

# **The Villager**

**Minsterworth News**



by **My Dog Sighs**

see p16

## **April 2022**

Edition 233

**Dear readers,**

Well! I never thought there would be an invasion in Europe in my lifetime but, as you know, the madman Putin has invaded Ukraine. See p18 for a letter from an ordinary Russian. Minsterworth supports the Ukraine by having its flag on the front cover of The Villager.

This month we're finalising the plans for the Jubilee celebrations (see p19), enjoying a second Comedy Night (p3), a big breakfast on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (p5) and the Soup Kitchen on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (p6). We won't go hungry.

The penultimate part of Julian Oxley's fascinating Crossing the River is on p8 and clearly Cathy's got plastic Jubilee plans on p6!

**Paula**

All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager

Tel: 07905 694612

**E-mail:**

**[thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com)**

**The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator have urged the public to 'give safely' to registered charities as people make generous donations to causes helping to support and protect people affected by the invasion of Ukraine.**

**As the conflict and ensuing humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to escalate, it is vital that charitable donations of goods and money reach their intended causes. UK charities are pivotal to a collective response to this crisis.**

### **KERBSIDE RECYCLING APR 2022**

<b>GREEN &amp; BROWN bin &amp; caddy</b>		<b>BLUE bin &amp; caddy</b>	
<b>(landfill)</b>	<b>(garden)</b>	<b>(recycling)</b>	
Tuesday	1	Tuesday	5
Tuesday	15	Tuesday	22
Tuesday	29		

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

Small electrical items now collected alongside your blue bin in a standard carrier bag (**not** a bag for life)

# **MVH Comedy Night #2**

**Friday 8th April @ 7.30**



- **Three comedians plus MC for £15**
- **Bespoke Brewery Bar selling craft ales, spirits , wine and soft drinks**
- **Tickets available shortly on [www.minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org) or from Sarah on 750914. Last event was sold out so book soon, no walk-up sales**
- **While we have carefully selected the acts, there could be the occasional ‘language’, if easily offended this might not be for you!**





The Harvey Centre is a not-for-profit charity whose ethos is centred on Education, Lifelong Learning and Wellbeing for the whole community. We are delighted to be working with Gloucester Adult Education to establish a program of affordable training sessions throughout the year.

### **Basic Computer Skills:**

**5 weeks course starting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 12 noon**

Have you got a computer, iPad or tablet and are still unsure how to use it?! This course is designed for people of any age who would like to improve their basic computer skills.

The course includes: Email; Sending, adding/attachments, filing, phishing etc. Photos, Online shopping /banking, security and lots more...

**Can you afford not to attend?! £5 per session (£25 total) 5 places remaining**

**For further information call 07926 986 247**

### **Basic First Aid:**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 12 noon**

This 2-part course offers an opportunity to learn or refresh your first aid skills and build confidence. **£5 per session (£10 total)**

**For further information call 07926 986 247**

**Community Café and playdates:** Why not pop along on Wednesday morning between 10am and 12.30pm to catch up with friends old and new. A warm welcome awaits as do delicious home-made cakes! The children's play area with lots of toys available - parental supervision required.

**Memory Café:** An opportunity for Alzheimer's, Dementia patients and their carers to get together for coffee and activities.

**Launch date: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022. More details to follow**

**Can you spare an hour once a month or you would like to become more involved in helping with the memory café or another service?**

We would love to welcome you to our growing band of volunteers. please either pop into the community café and talk to one of the Trustees or call Arlette Lane on 07926 986 247.

