

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Butterfly - Bob Holder

August 2023

Edition 249

Dear readers,

I think it's a Painted Lady butterfly on the front cover. Their remarkable migration will probably bring them to be a second butterfly to feature in my British Wildlife some time in the future.

Read about the planting of oak and cherry trees in the village on p4, try your hand at some of the crafts that are coming to the Harvey Centre from September in Crafternoons – beautiful, original and sociable on p7. Sharon Ingham brings us Lyn Paddock's lovely Garden by the Severn on p11 and see p13 for the role of the Parish Council in Planning Applications. Book your place on Simon Ruffley's 'A Night with Sherry' on 27th October on p14. Fascinating History of GCHQ with David Arbrutat on p15 on 8th September. September sees some larger bores, some at the weekend, so lots of people will come. I believe there will be refreshments available. Night-time bores are always the larger, but these are very late..

Cannop Ponds are on p21 and who wouldn't love The Murcott Pedigree Jacob flock on p22? Julian Oxley continues tales of his childhood in Newnham on p26 and I discuss how fungi could save the planet on p27. A vegetarian stew on p28, speed camera on p29, Parish Council on p30.

Another full Villager!

Paula

All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager E-mail:

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Deadline is ALWAYS 10th of the month before the magazine is published, so for September it's Thursday 10th August

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING August 2023

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy		BLUE bin & caddy	
(landfill)	(garden)	(recycling)	
Tuesday	1	Tuesday	8
Tuesday	15	Tuesday	22
Wednesday	30		

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) and please don't tie it up.

Damaged Gravestones in Minsterworth Churchyard

Jo Stait

On a recent safety inspection of Minsterworth Churchyard two memorials were found to be extremely hazardous and posing an immediate danger to those visiting the churchyard.

It is with regret that they have needed to be laid flat in their original location to prevent harm.

The Churchwardens and Priest in Charge are making every effort to contact the families of those concerned but do not have any names or contact details.

If anyone knows anything of the relatives of either:

George Philip PEARCE (previous vicar of this parish)

or

Stephen David Burnaby WALLACE

then please make contact with the Churchwardens so that they can follow this up appropriately. Jo.stait52@outlook.com

Further inspections of the churchyard will be taking place over the coming months and unstable memorials will be cordoned off whilst enquiries are made into remaining relatives – notices will appear here and locally.

We appreciate the assistance of the local community in this matter.

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MINSTERWORTH'S FLEDGLING OAK TREES

Roger Blowey

Each year thousands of trees are planted, but I wonder how many survive? Perhaps even more relevant to us, how many of the trees that we have planted in Minsterworth over the past few years have survived? For at least two years (or is it three?) the Parish Council has distributed small 'whip' trees donated by Gloucestershire County Council to Minsterworth residents who ordered them.

We planted Jubilee oaks at both Ham Green and at the Village Hall, and both are doing well so far. They get watered during the summer (not as often as they ought I'm afraid!), and weeds and general foliage removed from around their base to prevent them being smothered. The oak tree on Ham Green is doing especially well, although it's going to be a while before it reaches the size of its near neighbour oak!



The Jubilee oak on Ham Green – it will be quite a few years before it reaches the size of the tree behind it!

During the COVID years the Village Hall planted 15 trees along the far side hedge of the football field, a mixture of cherry, oak, horse chestnut and ash. Most of these took well (I did replace one or two), and I notice that this year we have our first conkers forming.



The Jubilee oak at the Village Hall is growing, but a good deal



Covid oak at the Village Hall

The 'COVID' oak at the Village hall – this tree is doing well for 3 - 4 years old. It was well watered during its first COVID summer!

The cherry tree pathway at the Harvey Centre has also done really well, with the small whips planted having now been transformed into trees 5 – 6 ft high.



Cherry tree

A guy asks a lawyer about his fees.
"I charge £50 for three questions", the lawyer says.
"That's awfully steep, isn't it?", the guy asks.
"Yes, I suppose so", the lawyer replies. "Now what's your final question?"

The wife and I took a long, leisurely drive out to the country and pulled over to fill up our car's petrol tank and tyres... She was surprised to see that the station had a fee to fill the tyres and asked me, "Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!"

I responded, "Inflation."

