

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Crowds visiting 5* Severn Bore

Simon Ruffley

April 2024

Edition 256

Dear readers,

So much water on the ground all around us and for so long! I was going to put yet another excellent, but soggy, picture on the front cover, then Simon took a picture of the crowds who flocked to Minsterworth to view the 5* bore on Tuesday 12th March from his step ladder. It had to go on the front! More sizeable bores in April, in August, September and October. The river banks are so muddy.

This month Dawn Ricketts starts a series of **Places to visit in Gloucestershire** see p7 for her first. Places you will have heard of and maybe seen before but perhaps haven't visited lately. Why not take a look? We hope it gives you some ideas.

Simon Ruffley and his friend Vic return with a wine tasting on Saturday 13th April p4 comparing wines of the same grape variety from New Zealand and France. Two expert guides to help you get the most out of the tasting, find out some things you might not know and have some fun. All in your own village. Remember to book your place early so that Simon knows how much wine to buy! Enjoy your Easter.



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 Wednesday 10th April or can be a few days later **by arrangement**.

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

KERBSIDE April 2024

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy (landfill) (garden)		BLUE bin & caddy (recycling)	
Tuesday	9	Wednesday	3
Tuesday	23	Tuesday	16
		Tuesday	30

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

For those who don't know, you can print off an A4 page of the 2024/5 collection dates, & stick it on your fridge / other

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/tewkesburybc/live/waste-calendars/Tue2.pdf>

Wig-Wag lights back outside Harvey Centre

Rita Garbutt

There have been some questions as to why the old school lights are now active.



The Minsterworth Kindergarten is now open at the Harvey Centre

Some of you will have noticed that the Wig-Wag lights are now operating outside the Harvey Centre. Like me you probably did not realise that that is what the warning lights are called.

You may also see far more vehicle movement as the Minsterworth Kindergarten becomes busier. Please be patient and respect the advisory speed limit. It is good to have children back in the former school building. Let's make our road safer for everyone.

Allotments



The Harvey Centre are offering allotments firstly to Minsterworth residents. We already have some taken and ready to go.

If you would like a plot please contact Rita 07775778323.



Vs



Wine Tasting Evening

By Simon Ruffley and Vic Martindale

Saturday, 13th April 2024 at 7:00pm

in

Minsterworth Village Hall

Doesn't time fly when wine's involved!?

After our last most enjoyable outing tasting a range of sherries the next tasting is going to be equally enjoyable and informative and maybe even a little competitive...

It's always interesting to compare wines from different regions around the world especially when their wines both have excellent reputations. To match the passion on the rugby field we're going to compare two wines, the same grape variety but one from France and the other from New Zealand.

There will be 4 wine pairings on the night to sample, along with introductions to each of the wines and as many questions or comments as you care to share.

Tickets (purchase in advance) cost £15 each.

To book online go to <https://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/wine-tasting.html>
or contact Simon Ruffley on 07847 560629

Bring some spare cash too as there will be a raffle for a bottle of something sparkling.



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KING'S CORONATION DAFFODILS

Roger Blowey

A previous edition of The Villager referred to the 2000 plus bulbs that were planted as a celebration of the King's Coronation. These are now in flower and make a lovely entrance to our Village, from both east and west. It's just a pity that motorists don't slow down a bit to admire them! Thanks to the many other residents who have also planted the verges to improve the appearance of our Village.



Minsterworth Parish Council (MPC) March 2024

(This article is a summary of the Parish Council meeting and does not represent the minutes of the meeting).

Borough Cllr Jill Smith reported on activities of TBC. TBC has received a formal letter from Mark Harper strongly objecting to the suggested establishment of the 4000 dwellings 'garden community' on the Churcham/Highnam boundary. Reasons for the rejection were a reiteration of the Forest of Dean responses. The proposed name change of TBC to North Gloucestershire BC, or perhaps Severn Vale BC is still being discussed. Minsterworth P Council (MPC) has submitted strong objections, as we could see no benefits in any name change; there would undoubtedly be cost implications (at a time when TBC are already proposing an increase in Council Tax), and Minsterworth is certainly not in 'North Gloucestershire'.

