

The Villager

Minsterworth News



The Knife Angel

Gloucester Cathedral

Dawn Ricketts

April 2023

Edition 245

Dear readers,

We are very pleased to have a picture of The Knife Angel from in front of Gloucester Cathedral on the front cover of April's Villager magazine and see p9 for more! Gloucester Cathedral says 'Gloucester Cathedral is honoured to be hosting the Knife Angel throughout February as part of the UK National Youth Anti-Violence Tour and Programme.

A thought-provoking, 27ft tall sculpture, the Knife Angel (known in full as the National Monument for Serious Violence and Aggression) aims to raise awareness of all aspects of violent street crime, and it is being supported by county-wide organisations as part of the Stronger Safer Gloucester community partnership. Throughout February, there will be a varied programme of events, services and activities that aim to inspire social change.

However, the conversation doesn't end here. The Knife Angel Legacy Fund has been set up to ensure this vital work can continue in the years to come; all funds raised through the Legacy Fund will be used to support affected communities in Gloucestershire, with an aim to increase education around, and prevent, violent crime. You can donate to the fund via the Cathedral website.'

Correction: March's excellent Leafy Face front cover photo was by Hilary Lyon from the Minsterworth photo club, really sorry to have got that wrong Hilary. I feel so lucky to have access to so many creative photographs for The Villager.

Paula

All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager E-mail:

Tel: 07905 694612 thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com

Deadline is ALWAYS 10th of the month before the magazine is published, so for May it's Monday 10th April.

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING APRIL 2023

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy (landfill) (garden)		BLUE bin & caddy (recycling)	
Wednesday	12	Tuesday	4
Tuesday	25	Tuesday	18

Please put your recycling bin & caddy out the night before, where possible.

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

'UPS AND DOWNS OF THE SEVERN'

An illustrated talk by Tony Conder

Friday 28th April 2023

7-00pm at Minsterworth Village Hall

This is a second talk by Tony Conder, who gave us such an excellent presentation on Gloucester Docks in January. Ups and Downs of the Severn discusses the River in all its guises and looks at the Severn Bore over history, how it works, where to see it, and some background on other river bores across the world. This well illustrated talk uses pictures from Fred Rowbotham, who for many years was the river engineer.

For the people of Minsterworth the Severn is certainly important, whether it be a place to catch elvers, the cause of flooding, or the source of traffic congestion when there is a large bore!



The Bore at The Lower Parting – one of the best view points

Tickets (£5) are available online at <https://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/events-coming-soon.html>

or from rogerblowey@hotmail.co.uk, or text 07768 451071.

PLEASE purchase your tickets in advance, preferably on-line, because we need to know how many are coming. We got very close to having to decline ticket sales at the door in January!

Wine, soft drinks and snacks available, so let's make it another nice social evening!

The National Hole Shortage

Denis Jackson

The Hole Problem

It doesn't seem to make the news in the way that some stories do but I have to tell you that in Britain today we face a major shortage of holes.

Now, you may think I am talking nonsense. Holes are everywhere. They aren't hard to find, usually presenting themselves where they are not wanted, in jumpers, roads and boats. Believe it or not though, there are a lot fewer holes about than there used to be and, if you're a creature that has a need for one, they can be very hard to find.

Rural Holes

So, just what's caused this dire situation? Well, in the old days, holes were plentiful. In forests, and hedges, trees would die from time to time and slowly decay where they stood. This enabled woodpeckers to easily excavate nice nesting spaces in the soft wood. Woodpeckers generally only use a hole they have created for one season, so, in future years, their holes would be used by other species such as pied flycatchers and nuthatch.



Pied Flycatcher eggs

Sometimes, trees would fall victim to fungus, gales or perhaps even lightning strikes. This sounds like bad news but I sometimes say that the only good tree for wildlife is a large, dead one! These agents often result in wholesale damage resulting in large cavities suitable for owls, kestrels and others.



Barn Owl box

Now, you would correctly point out that all of the things I have mentioned above are still happening. Trees still die and gales might even be becoming more frequent. You're right of course but there's a difference. Today, a standing, dead tree is a hazard. It could fall on someone's head and result in a compensation claim. If a tree is attacked by fungus, it might also fall apart and injure someone as well as potentially infecting other trees with a consequent financial loss for the forester.

