

The Villager

Minsterworth News



By Simon Ruffley

April 2021

Edition 221

Dear readers,

Jam packed - well and truly!

I had hoped that some more children might send in their acrostic poems but delighted to receive one from Norma Blowey. As always please do join in if you have something of interest to share.

Easter already! The year is zipping away with many of us already vaccinated & looking forward to freedom from lockdowns and being able to meet - even inside! Theatres, restaurants, bars, being able to see and hear actual live music and maybe even go dancing! Back to real life - or not.

Please note the Village Social, p7. It's on **Saturday 24th July 2021**. This beautifully sociable village getting back to how we're meant to be so please do come along and enjoy yourselves.

As ever contributions from villagers are very welcome.

All items for consideration to:-

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Responsibility is not accepted for the accuracy of submitted items nor the content of advertisements.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING APRIL 2021

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy
(landfill) (garden)

Tuesday 2

Tuesday 16

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

Tuesday 9

Tuesday 23

Please put your recycling bin & caddy out by 7am.

There is hope!



The biggest vaccination programme in the UK's history is being rolled out across the country, what a huge relief this is to everyone. What wonderful scientists we have, it is so amazing that we are able to fight back and get some control on managing this deadly virus. The vaccines are a powerful tool that we now have against the Covid-19 pandemic.

We must all, at some time, have been scared. Anxious and afraid for ourselves and our loved ones because this invisible enemy seems to be lurking everywhere causing distress and heartbreak to so many.

Hope is here, this is so exciting. More than 28 million people have received the first dose of the vaccine, and I, myself, have played a small part in this race to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible.

I work at the vaccination hub at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, this is where the Pfizer vaccine is being given. I have also spent time at the Fire station hub in Tuffley. It is here that the Astra Zeneca Covid -19 vaccine is administered.

Walk into any of the hubs and what will strike you most is the palpable feeling of excitement and relief from the people receiving the vaccine. Some become very emotional and tearful because they are so relieved to have the injection. Others are not so sure, they are scared. Uncertain that this vaccine is safe. The doctors reassure these people. This vaccine has been widely tested and proven to be effective at fighting this virus, giving us up to 90% immunity in as little as three weeks.

It is the most exciting job I have had in my 44 years of nursing. I know that for every injection I give, it is one less person who will be affected badly if they become infected with covid-19. In total, to date, I think I have administered around 1000 vaccines. I am so proud to be a part of this programme.

My grandson gave me a Vaccinator's diary at Christmas, he wanted me to record my experience in the hub. This is history in the making and he wanted to understand what I was doing. I am lucky enough to work with my daughter who, whilst juggling a full-time midwifery job, is spending any time she has off, vaccinating as well. Everyone who is able to, wants to be a part of this programme. It is a privilege to do this job and a wonderful way to spend my early 'retirement'.

Caroline Walker

St Peter's Church
10am Saturday
17th April



***Come and join us in our annual
church yard tidy up***

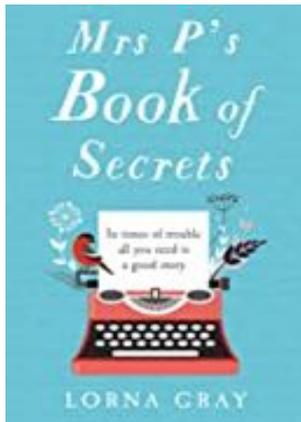


Refreshments available

All Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time will be observed

Minsterworth Reading Group

By Vicki Hewlett & Pat Brooks



Mrs P'S Book of Secrets by Lorna Gray. During this lockdown, I have been increasingly focused on food! When I think of last month's book Marmite and Liquorice Allsorts come to mind as this book had those who loved it, those who hated it and a few in between!

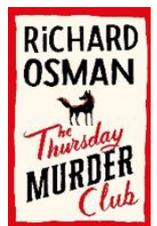
Featuring mystery, romance and perhaps a nod to a ghost, this book is set in Moreton-in-Marsh in the aftermath of WW2. Other Cotswold towns get a mention plus many chilly bus rides in between and you can imagine a lumbering bus navigating the Cotswold Hills in the midst of winter.

The main character is Lucy a war widow who works at her uncle's small publishing House. Also working is Robert, a former prisoner of war. His work as editor uncovers secrets of a little girl's abandonment and this draws Lucy and Robert together. A romance between the two slowly develops.