The Harvey Centre Calendar – August 2023	
MON	<p>Tan House Choir Weekly from 7.00 to 9.00pm Telephone 01452 750128 to join or find out more...</p>
TUES	<p>Memory Café: Every 4th week on a Tuesday 11:00am – 1:30pm. No Charge Next Café Tuesday 15th August</p> <p>Safe space for dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch. For further info call 01452 750128</p>
WED	<p>Community Café @ The Harvey Centre The drop-in coffee bar will not be open in August</p> <p>Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility Class Weekly from 10:00 to 11am 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>Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available 11:15am to 12:30pm</p>
THUR	
FRI	<p>Art for Wellbeing Weekly from 10.00am to 12.30pm £20 for a 4 week bloc (£5.00 per session) <i>Pop along or Telephone 07525 330364 to book a place</i> Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange 10:00am to 12:30pm</p>

CRAFTERNOONS

are coming to the Harvey Centre
this September

Share a fun filled afternoon where you get to find out about a craft you may never have tried and maybe discover something which will become a life-long passion.

Spend some quality time with new and old friends, take time to chat, time to learn and time for tea and cake.



DECOUPAGE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26th 2-4.30pm with Ann

POTTERY TUESDAY OCTOBER 24th 2-4.30pm with Karen – more in September

ENAMELLING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21st 2-4.30pm with Katie - more in October

In just one session make beautiful things to take home with you.

DECOUPAGE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

Ann will introduce us to the art of decorating an object by gluing coloured paper cut-outs onto it, in combination with special paint effects and other decorative elements. This will allow us to add those special finishing touches to our home, in a style which is completely our own.

Cost £15.00 per person.

All afternoon sessions must be booked and paid for in advance and early booking is advised as there's lots of interest already. We will provide all materials and equipment so all you have to do is come along, learn about something new and of course have a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of delicious home-made cake. All bookings made through the Harvey Centre by ringing Roger on 07525 330364 or Sue on 0777 6666 222.



Community Coffee Mornings will reopen in September

We are looking for volunteers to help out for a couple of hours, one or two days a month 10.30-12.30



Can you help serve tea and coffee, chat with visitors and make sure they feel welcome?

Contact Roger Ingham 07525 330364

Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the July draw was as follows:-

- £50 No. 037 Sara Gardner
- £20 No. 082 Wendy Lewis
- £10 No. 032 Pat Haisell-Neves

At the end of the 200 Club year there were vacancies to be filled, which have now been taken. Thank you to all who have renewed their subscription or have now joined the 200 Club. A special thanks to Mary Cooper, Jo Lee, Ann Mogg, Bev Robinson, and Liz Savage for collecting the subscriptions. A full membership for 200 Club year has meant that a cheque for £1,200 has been handed over for church funds.

Whist Drive

At the July whist drive there were enough people to make up 6.5 tables. The evening resulted in £70 for Church funds. As always, thank you to all who helped in any way.

The next whist drive will be on August 7th.

Church service times and flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
6 th August	11am	Morning Worship	Sarah Hart
13 th August	9.30am	Holy Communion	Sarah Hart
20 th August	5pm	Evening Worship	Alison Raeburn
27 th August	10am*	Holy Communion	Alison Raeburn

*Holy Communion – Five Churches Together – at Rudford

Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

Our meeting in July was held on the 5th at 7pm and, as indicated a decision was made regarding our annual day trip. Due to the lack of support there will be no R.B.L. day trip to Tyntesfield the National Trust property at Wraxhall Bristol. Hopefully we will be able to arrange a day trip in 2024, subject to sufficient support.

Our next meeting will be held on October 11th at 7pm to which you are all invited.

MILITARY HISTORY

Aug 1 st	1798	-	Battle of the Nile
Aug 15 th	1945	-	VJ Day
Aug 19 th	1942	-	Dieppe Raid
Aug 28 th	1914	-	Battle of the Heligoland Bight

Terry Bourne – President
Minsterworth & District RBL



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Gardening by the River Severn

Sharon Ingham

This month we visit Terry Moore-Scott's garden at Lyn Paddock.

The overall area of the property is two thirds of an acre and the garden runs all the way around the cottage. The garden mostly takes the form of lawns and beds made up of shrubs and flowering plants but also the occasional specimen tree and a small patch devoted to growing raspberries and rhubarb. Oh yes, also a small informal lily pond.



General view Lyn Paddock

But before going any further, two points need to be made.

The first is that, unlike my late wife Ruth who was an exceptionally talented green-fingered gardener, I am not really much of a gardener (I think they would call me 'brown-fingered'). Much of what is in my garden now was lovingly cared for by Ruth and previous residents over many years and I aim to keep up the good work as best I can. Given my advanced years, inevitably these days I have to rely on much appreciated outside help.