As a result of all these perceived risks, many landowners waste no time in removing such dangerous trees, albeit wonderful wildlife habitats, from their property. Suddenly, it's not hard to see why finding a rural bolt hole can be quite a challenge for a small bird, kestrel, barn owl or dormouse.

Continued on p5

Urban Holes

Isn't it ironic that what's perhaps good for the environment in general is detrimental to some wildlife? In the days BuPVC (before uPVC), holes were legion. Our homes and business premises were full of holes before we started sealing them up against the elements with our plastic fascia boards and silicone sealants.

On top of this, tiles have been fixed and roof spaces insulated and sealed. This very proper action to reduce our energy consumption has, unfortunately, resulted in serious reduction in the number of places where the humble house sparrow and starling can find suitable accommodation to raise a family. This perhaps goes some way to explaining why, in the last 30 years or so, numbers of these once-common urban residents have declined by more than 60%.



Wren on bird box

The Hole Replacement Programme

The good news is that we can make our own holes. I'm not suggesting you start attacking the side of your house with a pneumatic drill but making and placing nesting boxes for birds and



Blue Tit chicks

indeed, other creatures as diverse as dormice and bats, can make a real difference. Boxes range from the compact and bijou one-room blue tit box which can be easily and cheaply made through to more extensive, executive-style housing for barn owls and other large birds. Dormice and bats have their own unique requirements but if you are handy with a few basic tools, these too are not hard to make. You can, of course, buy them too and some are even available as Ikea-style flat packs (although usually

with better instructions!). Boxes can be placed on trees, buildings or even on their own poles. They don't have to be works of art – you're trying to emulate a random hole in a tree after all. This lack of required precision also makes nest-box making a great activity for children where, under supervision, they can learn about wildlife, measuring, maths and the use of basic tools. They'll be learning stuff without even realising it which usually means more enthusiastic participation. The look on their faces when they see "their" box with a brood of youngsters in the spring is priceless.

YouTube has lots of videos with simple instructions for building a bird box, definitely worth a look! Why not click [HERE](#) for an example. *Paula*



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Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the March draw for the 200 Club includes the extra £100 prize. This year it was won by Ivor Smith – Congratulations Ivor.

£50 No. 048 Liz Duff

£20 No. 198 Mike Williams

£10 No. 043 Malcolm Fox

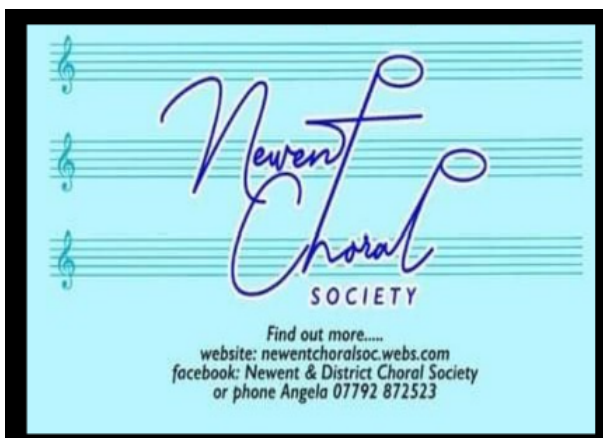
Next month the annual subscriptions are due for the 200 Club - £12 for the year. Thank you to all members for your continued support. If you would like to join the 200 Club, or would like to have an extra number, then please contact Liz Savage on 750401.

Whist Drive

The whist drive in March resulted in £75 for church funds. Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to those who help to quickly clear up the hall afterwards – it is much appreciated. The next whist drive will be on April 3rd at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Church service times and flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
2 nd April	11am	Family Service	None
7 th April (Good Friday)	7.30pm	Reflective Service	None
9 th April (EASTER SUNDAY)	9.30am	Holy Communion	Group flowers
16 th April	5pm	Evening Worship	Group flowers
23 rd April 30 th April		No service at Minsterworth	Liz Savage



Newent Choral Society Concert
At Newent Community School
Saturday 1st April 2023
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“It is never too late to be what you might have been”
George Eliot

“When you give joy to other people, you get more joy in return”
Eleanor Roosevelt

“Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow”
Mahatma Gandhi

KNIFE ANGEL



Simon Ruffley



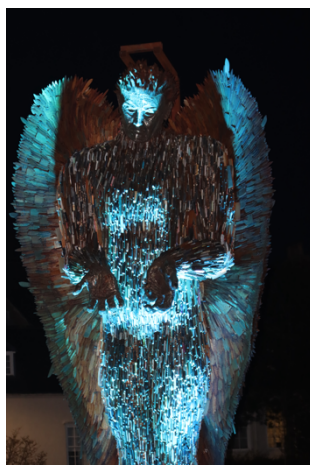
Wyn Parry



Dawn Ricketts



Wyn Parry



Wyn Parry

THE ARTS SOCIETY WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE

We invite you to explore the world of art and design.