The book reflects difficulties post war publishers faced when rationing restricted their paper supplies to a bare minimum. At the heart of this book the author shares how a small publisher tried to get more paper via illegal activities.

Reports from our Book Club readers felt the language was too flowery and not well written, but a more positive slant felt it was an intriguing story.

Our next book is The Thursday Murder Club, a debut novel by Pointless and House of Games presenter Richard Osman. It was published on 3 September 2020 by Viking Press.



See the list below of future books and review dates. Should you wish to join the Book Club and join our monthly zoom reviews please email vicki.hewlett@googlemail.com. Always the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 rd March 2021 | The Thursday Murder Club | by Richard Osman |
| 7 th April 2021 | The Beekeeper of Aleppo | by Christy Lefteri |
| 5 th May 2021 | The Smallest Man | by Frances Quinn |



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Fish and chips continue on 2nd Thursday each month until further notice

Gardening by the Severn - Easter celebrations

Marie-Clare Maule

This year will see us celebrating much of the Easter weekend outside with the latest Covid rules. Where better to celebrate new life and rebirth than in our gardens, surrounded by bursting leaves and blossom.

Many of us, weather and Covid rules permitting, will have family over for Easter lunch in the garden. The garden will be looking beautiful. Tulips, ranunculus, bluebells, primulas, periwinkles and early anemones should be carpeting the ground. While above magnolias, lilacs and ornamental cherries will be decorating the sky. Why not add a bit more and decorate your garden and outdoor dining area. Simply adding vases and pots of spring flowers to the garden table will give it a more festive feel.

Ostereierbaum or Easter egg tree is a centuries old German tradition of decorating trees and bushes outside with hand painted eggs. In Sweden, Easter trees are called "Paskris" and are often decorated with feathers in addition to hand painted eggs and other ornaments. These traditions have been adapted relatively recently in the UK, with branches of blossom or pussy willow arranged in vases adorned with Easter decorations. Maybe this year we could decorate our trees outdoors.



For an alternative present idea to chocolate or table decoration, you could plant succulents into decorated egg shells. Simply wash and dry eggs, with a sharp nail or needle tap the top of the egg shell until you make a hole. Widen the hole to about 1.5 cm, empty out the egg yolk and white. Wash out any remnants of egg. You can then decorate the egg with paints or just leave it natural. Fill your empty shell with soil and plant up with a small succulent. Present in an egg box or egg cup.

While you're hunting around the garden for Easter eggs, keep your eyes peeled for aphids on the roses. Also any vulnerable new shoots e.g. hosta, delphinium and lupin which will need protecting from slugs. Spring can be the busiest time in the garden but also take time to enjoy it.

Wishing you all a safe, sunny and happy Easter

Kirlian Photography - What?

Nicky Milligan

No, I hadn't heard of it either until a few years ago and then of course I wanted to find out more.

I had better explain myself first. My background is a lifetime of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting in the NHS. Like many nurses I started to realise that maybe

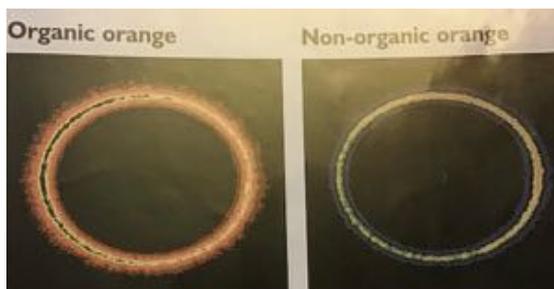


there is more to people's reaction to illness than is obvious and began to explore further.

One of the first things we were taught in our training was to chat to the patient while we cleaned their locker (yes...we did that job) and the rather terrifying Nurse Tutor said it was necessary to know and try to understand the patient to help them deal with their illness. So of course, that's where I started my journey.

Suffice to say, that I am also now a complementary therapist working in several fields including Reflexology, Healing, Indian Head Massage and I am a Reiki master/teacher.

