

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Tidal flooding at the Dinney
following 4* bore on 12th March
by Mark Atkin

April 2020

Price 30p
Edition 210

Dear Readers,

I had largely completed the April edition when it became difficult to distribute a printed edition in the current Corona virus situation. The health and safety of everyone is paramount, sadly this means limiting social interaction.

Then I hit on the idea of getting a version out on Mailchimp. It won't reach everyone but maybe it will encourage more self-isolating people to sign up to Mailchimp. See p16 for how. And it doesn't have to have a multiple of 4 pages now! But this one is, ah well.

Stay safe and keep self-isolating. We've got more sense than Donald Trump!

Paula

Closing copy date for the May edition is Wednesday 15th April 2020
but earlier is even better!

All items for consideration to:-
Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager
E-mail: thevillager@minsterworth.org
Tel: 01452 751226.

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING APRIL

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

Tuesday 3 April

Tuesday 17 April

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

Tuesday 10 April

Tuesday 24 April

Please put your bin & caddy out by 7am.

Village Community Book Box:

We are setting up a Village Book Box at the Church. If you are self-isolating and in need of reading material please ask one of your contacts (perhaps via the WhatsApp group?) to collect something from the box for you - we're hoping to stock it with books, magazines, games and DVD's. Donations are very welcome!

We have checked on-line and can't find any information that suggests there is any greater risk collecting books etc, than delivering groceries but it goes without saying, washing your hands or using hand-sanitizer after rummaging through the box is advised.

The box will be located at the back of the church beside the Harvey window and the church will remain open every day as usual.

We're hoping to have the box ready by the weekend.

'Our lives begin to end the day we keep silent about things that matter'

- Martin Luther King

'It's not the years in your life that matter but the life in your years'

- Abraham Lincoln

'Remember no one can make you feel inferior without your consent'

- Eleanor Roosevelt

One in four frogs is a Leap frog -
Chris Turner

I'm going to donate my body to science, and keep my Dad happy - he always wanted me to go to medical school. - Lee Mack

I went to a restaurant that serves breakfast at any time. So I ordered French toast during the Renaissance." - Steven Wright



MINSTERWORTH AND DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Our meeting held on Wednesday March 11th was again well attended and a number of items were discussed, some of which are to be finalised.

Our Day Trip, held each year in September, was decided. We will visit Ironbridge which is recognised as the birthplace of industry. There are so many attractions, one in particular is Blists Hill Victorian Town where groups can travel back over 100 years to experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Victorian age. Obviously further in-depth information will be in The Villager in the forthcoming months.

The Legion Room has now been fully redecorated with the labour and its costs supplied and paid for by our branch.

Military History

1801	April 2 nd	Battle of Copenhagen
1940	April 10 th	First Battle of Narvik
1940	April 13 th	Second battle of Narvik
1915	April 25 th	Invasion of Gallipoli

Terry Bourne
President

"I was thinking of running a marathon, but I think it might be too difficult getting all the roads closed and providing enough water for everyone."
- Jordan Brookes

Minsterworth Reading Group



The book chosen for March was Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.... I did wonder how it would be received because I suppose Terry Pratchett is a bit of a niche author....and so it proved! Two of us had seen the TV production and maybe that clarified the story a bit... but on the whole it wasn't a big success and doesn't stand a chance of being voted the most popular book of the year.... but it's always good to experience new things isn't it ?!

Nicky Milligan

In April we will review 'The Man I Think I Know' by Mike Gayle and we'll share our thoughts by e-mail / phone where we can!

Marie-Clare and Richard would like to thank everyone for the generous donations that people made to the snowdrop walk and teas.

Despite the appalling weather and only one tea day out of four going ahead, £200 was raised for Minsterworth Village Hall and St. Peter's Church. Many thanks.