Secondly, being a bit of a historian, I am mindful of the garden's historic past. Certain parts of it, such as the iconic borders lining the straight pathway leading up to the cottage and the small rose bed in the front lawn, remain much as they have been for many years (I have old photographs dating as far back as almost 100 years showing this). I see the garden therefore as an extension to my Grade two listed historic cottage and worthy of preserving as far as possible. That said, I have also enjoyed creating one or two new areas of the garden where previously nothing of note existed.

I must be getting the gardening bug a bit though because over the past couple of years in particular, I have started experiencing that little thrill each time I spot an especially interesting plant or beautiful flower suddenly putting in an appearance just when I had forgotten all about it or thought it had died. Things that give me that extra kick include the appearance in late Spring of the gorgeous deep pink hanging blossom on my Judas tree (*Cercis Siliquastrum*) or the emergence and then flowering of the fascinating bi-coloured Pineapple Lilies (*Eucomis*) that Ruth introduced into the garden years ago.



Eucomis

Generally, though, the garden has been laid out as a traditional cottage garden with the full range of cottage garden perennials and shrubs, starting in January/February with snowdrops, little cyclamen and a winter-flowering honeysuckle and moving through the Spring and early summer into a wonderful burgeoning display of colour and textures around the whole garden.

Continued on p12

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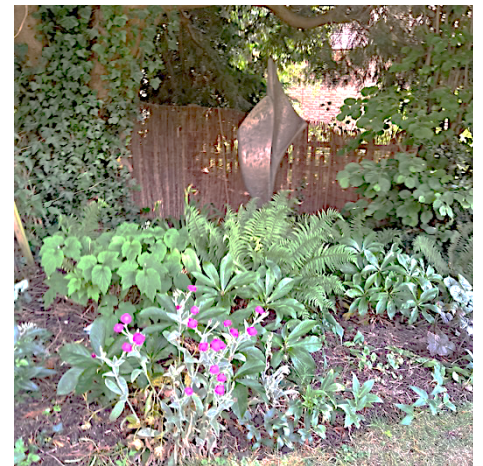
This year I have kept a record of every plant and flower as it appeared and, as I write this in mid-June, I have recorded 40 odd different plants and flowers – and I'm still counting!



Summer garden May-June

Our changing climate is, I think, making its mark. Not only is everything flourishing more abundantly and somewhat earlier than in the past, (including the weeds), but every now and then a flowering plant pops out of the ground that I can't ever remember seeing before. Almost as though it has been lying dormant in the ground waiting for the right conditions to prevail. But the reverse is that I have also this year lost some long-established items that have died due to perverse weather conditions in recent seasons: for example, several normally hardy fuchsias, some once-lovely clematis and even a large mature, hitherto very vigorous, willow tree.

I mentioned some newly introduced parts of the garden. The most challenging has been a small bed under a large dense Leylandii conifer which deprives the ground of light and moisture. With expert help however, I have been able to create a thriving bed comprising a variety of shade-loving ferns, hellebores, peony, brunnera, and other plants able to cope with the conditions there. A piece of sculpture at the rear of the bed provides an additional attraction.



Sculpture bed

- August is named for Augustus Caesar who became Roman consul in this month. The month has 31 days because Julius Caesar added two days when he created the Julian calendar in 45 BC.
- 'Summer's lease hath all too short a date' Sonnet 18 William Shakespeare
- August is 'don't be a bully' month
- National Black Business Month

The Role of the Parish Council in Planning Applications

Roger Blowey

One of the more difficult aspects of the Parish Council is dealing with planning applications. When a new planning application is submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC), they forward it to various interested parties for comment. The Parish Council receives a copy of the application, and we are given a standard 21 days to respond, although if our next meeting is not for another month, we can apply to have this extended to 28 days.

Planning applications vary in the amount of detail that is supplied. They may be PIP's (= planning in principle) where only outline details are given, a full application, or 'reserved matters' which follows a full application, and deals with details such as the building materials to be used. A 'full' application should provide information relating to house type, overall site layout, foul water drainage, surface water drainage, access onto the highway etc. Minsterworth has an agreed 'settlement boundary', and we try to ensure that developments are permitted only within this boundary. It all sounds good in principle, but does it work?

First of all, although TBC ask us to comment, our comments often seem to be ignored, such that even if we object to an application, the application is passed by TBC (who have to achieve their annual housing target). To be fair, sometimes TBC also objects, but their objection is taken to appeal by the applicant, and the TBC objection is also over ruled. This has recently happened in the case of a significant development within the village. On other occasions the developer applies for a 'minor change', and TBC do not inform the Parish Council of the 'minor' change. This happened on one occasion when houses were changed from 2 to 3 storey.

