

# The Villager

Minsterworth News



**December 2020**

Price 30p  
Edition 217

Dear readers,

**Happy Christmas!** What a year 2020 has been for us all with the virus! But we have lots to look forward to with the promised COVID vaccination, relaxation of lockdown for Christmas and further developments in our village. Hopefully there is a bench in the park by Christmas and one or two along the riverbank by spring 2021. The old school building is being renovated for community use.

We must apologise to Sarah McHale, for errors in the editorial of her excellent article about Liz Duff, a prominent artist in Minsterworth.

Closing copy date for the January edition and all future editions will be the 10th of the month - **please note new e-mail address below:**

All items for consideration to:-

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager

Tel: 01452 751226

**E-mail: [thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com)**

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

## RECYCLING BINS

Please take care with what goes into your blue bin.

Tewkesbury Borough Council have instructed refuse collectors to leave the whole bin unemptied if there is 'unsuitable' material present. The blue bin must only contain the specific items for recycling, and they should be washed prior to disposal.

We are told that there is a huge cost in sorting out and disposing of unsuitable 'recycling' material, which is why they are having to take these steps.

I suppose if that's the case the approach must be **'if you are not sure, put it in the green bin'**!

## KERBSIDE RECYCLING DECEMBER

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

Tuesday 8

Tuesday 22

**BLUE bin & caddy**  
(recycling)

Tuesday 1

Tuesday 15

Tuesday 29

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

## Antisocial behaviour in Minsterworth

In early November we had **four** reports of eggs being thrown at houses, leaving walls, doors and windows very dirty. One resident wrote - I had eggs hurled at my house window on Halloween night (31st October). The following day when I was going out in my car, I discovered the roof/windscreen/bonnet etc was plastered in what was, by then, dried egg/eggshells. So difficult to remove. I imagine that the eggs hitting my house would have been catapulted....'

There have been other examples of unpleasant antisocial behaviour. In one instance, a person was verbally abused at night and quite frightened.

It is important that all such events are reported and documented, either to the police or google  
Tewkesbury Borough Council reporting antisocial behaviour.  
<https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour>

It is only by keeping a log of such events that we are likely to get resolution.

**Roger Blowey**

**On a much brighter note why not visit Fairview, a local garden centre...**



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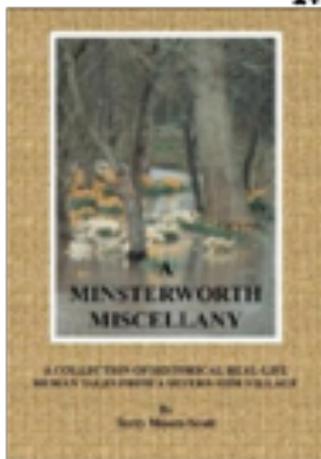