Following our January lecture featuring William Morris, with the largest audience in the hall at Highnam since before Covid, February's Special Interest Day, The Forensic Eye - Find Your Inner Connoisseur, drew a near capacity audience. Whilst most of the lively & appreciative audience were members, we attracted many visitors, some from neighbouring Art Societies. "Hi, wasn't today amazing? So good to see so many people there, and we were so fortunate to have the benefit of Chantal's knowledge and experience." Just one of the responses received afterwards.

The Stirling Prize: British Architecture's Oscars, in March was a well-supported and entertaining lecture looking at some of the hits, some of the misses, & several buildings that should have won, but did not. There followed a lively discussion including retired architect members.

For the coming months we have a diverse range of subjects featuring, automobiles, musical instruments, the female impressionist painter Berthe Morisot and the many artists who were drawn to the coastal scenery of Normandy.

As part of our Arts Volunteering work, Tibberton Primary School pupils have recently created a mosaic of the school's rainbow logo for the entrance hall under the guidance of local award-winning artist Kate Smith working together with members of our society.



Tibberton Primary School pupils creating their mosaic

We continue to attract new members who have come along on Thursday afternoons to find out more and are struck by the high standard of speakers who travel to Highnam from throughout the UK.

To learn more, visit our website, www.theartssocietywestglos.org.uk.

Our email address is: westgloucesterartssociety@gmail.com or call 01454 218092.

You can simply come along on the day at 2pm if you prefer.

Next meeting The Car in Art and the Car as Art Thursday 13th April

WORLD BOOK DAY

Having consulted Wikipedia, I note that *World Book Day* is a charity event held annually in the United Kingdom and Ireland on the first Thursday in March. On World Book Day, every child in full-time education in the UK and the Republic of Ireland is provided with a voucher to be spent on books; the event was first celebrated in the United Kingdom in 1998.

You may remember a request on Minsterworth Matters WhatsApp for a red cape. The picture below is the outcome – the Boyce girls in all their glory!



From left to right, Daisy (Goldilocks), Bethannie (Beauty and the Beast) and Rosie (Little Red Riding Hood)

How lovely it is to get our children involved in these events! Well done Aimee!

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COMEDY NIGHT

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(Ticket price will then revert to standard price £15)

LINE UP

- JAY SODAGAR (MC)
- NICK PAGE
- PHIL CARR
- SEAN PERCIVAL

Full details and to book tickets, visit our website:

www.minsterworthvillagehall.org



WHILE WE BOOK THE ACTS THROUGH A PROFESSIONAL AGENCY AND TAKE EVERY CARE TO CAREFULLY SELECT THE ACTS,
PLEASE DO NOT BOOK TICKETS IF YOU ARE EASILY OFFENDED.

Minsterworth Parish Council

March 2023

The Parish Council paid their respect with a 1-minute silence for the passing of Councillor Phil Awford. Councillor Awford was the Gloucestershire County Councillor, with over 20 years of service. He was well respected and had a breath of experience on Highways and aspects of working with Tewkesbury Borough Council. He will be sadly missed.

You may have noticed the white village gates have been erected at the west end of the village, this is after 5 years of working on this project. We have just agreed with Highways the location of the additional two which should be erected at the east end.

Coronation Celebration

The council agreed to grant £100 towards the celebration to be held on Sunday 7th April. We are also looking into a Grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council of up to £1000. The theme is Health and Wellbeing, **if anyone has ideas on what the Parish Council could apply for please message the Parish Clerk with your ideas.**

If you would like to volunteer on the day please contact Roger Blowey.

Planning Applications

22/01277/FUL Part Parcel 0003 Church Lane Minsterworth

New floor and elevation plans/Eight four bedrooms dwellings.

