

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Portree Isle of Skye

by Paul McHale

August 2021

Edition 225

Dear readers,

New Noticeboards for the Bus Shelters

The Parish Council applied for - and was awarded - a grant to fund new notice boards for the bus shelters. The old ones were certainly showing signs of wear! These have now been installed (thanks Malcolm) and all shelters have had a bit of a clean.

We have a good bus service so we need to make the best of it.

Thanks to those who regularly do bus shelter cleaning. It's good to keep our Village looking neat and tidy.



RB

As always contributions in the form of articles, images, news, features etc from villagers are very welcome.

All items for consideration to:-

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING AUG 2021

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

Tuesday 3

Tuesday 17

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

Tuesday 10

Tuesday 24

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

Riddles

1. They have not flesh, nor feathers, nor scales, nor bone. Yet they have fingers and thumbs of their own. What are they?

Answer p6

2. How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?

Answer p7

3. There is a clothing store in Gloucester with a unique method of pricing items. A vest costs £20, socks cost £25, a tie costs £15 and a blouse costs £30. Using the method, how much would a pair of underwear cost?

Answer p 10

4. David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle and?

Answer p 13



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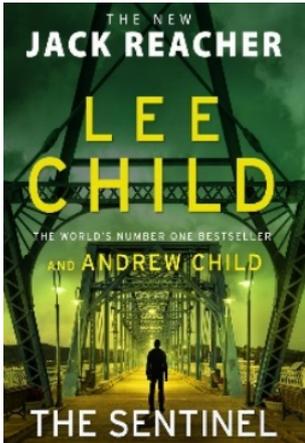
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Minsterworth Reading Group



This month's book is the latest in a series of 25 successful Jack Reacher stories by the author Lee Child. The book certainly divided the reading group. Some are avid fans of the Jack Reacher books and others found the graphic descriptions of violent incidents just too much in this crime thriller novel.

Jack Reacher is a fictional character and the protagonist who finds himself after leaving the US Army as a major in its military police at age 36, someone who roams the United States taking odd jobs and investigating suspicious and frequently dangerous situations.

In *The Sentinel* Reacher is battling a ransomware cyber-attack in a small town. A very up to date story line.

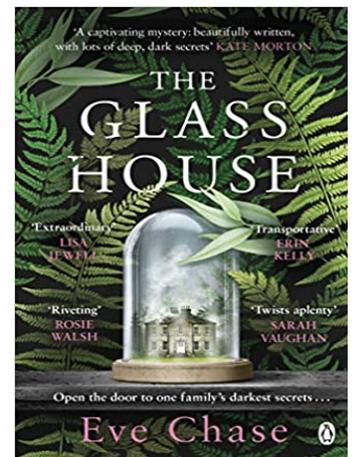
It was my first Jack Reacher story and I am now addicted and have read three further Jack Reacher books!

Our next book is *The Glass House* by Eve Chase which we will review on 4th August. On 1st September we will review *Once Upon a River* by Diane Setterfield.

Should you wish to join the Reading Group please email vicki.hewlett@googlemail.com

Meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm. They are either via Zoom or face to face, as appropriate.

Sharon Ingham



The Crocodile

Lewis Carroll

How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!
How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spreads his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently smiling jaws!

One of Churchill's 'Geese who laid the Golden Eggs but never Cackled'

Rita Garbutt

On August 7th there will be a new stone in the churchyard at Minsterworth. The inscription will include a name in morse code. This is why:

On that day at 2.30 in Minsterworth Church we will be interring ashes, and celebrating the life of, a very unassuming lady; Edna Garbutt. A lady who kept a secret from her husband and parents until long after their death.



A rail warrant arrived and she travelled to London. On arrival she was met and put into a taxi to another station where she was again met and put on a train travelling north. On arrival in Bletchley she was able to send home a letter to say that she had arrived safely and nothing more. She was put into a school with others to learn to read morse code and type it accurately onto a typewriter with blacked out keys. The group thinned out as many found it too difficult.

After completing these tasks she was taken into the mansion at Bletchley park where she signed the Official Secrets Act in front of an officer with a gun on the desk who warned her that if she disclosed anything about her work she would be shot.