Back to Kirlian photography. I contacted a lovely practitioner called Julie Wright who came and taught a group here for a day, so we could understand more about it. In the 1930s a Russian engineer Semyon Kirlian experimented with high voltage electrostatic fields to capture on paper the subtle energies around vegetation. Initially, the Russian government took an interest in his work and over time others did as his work spread, reaching here in the 1970s. The special camera has a plate rather than a lens which is charged by a high frequency coil and can only photograph objects in direct contact with it and it must be taken in a darkroom (I use my son's bedroom). The subject matter is placed directly on the machine and the paper developed in the



normal way. The resulting picture shows an interference pattern between two fields of energy - that of the camera and the subject matter. It is a unique record of an energy pattern at that moment in time. This is diagnostically interesting in a complementary sense.

I never see complementary practice as an alternative to medicine... that would be both dangerous and foolish.

Broadly speaking, basically, western medicine deals with the problem presented. For example, in western medicine a broken leg needs fixing. Eastern medicine takes a wider view incorporating what it calls "energies". For a broken leg it would ask - "Why did that person break a leg, was it a straightforward fall, were they worried and distracted at the time, high on drugs, perhaps so worried about something that they were knocked off balance, etc?" Both systems are interesting and one is not better than the another... but I think they can complement each other.

Continued on p10

Some years ago, I remember saying our goodbyes with my very best friend. We both knew she was dying... and walking back home I fell into a large well marked hole in the road, which is not something I would normally do... but if you put together the energetic picture with the physical one it makes more sense. My leg was just okay, thank goodness. There I will rest my case!

If you wish to contact me please follow this link [About Me – Nicky Milligan Healing \(nickyhealing.co.uk\)](http://nickyhealing.co.uk)

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."
Dolly Parton

"Toto I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore"
Judy Garland in The Wizard of Oz

"Here's looking at you kid"
Humphrey Bogart in Casablanca

The following poem was written over 100 years ago and was given in a lecture attended by a relative, John Crowley from Cork, as part of his University course in 1908. (The talk was apparently given by 'an old vet' in his 70's!).

This poem certainly has relevance to the current pandemic:

*Have softy house, admit the air,
Evict all dirt with constant care.
Allow full space, the drains well swiss,
Let sunlight in and microbes kill.
The litter foul throw far from door,
Have walls lime washed, and scrub the floor.*

The one rule of an acrostic poem is that a word must be spelled among the beginning, middle, or ending letters of a line. An acrostic poem does not have to rhyme, but it can. It also doesn't have to follow a specific syllable count.

Norma Blowey

Vegan Thai Peanut Curry

By Ceri Cockram



This creamy and delicious Thai inspired curry is made with a homemade peanut sauce, fresh vegetables, tofu and coconut milk. I made this the other night and it was delicious.

Fact - March was National Peanut Butter month in the US.

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 25 minutes

Note this is the ingredients for two people

| Marinated Tofu | Thai Peanut Curry |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500 g tofu extra firm or firm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mixture of chopped vegetables |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 tablespoon soy sauce | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 small onion finely chopped |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 teaspoon each - cumin, coriander powder & sweet paprika | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 thumb-piece ginger grated or finely chopped |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 teaspoon sugar | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 small carrot finely chopped |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ½ teaspoon cinnamon & turmeric | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500 ml vegetable stock |
| To marinate the tofu: Cut the tofu into blocks. Mix all the ingredients in a small bowl. Add the tofu to the marinade while you prepare the curry. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 g peanuts or peanut butter |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 teaspoon sugar |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 tablespoon soy sauce |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 400 ml coconut milk |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 garlic cloves & red chillies chopped |

Method

1. Heat some oil in a pan and add the garlic, onion, red chillies, ginger and carrot. Stir fry for a couple of minutes until the onion has softened and all the ingredients are cooked and transfer into a container.
2. Add the vegetable stock, crushed peanuts or peanut butter, sugar and soy sauce. Blend all the ingredients using a hand blender until you have a smooth sauce.
3. Using the same pan as before, add some more oil if needed, heat the oil and add the tofu and chopped vegetables of your choice.
4. Cook for a couple of minutes until the vegetables start to golden.
5. Pour the peanut sauce and coconut milk.
6. Simmer for about 15 minutes. Adjust with salt to taste and your curry will be ready for you to enjoy.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The **FIRST** patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The **SECOND** sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

The **FIRST** is a Golden Retriever.

The **SECOND** is a Senior Citizen

Next time take me to a vet!!!

"Why does mineral water that 'has trickled through mountains for centuries' have a 'use by' date?"

"A cement mixer collided with a prison van on the Kingston Bypass. Motorists are asked to be on the Lookout for 16 hardened criminals."