Planning

APP 23/01141/FUL. Erection of a two-storey side and rear extension. Mooffitch PERMIT Appeals/Enforcements 24/00047/ENFC. Alleged erection of an industrial building

MPC response to the Strategic and Local Plan, SLP. We were informed that the number of responses on-line had been very disappointing, perhaps at least partly due to the complexity of the on-line questionnaires. MPC considered that it was important to forward plan well into the future, and it was agreed that some of the longer term issues that should be considered included:

1. Improved traffic flow on the A40, for example, by an additional Severn crossing, or a dual carriageway from Over to Longford roundabouts
2. Measures to reduce flooding, both from the Severn, and from increased water flow from developments in adjacent parishes
3. Installation of a mains sewage system for Minsterworth
4. Improvements in A48 road safety

Applications for Clerk role – the subcommittee reported a good level of responses. Selected candidates will be called to interview later in March.

Highways issues – discussions included: flooding in Starcroft lane and Watery Lane; poor road surface outside the church; request to 'turn back' and widen the footpath from Severn Bank to Oakle Street; establishing a date for second meeting with Mark Harper.

Improving our Village Greens – a draft document is to be produced to present at the April PC meeting.

Defibrillator – expenditure agreed to replace the battery and pads of the defibrillator at Village Hall.

MPC website – problems with updating. Needs correcting

King's Portrait – the offer of an FOC portrait of King Charles 111, to be displayed at the Village Hall, is to be investigated.

Next Meeting – 7-00pm Monday 8th April 2024 at Minsterworth Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend

Parish Clerk: Jo Badham clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

PLACES TO VISIT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dawn Ricketts

Westbury Court Garden

Description - Westbury Court Garden is a Dutch water garden in Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, England, 9 miles southwest of Gloucester. It is a rare survival of seventeenth century garden design and was initially laid out by the owner of Westbury Court, Maynard Colchester I, in 1696–1705.

Address - Westbury Court Garden, 7 Court Gardens, Westbury-on-Severn GL14 1PD

Cost of Entry - National Trust Free,

Ticket type	Gift aid	Standard
Adult	£9.90	£9.00
Child	£5.00	£4.50
Family	£24.80	£22.50
1 adult, 3 children	£14.90	£13.50

Opening Times - Re-opens Wednesday 6th March. 11:00 am - 17:00 Wednesday to Sunday
Things To Do

Westbury is a wonderful place to take a stroll, spot nature and explore England's only restored Dutch-style water garden.

- There is a dedicated picnic area over the bridge. It's not far away, so why not make some sandwiches and pack your rug?
- Feed the carp that live in the canals. Buy a bag of fish food from Visitor Welcome on arrival.
- Please note that there is no play area or play facilities located at Westbury. Children's scooters, balls and bikes are not allowed in the garden.





Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

As indicated in the March edition of The Villager our next meeting will be held in the Legion room on April 10th at 7pm.

Our main concern, which will be strongly discussed, is the lack of members which will affect the future of the branch.

Our AGM will be held in July and, depending on the number of members of the branch we will have to discuss its closure.

Terry Bourne - President
Minsterworth & District RBL

Military History

- April 2nd 1989 - WRENS allowed to carry weapons
- April 2nd 1801 - Battle of Copenhagen
- April 10th 1940 - First Battle of Narvik
- April 12th 1782 - Battle of the Saintes
- April 13th 1940 - Second Battle of Narvik
- April 25th 1915 - Invasion of Gallipoli

Easter Wordsearch

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

APRIL
 BASKET
 BUNNY
 CANDY
 CARROT
 CELEBRATION
 CHICK
 CHOCOLATE

DAFFODILS
 DUCKLING
 EASTER
 EASTER EGG
 EGG HUNT
 FLOWERS
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HATCH

HOLIDAY
 LAMB
 LENT
 SPRING
 TRADITION
 TULIP

*by
Natalie
Wang*

RETURN OF THE OLD SCHOOL DOOR TO THE HARVEY CENTRE

Roger Blowey

In September 2022 we were chatting with Jon and Jill Smith of Astmans Farm Lassington, at an event at Minsterworth Village Hall, and they mentioned that they had an old door that came from Minsterworth School – would we like to have the door returned? Jon estimates that he had been storing the door for a good 20 years in an old chicken shed that he needed to clear out for renovation. The door was taken out of the school when Jackie Etheridge was the headmistress in approximately 2003 and when Jon was chair of governors.



The original door stored in the shed



Loaded into my trailer



Trying it for size at The Harvey Centre



Paint being stripped off

At this stage the school had unfortunately closed, but the building was retained and being refurbished as The Harvey Centre. We collected the door in my trailer on Sunday 23rd October 2022, took it to the Harvey Centre and it fitted an archway surprisingly well, just slightly too tall, probably because a new floor had been laid.