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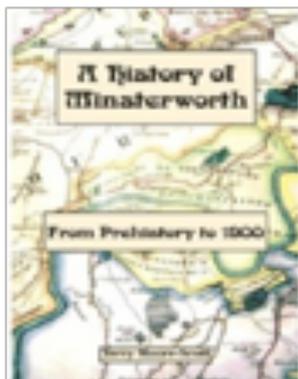
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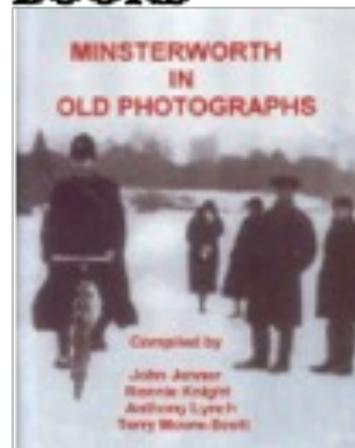
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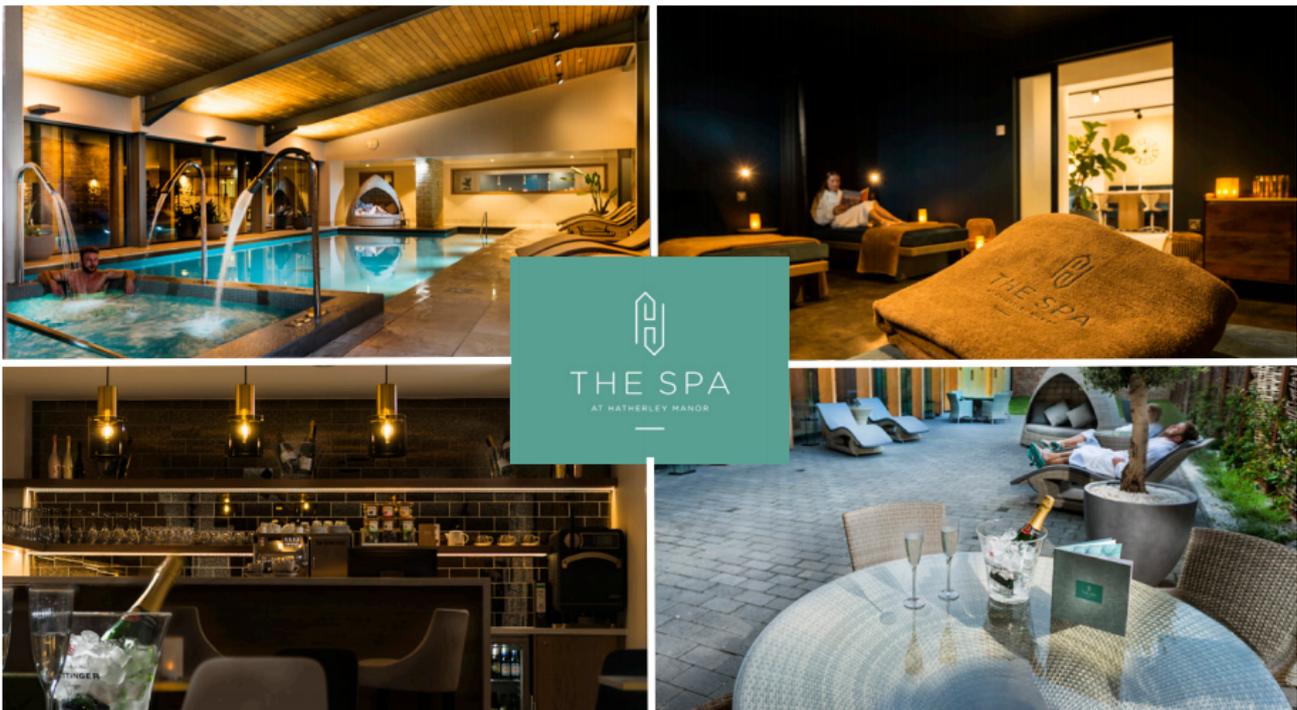
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## Minsterworth Creatives - Christmas in Art

I'm sure the majority of us having read the title of this article will immediately think of various renditions of the Bible story, the Nativity in the stable being the obvious scene we are all familiar with, not to exclude scenes from The Annunciation and the journey of the Magi. However, the most vital and enduring depiction of Christmas has to be that of Mary and the Babe. Artists have, for centuries, produced their various versions of these two figures who underpin our Christian faith. Originally adorning the walls of churches along with other Bible stories as a means of educating the illiterate masses, depictions of 'Our Lady' and the infant Christ are the most symbolic and 'real' figures representing our beliefs. The subject of 'Mother and Child' within both religious and secular art continues to fascinate artists as the most essential and deeply personal depiction of love in its purest form. There are so many works to consider but I've chosen local artist P.J.Crook and her fabulous alter piece at St Michael's and All Angels in Bishop's Cleeve. Do look on [www.pjcrook.com](http://www.pjcrook.com) to see more of her work. 'A Gloucestershire Nativity' is another personal favourite.



Religion and politics are inextricably linked. Banksy's 'Joseph and Mary' reminds us of the physical as well as the political, social and religious divide that sadly remains in 'The Holy Land'. It brings us up sharply to face the divisions our society and world continues to face.





Another subject visited is the landscape in winter. From the snow scenes of the Impressionists to the rural activities captured by Breughel, painting the weather is a challenge as light and tones change. Peter Doig's 'Blotter' is a more contemporary work but one we can all recognise – a walk on an icy day sloshing through the snowmelt in wellies. Doesn't matter how old we are does it? The scene could almost be our Minsterworth lanes.

And finally, a lovely example of digital art for all ages to enjoy. Google 'Digital Christmas' and follow the link to You Tube.