"A friend of mine got knocked down by a mobile library. He was lying in the road screaming and the driver got out and said, 'Shh!'"

"Five out of every three people have trouble understanding fractions."

"I was doing some decorating, so I got out my step-ladder. I don't get on with my real ladder."

Peter Kay



Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

As many of you will know the Royal British Legion celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Hopefully, provided we are not in lockdown, we will aim to recall and celebrate this momentous occasion.

We are still unable to hold our monthly meetings but will do so when allowed.

Take care everyone. The very best to you all.

Terry Bourne – President
Minsterworth & District R.B.L.

Military History

| | | |
|------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| April 1 st | 1989 | WRENS allowed to carry weapons |
| April 2 nd | 1801 | Battle of Copenhagen |
| April 10 th | 1940 | First Battle of Narvik |
| April 12 th | 1782 | Battle of the Saintes |
| April 13 th | 1940 | Second Battle of Narvik |
| April 23 rd | 1918 | Zeebrugge Raid |
| April 25 th | 1915 | Invasion of Gallipoli |

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Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly

Each year the Parish Council (PC) are required to hold a meeting where members of the parish can express their views and ask questions of the PC. There was no meeting last year due to COVID, and it looks as if there will be no physical meeting this year either.

We therefore intend to hold a Parish Assembly via Zoom at 7-30pm on Monday 10th May 2021. This will coincide with the AGM of the PC when officers are re-elected. Details will be sent out at a later date. To attend can you please register with the clerk, who will send you a link to the Zoom meeting.

Gloucestershire's Railways: Then and Now by Julian Oxley

[part one, part two to follow in May]

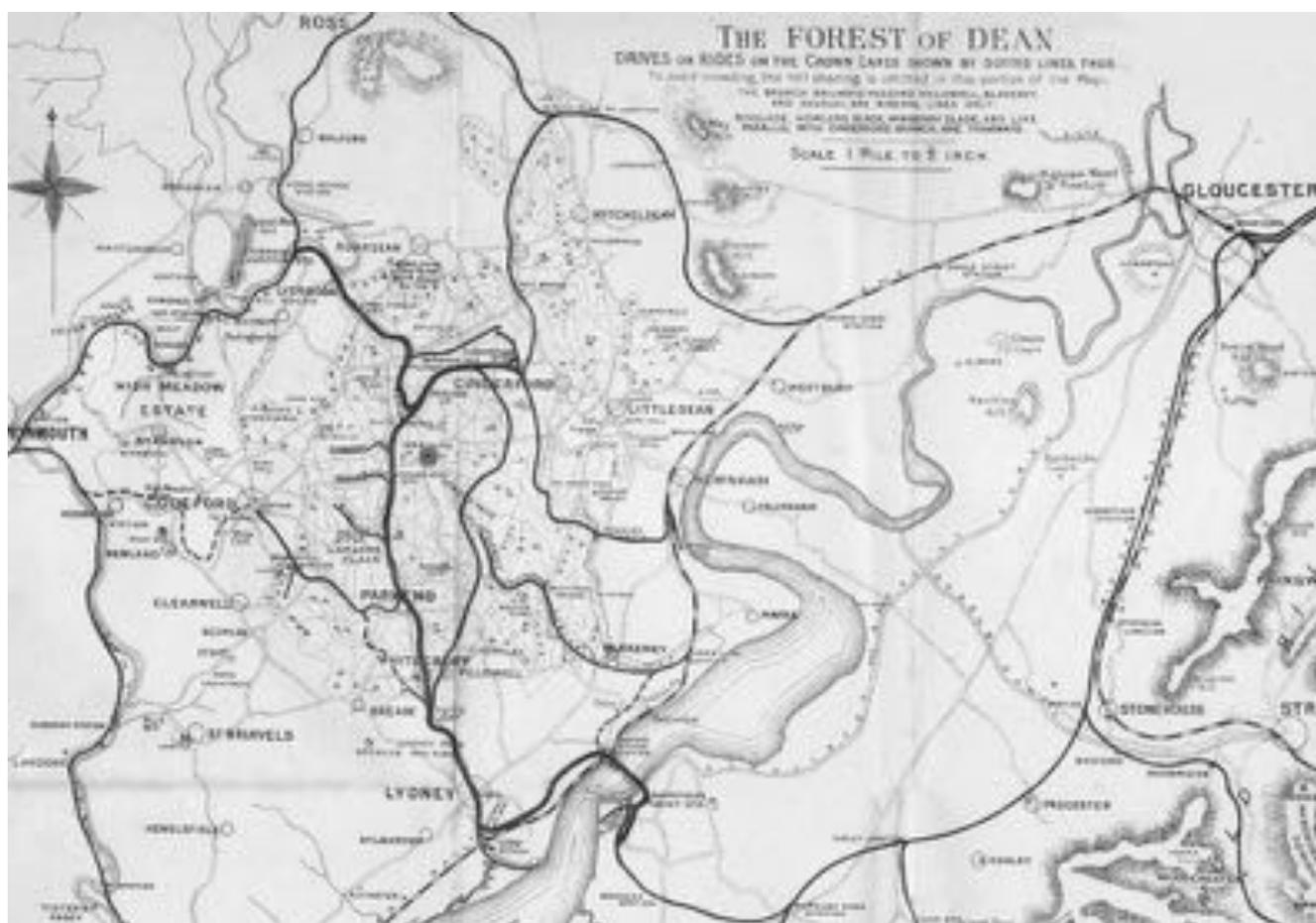
Before car travel became affordable and immensely popular from the late 1950s, train travel was a norm, certainly for longer journeys. The UK had an enviable network of branch and subsidiary lines, and Gloucestershire was no exception. Yet some of the shorter lines had succumbed to the convenience of the bus even before World War II; all passenger services within the Forest, apart from that from Newnham to Cinderford, had closed by 1929!