Continued on p10

Continued from p9

The door was taken to Ian Brooks' shed at The Forge from where Taras stripped it down, moved the hinges to the opposite side, re-fitted it into the doorway of the old school building and painted it.



**Taras checking the door
for size**



**Painted and back to its
original place!**

Many thanks to Jon for his foresight in initially retaining the door, and for 20 years of storage, to Ian for storage during renovation, and to Taras who made such a superb job of the renovation and re-installation.

It's nice to have some good stories to report.

Acknowledgement

Minsterworth Parochial Church Council would like to thank Mrs Liz Savage for nominating the Church for donations in memory of Gerald.

The total donated was £1,385.50, a generous amount of money given in honour of him. This demonstrates how highly he was thought of and respected, not only within the church but in the wider community. The fact that so many people attended his service was also a wonderful tribute.

We are considering how best to use the money as a fitting dedication.

With many thanks and appreciation.

Jo Stait

4th March 2024



The Villager Magazine is jointly funded from advertising and supported by the Minsterworth Parish Council. Each year it costs around £2,650 plus lots of effort to produce a monthly magazine. We are in great need of more advertisers.

PLEASE support your village.

Calling all local businesses and services, why not promote yourselves within the village?

Here is how to advertise in your local monthly magazine.

For more details please contact Dawn Ricketts by text or phone call on 07577-287005 or Roger Blowey on 07768-451071

The Villager - Price Page 1st March 2024 for Adverts

	Month	3 Months 5% Discount	6 Months 10% Discount	Annual 20% Discount
Black & White Full Page approx. 120mm x 180mm	£27.00	£77.00	£145.80	£259.20
Colour Full Page approx. 120mm x 180mm	£28.20	£80.40	£152.30	£270.70

All adverts to be supplied in PNG or JPG format. We can assist with free advert design.

Past residents, friends and family can get postal copies sent for £20 per year. Current residents can get additional copies for £10 per year.

The Villager Magazine is currently hand delivered to over 230 homes each month with a digital copy and back issues available on line from

<https://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/the-villager-magazine.html>

PLEASE DO TELL OUR ADVERTISERS WHEN YOU USE THEIR BUSINESSES OR SERVICES



The Harvey Centre Calendar – April 2024

MON	<p><u>1)Main Hall:Tan House Choir</u> Weekly from 7.00 to 9.00pm Telephone 01452 750128 to join or find out more....</p>
TUES	<p><u>1) Memory Café</u> every 4 weeks on a Tuesday 11:00am – 1:30pm. No Charge Next Café, Tuesday 9th April, 2024 Safe space for dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch. Spaces are currently available. For further info call 01452 750128</p> <p><u>2)Main Hall: Crafternoons</u> Will restart in September, between 2-4.30pm, once a month on a Tuesday We will advertise nearer the time here and on the village WhatsApp & Facebook</p> <p><u>3)Main Hall: Pilates for Wellbeing-</u> Weekly; Two sessions between 5.30pm & 8pm Telephone 01452 234005 or email info@farrphysio.co.uk Leave telephone number / email address and a member of the team will then contact you to arrange.</p>
WED	<p><u>1)Community Café @ The Harvey Centre</u> The drop-in community café open from 10:30 am to 12.00pm. Cake and hot drink £2.50 Lifts can be arranged if you are unable to make it under your own steam on the 17th April Tel 07889198790 mrssharoningham@gmail.com and someone will get back to you. We need to know at least a week in advance, 10th April</p> <p><u>2)Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility Class-</u> Weekly from 10:30 to 11.30am Telephone 01452 234005 or email info@farrphysio.co.uk Leave telephone number / email address and a member of the team will then contact you to arrange.</p> <p><u>3) Café & Main Hall: FREE -Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available</u> 10:30am to 12:30pm Extensive range of novels</p>
FRI	<p><u>1)Main Hall: Art for Wellbeing</u> Paul Fisher leading sessions. www.selway-fisher.com/paul_fisher_art.htm Weekly from 10.00 to 12.noon – Mixed media Spring Art sessions 12th April to 17th May (£60 for all session, £15.50 adhoc sessions) Summer Art sessions 24th May to 28th June (£60 for all session, £15.50 adhoc sessions) <i>Please Telephone 07525 330364 to book a place</i></p> <p><u>2)Café & Main hall: FREE -Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available</u> 10:30am to 12:30pm Extensive range of novels</p>



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"Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger."

Franklin P. Jones

"A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure."