Drainage is regularly an issue. We have no mains sewer, and because of the heavy clay soils in Minsterworth, soakaway systems simply do not function well. Ideally drainage outflows need to run direct into a continually running stream, ie 365 days per year. Other developments are proposing 'drainage mounds'. To our knowledge, this has not previously been tried in Minsterworth, and hence we have our concerns over whether it will or will not be effective, especially if there is a heavy clay soil beneath the mound. We have written to TBC requesting their reassurance that this system will work and remain functioning indefinitely.

New planning applications are listed as agenda items, which you currently receive when it is circulated by WhatsApp or posted on notice boards. If you are a nearby property, you will also see the 'green notices' posted. If you wish to express an opinion please email the Parish Council clerk and/or attend the Parish Council meeting when the application is up for discussion. You can of course verbally relay your opinion to any Parish Councillor, but if we have it in writing then we can circulate in advance and that's a more effective way of getting your voice heard. Even better, post your own comments on the TBC Planning website (<https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/planning>). The more comments and concerns that TBC receive, then the more likely TBC are to take notice of our comments.

The other 'planning' issue we deal with relates to concerns over Highways and the state of the roads. Potholes seem to be an increasing issue. These are best reported on line at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/> we were

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Continued from p13

informed at a recent Parish Council meeting that a new system of 'jet patching' is to be trialled, whereby all potholes in an area will be repaired at the same time. If it works, this sounds far more sensible. If lots of people report the same pothole (or obstructed road sign, or overgrown verge) then we may get something done. It is frustrating that the verges often only get cut once a year, usually in early August, because this means that the footpaths get badly overgrown. As a consequence, the Parish Council are now paying to have each side of the footpath cut along the length of the A48, in late spring, to make walking safer, and critical points like the exit from Bury lane are being regularly trimmed. If you think that there is dangerous overgrowth along the Highway, then please report it on line using the link at the foot of p13.



A Night with Sherry

By Simon Ruffley

Friday, 27th October 2023 at 7:00pm

in

Minsterworth Village Hall

Are you a secret sherry drinker? Why keep it a secret? – in my opinion it is the most under-rated and value for money wine you can buy. A drink for all tastes, with and without food, why not come along to find out more...

Tickets (purchase in advance) cost £15 each

To book go to www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/events-coming-soon or alternatively contact Simon Ruffley on 07847 560629.

Bring some spare cash too as there will be a raffle for a bottle of sherry

A HISTORY OF GCHQ

An illustrated talk by David Abrutat
GCHQ Historical Section

Friday 8th September 2023

6-30pm at Minsterworth Village Hall

We all know about GCHQ, that funny dome shaped building on the edge of Cheltenham that no-one is supposed to talk about! This is an ideal opportunity to find out a bit more about the work that goes on within the building to keep us safe. Dr David Abrutat is the Departmental Historian at GCHQ, and so is an ideal person to deliver this talk.



The doors and bar will open at 6-30pm so please join us for a short social, with the talk starting at 7-00pm.

We hope that you can join us for what will undoubtedly be an interesting evening!

Tickets (£5-00) are available on the Village Hall website (*preferred option please*), or from rogerblowey@hotmail.co.uk , 07768 451071

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Tea, Cake & Gardens at Highnam Court

*Friday 11th August 2023
11am to 4.30pm*

- Adult £6 & Under 16yrs Free, no need to book
- Dogs welcome on short leads but not in the Orangery
- Disabled access is limited due to gravel paths and stairs into the Orangery. Disabled toilet adjacent to Orangery
- Entrance charges and refreshments can be paid in cash or by credit card
- Parking on-site

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The Royal Forest of Dean



The Severn Bore



Month	Date	Day	Time	Tide (m)	Prospect
August	31	Thu	21:21	9.8	***
Sept	1	Fri	09:45	9.6	**
	1	Fri	22:04	10.2	****
	2	Sat	10:27	9.8	***
	2	Sat	22:44	10.1	****
	3	Sun	11.05	9.6	**
	3	Sun	23.22	9.7	***

Remember to keep your distance and take care

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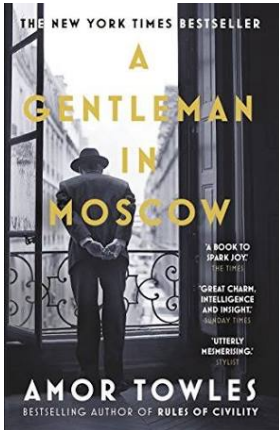