This little branch climbed steeply up from Bullo to Cinderford and had been widened and opened to passengers in 1907, closing in 1958. It was very scenic with three tunnels, one of which, under Haie Hill between Bullo and Soudley and dating back to 1809, has a strong claim to be the oldest railway tunnel in the world. As a child my mother would take me as far as Soudley for a walk round the Ponds, and on the return journey the train would be full of schoolchildren returning to Newnham from East Dean Grammar School in Cinderford. Maybe this kept the line running for as long as it did, though coal and other freight traffic continued until 1965.



Continued on p15

Although all Severn & Wye Joint Railway passenger services had been withdrawn from within the Forest so early, one section had survived, the line from Lydney over the Severn Bridge to Sharpness and Berkeley, opened in 1879. I persuaded my mother to take me over it to Sharpness and back when I was about nine and remember that being narrow with a single track it felt quite scary – the water was a long way down! But alas in October 1960 the two main spans over the main channel were brought down by a vessel which had missed the entrance to the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal in fog, with the loss of five lives. This route was also used by schoolchildren from the Berkeley area travelling to and from Lydney Grammar School, who from then on had to endure a forty-mile diversion via Gloucester. British Rail thought seriously of repairing it, but in the end it was demolished in 1967. The Bridge had carried a gas main and in the middle of the night loud hailer could be heard in villages this side of the river warning residents not to turn on their gas appliances!



"If you are more fortunate than others it is better to build a longer table than a taller fence"
Anon

Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever.
Charles Lamb

PCC 200 Club

The result of the March draw was as follows:-

£50 No. 066 Barbara Coldwell

£20 No. 038 Pete Reeves

£10 No. 133 Terry Bourne

Next month the annual subscriptions are due for the 200 Club - £12 for the year. Thank you to all members for your continued support. If you would like to join the 200 Club, or would like to have an extra number, then please contact Liz Savage on 750401.

Flower Rota

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4th April | Pat Haisell-Neves |
| 11th & 18th April | Anne Cowdrey |
| 25th April | Sarah McHale |



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April 2021 word search

The words to find are:

- Viner Ellis
- Bore
- Bury Lane
- Calcotts Green
- Church Lane
- Ellis Bank
- Elver
- Main Road
- Manor House
- Minsterworth
- Oakle Steet
- Pound Lane
- River Severn
- Salmon
- St Peter's Church
- Village Hall
- Watery Lane