***The Harvey Centre, Main Road Minsterworth, Gloucester, GL2 8JH  
Charity number: 311648***

<b>The Harvey Centre Calendar - April 2022</b>	
<b>MON</b>	<b>Tan House Choir 7pm to 9pm</b> Telephone 01452 750128 to find out more...
<b>TUES</b>	<b>Basic Computer Skills – Main Hall</b> <b>5 weeks from 28<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 12noon</b> Telephone 07926 986 247 to book
<b>WED</b>	<b>Community Cafe including Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange</b> <b>Weekly from 10am to 12.30pm</b> <b>Main Hall: Strength, balance and mobility class 10 to 11am</b> Telephone 01452 234005 or email info@farrphysio.co.uk leave mobile number/email address. A member of the team will then contact you to arrange. <b>Café and Main Hall: Parents/carers and toddler “Play Date”</b> Parental supervision required - <b>11am to 12.30pm</b>
<b>THUR</b>	<b>** Memory Café Starting in May</b> <b>More info to follow</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>Art for Wellbeing</b> <b>10am to 12.30pm</b> <b>Please pop along or call 07926 986 247</b> <b>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange</b> <b>9.30 to 10am</b>

## The Big Breakfast

Come and join us for a 'big breakfast' at Minsterworth Village Hall on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.30am - 12.30**

Orders taken or just pop in.

Everyone welcome

07546 497203



# Soup Kitchen

Saturday April 23rd



11.30—1.30

Soup, bread and butter, tea or coffee and biscuits for just £5 at MVH

All income will be donated to Ukrainian charities



Soup makers and donations of bread and biscuits gratefully received

## PLASTIC COLLECTION

I am collecting plastic - eg: bags, bottles, sheeting etc in Red or Blue, if anyone has any, please drop it in to me or contact me, Cathy Thomas on: 07546 497203

*Cathy*

**When you dream in colour is it a pigment  
of your imagination?**

**I tried to catch some fog earlier. I mist.**

**RIDDLE:** It lives without a body, hears without ears, speaks without a mouth and is born in air – what is it? **ANSWER ON P17**



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01452-543990**

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GL2 0LZ**

## CROSSING THE RIVER – part 3 Down from Gloucester

Julian Oxley

Leaving Gloucester, the east channel turns north west to join the west channel at Lower Parting. The river then meanders down to Minsterworth where there had been a link with Elmore Back for many centuries (Terry Moore-Scott, Minsterworth Miscellany). This meant ferries, the last of which closed shortly after the end of WWII. I can remember my parents taking me across on a hot summer Sunday morning, the aim being to picnic by the Canal (quite a long way!). But it got hotter and hotter, and after about half a mile my mother protested, so we picnicked there and then, and returned on the ferry.

The river continues in a broad loop round Rodley, and by the time it reaches Newnham is very much wider. There have been ferries from here across to Arlingham for centuries, though



Newnham Ferry

always a challenge with the main channel being on the Newnham side and the danger compounded by the swirling currents round The Nab just to the south of the village. Newnham's ferry is the subject of an entire book (Margaret Willis, Alan Sutton Publishing, 1993) which runs to over 80 pages! The ferry first took fare-paying passengers in 1802, after which it changed hands several times and in the 1970s was in the hands of Horace Cook of Minsterworth. Though living in Newnham for the first 25

years of my life I never travelled on the ferry, but as a small boy remember my mother taking me down to the stretch of sand by the slipway – a wartime substitute for the seaside! I do just remember the last ferryman, Bill Hayward, and I believe the ferry ceased regular operation soon after WWII.

Some eight miles further down the river the wide channel narrows a little, providing a more suitable crossing point for a bridge. This was a single-track railway bridge opened in 1879 by the Severn & Wye Railway Company, preceding the railway tunnel further downstream by seven years. The line left the main Birmingham-Bristol line at Berkeley Road, and connected to the main South Wales line at Lydney. Until 1929 there were passenger services through to Coleford and Cinderford. In October 1960 a barge lost its way into the canal, carried on up the river, and collided with the bridge supports, bringing the main spans down



Severn Railway Bridge

with the loss of five lives. The gas main which crossed the bridge was fractured, causing loud hailers to visit local communities in the middle of the night warning everyone not to turn their gas on! Thereafter schoolchildren could no longer use the bridge to travel to Lydney schools and had to endure the forty-mile detour via Gloucester. There was talk of rebuilding the bridge, but with the Beeching Report (1963) closing lines everywhere this was never going to

Continued on p9

Continued from p8

happen, and it was demolished in 1967. If a road crossing in the Lydney area is ever seriously proposed this is probably where it will be, though the cost of building and improving approach roads on the Berkeley side may make the cost of such a project prohibitive. Incidentally, this is the point at which the Bore starts.