M-CM

- Rabbits and parrots can see behind themselves without even moving their heads!
- Butterflies taste food by standing on top of it! Their taste receptors are in their feet unlike humans who have most on their tongue.
- Although the Stegosaurus dinosaur was over 9 metres long, its brain was only the size of a walnut.
- Humans get a little taller in space because there is no gravity pulling down on them.
- Because of the unusual shape of their legs, kangaroos and emus struggle to walk backwards.
- A hippopotamus may seem huge but it can still run faster than a man.
- Even if an analogue clock is broken, at least it shows the correct time twice a day.
- Sneezing with your eyes open is impossible.

Heavenly Justice

Once, there was a preacher who was an avid golfer. Every chance he could get, he would be on the golf course swinging away. It was an obsession. One Sunday was a picture-perfect day for golfing. The sun was out, no clouds were in the sky, and the temperature was just right.

The preacher drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognize him. Happily, he began to play the course.

An angel up above was watching the preacher and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at the preacher. He should be punished for what he is doing." God nodded in agreement. The preacher teed up on the first hole. He swung at the ball, and it sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup 250 yards away. A picture-perfect hole-in-one. He was amazed and excited.

The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said, "I beg your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him."

God smiled. "Think about it-who can he tell?"

Village Hall Renovations - update

The blistered plaster on the lower wall panels inside the Hall has been removed, and this plus the flaking around the windows has been re-plastered. The windows have been resealed (that's where the damp was coming in), the brown damp patches on the ceiling have been repaired and repainted, so it's generally looking better on the inside.

A new external light has been fitted on the ramp access to the Legion Room to improve safety, and new guttering for the roof has been fitted in various places to reduce the risk of further damp patches.

The British Legion have repainted the Legion Room for us, so with the new bar area, the cleaned floor and the refurbished curtains it's all looking very smart.

Major work has been carried out at the far end of the hall. We knew that the big horizontal timber required attention, but having removed part of the rotted beam, at the rear right corner we found that the rot extended much further than was initially visible, and quite a large length of beam had to be removed. Brian tells us that this beam is known as a "sole plate" and it spreads the weight of the outer brick wall across the solid stone wall below. Having removed the outer beam the inner sole plate (the support for the inner skin of the cavity wall) was visible and we found that this had also rotted. That was the bad news.

I suppose the good news is that we were extraordinarily lucky that we identified the problem before the whole corner of the building had dropped or fallen out! We are also very fortunate that, due to the shared access with Ellis Bank, the previous committee had left us with sufficient funds to be able to do this work.

By supporting the wall with props, the builders were able to remove all of the rotten wood and re-support both the walls, inside and out, with brick. The next stage was to replace the oak beam sole plate, or at least the external part of it.. Dave Harris kindly sourced this for us – oak from the Forest of Dean! - and it's now been fixed in place. The final stages are to re-plaster the external wall, lay the paving slabs so that water runs away from the building and not towards it, then get it repainted.

Continued on p10



Brian inspecting the rotting timbers

Supporting the rear wall



New oak beam



With new paved area at rear

It would be nice if that was the end – but unfortunately it's not! There are other areas of the hall where it looks as if we may have the same problem, i.e. rotting of the wooden sole plate support timbers. Until we have removed the wood from other parts of the Hall we will not be able to tell, although there is one ominous crack that is giving us cause for concern.

We also had 10" – 12" depth of water in the cellar during the very wet weather, and we need to try to resolve that somehow. Interesting times!

Now for the good news! The long-awaited CCTV to protect the hall is up and running 24/7. Bob Holder completed the system after Dave Coward and co (the builders) ran the cables to and from the cameras last week. The cameras cover all the entrances to the hall and the car park area, although this does not give a view of the entire car park. This will allow us to investigate any incidents around the hall. Signs are being put up to show the hall is covered – these will appear in the next couple of weeks.

RB



ST PETER'S P.C.C.

The Whist Drive

The March whist drive was attended by 26 people making a total of six and a half tables. An enjoyable evening resulted in £70 for church funds. Thank you to all concerned and especially to those who quickly cleared away the tables and chairs at the end of the evening.