Edna spent the rest of the war decoding German messages on the Type X Enigma machines. It was tiring work with long shifts, and very little free time. They were aware that some of the information they were receiving about German troop movements was at variance with newspaper reports. When D-day was held back due to the weather no one was allowed to leave in order to maintain absolute secrecy. All letters were censored, she was sometimes followed. Some girls would simply disappear and were reported to have 'loose lips'.

During the odd days off she would go to London, often just missing the bombs. On one visit she saw Ivor Novello's Dancing Years. She also went to the last concert given by Glen Miller to the American troops at Bletchley before his plane was lost over the Channel.

At the end of the war everyone was sent home and told to forget all about Bletchley Park.

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When Nigel and I settled in Gloucestershire Edna decided to move closer and settled in Churchdown. One of the highlights of her life was to receive Maundy Money from the Queen at Gloucester Cathedral in recognition of her Church and youth work.

When Bletchley park was in danger of being lost, Edna began to give talks to lots of organisations to raise awareness of what an extraordinary breakthrough the codebreaking had been and how it had changed the course of the war.

Minsterworth was where we had so many happy family occasions, her second home, and was also where she spent the last year of her life. She died at the beginning of the lockdown last year aged 96.

It is with heavy heart, but much thankfulness, that we celebrate the full life of a dear Christian lady who has more than fulfilled her roles as daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and kind and loyal friend. If she could have had the last word she would remind us to count our blessings and always look for the good in all things. She will be remembered for her lovely smile.

Answer riddle 1 on p3
Gloves



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MOORISH MERGUEZ SAUSAGES

Simon Ruffley

The Ruffleys are quite partial to North African and Middle Eastern cuisine. I'm not sure whether it's the meze style of eating with lots of small simple tasty dishes or the wide variety of spices that can give the food that little extra zing and flavour – or maybe both?

This recipe makes a fantastic and delicious option for cocktail sausages or make them a little longer to enjoy with mash or a simple tomato and green salad.

The best thing is making them yourself. It's really straightforward and entertaining for everyone watching but you do need to invest in a sausage filler and skins.

I bought from Amazon a delightfully named manual "sausage stuffer kit" (it can produce up to 3 different sized sausages) for around £20 and some Tongmaster Sausage Collagen Casing Skins.

Ingredients:

250g Minsterworth Butcher Minced Lamb*

250g Minsterworth Butcher Minced Beef*

1 or 2 garlic cloves, crushed

1 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp ground coriander seed

1 tsp ground fennel seed

1 tsp smoked paprika

½ tsp cayenne

½ tsp harissa paste

(Add a birdseye chilli if you like your spice)

2 tbsp olive oil

Salt, a good pinch



Place all the ingredients in a bowl then squidge and squelch together with your hands. When thoroughly combined leave in the fridge for a minimum of 30 minutes. You can use this time to get the kit ready for stuffing the sausages. When ready to go just get some oil on your hands and all I can say at this stage after tying a knot in the end of the sausage skin is keep a constant speed (not fast and not slow) going on the handle and the sausage will happen. Don't over fill otherwise you won't be able to twist the skins into sausages. I would encourage anyone to have a go – the results are worth it...

*Other sources of minced meats are available of course

Answer riddle 2 on p3
You rock-it

Gardening by the Severn

Marie-Clare Mawle

This month I am walking around the colourful garden of Sharon and Roger Ingham, at Street End Cottage. Any of you who knew the garden before the Inghams moved in will have noticed the garden has had a huge makeover. What was once a simple large lawn garden with summerhouse and pond has been transformed with flowerbeds of curves and circles.



Your garden was a bit of a blank canvas when you moved in. How did you go about creating what we see now?

Roger and I sought help from a local garden designer with the overall layout of planting areas, including the best positioning for a greenhouse. We knew we wanted the hedges removed or lowering so we could enjoy the views around the garden and creating a more spacious feel. The idea of curves and circles for the formal beds area emerged quickly. The spent soil from creating the raised bed in the vegetable area was used to build a mound, forming the backdrop for a third more natural wild area. We try to make each of these three areas distinct from the other but by using some linking plants we feel that it brings everything together.

What was the key detail you wanted the designer to incorporate into the garden for you?