A further eight miles down the river, a ferry from Aust to Beachley had existed since Roman times.

This was known as the Old Passage and became a steam ferry in 1827. The crossing was dangerous due to the tides, and two ferry vessels were lost along with all hands in 1839 and 1844. In 1863 a new route, "New Passage" came into being with the arrival of the railways. Much traffic was lost when the Severn Tunnel opened to rail passenger traffic in December 1886. In 1926 a vehicular ferry was opened, initially only for bicycles and motor bikes, but in 1934 it became a car ferry with a capacity of 17 vehicles. Loading and unloading was tedious and tricky, and the operation was not helped by the huge tidal range.



Aust Ferry



Bob Dylan at Aust Ferry 1963

The ferry closed in September 1966 with the opening of the first Severn Bridge. This is a suspension bridge with two lanes for the M4 in either direction, and with a subsidiary crossing of the River Wye which forms the national boundary almost all the way up to Monmouth. The Severn Bridge is listed Grade1\* and now carries the M48.



Severn Bridge panoramic

To be continued in the May Villager

**RIDDLE:** What time is it when an elephant sits on the fence? **ANSWER ON P17**



## Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

As indicated in the March Villager a number of important items were discussed at our meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March and hopefully, we will be able to conclude some of them in the very near future, membership being of prime importance. Please consider joining the branch and I would indicate that you do not have to have served in H.M. Forces to become a member.

### MILITARY HISTORY

1989 –	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	WRENs allowed to carry weapons
1801 –	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Battle of Copenhagen
1940 –	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	First Battle of Narvik
1782 –	April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Battle of the Santes
1940 –	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Second Battle of Narvik
1915 –	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Invasion of Gallipoli

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We hope our next meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Please come and join us.

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

## Minsterworth Open Gardens

Saturday 25th June 2022

1pm – 4pm

Come and enjoy sharing the rich variety of gardens in our village.

Park for free at St Peter's Church where you can also collect your garden map and refresh yourself with tea, coffee and cake. All donations will be gratefully received in support of the church.



**Please get in touch if you would be willing to open your garden or help in any other way.**

Alison Raeburn 01452 751191

## Anniversaries at the Village Hall

The Village Hall's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming up in 2028 but many residents of Minsterworth will remember the similar celebrations that were held back in 1988 (60<sup>th</sup>) and again in 2008 (80<sup>th</sup>). A memento of the 60<sup>th</sup> is lovely for the celebration. That picture along with a key to peoples' identities appears in Terry Moore-Scott's book 'Minsterworth In Old Photographs' (copies still in stock and available from me). Take a look – see if you're on it. A similar large group photograph was taken at the 80<sup>th</sup> celebration and is reproduced there. We wanted to try and reproduce the same record of identities of people present that we have from the 1988 event and, thanks to some invaluable help from several village residents, this has been done.

Getting all the detail into The Villager though posed a difficulty of space but now a really good reproduction of the picture appears on the Village Hall website (see below) together with a 'floating head' chart linked to the picture and the list of identities.

As might be expected, there are a small number of persons present on the photograph we've not been able to identify so far. Do take a look and if you think you can fill any of the gaps in the list, let Terry know (01452 750160). To access the picture and related details on the website, go to [www.minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org), select 'Minsterworth Village' and then 'Minsterworth Community History Project'. If you don't have access to the Internet, get a friend or relative to get it for you.

TM-S



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# GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERSHIRE – CLARKES POOL MEADOWS

Roger Blowey

This is a short walk, but well worth a quick visit in early May, when all the flowers are out. Take the A48 westbound through Newnham and Blakeney towards Lydney. As you enter the short length of dual carriageway on the hill going out of Blakeney, there is a left turn marked Etloe and Gatcombe. Travel along this lane for just 200 – 300m until you see two passing places close to each other on your left. There is a large wooden field gate and an adjoining pedestrian gate between the two passing places – this is the entrance to Clarkes Pool Meadows.