200 Club

The 200 Club draw for March resulted in the following:-

£50	No. 132	Terry Moore-Scott
£20	No. 166	Tony Scrivener
£10	No. 124	Colin Stewkesbury

You can't lose a homing pigeon. If your homing pigeon doesn't come back, then what you've lost is a pigeon.

Sara Pascoe

I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together.

Riveting! Stewart Francis

My friend got a personal trainer a year before his wedding. I thought: How long's the aisle going to be'.

Paul McCaffrey

Cyber Crime Presentation Tuesday 3rd March at Minsterworth Village Hall

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Household and Cyber Security meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday 3rd March. We had three separate speakers, lots of questions and generally a good evening. It wasn't a big turnout, but everyone who attended thought it was well worthwhile, and I'm delighted that action is going to be taken to revive Neighbourhood Watch scheme in our area.

Neighbourhood Watch

Following the presentation and discussion by attendees it was agreed to review and revitalise the flagging Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

It was proposed that the village would be covered by several local coordinators and the alert scheme would be handled via social media including; WhatsApp, Email and Minsterworth Matters Facebook page. Alternative arrangements would be made for people unable to access information via these methods.

Following this review further information will be published in The Villager, so watch this space.

In the meantime please remember:

If you need to report something, PLEASE

- call 101
- or report online: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime-or-provide-information-anonymously/>
- and/or if you wish, contact me Roger Blowey

Always call 999 in an emergency

Unless we are told about adverse events in our Parish, we can't take the necessary action.

RB

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Notes from Minsterworth Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2020

Present: Cllrs R Blowey, C Thomas, S King, S Ingham, N Powell, County Cllr P Awford, Boro Cllr P McLain, Clerk F Wallbank

Apologies: Cllr N Garbutt, Cllr R Crisp, Boro Cllr J Smith

It was observed that the new building on the A38 is flooded after all the rain we have had recently.

The Village Hall rep. observed that the Legion room has been redecorated, see p11, 2 beams have been replaced on the A48 side and CCTV cameras have been installed.

The grass has been cut at Minsterworth Park.

Drainage at Walker Cottage is still an issue. Work on the drain at Church Landing and nearby has been completed. Thanks to the team who cleared it.

The meeting on Neighbourhood Watch was well attended with Minsterworth NHW to be potentially revitalised.

Planning

20/00076/FUL Sunnymead No objection subject to the entrance to the property being widened to improve visibility. Deepfurrow House 19/01004/FUL reiterate points made previously.

There has been a noise complaint from Ellis Bank about the A48.

There is a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan for Parish Councillors to consider.

About 300 people attended the meeting on the Eco village of 5,000 houses. Details are given on the Westbury website.

There is no dropped kerb by the bus stop opposite the Apple Tree where several disabled people cross the A48. Parish Council to contact Chris Riley at Glos Highways.

Next meeting TBC.

Minsterworth Village Hall

Registered charity 255668



Available to hire

Booking Clerk - Brian Billingham 01452 750492

*A beautiful, traditional Hall with a stage,
well-equipped kitchen and recreation ground.*

Suitable for outdoor events and marquees.

Main Road, Minsterworth, Gloucester GL2 8JH

e-mail - village_hall@minsterworth.org

Website - www.minsterworth.org

Daytime Severn Bores April 2020

Yet more water comes down the Severn...

Date	Time	Star	m
Weds 8 th	09:05	4	10:0
Thurs 9 th	09:47	4	10.2
Fri 10 th	10:28	4	10.2
Sat 11 th	11:07	3	9.7

Mailchimp is the internal e-mail system used to get important & sometimes urgent information to Minsterworth people. It uses mass e-mail and is sent as required, not regularly.

e-mail thevillager@minsterworth.org & ask to subscribe to Mailchimp.

Your privacy will **always** be protected & you will only ever be sent important news for Minsterworth.

Thank you.

Minsterworth Village Hall