I have always wanted a very traditional cottage garden with a French potage type vegetable area. Roger and I had a strong vision of the types of flower beds we wanted; wide, tall, floaty and colourful. Perennials are great for summer and autumn. We love roses and in addition to the rose hedge that we planted there are many varieties in the garden. We have added a tall grass bed area and most recently a bog garden.



Would you recommend a garden designer to others?

Yes, to get the ideas flowing and to do all the hard landscaping. But the designer's input is just the beginning and you do need to think about how you want to use the garden too. We had some lovely suggestions but not practical for our use. Also, we needed to keep to a budget as it's very easy to get carried away. It was really helpful to have suggestions from the designers on plants that suited this area of the country.

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Continued from p8

How do you divide the jobs in the garden between the pair of you?

Roger and I work well together in the garden and can often be seen planting out, pruning, deadheading, clearing and preparing areas together. The grass cutting is definitely Roger's job and mine is sowing seeds and getting seedlings ready for planting. I love being in the greenhouse and potting shed.



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

I like to go to visit private gardens mostly but love the Rococo Garden at Painswick. This is fairly local and grows what we can grow in our garden having the same weather and soil conditions.

Do you have a favourite spot in your garden?

In the evening as the sun is going down, it is lovely to sit with a gin and tonic near the pond, surrounded by the tall planting.

What's your favourite time of the year in the garden?

We love being outside all year round. Our garden looks at its best in early autumn.

Any future plans/changes for your garden?

We are constantly adding and moving things in the garden. Things don't always work. We have tried adding a wildflower meadow area which has failed – for now.

Continued on p10



We need to look at the planting next to the ditch which runs alongside our garden, which needs some help with stability to prevent slippage. We are also thinking of ways of making the border down the edge of the garden a little more exciting plant wise. It would also be good to find a way of keeping moles out of the garden!

Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the July draw was as follows:-

£50	No. 013	Deborah Stephens
£20	No. 122	John East
£10	No. 006	Margaret Davies

Flower Rota August

1 st & 8 th	Jo Stait
15 th & 22 nd	Sharon Ingham
29 th	Julie Fisher

AUGUST FISH & CHIPS

12th AUGUST 2021

at the Village Hall

Serving from 5pm to 8pm

For menu etc see www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk

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

*Answer riddle 3 on p3
£45*



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And...Action! "Escape to the Country" Comes to Minsterworth!

Andrea and Bob Holder



August 2016, while still living in Bedfordshire, we, Andrea and Bob Holder, were looking to move to 'the west country', to be close to our daughter who then lived in Cirencester, and to become involved in village life. Gloucestershire was our chosen area. As fans of the BBC programme, we thought it would be interesting to 'be on the show', so we applied. Amazingly we were accepted! The director sent a crew

to our house and we did various "pieces to camera" to see if we, and our story would be suitable for the programme. 3 weeks later we had our dates for filming and a hotel to stay... in Wiltshire.

Our presenter was Jonnie Irwin. We met him and our "crew" for breakfast on the first morning and then came three days of filming, both on location and in 3 houses chosen for our "escape". Instantly engaging, he and the director led us through each part of the process.



The three days consisted of periods spent

waiting in the car for the initial filming to be done with Jonnie explaining the houses and their locations to the viewers, before we were led (with eyes down!) to face the camera to get our initial reactions on each property. We were then asked to walk up to the house, and then go inside, when filming stops, and the cameras repositioned inside to see you coming into the house (again!) to view the interior. Unlike visiting a house with an estate agent, you get plenty of time to view each house as filming each one takes around half a day. That's when you get to see the bits in the houses that may not work so well. If you see people who have bought the house on the programme, they must really have liked their purchase – for us it was not to be. A delightful, interesting, and very exhausting 3 days of filming and being driven around seeing a lot of Wiltshire was a great experience; it's a shame they didn't find exactly what we were looking for.

We had already seen the house in Minsterworth when we went on "Escape". We took the option of going on the programme to broaden our horizons and to confirm Minsterworth was where we wanted to live. And so, in 2017, after 9 months of moving process, we finally arrived. We'd registered with the programme makers that we would love to show our 'new' house on



Continued on p13

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the “I Escaped to the Country” series, and this year, they are filming the next episodes, and we were invited to take part.