L J A D T W C B S G A L X N G C Z M Z N
 O F Z L J E L P T E Q E J S A D Z A S E
 V Z J G P R E D P P W V N L V R H N Q N
 H W K S Z D A R E R C Z C A D S W O B A
 W B O P D O A O T M I O K Y L A U R O L
 U O B H R X U T E S T H X U Z D D H R Y
 C X V N F T P E R T E Z H O W L N O E R
 M H I G A N R Q S I N L Q S Y P N U H U
 R A U V L T Y G C L R O K P W Q P S O B
 M V I R D S R C H D E D O A J F N E U P
 S B H R C E N P U J V Z O B O I A U L W
 N W F C E H B A R Q E S A L M O N L A K
 U B W N Y V L I C E S W M L A C A T U U
 M K H H F R C A H F R T O C K H E S G N
 W M Q O J E M R N I E Q E O E R E A L T
 S G N N U B I T I E V Z F G Y G L W T G
 H T R O W R E T S N I M A L B N R E K L
 K S B E M Y E N L A R L A Y I A W G F E
 D P X Y N M L F I O L N Z R D P M I X K
 C X F U J U Q K Z I E B V B O E V F Z W
 W K V G H T F D V U A K A X K G L R P W
 M H B Q Z L U Z R U A B I D D M Y V A Q
 V I N E R E L L I S K N A B S I L L E P
 Y H E H E X V D O E T L Q C Y B P C J R
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Minsterworth Creatives - The Meaning behind Easter Eggs

Sarah McHale

Doesn't it seem that as soon as the supermarket shelves are cleared of Christmas selection boxes, Easter eggs appear? And while a chocolate egg can be a real treat, it's interesting to be reminded of why the egg has such significance to the Christian festival of Easter and how important the humble egg is outside its commercial presence on the supermarket shelf.

The egg is a symbol of new life, of fertility and resurrection; it had Pagan significance long before Christianity. However, in the Christian Church the hardness of the shell reminds us of Jesus' tomb. While cracking the shell (who played egg jabbing as a child?) represents the Resurrection. The egg also once again becomes part of our staple diet for those who have given them up for Lent and used them all up on Shrove Tuesday. In the Eastern and Orthodox Church, eggs are painted red to represent Christ's blood and blessed at the end of the Easter Pascal mass, while decorating eggs has become part of our Easter tradition, along with egg hunts, egg rolling and the jabbing game. In Greece three whole red boiled eggs (representing the Trinity) are used to decorate Tsoureki, Easter bread.



I enjoy decorating the house for Easter and have amassed a whole box of bunnies and eggs over the years. My most treasured eggs were gifted by a Ukrainian student whose mother carefully painted them in a Pysanky folk art tradition. These can easily be reproduced using simple acrylic paint and marker pens and if you'd rather not use real eggs plastic and polystyrene ones are available from

Hobbycraft, The Works (click and collect available) and Ebay.

There exist lots of ideas on-line to inspire you this Easter but here are a few to try:

1. Using vegetable dyes is a great way to add colour especially if the eggs are to be eaten. Wrapping each egg in onion skins, then in a piece of j-cloth secured with a rubber band allows the dye from the skins to create a tie dye effect. Another idea is to stick small leaves to the egg with a dab of water before wrapping them in the j-cloth and boiling with onion skins. This creates a stencil. Beetroot works too.
2. As an artist I love playing with layers of acrylic paint, layering and dabbing using different sizes of brush to build up texture. Watercolours will produce a softer, more subtle effect
3. Use small pressed and dried flowers and leaves and apply with PVA glue, adding a layer of glue over the surface to secure your arrangement

So, here's a challenge: send your decorated egg pictures to me on sarahliv.mchale@btinternet.com, the best will be posted on Minsterworth Matters and chocolate eggs awarded for under 12, under 16 and adult categories. What else are we all doing in (hopefully) the last few weeks of lockdown? **Get creating Minsterworth!**



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BEFORE



AFTER



EASTER FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

Julie Fisher

This design is simple and is one that the children can help with. The photograph and instructions are a guide only and you can interpret this to suit yourself.

Mechanics: One shallow bowl or tray. Floral foam (Oasis), stub or small gauge wire, pot tape, kebab skewer or cocktail sticks, small piece of wood. All the floristry items (foam, stub wire, pot tape) can usually be purchased at Hobbycraft, garden centres and Cathedral Flowers. These items are not expensive and are the basics for many floral arrangements.

Ideal foliage to use: Bushy lengths of Catkins, Twisted Willow or twigs, Fern leaves, large Ivy leaves and/or sprays of ivy. Moss (mine was growing in an over-wintered tub, however, it is illegal to pick it in the countryside). Daffodils or other Spring flowers from the garden.