There is an information display board just inside the entrance. I think it's best to turn left as you enter, then walk clockwise around the two fields on the footpath. Its only 2500 steps around both fields and back to the gate (according to Norma's fit bit!), but doing it this way gives you a superb view of the field as you walk back down over. There are just masses of cowslips, bluebells, orchids and other flowers, and the bird song was just lovely.



We visited on 12th May last year and were perhaps a little bit too late, as some of the cowslips and orchids were starting to fade. For more information see <https://www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/nature-reserves/clarkes-pool-meadows>



## Minsterworth Reading Group

Minsterworth Reading Group meets the first Wednesday of each month. In April we will be reading:

Still Life by Sarah Winman

'A Thousand Ships' by Nathalie Haynes is a poignant all-female retelling of the Trojan war and the impact of the fall of the city on the women of Troy. The tragedies that befell the women unfold in the stories of each character. After ten years of brutal conflict, the Greeks are victorious, and the Trojan women are enslaved and dispersed across the Greek world. These are their stories.

The book is engaging, well researched and written. The narrative moves between the various stories through time: before, during and after the war. The witty and sarcastic letters from Penelope to her wandering husband, Odysseus, offer some welcome humour while the antics of the various gods and goddesses also add some light relief.

Many members enjoyed this book more than expected and the relevance of the impact of the war on women led to some very lively discussion.

*Marylyn Nelson*

**RIDDLE:** Before Mt Everest was discovered what was the highest mountain in the world? **ANSWER ON P19**

"It's much easier to apologise than to get permission" – Grace Hopper

"Remember no-one can make you feel inferior without your consent" – Eleanor Roosevelt

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling but in rising every time we fall" – Nelson Mandela

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations"  
– Dr. Mae Jemison, first African American female astronaut

# Please read before you start your petrol lawn mower

Paula Ruffley

The ethanol content of standard 95 octane unleaded petrol sold at the pumps has changed from 5% ethanol content to 10% to help cut carbon emissions. Lower 5% ethanol content will only be offered in the more premium grade super unleaded fuel. This will be identified on the pump handle with E10 or E5 labelling:



Ethanol in fuel goes stale (like milk) and can cause damage to carburettor components like rubber gaskets, causing blockages of jets inside the carburettor and will degrade the aluminium casing.

Manufacturers recommend the E10 fuel isn't stored or left in the fuel system for more than 90 days without a fuel stabiliser. So when you get your mower out after winter...

The fuel change will affect other small petrol engines like outboard boat engines, petrol generators, classic cars and motorbikes and other small engines built before 2000.



## The Fairview Gardener

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The tea room is open daily  
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Try our breakfast or lunch  
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coffee, loose leaf teas and a  
delicious cake

The Fairview Gardener & Tea Room, Chapel Lane, Birdwood, Glos.

GL2 8AR tel: 01452 750436

# Gardening by the Severn

Sharon Ingham

This month we visit Tudor Cottage's garden which surrounds Rita and Nigel Garbutt's cottage, an oasis of greens all year round, with a particularly attractive box hedging area towards the front of the property.



## **When or where did your love of gardening start?**

My love of the garden, rather than gardening, began in childhood when my sister and I enjoyed the benefits of our parents' labours. Both keen gardeners, they created a wonderful garden full of secret bowers, deep herbaceous borders and many wonderful things to eat. It was only when I left home and had my own garden that I realised that this involved a considerable amount of work.

## **What significant changes have you made to the garden since you bought the property?**

When we bought Tudor Cottage well over forty years ago it did indeed have large herbaceous borders. I loved it and worked hard to maintain it. When our family grew from four to six, it became clear that I needed to make practical changes. We soon taught our eight-year-old to drive a lawn tractor (as an adult he enjoys the sport of lawn mower racing).

We needed more child friendly areas. It is hard to enter a nine-foot-deep border to retrieve a ball without causing damage. We also had beautiful alluvial soil on the flat areas, but rising up the clay hill was the vegetable plot. The ground was almost impossible to work most of the year despite trailer loads of muck and mushroom compost. We had a radical rethink and moved it to a flat area close to the potting shed. We also moved the greenhouse from its windy spot, where we had a pane blown out almost every year, to the new sheltered spot.

