring.
Do you hear the song of spring?
Hear you the songs of spring?

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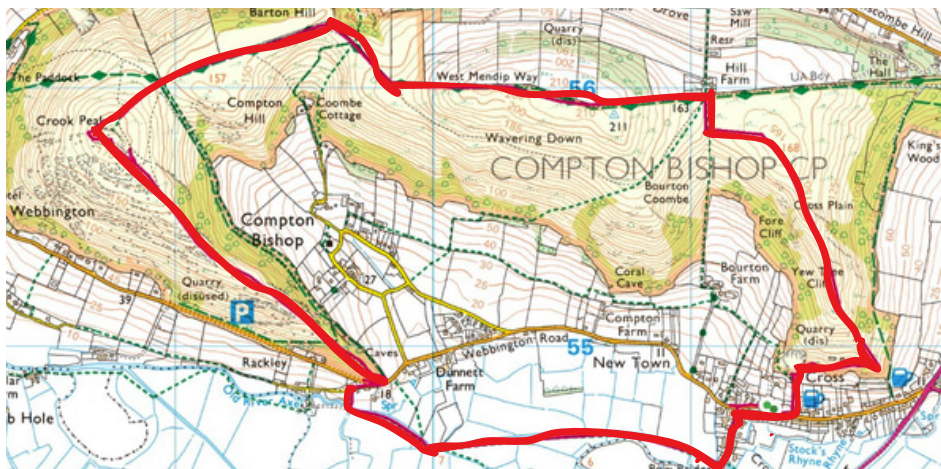
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CROOK PEAK, WAVERING DOWN



Start: Webbington Road, Cross

Length: 5.4 miles Time: 2hr 45mins

1. Free roadside parking on Webbington Road, west of A38. Turn L down Old Coach Road (signposted Weare). Immediately after small bridge, turn R through gate to follow the River Axe. After a further 3 gates (ignore small footbridge), turn R onto track. Turn R onto lane to road junction; cross road and immediately turn L to join footpath to Crook Peak.
2. Go past National Trust sign, pass through gate and take L fork in the path, uphill and back on yourself. Continue up steep slope and, passing through vegetation, come into open space and continue, heading towards summit; alternative paths all lead to Crook Peak.
3. Having admired the spectacular views from the peak, reverse a few steps and continue round the summit to meet the wide grassy path heading east. Join the West Mendip Way, keeping the drystone wall on your left, across Wavering Down. Pass a stone seat with the inscription "*Only a hill but all of life to me*" and continue to the white trig point to see more amazing views.
4. Keeping the drystone wall on your left, continue down to Hill Farm and, just as the wall ends, branch R to walk along the ridge of Cross Plain. Continue in a SSE direction, remaining on the ridge, then descend steeply (keeping the gorse and vegetation on your right) to join a footpath at the base of the hill. Turn R leaving the wall on your left and come to an opening at the disused quarry.
5. Turn L through a small gate, down a few steps and follow path back to Webbington Road. Turn R to return to Old Coach Road and starting point.



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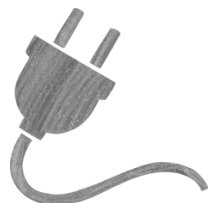
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Pub Quiz

On the last Monday of each month, the Oakhill Inn holds a pub quiz. Here is a selection of questions from a previous month's quiz. How would you have fared?

1. In May 1981, who was third in line to the UK throne?
2. Everton football club play their home games at which stadium?
3. Who won *I'm a Celebrity* in 2024?
4. What toy released by the company 'Bandai' was popular in 1997?
5. In 1992, which music video had 2 women fighting over an unconscious man on the moon?
6. In 1991, who was Russia's first elected president?
7. Which artist recorded the song 'Purple Haze'?
8. Which of the Teletubbies is purple?
9. Which semi-precious stone often used in jewellery is a purple variety of quartz?
10. What country produces Asahi beer?
11. What spirit is added to wine to produce Port?
12. What is the French name for Pineapple?
13. When Jacob Rees-Mogg lost his seat, what did the monster raving looney candidate have printed on their balaclava behind him?
14. Who scored the first goal of 2024 in the English Premier League between Liverpool and Newcastle?
15. Which singer allegedly said "This is going to ruin the tour" after being arrested in June?

answers on page 38...