This application has resubmitted plans with changes to eight four bedrooms.

The council's comment: Even though the footprint is the same Tewkesbury Planning should consider more affordable houses with as a combination of 3- and 4-bedroom dwellings as per the first planning application. Concerns were also noted from a comment in the Severn Trent report 'connecting to the mains sewer'. There is no mains sewer in Minsterworth.

23/00107/FUL The Falklands, Main Rd, Minsterworth.

Erection of an attached single storey annexe (part-retrospective) No objection.

23/00172/FUL Highbury, Main Rd, Minsterworth.

Erection of detached garage building to front of existing dwelling western boundary treatments and entrance gates. Objection.

Council considered the two-storey garage build was extensive, out of character with the other building and imposing on neighbours. The council would prefer to see wrought iron gates rather than the planned solid wooden gates.

Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC)

None to date.

Withdrawn 18/00954/OUT Hampton Farm Watery Land. 8 dwellings.

The council acknowledges planning within the village is important to residents and we recommend checking the website for the Agenda on upcoming planning applications. You can also sign up to receive notifications of applications from the TBC planning portal.

The next meeting of the Council takes place 17th April @ 7pm at the **Harvey Centre**.

As always, all residents are very welcome to attend.

Parish Clerk: Jo Badham (07815 193851) clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

M.B

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Bavarois aux framboises

Robert and Carol Selway

Serves 6

Ingredients

1-pint tablet of raspberry jelly

1-pint tablet of lemon jelly

3 tablespoons lemon juice

Small can of evaporated milk chilled

Method

Make up raspberry jelly with half pint of boiling water, stir until dissolved

Make up to 3/4 pint with cold water

Pour into 2-pint mould & leave to set in fridge

Make up lemon jelly in same way using half pint of boiling water

Add 3 teaspoonful of lemon juice. When half set whisk to a froth

Whisk the evaporated milk in a deep bowl until thick & frothy

Fold frothy lemon jelly into evaporated milk

When evenly mixed pour over raspberry jelly & return to fridge to set

Unmould onto serving dish

Serve & enjoy

New Village Gates

Ruth Thomas

If you have been travelling from the west on the A48 (as though from Westbury) into Minsterworth recently we hope you have spotted our new Village Gates.



These are part of the Parish Council's work to support road safety throughout the village. The installation of the gates has been organised and part funded by the Parish Council, but with the majority of the money kindly coming via the Highways Local fund from our Tewkesbury Borough Councillor Phil Awford. The Parish Council is aware that road safety is a key issue for residents, and the erection of village gates was one of the measures highlighted in the survey which many of you completed last year.

Whilst village gates may be considered a small step in response to road safety concerns, there is significant evidence that they can be effective as part of a number of safety measures. Village gates are used to make it more obvious to drivers that they are entering a residential area, where there may be more people using and crossing the road, and therefore they

encourage drivers to voluntarily (even subliminally) choose to slow down. Many villages across the country have adopted speed gates and recent research in Somerset has shown that these sorts of safety measures can reduce the number of accidents by 19%.

We would have liked to have the gates by the Minsterworth sign as drivers enter the village but the grass verges there were not wide enough to safely accommodate the gates. We also intend to add some flower boxes by the signs which will emphasise the visual reminder that people are entering a village.

A second set of gates at the east end of the village (driving from the direction of Gloucester) will also be added soon. Gloucester CC are going to move the Minsterworth sign east (towards Gloucester) and we have to wait for that to be completed before the east end gates can be installed.



MINSTERWORTH'S CORONATION BIG LUNCHEON

SUNDAY 7TH MAY 2023

12-30PM TO 3-30PM

MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE HALL

The plans announced by The Palace for the Coronation are that the ceremony itself will be on Saturday 6th May, then on Sunday it is suggested that *Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together.*

With this in mind, the Minsterworth Coronation group will be organising the following on

Sunday 7th May

12-30pm – meet at Village Hall for drinks and socialising

1-00pm – pig roast rolls available, plus teas, coffee, and licensed bar

3-30pm – lighting of the beacon, and a rousing 'Minsterworth cheer'!

During the afternoon we hope to provide ice cream, music, children's games and most of all a lovely social atmosphere! Feel free to bring your own picnic items, cakes etc, to share and to supplement the pig roast rolls.