Unknown

April Severn Bores

Day	Date	Time	Tide(m)	Prospect
Mon	8	20:59	9.7	***
Tues	9	09:18	10.0	****
Tues	9	21:39	10.0	****
Weds	10	09:55	10.1	****
Weds	10	22:16	9.8	***

Minsterworth 200 Club

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

£50 080 Terry Moore-Scott
£20 018 Richard Mawle
£10 153 Sarah Sawyers

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 £80 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 1st (Easter Monday) at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Church service times and flower rota

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
31st March – EASTER SUNDAY	11am	Holy Communion	Group flowers
7 th April	5pm	Evening Worship	Group flowers
14 th April	11am	The 11 o'clock	Sara McHale
21 st April	9.30am	Holy Communion	Sara McHale
28 th April	10am	Benefice Communion*	Sue Parry

* The Benefice Communion is at Taynton.

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TALES FROM THE RIVERBANK

Roger Blowey

Many thanks to Matt Hart and Mike Powell for their excellent presentation at the village hall on Friday 23rd February. As over 100 tons (22,000 gallons!) of water per second flows down the river, and as it's part of our history and culture, fishing on the Severn is something that all of us in Minsterworth should know more about!



I am informed that the speakers' interest in the history of Severn Fishing was at least partly stimulated by a research article written by Terry Moore-Scott, and there is some additional information in Terry's excellent book 'A History of Minsterworth'.

Friday's talk was primarily about the traditional fishing methods used on the River over the past 300+ years and was illustrated with examples of equipment such as the nets and baskets that were used. It certainly expanded my vocabulary – putts, putchers, fixed engines, rimes, weirs, lave nets and draft nets were all discussed. Weirs were interwoven wooden structures built across the Severn to funnel fish into traps. Although very effective, they did impede the navigation of ships. It's interesting to think that until relatively recently almost every other household in Minsterworth had men working on the river, either fishing for tomorrow's meal, or associated with boat transport. Amazing how quickly things have changed. Thanks to all who supported the event.

17th April is International Haiku poetry day – Natalie Wang

Haiku is a traditional, unrhymed form of Japanese poetry whose origins trace back to as early as the 17th century and consists of 17 syllables arranged in three lines of 5-7-5 syllables.

The development of Haiku is often attributed to the poet, Matsuo Bashō who refined the previous Hokku poetic form and distinguished this new style of poetry in the 1670s while in Tokyo. Here is an example of one of his earliest Haikus:

On a withered branch	5 syllables
A crow has alighted;	7 syllables
Nightfall in autumn.	5 syllables



Although Haiku typically focus on nature and seasonal changes, Basho also wrote about his own experiences and his Haiku became the most popular form of poetry across Japanese society and Haiku became the art of expressing much and suggesting more in as few words as possible.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Haiku gained immense popularity outside of Japan, particularly in Western literature. The form was popularised by Imagists and Beat poets such as Ezra Pound and Allen Ginsberg, who experimented with the short, yet meaningful form. Haiku has gained mainstream recognition as many, even today, continue to appreciate its elegance and ability to convey the essence of a moment in such simplicity yet depth.

Why not write a Haiku to celebrate Haiku poetry day? It can be about nature, Minsterworth or anything you like! Email your poems to thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com to have them included in May's edition!



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**MINSTERWORTH 'D DAY' COMMEMORATION
THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024, 6-00 TO 10-00PM
MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

BEACON LIGHTING AT 9-15PM

Please join us for an evening of commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D Day Landings. Beacons will be lit throughout the UK at 9-15pm. It seems almost impossible to believe that 10,000 people lost their lives on the first day of the conflict, but this has allowed the rest of us to live our comfortable lives of today.

BBQ – burgers and hot dogs

Bar, Tea/coffee and cakes; ice cream

Memorabilia on display inside the hall

1940's Music

Children's games and a competition for the most original home-produced costume, whether that be as an evacuee, a soldier, nurse, ship or tank. Every entry will receive an award.

Perhaps the adults could also come in costume, e.g. Mechanics or Land Army Girls

As so succinctly stated in the Kohima, which is recited on Remembrance Day each year

**When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today**

The D-Day landings on Normandy's beaches on 6 June 1944 was the largest seaborne invasion in history. Along with the associated airborne operations, it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and western Europe.

The City of Kohima, on the border of India and Burma (now Myanmar), was the point at which the 1944 Japanese invasion into India was halted during WW2. There was enormous loss of life on both sides, and the above wording is inscribed on a War Memorial at the site to commemorate the 4414 Allied Servicemen lost in the conflict.