Basic instructions:

1. Cut and shape the foam as you wish. Soak the foam by gently placing it on the water and let it absorb the water, it will take about 30 seconds. Do NOT push the foam into the water. There should be enough water in the bowl for the foam to still float once it has been soaked. Tape the foam in place to the dish/tray.
2. Cut pieces of the Catkins and insert towards the back of the foam. Add the Fern leaves amongst the twigs at different heights and angles so that it looks natural.
3. Insert the Ivy leaves so that they are layered over each other. Add a spray of smaller Ivy leaves if wished.
4. Decide where to place the wood, anchor it in place using small gauge wire or florist stub wire.
5. Add the Daffodils in a group as they would grow in the wild. Daffodils in buds should be longer stemmed towards the back and those that are more open should be placed lower. Tip: insert a small length of a wooden kebab skewer/cocktail stick into the end of the Daffodil stem with about an inch protruding. This will make it easier to insert the stem into the foam. The kebab skewer can be left in place in the Daffodil/foam
6. Fill in any gaps with moss or more Ivy leaves.
7. For an Easter design add some Easter eggs, cheeky rabbits and fun chicks.



Come on everyone – let's enjoy a glass of Sherry...

Simon Ruffley

Firstly, get a regular wine glass and pour yourself a small sherry. There will be a sherry for you to enjoy. I wondered for a long time why my dad took such pleasure in a glass of Croft Original and a bowl of olives – fast forward to a long weekend in Madrid where Paula and I ended up in an authentic Jerez bar. After sampling every sherry, in little 375ml bottles filled direct from small barrels (twice I recall), accompanied by wonderful tapas, we left some hours later smiling rather broadly!!!!

Sherry is making a comeback with a lot of younger producers making this wine. The real skill is in the blending. A solera system is used with barrels stacked four or more high. Some wine for bottling (up to 1/3rd of the barrel volume) is taken from the bottom barrels. These are then re-filled from those directly above, with the newest wine then added to the very top row of barrels. The wine basically gets transferred down the barrel rows over time – row by row. This blending process means that you could have a miniscule amount of wine in the bottle that is over 100 years old.



Solera system – www.sherrynotes.com

There are choices as well in the type of sherry as they are produced slightly differently. You'll see in the stores sherry such as Fino (dry, light, tangy), Manzanilla (dry, crisp, slightly salty), Amontillado (dry or medium-dry, almonds), Oloroso (dry or medium-dry or sweet, toffee, nutty) to the fabulous Pedro Ximenez (PX) (super sweet, raisins, dark, oily, rich, sumptuous and great dribbled over ice cream).

The UK was a very important market for sherry with Harveys and Croft. They developed a Cream Sherry (blend of Fino, Amontillado, Oloroso and Pedro Ximenez) mainly for the UK and our national sweeter taste preferences. It is still available, a good sherry and a key ingredient for your trifle.

From my side, I enjoy relaxing with a chilled Fino or Manzanilla with a pile of nuts! It's a very versatile wine and it's not unknown to have a glass with a chicken dinner, quiche or fish and then grab another with pudding (or not).

Sherry is a wine that is best drunk soon after opening but you don't have to finish it straight-away. The Fino, Manzanilla, Amontillado and Oloroso can be kept for 6-8 weeks in the

Continued on p22

fridge. The Pedro Ximenez (PX) will keep for a while longer.

Important bit now – go and try some sherry – Waitrose have a very wide selection, but all supermarkets hold well respected producers such as Lustau, Gonzalez Byass, Hidalgo – there are many more.

My suggestions to try:

| | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| Tio Pepe Fino (75cl) Always popular and well-respected wine | Tesco/Sainsburys | £10.00 |
| La Gitana Manzanilla (75cl) Great example – definitely worth a try... | Majestic | £9.99/*£7.99 |
| Waitrose Dry Oloroso (75cl) Just very drinkable – with nuts... | Waitrose | £11.99 |
| Waitrose Medium-Dry Amontillado (75cl) A really good wine also good with nuts 😊 | Waitrose | £7.69 |
| Harveys Bristol Cream (75cl) Always been good | Asda | £9.50 |
| Tesco Finest Pedro Ximenez (PX) (37.5cl) A must to try – otherwise you'll never know how good they can be... | Tesco | £6.00 |

*Mix-6 price



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Minsterworth Birds of a Feather

Anne Pearson

In these strange times even the birds seem to have been behaving oddly. During this winter I have had a dearth of birds at my feeders. Usually, it is a daily task to keep the bird feeders full of peanuts, seeds and fat balls. This year the birds did not really appear until the cold weather kicked in.