Today we have a screened vegetable plot with raised beds. We vastly reduced herbaceous borders. A feature of the garden is trimmed box and other hedging and shrubs to give all year interest. I have a passion for plants for free. All the box came from cuttings over the years. I feed the hedges twice a year and remove trimmings to reduce the chance of disease. We have now further reduced the borders to enable us to keep the garden in order but enjoying time away for extended holidays.

## **Do you have a favourite view in your garden?**

The most enduring features of the garden apart from the thousands upon thousands of snowdrops, my favourite flower, must be the magnificent Magnolia which is probably eighty years old, and Banksia rose and Wisteria fronting the house.



Continued on p16

Continued from p15

### **Which garden open to the public would you recommend everyone should visit?**

I think my favourite garden is at Tatton Park. The Japanese garden is very special. I spent my teenage years sailing on the lake there. We slept in the old hall, which was derelict, and probably dangerous at the time. Then the gardens were not open to the public, but now we can all enjoy them.

Thank you for sharing the many changes and developments in your lovely garden. It's a joy to relax in.

## **My Dog Sighs**

See front cover picture

My Dog Sighs (front cover gifted for free) is an internationally renowned Street Artist. See more of his work in Cheltenham - a large mural on the side of the main building at University of Gloucestershire Hardwick Campus and another in the High Street car park. Think eyes and hugs. Completed as part of Cheltenham Paint Festival in 2018. Definitely worth a look!

Better asked for colourful art than unwelcome graffiti & heaven knows how he does it on that scale, but needless to say cherry pickers were involved...

Ed.



A road in Richmond was closed to traffic during March, to allow toads to cross it and get to their annual breeding grounds. It passes through an area where common toads are known to cross the carriageway during their annual migration from hibernation to their breeding areas. The toads mate in the ponds they were born in throughout their lives, following the same migratory route every year. A study by Froglife and partners found common toads have declined by 68 percent over the last 30 years in the UK.

**ANSWER TO RIDDLE ON P6**

**An echo**

**ANSWER TO RIDDLE ON P13**

**Time to fix the fence**



## **FISH 'N' CHIPS & FILM**

**FISH 'N' CHIPS AND MYSTERY FILM NIGHT**

**THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 7PM**

**MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

**PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY TUESDAY**

**26TH WITH RITA ON 750128**

**COST £12 FOR FISH & CHIPS**

**BYO DRINKS**



**MINSTERWORTH  
VILLAGE HALL**



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.**

The Trustees wish to invite you to attend the AGM  
that will be held in the Village Hall.

Please join the meeting, find out what the latest plans  
are for the Hall and let us know what you think.  
Your views and thoughts are important to the Trustees  
and to the future of your Village Hall

**Whilst I am sure that we are united in our support and sympathy for Ukraine, we perhaps should also spare a thought for the average Russian person. Having done a few working trips to Russia, we have met some lovely people and visited beautiful places. I decided to contact my colleague Timur to ask if he was OK and if he was able to tell me what the average ordinary Russian person thought of the war.**

**His reply to me is given below. It needs a health warning before you read it. I feel so desperately sorry for him and his family.**

**Roger Blowey**

Dear Roger,

I hope you and your great family are doing well.

Unfortunately, we contacted each other because of WAR. War and I don't like to use any other official formulations given by Russian media to public society about that military invasion from Putin and the Russian Army to Ukraine. Fortunately, we could still speak to each other and people around the world who were interested in what people from Russia and in Russia think about war in which the Russian government, Russian Army and Putin start.

Me and my family feel shame, shame because one crazy dictator started a war, a war which no one needs, a war which destroys lives of millions of people in Ukraine, in Russia and unfortunately not only in one generation. We know that we are not to blame for what happened, but we are ashamed to be citizens of our country.

Another emotion which I felt when I was waking up and going to sleep last week is anger, anger because of hypocrisy (hope I choose the correct word for that) which Putin and all his government taking decisions and communicating on behalf of me, Russia and Russian people. This is not my decision, this is not the decision of my family, my friends and Russia, we are against that war. There is no reason in the world that can justify starting military aggression against people.