Next Pub Quiz - Monday 28th April 2025
Oakhill Inn - Bookings Essential



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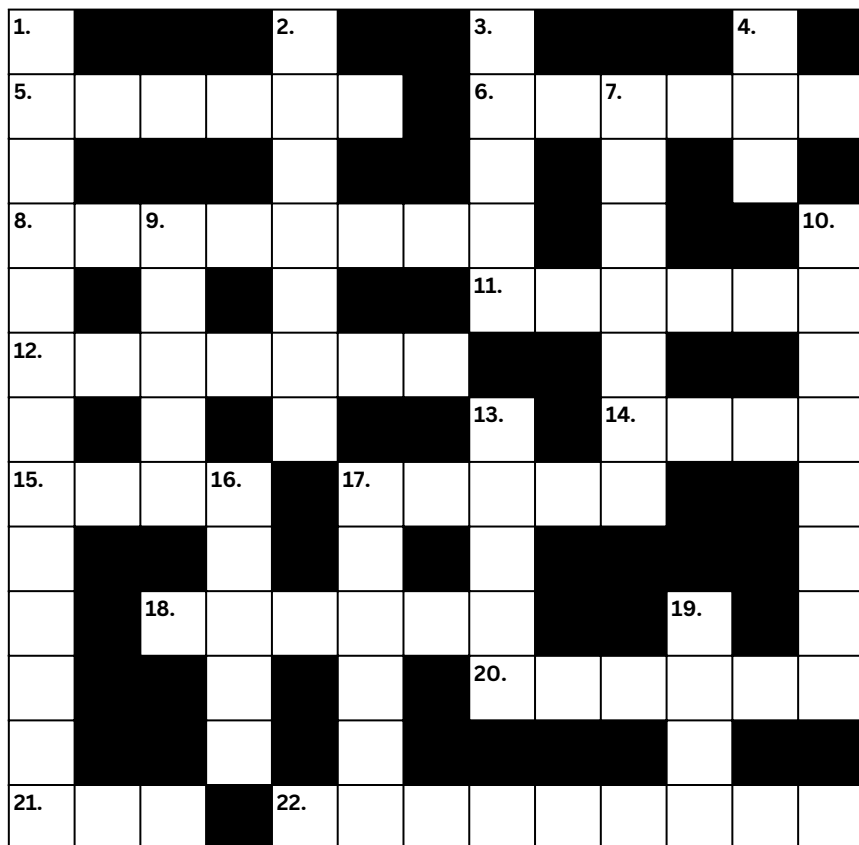
BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

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Crossword Conundrum

Win a drink and delicious cake courtesy of the Oakleaf Café. To enter send your completed crossword to phoenixmagazine2023@gmail.com by the 20th.



ACROSS

5. Scottish archipelago (6)
6. Baby hedgehog (6)
8. Helicopter seed tree (8)
11. Cricket bat tree (6)
12. Rhythm (7)
14. Celeb (4)
15. Listeners (4)
17. Silver skinned tree (5)
18. Clifton bridge architect (6)
20. Admiring (6)
21. Faucet (3)
22. Disinfect (9)

DOWN

1. Conker Tree (5,8)
2. Swarming, Full of (7)
3. Chucked (5)
4. Graveyard tree (3)
7. Hungarian soup (7)
9. Lebanon tree (5)
10. Spiralling (8)
13. Whale food (5)
16. Homeless pet (5)
17. Hood or hat (6)
19. Internet (2-2)

The solution and winner of last month's Crossword Conundrum is on page 38...