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Minsterworth Reading Group

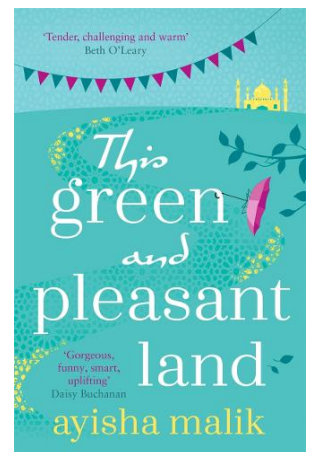
Pat Brooke



A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. Two of my friends recommended the book to me in 2018/19. I had seen it in all the book shops. They said it was superb. I bought the book and thought of recommending it as a book group choice but completely forgot about it when my turn came, until this year when I found it unread on my bookshelf. What a story, nothing in it was predictable, a real journey, even though I know in reality that he would never have survived all the purges. What stood out, his ability not to look back and regret but to move forward and not to become bitter. To enjoy new friendships. To hold on to his own personal values of kindness and thoughtfulness, all

the skills he had. He was not driven to despair by the illogicality of the new regime, he just shook his head got on with it, made friends and took on a job he loved using all the skills he had. I enjoyed the philosophical thoughts. One example is when he is looking at the hotel silver he thinks and wonders why it had not been destroyed and sold. He has the realisation that “the Bolsheviks would soon be wanting banquets of their own.” Lovely Sofia, Nina what happened to her. Anna a new chapter?

We will review This Green and Pleasant Land by Ayisha Malik on Wednesday 2nd August.



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CANNOP PONDS - HAVE THEY BEEN GIVEN A REPRIEVE?

Roger Blowey

Many of you will have seen news reports regarding the proposed filling in of Cannop Ponds. The ponds, which are towards the bottom of the hill after you pass Speech House on your right, run parallel between the road to Parkend and the old railway line, which is now a cycle track. The cycle track is a lovely area to walk along, and there is plenty to see – on various trips we have seen swans, ducks, a variety of other birds, deer, and on occasions, wild boar!



A huge pump took water from one side of the spillway to the other

It looks as if there may be some good news. In late June we saw that contractors had installed pumps to pump water from one side of the spillway to the other, and the weir was being refurbished to prevent leaks and further deterioration. It would be a great loss to The Forest if the ponds were filled in, although I understand that a final decision has yet to be made.

Intel from the editor:

Forestry England issued a press release on 3rd July saying that they “are continuing to gather critical information at Cannop Ponds to inform the decision on the future of its aging dams. From Monday 3rd July, ground investigation works will begin. This work will help us understand the geological make-up of Upper and Lower Cannop dams, and the immediate surrounding area.” They go on to say that they are taking small core samples through the dam wall and down to the bedrock underneath, filling in the holes as they go. The samples will be studied by expert engineers and geologists.



Contractor refurbishing weir?

The four options for the future of Cannop Ponds can be viewed at: www.forestryengland.uk/article/the-future-cannop-ponds

The Murcott Pedigree Jacob Flock

Paul King



Welcome to the Murcott flock of pedigree Jacob sheep.

I made the decision to change the breed of sheep we keep at Murcott Farm last year. Previously we had a flock of pedigree Texel sheep but decided to change to Jacobs as I wanted a breed that would be easier lambing as we found most Texels

need help at birth. Jacob sheep also have good mothering instincts, are hardy and long-lived, produce lean full flavoured meat and quality wool that is excellent for spinning and weaving (although wool has very little value these days). There are two types of Jacob sheep, 2 horn or 4 horn. I have chosen to keep the 2 horn type.

In the Autumn we bought 30 ewes from the breed society sales at Worcester and Raglan and from a flock near Taunton. We also bought eight ewe lambs from a flock near Worcester. We have two rams, Titan and Victory and they went out to join the ewes last September and we started lambing mid-February.



The ewes were brought into the lambing shed in early February so that they could be fed, regularly checked and so their new born lambs were not at risk from bad weather conditions.

Our 30 ewes have produced 44 lambs which are now out in the fields. The ewes had some supplementary feed and hay until the grass started to grow well. This was to meet the demands of producing milk to feed their lambs. The lambs also had a high protein mix of oats, barley, sugar beet, peas, beans, soya and molasses to help them grow.



Lambs with markings and characteristics that meet the breed standard will be kept for breeding, with many of the ewe lambs joining the flock and any surplus being offered for sale to other flocks at the pedigree sales. The best ram lambs will be reared to 18 months and

then go to pedigree sale where hopefully other farmers will buy them. Lambs that are not of

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Continued from p22

a suitable breeding quality will go to the butchers between 6 and 12 months of age.