So, in June this year, Jonnie and another crew arrived to film the programme. The new show consists of a shortened version of the original programme, then another section showing where we finally settled. Observing strict Covid-19 restrictions we spent the day in pleasant, hard-working company, where around 9 hours of camera positioning and filming took place all over the house, garden

and the village, with a portrait photographic session in the village hall in the afternoon, due to the village photo club being run there.

The weather on the day was fine and we spent some time getting to know Jonnie again, and watching the crew go about their jobs. Luckily, last autumn, we had had the garden landscaped, so it looked at its best for the programme.

We feel lucky to have been included in the new series, and to be able to promote the village to a wider audience. We know from the previous programme that it is seen in America and Australia, so Minsterworth will be seen around the world, which is great publicity for the village and the hall especially with the recent refurbishment making it look great!

Being on the show is a great experience. On the original programme we were very well looked after and although it's not a paid venture, it was well worth the opportunity, and we would highly recommend it to anyone thinking of moving to a new area.

As yet we don't know when it will be aired – they have many episodes to film, so for anyone interested, we will keep you posted!

Answer riddle 4 on p3
David

MINSTERWORTH WEDDING

Its lovely to have something to celebrate, especially when it adds a bit of colour to our village. Some of you may have noticed the lovely floral garlands hanging on the gate outside Foxgrove House recently.



The floral decorations were in celebration of the wedding of Judey Antony, the daughter of Aloysious and Jeyanthy Antony who live at Foxgrove House. Judey, who is a doctor at Hillingdon Hospital, married Manojan Panchalingam who works as a lead solutions engineer for Bigcommerce. They had been waiting for months for the COVID restrictions to end, and then eventually decided to go ahead with a smaller ceremony, getting married at St Peters RC Church in Gloucester on Friday 11th June 2021.



We wish the new Mr and Mrs Manojan Panchalingam the very best for the lives ahead of them

A Love of Art – the person behind the canvas

Sarah McHale

I have always been fascinated and highly aware of my surroundings, not simply by the beauty of places but I'm often drawn to the unexpected: the effect of light, the decay of an abandoned building, the crumbling of an aged gravestone. My obsession with landscape goes back to a very early age, and as an artist I am always trying to capture the spirit of a place. Through colour and mark I aim to convey to canvas the essence of what I have experienced, hence the results are rarely photographic in their realism.

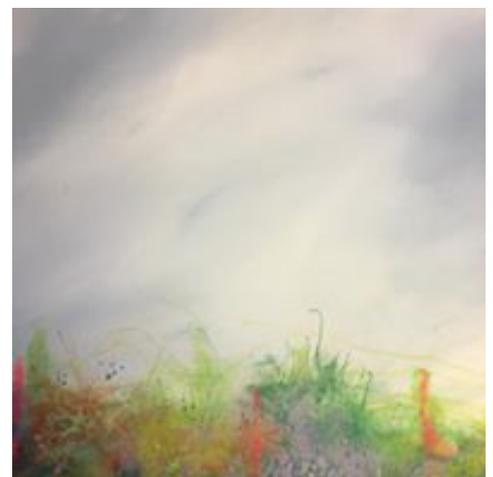


Across the Bluffs

When I was a child, my Mum was always creating – a fabulous cook, a dressmaker, and travel agent by profession. She loved working with me on any school art projects. One memory is always making the angel to go on the tree each Christmas. She'd wanted to go to Art College on leaving school but was told she had to enrol on a secretarial course, so I guess she lived her art dreams vicariously through my career. I spent 35 years teaching Art both in the North-East and locally before taking early retirement five years ago in order to travel (tick, before the last eighteen months), adopt a rescue dog (tick) and then to paint.

I loved teaching and working with young people definitely made me a better artist and far more aware of my own practice. Much of what we do becomes so innate, so having to unpick and explain decisions made when creating a piece of work, in addition to teaching specific techniques associated with various media is doubly impactful and rewarding. We are all learners, and I have learnt as much from my students as (hopefully) they have from me. My own high school art teacher had a massive influence on me, she taught me to paint, to experiment; while her art history lectures were fascinating. I'm a strong believer that creativity is within us all and emerges in a variety of ways whether they be practical or appreciative. One only has to look at the fabulous gardens in the village to recognise the creativity that emerges in this activity.