The only ones I have seen regularly are blue tits, great tits, long-tailed tits, robins, chaffinches, sparrows (various), one ground feeding thrush, black birds and a lesser spotted woodpecker.

Long-tailed tits descend in a gang of about ten and are extremely nervous. I also recently spotted a barn owl which lives in the willow tree across Calcotts Green from my bedroom.

I am looking forward to seeing what will be nesting in my new nesting boxes. I also have some pre-formed ones for house martins.

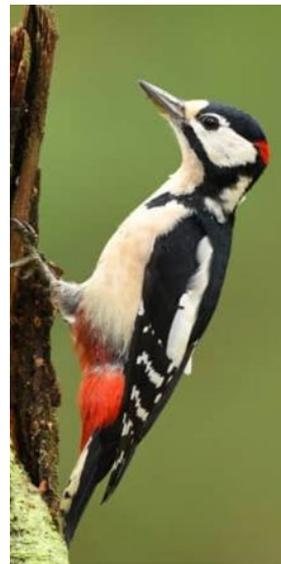
House Martin



Long-tailed tit



Barn Owl



**Greater Spotted
Woodpecker**

GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERSHIRE VIEWPOINTS

MAY HILL

Roger Blowey

We like to approach May Hill from the west side. Travel along the A40 through Churcham, past the traffic lights at Huntley and up the hill, past the brewery on the left. When almost at the top of the hill, turn right signposted May Hill and Cliffords Mesne, then take the second left which is Yartleton Lane. Travel along this quite narrow lane for 1 – 2 miles, past the very modern looking 'A' frame house on your right, and go down hill until you get to a left hand bend with a right hand fork sign posted 'May Hill parking ¼ mile'. Take this road up the hill, over the cattle grid and the car park is on your left. The views from the car park across the valley to Hereford and Monmouth are excellent! If you are there in April/May, the bluebells on slopes of May Hill on the opposite side of the road are striking.

For the more enthusiastic walkers, cross the road from the car park and walk up to the top of May Hill. We like to take the track on the left because it is not as steep (and the bluebells are better!), walk to the clump of trees on May Hill, then back down to the car park coming down the track on the right (that's on the right if you are standing in the car park facing May Hill). Make sure you look at the superb Belted Galloway cattle. They are extraordinarily quiet and in remarkably good body condition – probably over fat actually!



SAVE THE DATE

Sat. 8th May 2021

12 noon to 4pm

PLANT SALE

**Event to raise money for the
new gardens at the Harvey
Centre Minsterworth**

Old School - Minsterworth



Garden Services

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April fools' Day

Sharon Ingham

April Fools' Day is an annual custom on 1st April consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fool!" at the recipient. Mass media can be involved in these pranks, which may be revealed as such the following day.



Some of the best April Fool stories

On April 1, 1957, the BBC TV show "Panorama" ran a segment about the Swiss spaghetti harvest enjoying a "bumper year" thanks to mild weather and the elimination of the spaghetti weevil. Many credulous Britons were taken in, and why not? The story was on television -- then a relatively new invention -- and Auntie Beeb would never lie, would it?



The Brits are masters of April Fools' gags, and in 1980, the BBC's overseas service said the iconic clock tower was getting an update and going digital. The joke did not go over well, and the BBC had to apologize

HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch - join by emailing 64lettie@gmail.com



The Parish Council website - agenda, minutes, councillors etc
<https://minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk/>

The Village Hall website - www.minsterworthvillagehall.org bookings, recent events

Minsterworthmatters Face Book website – news, local produce etc
<https://www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/>

St Peter's Church - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/> services, events

Minsterworth Matters App - join by texting Roger Ingham, 07525330364 immediate village interests

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Welcome to Minsterworth Village Hall

Why not plan your next event with us?

The village of Minsterworth can be found on the A48 to the west of the City of Gloucester, on the north bank of the River Severn, nestled between the Cotswold Hills and the Forest of Dean.

**At the heart of the village is
Minsterworth Village Hall.**

This website is for Minsterworth
Village Hall activities, clubs and events.

www.minsterworthvillagehall.org

e-mail minsterworthvh@gmail.com

Tel: 01452 750492