The ewes were sheared mid-June and we will send some wool to a mill in Dorset to be processed into knitting yarn. They need to be sheared so they can keep cool in hot weather and to reduce the risk of flystrike.



Part of the attraction of keeping a pedigree flock is that I can show them at countryside shows like the Royal Three Counties Show and Moreton Show and sell to other flocks at the national pedigree society show and sales.



Countryside shows that exhibit livestock are a good place to promote the flock. There will be an expert judge who will look at the sheep that are being shown and place them in order from best to worst and hand out rosettes to the best. Getting a first place rosette at a show where there are lots of other Jacob entries will give the flock kudos and hopefully

improve the value of sheep offered for sale later in the year. It also helps to inform future breeding decisions to continually improve the flock.

It has been a good first year keeping Jacob sheep and I'm looking forward to seeing the flock develop. Our Jacob flock is on Instagram so please follow [murcott_pedigree_jacobs](#) if you would like to keep up to date with what's going on.

“A good rule to remember for life is that when it comes to plastic surgery and sushi, never be attracted by a bargain.” – Graham Norton

“An escalator can never break. It can only become stairs.” – Mitch Hedberg

“If we were truly created by God, then why do we still occasionally bite the insides of our own mouths?” – Dara Ó Briáin



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The Silver Fox Café

RESTING ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY RIVER SEVERN

An August Midnight – Thomas Hardy

A shaded lamp and a waving blind,
And the beat of a clock from a distant floor:
On this scene enter—winged, horned, and
spined—
A longlegs, a moth, and a dumbledore;
While 'mid my page there idly stands
A sleepy fly, that rubs its hands ...



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Children's playground and wild field walk. Meet Dennis the Donkey, while you sip a freshly made cuppa and slice of cake. Indoor and outdoor seating.



A Childhood in Newnham Part 2

Julian Oxley

This is the second of three parts about Julian's childhood in Newnham-on-Severn.

The village had lots of shops of all shapes and sizes – a post office, three grocers, three butchers, a greengrocer, a barber, a baker, a chemist, a newsagent, a confectionery, a jeweller's, a garage, a drapery/haberdashery, a solicitor, a doctors' surgery, two hotels, five other licensed premises, and a police station.



Newnham High St and Clock Tower

My parents were avid readers and radio listeners and I quickly followed suit – there were few other forms of entertainment apart from an occasional trip to one of the four cinemas in Gloucester, plus some amateur dramatics and beetle drives in the village. Those were the wireless days of ITMA, Workers' Playtime, and Dick Barton, Special Agent (the latter sadly displaced by The Archers in 1950).

There were always good bus and rail services to

Gloucester and elsewhere, though in view of what the village itself had to offer visits to Gloucester (often with my mother to the Bon Marché, later Debenhams) were not that frequent. We regularly visited my mother's sister and her husband at the new Maidenhall development at Highnam, where, with all building stopped by the War, it felt right in the middle of the countryside – beautiful! Dad had given up his car when WWII broke out, but my Highnam uncle had to have a car (and therefore petrol) for his work, so we did get a few interesting road trips round the county. Favourite rail journeys were up the Forest branch line, either to Cinderford where my father and uncle both worked for the District Council, or to Soudley for a walk round the Ponds. We even travelled to Bristol via the Severn Tunnel to see elderly relatives who fortuitously lived near the Zoo which we often visited.



View from Pleasant Stile

My mother was a great walker and took me all over the surrounding fields and farmland which she knew so well from her own childhood. There were also lots of school walks up to Blaize Bailey and Pleasant Stile, or if bad weather meant no games, along the riverside to Broadoak.

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After the exceptionally harsh winter of January to March 1947 there was much flooding followed by a very hot summer. Later that year Newnham's water supply, coming from springs in woods up the Littledean Road, failed to the extent that the flow was restricted to two hours a day, 7.00 to 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 to 5.00 in the afternoon. Naturally this made my mother mad and my father, together with many others, made a huge fuss with the appropriate authorities. The outcome was that, amazingly for the time, the following year (1948) a new supply was piped all the way from Gloucester (or possibly Minsterworth?) to a brand new above-ground reservoir up the Dean Road. I remember that for months the verges along the A48 were littered with big black pipes and trenches.

To be concluded in the September edition.

How fungi will save the planet

Paula Ruffley

Magical and mistrusted, toadstools and mushrooms are associated with ancient taboos, dung, death and decomposition. But trees and many other plant species rely on fungi and we're just starting to understand how close this relationship is: great woodland networks that link and support life. They come in dazzling shapes and colours; even working with other species to produce different organisms.