It took me 18 months of retirement to lose the 'art teacher' identity in my work. Early attempts in the studio space set up in my garage resulted in 'projects' that I would teach to various year groups. In the end I returned to my first love of painting, I had worked with abstraction during my degree many moons ago but looking back really hadn't much of a clue what I was doing and tended to pastiche artists like Rothko. Visits to Scotland and California were pivotal in considering the landscape, specifically the effects of weather – the 'dreich' of a gloomy day on Mull, or the depth of green



Highgrove



felicita 2

hues on a sunny walk in Lake Tahoe. I discovered mindfulness a few years ago during a particularly stressful time at work and there is definitely a contemplative and calming benefit in both immersing oneself in the landscape and the studio.

As for influences, I'm always reminded of Monet's words at the birth of Impressionism – 'never forget that first impression by which we are moved'. I adore Turner, an artist well ahead of his time, as was Kandinsky when he penned 'Concerning the Spiritual in Art' in 1910. More contemporary practitioners worth investigating include American Cy Twombly and Guyanese-British Frank Bowling.

The practice of painting is deeply personal to me and an essential part of my being. It is rewarding to share and it's wonderful to sell pieces and have that confirmation that others enjoy your work. I have a Facebook page at Sarah Liv McHale Art and Instagram, sarahliv3 (Sarah Liv McHale Fine Art). Work is always available for sale with cards starting at just £4 and I'm happy to take commissions, just contact me via the WhatsApp group or pop in to Oak Tree Cottage.



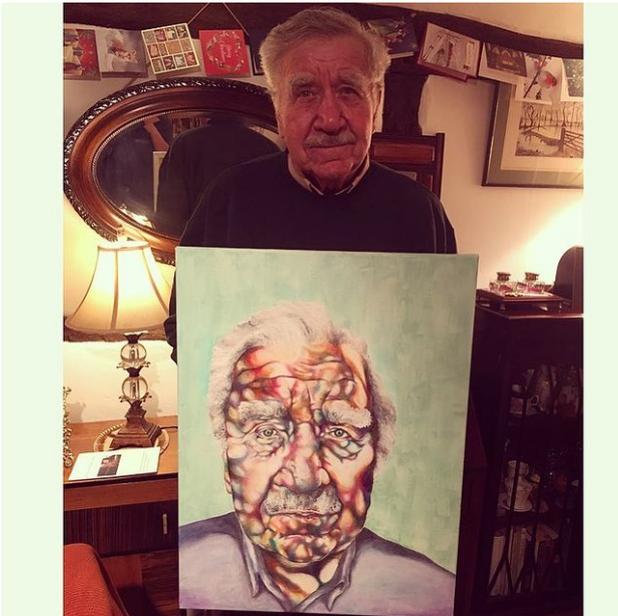
Mull Painting

- Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?
- Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?
- How do those dead bugs get into the enclosed light fixtures?

Minsterworth Creatives: Aimee McHale

Sarah McHale

While not residing in the village at the moment, Aimee has lived here on and off since 2003. Working in Marketing, she retains a love of painting that began in school and always has something 'on the go'. Currently it's a commissioned double portrait. And yes, she is my daughter! My mother along with a fabulous Art teacher inspired my love for Art; it's wonderful to see Aimee continuing a family interest and passion, the apple hasn't fallen far from the tree! Aimee attended the school where I taught, but I was always able to manipulate the timetable so I never had to teach her. Not sure who was the most relieved about that!



Aimee discovered a love of portraiture during her A Level Art course, particularly her examination question entitled 'Folds'. She interpreted this as a study of faces, exploring the expressions in her grandparents' faces. Following an Art Foundation course at the University of Gloucestershire, she decided to study Fashion Marketing, but recently confessed to regretting changing from her first choice of Fine Art. Note to any youngsters out there (with my previous sixth form careers and HE guidance hat on) – university is the only opportunity you'll have to spend three years totally immersed in your favourite subject, so go for it, and think of a career/job/employment later. It'll work out.