Prizes will be awarded to every child who comes dressed as a King or Queen, with a special prize for the person in the best costume.

The Coronation website states that:

On Sunday, 7th May 2023, a special Coronation Concert will take place at Windsor Castle. Produced, staged and broadcast live by the BBC and BBC Studios, the Coronation Concert will bring global music icons and contemporary stars together in celebration of the historic occasion. The centrepiece of the Coronation Concert, 'Lighting up the Nation', will see the country join together in celebration as iconic locations across the United Kingdom are lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

Many people will want to watch the concert on TV, which is why we are holding our event during the day. PLEASE join us.

We had a lovely event at the Jubilee. Let's have lovely Coronation events this year.

Sunday 7th May 2023, 12-30 to 3-30pm

CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY – THE BIG HELP OUT – IDEAS PLEASE

Monday 8th May has been allocated as an additional Bank Holiday.

The 'Coronation website' states *The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas. The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.*

It would be nice to have a Minsterworth legacy of the Coronation weekend.

Some of the suggestions so far put forward are:

1. establishing flower planters in front of our new white village gates, and
2. painting our one remaining milestone white with black writing. The milestone is on the eastbound carriageway of the A48 just past the Harvey Centre bus shelter.

We are looking for further ideas, so if you have a suggestion please contact rogerblowey@hotmail.co.uk or text/phone 07768 451071



MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE HALL



Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 2nd May 7.30

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We are open:

Weekdays: 8:30a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Saturday: 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Closed Sunday & Bank Holidays

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The Harvey Centre Calendar – April 2023

MON	<p>Tan House Choir: Weekly from 7.00pm - 9.00pm Telephone 01452 750128 to join or find out more...</p>
TUES	<p>Move classes: Weekly from 9.45am - 10.45pm A blend of Yoga and Pilates for all ages and abilities</p> <p>Memory Café: Tuesday 11th April 11.00am – 1.30pm. No charge Safe space for Dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch. For further info please call 01452 750128</p>
WED	<p>Community Cafe: The Harvey Centre Open weekly from 10.00am - 2pm Delicious cake, tea coffee available as usual</p> <p>Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility class Weekly from 10.00am - 11.00am 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. **Play area open in main hall from 11.15am</p> <p>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange: 9.30am to 12 noon</p>
THURS	
FRI	<p>Art for Wellbeing: Weekly from 10.00am - 12.30pm £10 per single class or £37.50 for term (5 classes) *There may be a small charge for consumables depending on medium used. Please pop along or call 07525 330364</p> <p>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange: 9.30am - 12 noon</p>

Food Bank:

Donations of tinned and dried goods always welcome. These can be dropped off at the centre during café or opening hours above. Donations are collected weekly and transported to The Gloucester Food Bank.

Educational and Wellbeing Events

Is there an educational course, for children or adults, or a wellbeing event that would like to be arranged?

Please contact us and we will do our best to facilitate this.

OR

If you can offer a wellbeing, learning or sporting opportunity for adults, young people or children we would be delighted to hear from you.

It's your centre so please support it! A warm welcome awaits.

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The Silver Fox Café

RESTING ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY RIVER SEVERN

- I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went, then it dawned on me.
- With the rise of self-driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time before we get a country song where a guy's truck leaves him too.
- I think my neighbour is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.
- "Doctor, there's a patient on line 1 that says he's invisible." "Well, tell him I can't see him right now."
- Did you hear there is a coin shortage in America? They're running out of common cents.

APRIL QUOTES

“Never be so busy as not to think of others”

– Mother Teresa

“Nothing inspires cleanliness more than an unexpected guest”

– Radhika Mundra

“Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful”

– William Morris

“The greatest freedom is to be free of our own mind.”

– Osho



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Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

As I indicated in the March edition of The Villager our meeting this month will be held on Wednesday 12th April in the Legion Room starting at 7pm. Discussions will continue regarding a day trip in September visiting Ironbridge Museum with the alternative of the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard.

You are all welcome to attend the meeting on the 12th and again I would like to indicate that you do not have to have served in H.M. Forces to become a member of the Royal British Legion and that the branch really needs your support.