Helplessness, because you don't know how you could help people who are now in a hard situation, we are buying some products, some goods and delivering them to collecting points, but that is not enough to compensate Ukrainian people for what they lost. Helplessness, because you don't know how to stop this war.

That is what me and my family think and feel about that war and Putin's aggression against Ukraine. Important to stop that as soon as possible and I hope that there is some power in the world which could stop Putin as soon as possible.

I know that my thoughts are shared by many people living in Russia. On the other side there are also people supporting this war, unfortunately those people are heavily influenced by Russian official media, Putin propaganda which inspires people to believe in the big mission of the Russian army in Ukraine. Unfortunately that people don't have a chance to see alternative reality from other sources and of course they don't see what exactly is going on in Ukraine. Somebody doesn't like to see that reality...

Me and my family are praying for all our friends in Ukraine and for Ukraine, ready to support them at they need.

Sorry for the long mail, but I believe that it is important to know that people from Russia and in Russia are against the war.

Will be happy to hear from you at any time.

With warm regards, Timur

# Wellbeing - Aromatherapy

Nicky Milligan

“To reach the individual we need an individual remedy. Each of us is a unique message. It is only the unique remedy that will suffice. We must, therefore, seek odiferous substances which



present affinities with the human being we intend to treat, those which will compensate for his deficiencies and those which will make his faculties blossom.”

Marguerite Maury - The Secret of Life and Youth



## ANSWER TO RIDDLE ON P13

*Mt. Everest, it just wasn't discovered yet*

## JUBILEE BEACON AT THE VILLAGE HALL



**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

Last month we asked you to 'Save the Date' of Sunday 5th June for our Jubilee Village Picnic (now tea at 3pm! It's still being finalised) we will have a host of fun activities for you to enjoy and for the children too..

Continuing the plans, we are delighted to announce that the Parish Council will be purchasing a gas-filled beacon, to be lit at 9-50pm on Thursday 2nd June 2022, in line with all other beacons being lit around the country.

This will be the start of our weekend of celebrations. More details will be publicised in due course, but again, save the date!



**Your local, friendly, helpful store with easy access and plenty of parking.**

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- Local eggs, honey and potatoes. Stockists for Cherry Tree jams, curds and chutneys.
- Nature's Menu frozen and ambient pet food.
- Hand poured, fragranced candles from the Forest of Dean Candle Company, are available in store.

From brooms and buckets to wheelbarrows, wellies and waterproofs, we're here to help so please do call in and see what we do.

**Tel: 01452 760511 or WE ARE OPEN:**

Weekdays – 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Saturday – 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays

We are located on the A48, travel from Minsterworth through Westbury on Severn, down the hill, on the left-hand side before the garage.

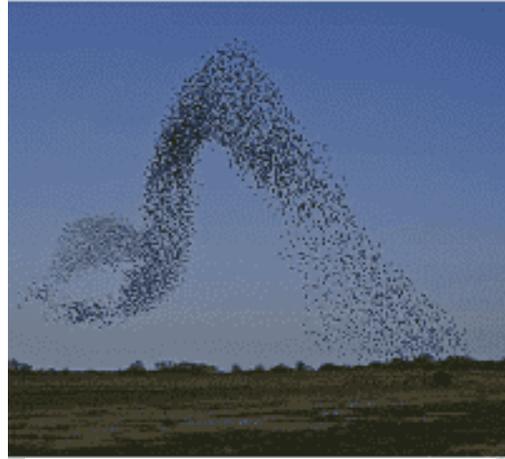
# So, where have all the Starlings gone?

Paula Ruffley

Starlings are sociable and gregarious birds. During autumn and winter, they gather in communal night-time roosts in places such as reedbeds and on buildings.



Adult Starling



Murmuration

They spend the day feeding in smaller flocks but as dusk approaches, they fly to these communal roosts. Several thousand birds or even hundreds of thousands make spectacular scenes whirling around above the roost site.