Over the past few years, Aimee has taught herself to work in oil paint, a not inconsiderable challenge. She loves the versatility of the medium. She has a pretty unique exploration of colour and many portraits move away from expected flesh tones to playing with mauves and blue tones. Her method of application is extremely considered, layers of paint are applied, often with small brushes to build rich surfaces. I'm always fascinated to watch her work, especially as she often seems to watch a movie at the same time! You may recognise a well-known Minsterworth resident in one of her works.

Spending time back in the village during the first lockdown saw us working together in a shared studio space (actually the garage). Aimee at her table with her oils, myself at the other end sloshing acrylic round. I loved it! My Mum would have been proud too, having been told aged 16 to do a secretarial course rather than consider Art School, she'd have loved seeing the diverse work under production.



Aimee is available for commissions; her work can be viewed on Instagram at [aimeemchalepaintings](https://www.instagram.com/aimeemchalepaintings).

This article on Aimee McHale's art was printed in the July edition but unfortunately without the art so we have repeated it, this time with some examples of her excellent art.

Gloucestershire Composers

Julian Oxley

[Part one of three serialised over the August, September and October editions]

The county has connections with several composers of serious music, a few famous and the rest somewhat obscure. Most had particular links to the Cathedral and to the Cotswolds. I think it's easiest if I talk about them in chronological order.

In the early 1800s Britain was regarded by its neighbours as "The Land Without Music". We had no composer of any real note, compared to say Germany which in less than the fifty years from 1770 saw the births of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Wagner. The first composer of any merit to appear in England in this period was **Samuel Sebastian Wesley**, born in London in 1810. He was grandson of hymn writer Charles Wesley ("Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" among many others) and great-nephew of John Wesley, founder of Methodism.



He was a precocious musician and at the early age of 22 was appointed organist of Hereford Cathedral. He was appalled at the frightful musical standards he found there, and dedicated the rest of his life in striving to bring about improvements nationwide (with some success). Having held similar positions in Leeds, Winchester and Exeter, in 1865 he became organist at Gloucester Cathedral where he stayed until his death in 1876.

He wrote a good deal of instrumental and church music, some of it of outstanding quality and still performed and recorded today

It is almost forty years before we come to the next name, that of **Sir Hubert Parry**, born in Bournemouth in 1848, but brought up in the family home at Highnam Court.



Parry became director of the Royal College of Music from 1895 until his death in 1918, so spent much of his adult life in London, but retained much affection for Highnam and came back as often as the demands of his work would allow. He was a prolific composer of orchestral and choral music, and also wrote for the organ. Apart from "Jerusalem" (1916) his best-known works are the Coronation Anthem "I Was Glad" (1911) and a choral setting of Milton's "Blest Pair of Sirens" (1887).

Continued on p20

The best-known of all composers actually born in the county is surely **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958), born in Down Ampney near Cirencester where his father was vicar. He had a serious pedigree – his grandfather was Sir Edward Vaughan Williams of Welsh extraction, and his mother was a direct descendant of Josiah Wedgwood and a cousin of Charles Darwin.

His father died when he was only three, whereupon the family moved back to his mother's home near Dorking in Surrey. He was also a precocious musician and composed a great amount of music in most genres throughout his long life. He loved walking, especially in the Cotswolds, and one of his best-known works, *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*, had its first performance in Gloucester Cathedral in 1910. Another popular and much-performed piece is "The Lark Ascending", essentially a "mini" violin concerto, written in 1938.



Vaughan Williams was a great friend of **Gustav Holst** (1874-1934), born in Cheltenham, where you can still visit his birthplace in Clarence Road. They spent much time together, often tramping over the Cotswolds and further afield. Vaughan Williams was much influenced by 16th century music and by English folksong, both shared by Holst. But Holst's interests went further afield, notably into ancient Sanskrit culture, where he took the trouble to learn the (very difficult) language.



His best-known work is the orchestral suite "The Planets", written at the outbreak of WWI. The "Jupiter" movement has remained very popular. and Holst turned the main theme into a hymn tune "Thaxted", set to "I vow to thee, my country". Again, his output was prolific and varied. One notable work is "The Hymn of Jesus" which is not at all like most British church music, having a discernible Eastern influence. (I was in the Three Choirs Festival chorus which performed it in the Cathedral in 1965, and remember it as different and challenging, but interesting).

Continued in September

- If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
- If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- Whatever happened to Preparations A through G?