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 Santes
April 13 th 1940	Second Battle of Narvik
April 23 rd 1918	Zeebrugge Raid
April 25 th 1915	Invasion of Gallipoli

Terry Bourne – President
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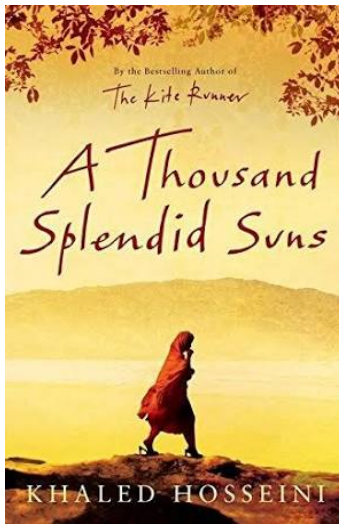
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Minsterworth Reading Group



A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Donna Maynard

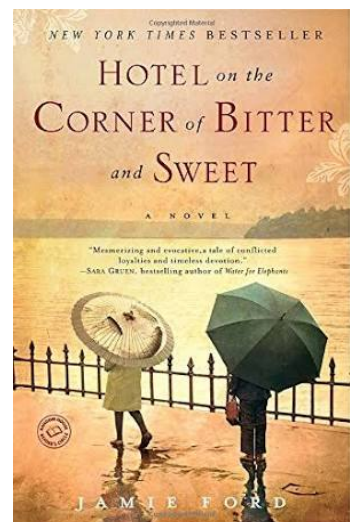
My selection for Reading Group for March was Afghan born novelist Khaled Hosseini's second book "A Thousand Splendid Suns". The book's title is inspired by lines from the 17th century Persian poet Saib-e-Tabrizi's ode to Kabul, Hosseini's birthplace: "One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs, or the thousand splendid suns that hide behind her walls."

The book is contemporary, historical fiction, set in Herat and Kabul, Afghanistan. The story's main characters are Mariam, Rasheed, Laila

and Tariq and it is told in the third person, alternating between Mariam's and Laila's point of view. It is set against the volatile events in Afghanistan's history – from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban. It is a story of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives (the struggle to survive, raise a family and find happiness) are inextricable from the history playing out around them.

The book was first published in 2007 so there were only half a dozen of us in the Group who had not actually read it before (including one member who thought they had read it but realised upon reading it that they had not!!!). Despite this, the Group managed to spend 2 hours (and it could of quite easily have been more) discussing the many themes within the book – history of Afghanistan, suffering and perseverance, shame and reputation, love, loyalty, sense of belonging, gender relationships, female relationships and education....

There are situations in the book that are very upsetting and it can be depressing but I think it is fair to say that as a Group we all agreed that it is beautifully written and involves so many themes which make it a very interesting read. For me personally, it is a heart-wrenching novel of an unforgiving time; an unlikely friendship and an indestructible love but perhaps not the happy ending we had all hoped for – only time will tell!!! "A society has no chance of success if its women are uneducated...."



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th April.

Not saying I live in a rough area but just bought an advent calendar and half the windows are boarded up!

Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the cloud.

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MINSTERWORTH POEMS BY MINSTERWORTH PEOPLE

It's not always possible for everyone to get everything organised in time for Villager deadlines, which can be a month before you might think...

Here are a few more poems by Minsterworth people. If you have a poem inside you that's itching to get out please email it to thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com and let's get it out there!

Diamonds

I walked along the river bank
And saw a lovely sight
As the ripples on the water
Were dancing in sunlight.

It looked like diamonds sparkling
But then clouds covered the sun,
I had to watch the sparkles
As they vanished one by one.

The same is true of stars at night
In a clear and cloudless sky,
But when the clouds move over them
They're not visible to the eye.

It made me think of humankind,
That we are diamonds, in a way,
As are our talents and our skills
All as special as each new day

The lustre of our diamonds
Is seen only when there's light.
Kept in the dark or covered up,
They are hidden, out of sight

Our lives, our skills are special.
And belong to us alone,
Yet we can show them to the world
And be proud of what we own.

Let everyone admire your skills,
They all are truly rare.
Let your special diamond dazzle,
It's unique, beyond compare.

Lin Hart
October 2022

MORNING

Cottage cat, catching mice
Jumping over tussocks
Morning birds, low in flight
Crossing sky in swift flocks.
Frost on grass, glowing white
Against the dark of trees
Early sun to greet the day
And bring a gentle breeze.
My day begins with nature's song
This scene all from a window
And I know that Spring will come
As it has always been so.