The D Day Commemoration website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/d-day> highlights the events of 80 years ago.

REPORTING HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Nick Powell

It's frustrating when we see something that needs fixing on the roads and no-one seems to do anything about it!

The Parish Council can (and do) report incidents for you and try to get repairs carried out, but the more people who report an item or incident the better.

So, if you see something, can you please use the following links for reporting. To make things easier, just click on the link on the on-line version of the April 2024 Villager at the Village Hall website.

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/potholes/report-a-pothole/>

<https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/xfp/form/145>



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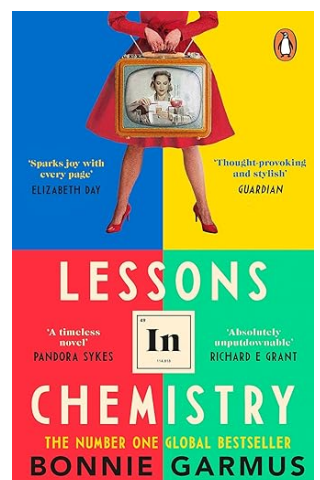
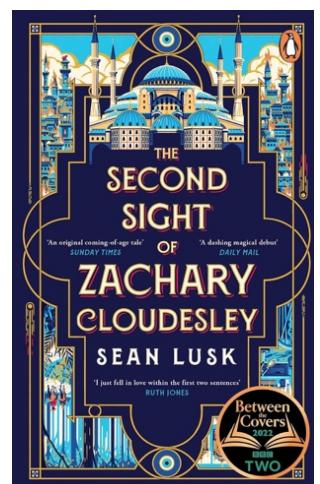
We will collect and then return your car for servicing and repairs free of charge

Minsterworth Reading Group

Sharon Ingham

This historical fiction was a popular choice, although many members said they would not have selected it themselves, they were glad to have read it. The story is all about Zachary Cloudesley, the son of Abel who ran a successful workshop that built magnificent, enchanting clockwork automata. Zachary is also the bearer of an extraordinary gift; at the touch of a hand, he can see into the hearts and minds of the people he meets. But then a near-fatal accident will take Zachary away from the workshop and his family. His father will have to make a journey to Constantinople that he will never return from. And, years later, only Zachary can find out what happened. A beautifully crafted mystery that will take you on an adventure, in 18th century London, across Europe and, finally, to the bustling city of Constantinople.

Next month the group are reading Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus.



EARLY BIRD NOTICE!

Nicky Milligan

On June 8th Jane Lawson will be visiting my home in the afternoon in order to meet folks who are interested in Clinical Aromatherapy. She is a well-known and established practitioner in this field and must be the only therapist who won a place at the Royal Ballet School and somehow ended up in a very different field!

There will be tea etc and biscuits (of course) and I am suggesting that people offer a contribution towards travelling costs because Jane is gifting her time. There will be another reminder later on and it will obviously be helpful to know who is interested in coming along. Contact me at nicky.milligan.healing@gmail.com.

Jane will be bringing oils (and there may well be a goodie to take away) and apart from demonstrating her work she will answer any queries.

Nursing as art

Nicky Milligan

“Nursing is an Art, the finest of fine arts, and, if it is to be made an art, it requires as hard a preparation as a painter’s or sculptor’s work; for what is having to do with dead canvas or cold marble compared to the living body, the temple of God’s spirit? There is no such thing as amateur art, there is no such thing as amateur nursing.” Florence Nightingale



SHEEP DRIVE!

Paula Ruffley

What great fun we had at the Village Hall on Friday 8th March building sheep as fast as we could. Need a body to attach a head and legs to, better roll a 6 quick!

Not another head! Need more legs! Maddening and just ‘good clean fun for all the family’. A simple and oh so effective way of bringing total strangers together, meeting new people and having a great laugh. And the sausage sizzle hit the spot too.

Thank you, Cathy and Jo for organising. And I can confirm - no sheep at all were hurt.

M.B

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Red vs Grey Squirrels

Natalie Wang

There are two species of squirrel in the UK – red squirrels and grey squirrels. They're different species so they can't interbreed. Red squirrels are the only species of squirrel native to the UK and have been for around 10,000 years. However, after the grey squirrels were introduced from North America in the nineteenth century by wealthy landowners, there has been a drastic decrease in the red squirrel population and without conservation measures, they could soon become extinct in England.