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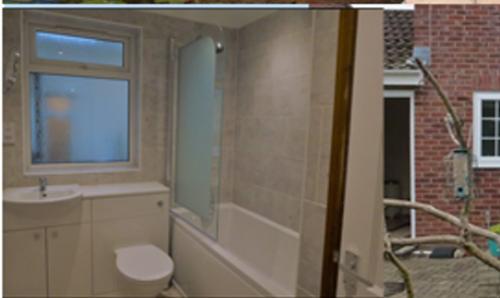
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We have recently finished the repairs and decoration of the exterior of Minsterworth Village Hall





Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

Due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to hold our meeting in June and July and are hoping to resume our agenda as soon as possible. As always when we do please feel free to attend even if you are not a member of the R.B.L.

The British soldier who became the unknown warrior was one of thousands of men who died on the battlefields and trenches of the First World War. His body was one of the few returned to Britain on November 11th 1920, he was laid to rest at Westminster Abbey.

One million people watched his funeral procession. In their minds this warrior might have been a husband, father, brother or son, but it was not the identity of this man that mattered but what he stood for and what he sacrificed for Britain and in May 1921 the Royal British Legion was formed.

Military history

August 1 st 1798	Battle of the Nile
August 19 th 1942	Dieppe Raid
August 28 th 1914	Battle of Heligoland Bight

Terry Bourne
President
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THE NEW WYE VALLEY GREENWAY

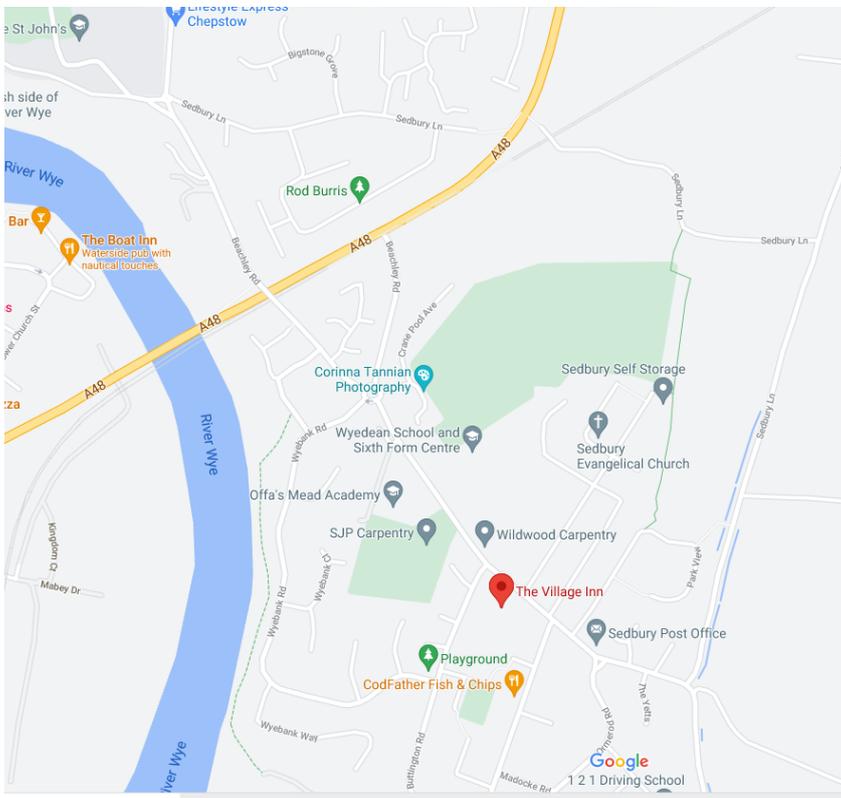
Roger Blowey

A new five mile stretch of footpath and cycle path running from Sedbury (Chepstow) to Tintern, along the east (Gloucestershire) bank of the river Wye, was opened in April 2021. It follows the route of the old railway line, and is a bit different in that 1.0km of the journey is in a tunnel!

Details of the route can be found at www.wyevalleygreenway.org/about

When I followed the path I started from Tintern, mainly because I could not find the Sedbury entrance when doing a reconnaissance trip the previous week! I cycled both ways, i.e. from Tintern to Sedbury, and then back to Tintern, but if you are going to cycle one way only, the best route is from Sedbury to Tintern, because much of the journey is then (surprisingly!) downhill.