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Quiz & Crossword Answers

Find out how you got on with the pub quiz questions
and last month's Crossword Conundrum



Pub Quiz Answers

1. Prince Edward
2. Goodison Park
3. Danny Jones
4. Tamagotchi
5. Shakespears Sister - Stay
6. Boris Yeltsin
7. Jimi Hendrix
8. Tinky Winky
9. Amethyst
10. Japan
11. Brandy
12. Ananas
13. Baked Beans
14. Mo Salah
15. Justin Timberlake

Last Month's Crossword Conundrum

Congratulations to Rebecca Waters, who has won a free coffee and cake at the Oakleaf Café for successfully completing last month's Crossword

M	O	T	H	E	R	S	D	A	Y		S		
A				R			A			C	U	T	
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C		I		O			F		H		L		
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	S		B		O			S		L		S	
K	E	N	Y	A	N		S	T	R	E	E	T	



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This Month in your Garden

April kickstarts our gardens back into life, with its winning combination of sunshine and showers. On a fine day, it can feel like the weather has truly turned - although Jack Frost may still pay the odd visit.

Check your patio plants aren't drying out. Try mixing water storing granules with compost to improve water retention in containers.

Prune your penstemons now — cut back all the old shoots to the base, provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.

Lift and divide established border perennial plants now, like Hostas, to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.

Tie in new honeysuckle and clematis stems. These plants will be putting on growth now, and you'll need to train them along their supports.

Continue to remove faded flowers from winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.

Apply a layer of mulch around your perennials and biennial plants, trees and shrubs before the hot weather arrives. Use organic matter such as well-rotted manure.

Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds. Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting.

Feed raspberry canes, fruit bushes and fruit trees to encourage good crops this season. Top dress containers with fresh compost. If your containers are already full, replace the top 5 cm of old compost with fresh compost.

Sow scented bedding plants, such as dianthus and osteospermum, for beds & borders full of delicious fragrance over summer.

Sow Scabious seed undercover now. Bees and butterflies love them and great for cut flowers.

Direct sow wildflower seed mixtures — they're great for bees and butterflies, and they add wonderful colour too.

Plant forced flower bulbs (such as hyacinths and daffodils) into borders, once they've finished flowering.

Plant or pot on any hardwood cuttings taken last year.

Plant climbing annuals and climbing perennials for bold splashes of colour around pergolas, fences or arches in the summer.

Sow marrow, pumpkin, squash and courgette seeds under cover. Sow cucumbers and gherkins towards the end of the month in individual pots or modules in the greenhouse.

Start kale seeds now under glass, or directly into seedbeds outdoors.

Direct sow Calendula seeds now - they are ideal for the vegetable garden, attracting insects and providing edible flowers.

Direct sow carrot and parsnip seeds in rows outdoors, making sure the soil remains moist for good germination. Sow 3 or 4 seeds every 20 cm, and then thin seedlings to leave the strongest plant.

Taken from <https://www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-sow-and-grow-in-april>



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Cosmic Cocktails

ARIES

21st March - 19th April

Aries suns are bold and brave. You know what you want and you prefer to forge your own path to get there. You're happy to bring others along with you as you're a natural leader. You're also a bit of a charmer and your vibrant energy can fill a room. You're ambitious and your plans are big - when you make plans at all. Aries suns are spontaneous - sometimes impetuous - and full of enthusiasm for your next big adventure. If a cocktail could embody an Aries sun, it would be effervescent, bursting with striking flavours that jostle for dominance.

Bunny Hug

Aries suns are all about action, and you don't get much more action-packed than this gin, whisky and sambuca cocktail. This will get you going, if it doesn't stop you in your tracks.

EQUIPMENT

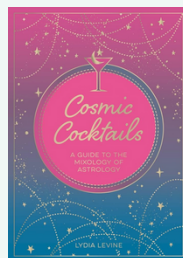
- ◆ Cocktail shaker, filled with ice
- ◆ Strainer
- ◆ Martini glass

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 60 ml (2 fl oz) gin
- ◆ 60 ml (2 fl oz) whisky
- ◆ 60 ml (2 fl oz) sambuca

METHOD

Add the gin, whisky and sambuca to the cocktail shaker.
Shake until combined and strain into chilled Martini glass.
Boom!



With thanks to Lydia Levine's
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