Land Rover

I drive my Dad's Land Rover around
the lanes
Beeping as we go to everyone we
know

By Thomas Hart
Age 6

Jenny Franklin

The Months of the Year

January – brings the snow, makes our toes and fingers glow.

February – brings the rain and thaws the frozen lake again.

March – brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil.

April – brings the primrose sweet, scatters daisies at our feet.

May – brings flocks of pretty lambs, skipping by their fleecy dams.

June – brings tulips, lilies, roses, fills the children's hands with posies.

Hot July – brings cooling showers, strawberries and gillyflowers.

August – brings the sheaves of corn, then harvest home is borne.

Warm September – brings the fruit, sportsmen then begin to shoot.

Fresh October – brings the pheasant, then to gather nuts is pleasant.

Dull November – brings the blast, then the leaves are falling fast.

Chill December – brings the sleet, blazing fire and Christmas treat.

Recommended by Wyn Parry 'given to me by a family friend many years ago that he learnt when he was at school - probably in the 1930's'.

Actually, it was written by Sara Coleridge, daughter of famous romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, author of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner', 'Kubla Khan' & others *Paula*.

Spring Bells

Guess what you can hear in the sky

bumble bees with bells on their wings flying high in the sky.

They buzz around to get their nectar and they flew across the lake
seeing salmon jumping high in the sky.

By Thomas Hart

Age 6

**KNOW WHERE YOUR
OLD STAMPS ARE?
USE THEM UP BY**

31ST JULY 2023

MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE



HALL : EVENTS 2023

Friday 28th April—'Tipple & Talk Night' on the Severn Bore with Tony Conder

Sunday 7th May— Minsterworth's Coronation Big Luncheon 12.30—3.30

Friday 19th May—Comedy Night

Sunday 11th June—Car Boot Sale

Friday 8th September—'Tipple and Talk Night' on GCHQ with Dr David Abrutat

Friday 27th October—Wine Tasting with Simon Ruffley

Saturday 2nd December—Christmas Fayre

POINT OF SALE: Tickets available on the website or from nominated MVH Committee member. Further details nearer each event date

SAVE THE DATES!

UKRAINIAN UPDATE – BRINGING THE CONFLICT CLOSER

Rita Garbutt

Readers will hopefully remember the article in November Villager, where we talked about the delivery of 9 generators and other equipment, funded by and sent from Minsterworth to Ukraine. Then in February we included a picture of Igor Bilokur proudly standing beside the generators, some of which were being used in the front line, and others in homes and in a kindergarten.



Igor taking delivery of the Minsterworth generators

This time we have some bad news. Igor has been seriously injured whilst serving on the front line and is now in hospital in Harkiv. Igor has a wife, Maria, and a teenage son. Maria used to work in their local village shop with Oksana, who is currently living at Tudor Cottage, Minsterworth. The following picture was taken on Easter Sunday in 2021, when Igor and Maria were carrying the traditional Easter bread to the church to be blessed.



Igor and Maria in April 2021

Igor and Maria could never have possibly imagined what lay ahead of them in April 2021. Less than one year later, on 24th February 2022, Putin invaded the Ukraine, and then one year after that, in February 2023, Igor was seriously injured by Russian action. The good news is that he is slowly recovering and is anxious to get back to the front. He is a sniper, and very valuable to the troops.

It makes this terrible war so much more personal when you can directly relate events to an individual person and a lovely family.

If you would like to make a donation to support Igor's family, please contact Rita on 01452 750128 or email garbuttrita@gmail.com.

EAGLES NEST

Roger Blowey

This is another walk not in Gloucestershire but looking over into Gloucestershire. It's one of my favourite viewpoints, an interesting walk and the views are spectacular. Suitable for reasonably agile children and dogs.

Take the A466 from Monmouth, through Redbrook, over Bigsweir Bridge, through Tintern and up the hill towards Chepstow. It's about 25 miles to Tintern, but it's a lovely drive through the Wye Valley (or go to Chepstow and then take the road to Tintern). On your left towards the top of the hill you will see Lower Wyndcliffe car park.