Probably the best way to find the Sedbury entrance is to go to the Village Inn at Sedbury, 54 Beachley Rd, Sedbury, Chepstow NP16 7AA, which is clearly marked on Google maps.



The SPAR shop and Post Office are diagonally opposite The Village Inn. From here, follow the road down the hill towards Beachley and take the second road on the left, which is Sedbury Lane, but it's not marked, which is annoying!

Entrance to Sedbury Lane. Follow the lane for approximately one mile until you reach the Snipehill railway bridge, where the main rail line runs above Sedbury Lane. Immediately before the bridge you can see the start of the cycle way/footpath on your right, well marked and going uphill.

After approximately half a mile a footbridge takes you over the A48 and you will see the National Diving and Activity Centre (NDAC) on your right. If you prefer you can start the trail from the NDAC (NP16 7LQ), and it has the advantage that you can hire bikes from the Pedal Away Centre at the NDAC (phone 01291 630 046).



It is soon after leaving the Diving Centre that you enter the tunnel. The tunnel is only dimly lit (to avoid disturbing the resident bat population) and when you first enter, it does take a few minutes for your eyes to adjust. Going in on my bike, it was so dark that I had to stop! Ideally you need a bell on your bike so that you can give a 'ping' if you think you can see something ahead of you. Beyond the tunnel the track is reasonably smooth until you get to closer to Tintern, and then I did find it a bit bumpy. Although much of the route runs alongside the River Wye, the views were often obstructed by leaves and trees during the summer, so I will be trying again in the autumn.

If you decide to do the journey from Tintern, then park at the Abbey car park (£3 for the whole day) and start the trail on the old railway bridge over the river, which is very easy to find. In fact if you decide that you are going to do the full route, there and back again, Tintern is by far the easiest parking place. The only difficulty is that Tintern is in Wales, and these articles are headed Glorious Gloucestershire!



The Old Railway Bridge at Tintern, the start of the track from the Welsh end

St Peter's Church, Minsterworth



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Minsterworth Parochial Charities

Continued from the July Villager.

Roger Blowey

In the June Villager we talked about the Joseph Winkle Charity, and in July the John Hiett Charity.

In a book by Samuel Rudder, A New History of Gloucestershire written in 1779, he states: "Mr John Hyett, citizen (distiller) of London, who had been a poor boy of this parish, has given by his last will, dated Sept 5 1719, a sum to 'prentice out a poor boy every second year, in the choice of whom a preference is to be given to the names of Hyett and Phelps".

The Charity Commission has given permission for this to be amended to include both girls and boys, the age limit has been increased to 25, and we intend to interpret the word 'poor' as anyone with a genuine need, so we are looking for residents in the village who would benefit from support in this way. It can include anything that has an educational benefit, for example, books, travel, and other support materials.

If there are any Minsterworth residents who think they may be eligible, please apply in writing to rogerblowey@hotmail.co.uk or by post to me at The John Hiett or Joseph Winkle Charity, Appithorne, Minsterworth, GL2 8JG. Each application will be considered by the Trustees in confidence.

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Olympic Games

Katie Panting

Words to find:

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

Equestrianism Table tennis Gymnastics
Shooting Athletics Triathlon
Rowing Fencing Sailing
Swimming Tennis Boxing
Hockey

Gone Fishing

The rain was pouring down outside O'Connor's Irish Pub. There standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water.

A passer-by stopped and asked him, "What are you doing?"

"Fishing" replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me."

In the warm ambiance of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman, being a bit of a superior smart ass, cannot resist asking,

"So how many have you caught today?"

"You're the 8th", replied the old man.

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“You know you’re working class when your TV is bigger than your book case.” – Rob Beckett

“Owls haven’t got necks, have they? An owl is essentially a one-piece unit.” – Ross Noble



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HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

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



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

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

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

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

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



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Welcome to Minsterworth Village Hall

Why not plan your next event with us?

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

At the heart of the village is Minsterworth Village Hall.

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

www.minsterworthvillagehall.org

e-mail minsterworthvh@gmail.com

Tel: 01452 750492