New flocks arrive from all directions all the time, before the birds finally fly down to roost still chattering away to each other. The sudden disappearance of Starlings from an area in winter could be caused by a major roost site becoming unavailable to the birds. This forces them to relocate, resulting in the abandonment of some feeding areas. This is often the case in cities, where they are actively discouraged from buildings. While UK Starlings are resident, northern European birds migrate here for winter.

In addition to the UK breeding population being red-listed, Starling numbers are declining across much of Europe, and we are getting fewer migrants than we did a few years ago. As a result, many winter roosts are now much smaller than in the past.

I remember in the 1970's in Lincolnshire it seemed that Starlings were always first to the bird table but in our part of Gloucestershire in 2022 they are outnumbered by Blackbirds. Perhaps they are more suited to woodlands and fields where they breed. They don't seem to like our garden much anyway – and neither do Sparrows, come to think of it. Oh no! I wondered if Sparrows had gone the same way as Starlings and it turns out they are on the red list too. And I thought it was songbirds, but clearly not only them. Lost habitat and pesticides doing their worst for all our small birds it seems. Starling numbers have fallen by 66 per cent in Britain since the mid-1970s. Because of this decline in numbers, the Starling is red listed as a bird of high conservation concern. How could we have been so careless?

*The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another: we should raise each other up.*

*- Serena Williams*

# PARISH OF ST. PETER, MINSTERWORTH

## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022

TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 P.M.  
IN THE HARVEY CENTRE

You are invited to attend the meeting and  
hear about plans for the Benefice  
and our beautiful Church.



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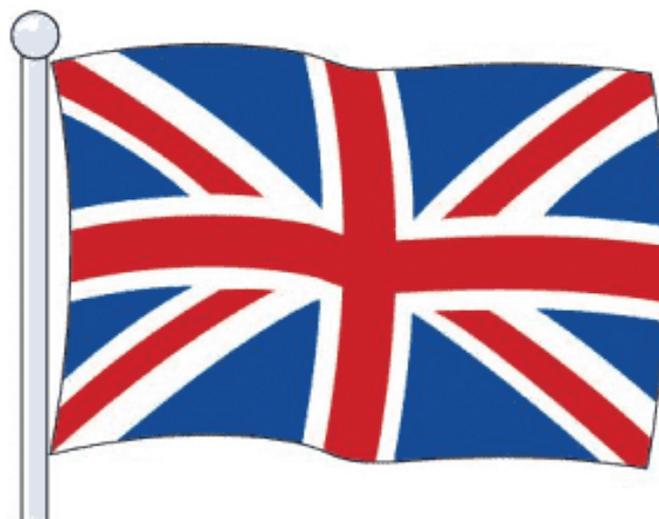
# Minsterworth Village Platinum Jubilee Plans

**Sunday 5th June**

Get the bunting and flags ordered, we want the A48 and village lanes to be a riot of red, white and blue!



See the May Villager for the programme of events in the build-up to the big day, starting with the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon at the Village Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (see p19). It is evolving...



# OLD ENGLISH SALAD

Dawn Ricketts

## Ingredients:

2 Little Gem Lettuce  
2 Large hard-boiled eggs, chopped  
70g pancetta or cooked bacon diced  
(or use sunflower seeds, pine nuts or cheese)  
1/2 tbsp red vinegar  
1/2 tsp Dijon mustard  
1/2 tsp caster sugar  
1 raw egg yolk  
4 tbsp double cream  
1 tbsp chopped chives  
Salt & pepper



## Instructions:

Mix vinegar, mustard, sugar, salt and pepper  
Add raw yolk then whisk  
Add cream then whisk  
Add chives then whisk

Toss the lettuce in the mix then arrange on a plate  
Sprinkle on the cut pancetta or bacon  
Sprinkle on the chopped hard-boiled eggs  
Serve chilled

# Climb the rigging of the Cutty Sark

Paula Ruffley

For the first time since the Cutty Sark arrived in Greenwich in 1954, visitors will be able to climb the famous ship's masts and enjoy views of the Thames and London like never before.