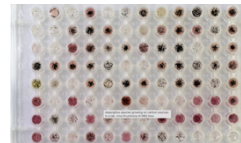
Beer



Bracket fungus
growing on a tree
Dawn Ricketts



Bread



Aspergillus
fungus growing
on carbon
sources in a lab,
Irina
Druzhinina ©
RBG Kew



We're familiar with fungi all around us, we already use fungi to make food and fight disease through antibiotics derived from fungi and immunosuppressive agents used in organ-transplantation are also derived from fungi. Statins are produced from fungus species and are best known for reducing deaths due to heart attacks and heart disease by reducing cholesterol levels and can also inhibit acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and several other cancers.

The fossil record shows us that fungi were one of the first land colonisers and that they formed symbiotic relationships with plants that lacked roots more than 475 million years ago. Together, these fungi and plants sequestered carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and reduced it to levels that could sustain other life forms. This symbiosis continues today with around 80% of plant species forming interactions with fungi; sequestering carbon from the air to exchange with fungi for nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

Continued on p28

Continued from p27

Enzymes produced by fungi are used commercially in 'Biological' washing detergents, breaking down the fatty, greasy, and starchy compounds that are found in some of the most common clothing stains. There are millions of fungi species, found in every ecosystem, with a wide range of characteristics. Researchers look at plastic debris in landfills or floating plastic 'islands' in the ocean, in the hope that these habitats will be full of species capable of plastic degradation. In 2017, scientists in China and Pakistan identified a strain of *Aspergillus tubingensis* fungus that was breaking down plastic in a landfill site in Islamabad. This fungus is common in tropical soil and can cause crop spoilage. But scientists discovered that samples of this fungus were hard at work breaking down polyurethane plastics in a matter of weeks, a process that would normally take years.

IKEA is using compostable mushroom-based packaging for its fragile products, replacing polystyrene that is not biodegradable with something that is.

Fungi have been solving problems for us for years. Now fungi are also cleaning up oil spills, heavy metals and even radioactivity. Maybe now is the time to focus on researching how they can help with perhaps our biggest problem – climate change. Clearing up an even bigger human mess! I know it's controversial in a village like Minsterworth but, depending on its type, it can take 5,000 to 20,000 litres of water to produce 1 kg meat. The production of just 100 grams of protein from beef is responsible for the release of around 50 kilograms of carbon dioxide. It also produces methane and nitrous oxide, which are even more powerful in trapping heat than carbon dioxide. Reducing the amount of meat you eat isn't as hard as you think with just a bit of creativity. Why not try this delicious and very simple recipe.

One-Pot Coconut Mung Bean Stew

Paula Ruffley

A tasty simple vegetarian stew. I eat it cold, or even chilled and you can use low fat coconut milk if you must.

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil
1 onion chopped
Garlic minced
2 carrots chopped
2 inches root ginger minced
2 chillies finely chopped
½ tsp salt
1 tsp ground cumin
1 cup dried mung beans
soaked overnight
1 cup vegetable stock
1 can coconut milk
30g chopped coriander leaf
Juice of 1 lime or lemon

Method

- In a large pot, warm the oil over a medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, carrots, ginger, chilli, salt and cumin.
- Stir to combine and cook until the onion and carrot are soft.
- Add the soaked, drained mung beans, pour in the coconut milk and broth and bring to the boil.
- Cook for 15-20 mins, until the mung beans are softened.
- Squeeze citrus juice over the top.