Park here, then cross the road where you will see signs for Eagles Nest. Take the right turn option, which says 'strenuous', and come back down the 'moderate' route. It's easier that way, otherwise you will end up walking down lots of steps, which is not so good on the knees! It's actually 365 steps to the top, but as they are in sections, it doesn't seem that many. The track initially is easy going, but it does get steeper as you get towards the top.



The lower part of the path

Half way up there is a copse with lots of Yew trees. I find it amazing that some of the trees appear to be growing on the top of the rock, with roots coming down over the outside of the rock.

The one on the left is one of my favourites! A yew tree growing on the top of a rock!

Continued on p31

A yew tree growing on the top of a rock

Continued from p30

Towards the top the path does get a bit steeper, but the steps are solid and easy to climb. At one point there is a metal staircase. When you get there, you know you are getting close to the top!



Going up the path



The metal staircase close to the top

Soon after the metal staircase, the path levels out, and you will come to a T junction in the path. Turn right and follow along for another 30-40 metres, when you will see the viewpoint, with seating and a metal safety barrier, on your right. It was constructed in 1828 for the Duke of Beaufort when such dramatic viewpoints were fashionable.



Turn right at this sign on the way up

Now is a good time of year to visit, because there are no leaves on the trees, and the view should be better. You should be able to see both the River Severn and the River Wye, Chepstow racecourse and both Severn suspension bridges. It was a lovely clear winter's day when I took these pictures – but unfortunately when we got to the viewpoint the cloud came in and we could only see the River Wye! The Severn is behind the cloud.



The Eagles Nest Viewpoint

Continued on p32



The River Wye from Eagles Nest, with Chepstow Racecourse on the right

The cloud was not too much of a problem though, because it gives me an excuse to walk back up again to take further pictures for a subsequent edition of The Villager! Alternatively click on <https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/things-to-do/eagles-nest-viewpoint-and-wyndcliff-wood-p1505171> and see some spectacular professional photographs.

On your way back, take the path signposted 'parking ½ mile', and this will lead you down a steep path through the woods. Back to the car and then to Tintern for a cuppa! There is lots to read and see at Tintern.

Wyndcliff Wood is a superb example of a lower Wye Valley gorge woodland with ancient hanging beech and yew as well as lime, ash and hazel coppice. The viewpoint looks across the bend in the Wye to see the rocks of Wintours leap, the Severn bridges and estuary and, on a clear day, the Cotswold and Mendip hills.

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St Peter's Church, Minsterworth

ADVANCE NOTICE

Family Service
11am Sunday, 7th May

To Celebrate the King's Coronation

The Church will be decorated for the event

Signs of spring

C	S	O	P	E	N	W	I	N	D	O	W	S	T
C	P	J	G	W	A	W	V	U	U	J	W	U	F
H	R	C	L	O	N	G	E	R	D	A	Y	S	L
E	I	L	J	B	T	S	I	B	X	M	T	N	O
R	N	O	J	F	R	O	G	S	P	A	W	N	W
R	G	C	X	U	V	G	N	A	Z	T	J	W	E
Y	E	K	V	Q	B	U	S	Y	B	E	E	S	R
B	Q	S	A	U	Z	Q	Z	O	Y	F	K	N	S
L	U	C	L	O	W	F	M	P	Z	H	G	V	I
O	I	H	U	S	P	G	W	R	R	K	C	Y	N
S	N	A	W	A	R	M	E	R	D	A	Y	S	B
S	O	N	Q	A	S	F	Y	A	C	G	B	C	U
O	X	G	L	D	B	I	R	D	S	O	N	G	D
M	N	E	U	W	P	E	C	K	U	A	U	C	B

These are the words to find:

- Flowers in bud
- Birdsong
- Longer days
- Warmer days
- Busy Bees
- Cherry blossom
- Open windows
- Spring Equinox
- Frogspawn
- Clocks change

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 Thursday 9 am to 4 pm
 Friday 9 am to 10 pm
 Saturday 9 am to 10 pm
 Sunday 9 am to 4 pm



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HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch – join by e-mailing 64lettie@gmail.com

www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

www.minsterworthvillagehall.org – booking, recent events

www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/

St. Peter's church – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/ services, etc

Minsterworth Matters WhatsApp – join by texting Roger Ingham on 07525330364 immediate village interests

Harvey Centre – www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/the-harvey-centre

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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