Cutty Sark was the fastest ship of its kind and from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 it will be possible to climb the famous ship's masts and her rigging to get an amazing view. See [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

## A new Altar Frontal for St Peter's Minsterworth

The Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II is being celebrated in 2022, to mark the 70th Anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 5th February 1952.

In honour of this great achievement, we are hoping to create a new altar frontal for the high table in the Lady Chapel at St Peter's, drawing inspiration from its stunning stained-glass window and including imagery that represents the commemoration of Her Majesty's reign. Our grateful thanks go to Sarah McHale for creating the original design for the altar frontal.

The window in the Lady Chapel depicts Christ's appearance to St Peter on the sea of Galilee. We decided the central design of the frontal would represent Peter's origins as a fisherman but take the backdrop of the riverbank at Minsterworth as our starting point. Alongside a foliage background, the intention is to incorporate the four floral emblems of each of the United Kingdom nations: the rose, the thistle, the daffodil and the shamrock.



Lady Chapel window

Further echoing the design of the window, the top of the frontal will feature a border of pale golden vine leaves. We hope the vine leaves will become part of a village community sewing project. With a pattern and some guidance from others, is this something with which you would like to be involved?

If so, please contact Annie Cowdrey on 01452 751293 or email [annie\\_cowdrey@hotmail.com](mailto:annie_cowdrey@hotmail.com)

**APRIL FISH & CHIPS**  
**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
**at the Village Hall**

**Serving from 5pm to 8pm**

For menu see [www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk](http://www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk)

Fish & chips will continue every second Thursday of the month until further notice

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General maintenance

For further information contact Ash:

**07812 077367**

## THINGS TO PONDER

- Why do British people never sound British when they sing?
- When French people swear do they say “pardon my English”?
- How come abbreviated is such a long word?
- Is learning from mistakes better than being right first time?
- Why are boxing rings square?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

## Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the March draw, which is drawn at the whist drive, was as follows:-

£50 No. 098 Peter Williams

£20 No. 168 Liz Perry

£10 No. 091 Lynn Haines

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.

## Whist Drive

March winds did blow but thankfully no snow! There was another good attendance at the whist drive making up 8 tables. This resulted in £102 for church funds. A special thanks to those who help to quickly clear up the hall afterwards – it is much appreciated.

## Church service times and flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	11am	Family Service	None
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	5pm	Evening Worship	None
10 <sup>th</sup> April	11am	Holy Communion	None
15 <sup>th</sup> April (Good Friday)	7pm	Reflective Service	None
17 <sup>th</sup> April ( <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> )	11am	Holy Communion	Easter - all
24 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Benefice Communion	Anne Pearson

**The Benefice Communion Service is at Minsterworth**

### HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch - join by emailing [64lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64lettie@gmail.com)

The Parish Council website - agenda, minutes, councillors etc

<https://minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk/>

The Village Hall website - [www.minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://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

# Contents April 2022

## Page Item

2	Recycling	
3	MVH Comedy Night No2	8 <sup>th</sup> April
4	The Harvey Centre	
5	The Big Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
6	Soup Kitchen	23 <sup>rd</sup> April
6	Plastic Collection	
8	Crossing the River part 3	
10	Minsterworth RBL, Minsterworth Open Gardens	
11	Anniversaries at the Hall	
12	Glorious Gloucestershire	
13	Minsterworth Reading Group	6 <sup>th</sup> April
14	Warning – Ethanol in small engines	
15	Gardening by the Severn	
17	Village Hall AGM	6 <sup>th</sup> April
17	Fish, chips & film (Ruddy's)	28 <sup>th</sup> April
18	Letter from Russia	
19	Wellbeing – Aromatherapy	
19	Jubilee Beacon at the Village Hall	2 <sup>nd</sup> June
23	Platinum Jubilee plans	
24	Recipe	
25	New Altar frontal for St. Peter's	
25	Gluten free fish & chips	14 <sup>th</sup> April
27	200 club, Whist Drive, Church Services	
27	Helpful community links	



## 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](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org)

e-mail [minsterworthvh@gmail.com](mailto:minsterworthvh@gmail.com)

Tel: 01452 750492