Red squirrel fact file:

Habitat: coniferous and deciduous forests in Europe and N. Asia

UK Population: dropped from 3.5 million to less than 160,000, with only 15,000 in England

Diet: seeds, ripe acorns, hazelnuts, fungus, bark, sapwood, occasionally young birds or eggs

Predators: owl, sparrowhawk, buzzard,

Importance: seed dispersal, vital role in reforestation and maintaining ecosystems

Continued on p22

RED**GREY**

Appearance	Ear tufts, red/brown coat and tail	Bigger, Silver/grey coat, tail has white fringe
Native range	Europe, Siberia, Mongolia, NW China	North America
Population	160,000 in UK	2.7 million in UK
Status	Protected under UK's wildlife and countryside Act 1981	Classed as Invasive non-native species in UK
Threats	Predators and traffic accidents + competition from grey squirrels for habitat, food and threat of squirrel pox	Road traffic accident, predators e.g. Pine martens. Immune to squirrel pox

Why are grey squirrels a threat?

- Grey squirrels carry the Parapoxvirus disease (squirrel pox) which does not harm them but is deadly to red squirrels. Once infected, the virus produces scabs and sores around the eyes, nose, mouth, feet and ears.
- They are more likely to eat green acorns, demolishing the food source before they ripen and before red squirrels can make use of them.
- Reds simply cannot compete for food with larger, heavier and stronger grey competition so are forced to retreat and may die out within a few generations.

Red squirrels have been driven to live in Scots coniferous forests by necessity not by choice, as the greys are following them further north. Consequently, the perception is that the pine nut is the red squirrel's preferred food but the more nutritious ripe acorn is less available to them because of the infectious grey squirrel's dominance in deciduous woodland.

In recent years, there has been increased awareness about the potential extinction of this precious animal and efforts are being made to protect the red squirrel population.



WOODLAND
TRUST

This includes:

- establishing more buffer areas around red squirrel strongholds such as the lake district to control grey squirrels
- on-going monitoring
- helping landowners to improve habitat for squirrels
- planting trees to connect areas of woodland.

The Vincent Wildlife Trust and Exeter University are looking into the re-introduction of pine marten to some areas. Research conducted in Scotland showed that the more cautious red squirrels were better able to spot the predatory pine marten than greys, reducing the grey population and threat and enabling the recovery of reds. Perhaps there's hope?

QUIZ NIGHT

***Minsterworth
Village Hall***

Sat. 28 Sep 7.30pm
£5 pp. BAR and RAFFLE
Teams of 6 Max

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE ENERGY FROM WASTE

Roger Blowey

Very many thanks to Melanie de la Torre Zamora, of Urbaser Ltd (the unusual shaped green building at M5 junction12)) who gave us such an enthusiastic and interesting talk on the function of the plant in March. The site is the original 1939 Moreton Valence airfield, and apparently the very straight section of the M5 in that area is one of the original runways. The plant, which opened in 2019, burns the waste from our green bins (= non-recycling waste) in Gloucestershire and a proportion of commercial waste, the heat emitted produces superheated steam, and a turbine converts the steam into electricity. The gases given off during combustion are very carefully neutralised and filtered, so that the output from the chimney is largely steam – even though on some days it does look a little bit like smoke when viewed from Minsterworth! Emissions are monitored to make sure that they remain within legal limits. The residue left after burning ('Incinerator Bottom Ash', IBA) is processed to extract ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and the remaining material can then be used as a sub-base for roads, or for making blocks for building.



It must surely be better to dispose of our waste in this way rather than into landfill, and as 50% of the electricity generated can be classified as 'renewable', this helps the UK achieve its targets. The website tells us that approx. 116,000MWh per year is exported into the grid, which is enough to supply approx. 25,000 households – that IS impressive! It also recovers around 3000 tons of metal each year for recycling – again much better than putting it into landfill. Surprisingly, Tolvik Consulting report that there were only 57 such operational facilities in the UK in 2022 with DEFRA noting that in 2022/2023 approximately 49% of UK household waste was incinerated - so there is plenty of opportunity for expansion!





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"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says
"I'm possible!" - Audrey Hepburn

"By working faithfully eight hours a day you
may eventually get to be boss and work
twelve hours a day." - Robert Frost

"The trouble with having an open mind, of
course, is that people will insist on coming
along and trying to put things in it." - Terry
Pratchett

"Age is of no importance unless you're a
cheese." - Billie Burke

"It could be that your purpose in life is to
serve as a warning to others."
- Ashleigh Brilliant



Garden Services

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For further information contact Ash:

07812 077367

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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