Serve with coriander leaf on top and chunky bread

Autospeedwatch Camera – Update

Ruth Thomas

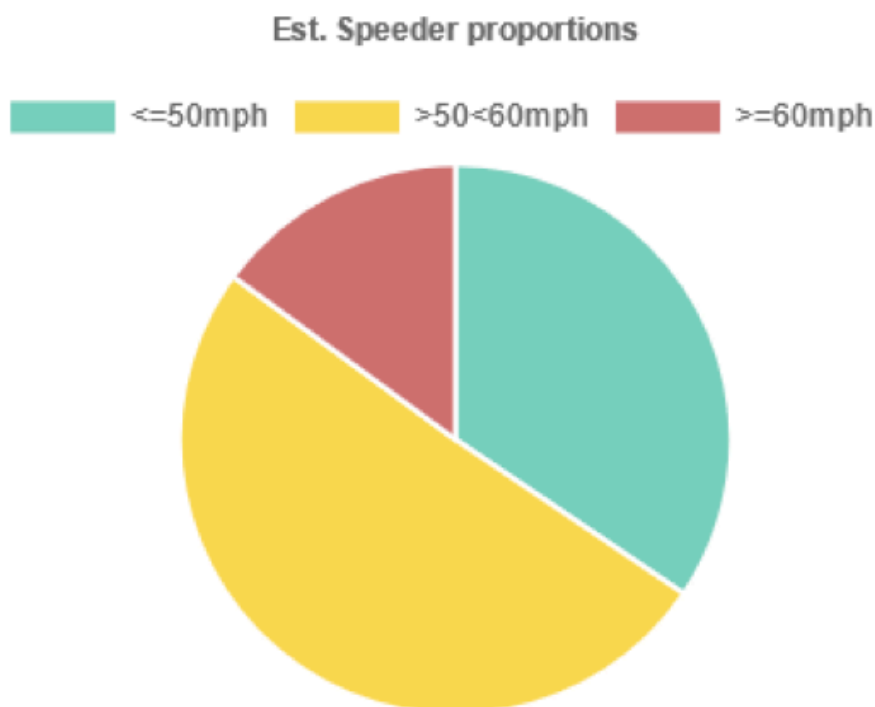
You may recall from previous articles that the Parish Council have secured a type of community monitored speed camera called Autospeedwatch. The camera was free, as a result of a bid that the PC submitted, to a scheme jointly run by Gloucestershire County Council and the Police.

The camera is not continuously monitoring traffic passing through the village, but it is set up to take a photo when vehicles pass by the camera travelling over the speed limit. The camera became fully functional on 16th June 2023.

Information about speeding vehicles, and any recorded as not having Tax and/or MOT, is now being sent on to the Police, and the Police will contact the vehicle owners. In addition, where patterns in speeding are detected, for example if there are particular days when incidents occur, or times of the day, the Police will use that information to decide where to locate their mobile speed cameras.

We thought residents might be interested in some of the data captured so far:

- Traffic travels fastest through the village at 5pm, but the most speeding incidents take place at 3pm.
- The average speed that vehicles travel through the village (in the 50mph zone) is 43.8mph.
- The highest recorded speed on the camera is 69mph (19mph above the speed limit).
- 15% of traffic going past the camera is travelling above 60mph (about 16,620 vehicles since the camera was set up)
- Compared to other areas with this type of camera, traffic adherence to the speed limit is considered to be poor.
- Fewer cars travel at or below the speed limit than those travelling above it (see pie chart below)





Good work 'Thomas' - Cleaning the ditch alongside a property in Minsterworth.

This time of year, Gloucestershire Highways and Highways England have started their grass maintenance schedule. You may have noticed some areas have been trimmed and others left quite long. This is due to the two different authorities owning the land. Hedges are becoming overgrown; however, these won't be trimmed until September following the nesting season of birds.

The Parish Council has received the annual playground inspection. There is maintenance work to be completed and one item has to be removed due to potential safety issues.

The Parish Council Autospeedwatch Camera is now up and running. A report was presented at the PC meeting which displays some statistics. Please see p29 in The Villager for the full report. The Council is working with Gloucestershire Highways on improving road signs for the village. This includes speed restriction along the A48 and pedestrian signs.

Planning Applications

- Minsterworth Court 22/00674/FUL
Repair and replace failed rainwater goods. Install an underground packaged sewage treatment plant. Remove and replace cement renders and failed lime renders with associated paint finishes. Repair and partial re-covering of main building roof. Remove internal partition wall. Remove redundant ventilation stack. Renovate and like-for-like replacement of sash windows. Insert glazed panels in front door. Erect timber tool shed and metal machine stores
- Rosemary Cottage 23/00501/OUT
Outline planning permission for the erection of an infill dwelling and vehicular access, with all matters reserved (revised scheme to previous extant outline permission granted under ref: 20/00046/OUT)
- 5 Elver Close 23/00596/FUL Proposed annexe.

Decisions

- Highbury 23/00458/FUL PERMIT
Erection of detached garage building to front of existing dwelling, western boundary treatments and entrance gates
- Sunnybank 21/01378/PIP PERMIT
Permission in Principle (PIP) for the erection of two residential dwelling.
- Highcross 20/00143/OUT REFUSE
Outline application for the erection of 4 dwellings with all matters reserved except vehicular access.

Appeals/Enforcements

- Hawthorn House Alleged build 22/01264/FUL contrary to approved plans.

The next meeting of the Council takes place Monday 11th September (council does not meet in August) @ 7pm at the Village Hall.

As always, all residents are very welcome to attend.

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

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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