**Sarah McHale**

## **Gardening by the Severn - Deck our halls with boughs of Holly....**

The tradition of bringing the outside in for Christmas dates back to Roman and Pagan times. Holly and Ivy were originally used in pre-Christian days to help celebrate the winter solstice festival. They believed decorating their homes with evergreen plants would ward off evil spirits and ensure life/growth would return again in spring.

Rather than buying decorations this year, why not forage greenery, berries and seed heads from your garden? Most gardens in Minsterworth have mistletoe growing on an apple or willow tree. This year there is a glut of berries on the holly trees, but so often the berries get eaten by the birds before Christmas. Top tip: cut your holly as early as October, place holly into a bucket of water and store in the garage until Christmas. You don't have to just use holly and ivy; variegated shrubs have stunning foliage, mix with rosemary and eucalyptus for a wonderfully fragrant display. Drape greenery along your fireplace or dining room table, add candles and fruit for a truly festive display.

Last year I adorned The Naight fireplace with garlands of dried hydrangeas and tea lights. I cut the hydrangea in September; they were already partially dry on the shrub. I removed all leaves from the stems and put them into buckets with only an inch or two of water. Placed them in a cool area away from direct sunlight, where the flower heads slowly dried out. For some festive sparkle I added a bit of glitter with PVA glue.

Dried flowers, fir cones and seed-heads can make beautiful decorations. Spraying with gold/silver spray adds Christmas sparkle. Alliums and Honesty look very attractive in festive flower arrangements. Dried poppy seed heads make beautiful tree decorations; I string them together with



needle, thread, beads and a sprinkling of glitter. These can then be hung on the Christmas tree along with dried hydrangeas and baubles. Dried chilli peppers from your greenhouse can be strung with dried apple, pear or orange slices to make a garland. Slice your fruit thinly and place on a baking tray, set oven at 140c/120c fan/gas bake for 45mins - 1hr.

For an added splash of colour to your gathered greenery, a trip to a garden centre or supermarket is in order. Poinsettias and Amaryllis, which come in a variety of colours, have become traditional for Christmas. Heathers, Cyclamen and Christmas roses look beautiful planted up in old china bowls or jelly moulds covered with moss. Antique or charity shops are great places to find interesting receptacles. When they have finished flowering you can plant them outside for next year.

Have a look around your garden you may be surprised by the amount of potential Christmas decorations you have.

**Marie-Clare Mawle**

## **Fish and Chips at the Village Hall**

Another very successful fish and chip evening was held on Thursday 12th November. The food is good and the social chat in the queue is almost worth a visit in itself! Please put a note in your diary for the next visit on

### **Thursday 10th December**

Serving from 5-00pm to 8-00pm. Its gluten free and extremely good!  
See [www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk](http://www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk) from Newent for prices and menu  
Please park in the inside car park so that we minimise the risk of mixing cars and pedestrians, and please maintain social distancing.

Minsterworth Village Hall

## **Riddle:**

Only one colour, but not one size,  
Stuck at the bottom, yet easily flies.  
Present in sun, but not in rain,  
Doing no harm and feeling no pain.  
What is it?

**Answer on p20**

P.S. Did you spot the parrot on the front cover?

## Public Consultation on the new hospital in the Forest of Dean

A Consultation inviting the public to comment on the proposals for the new community hospital in the Forest of Dean was launched on Thursday 22 October.

Planning for the hospital is now at a stage where the proposals for the inpatient unit, outpatient services, urgent care, diagnostic services and other facilities on site are being discussed with the local community. The site for the hospital, which will be built and operated by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, is the Lower High Street Playing Field in Steam Mills Road, Cinderford. This was announced in December 2019 following an initial round of consultations.

Paul Roberts, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: “We want to provide a modern, purpose built hospital which will deliver high quality care in the Forest of Dean now and for many years to come and that means we have to make decisions on design, the layout and services which will be included, and we believe it is vital that the people who will use the new hospital have a voice in this process.”

Proposals being put to the public are for a 24-bed inpatient unit, urgent care facility, x-ray, ultrasound and endoscopy, and a range of consultation and treatment rooms for outpatient appointments. Experiences of providing care throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will also influence the final design, to minimise the risk of infections spreading and to allow for social distancing between staff and patients.

The public consultation will run for eight weeks until Thursday 17 December. The consultation materials and survey to provide feedback are available online at [www.fodhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.fodhealth.nhs.uk)

Written booklets can be requested by sending an email to: [glccg.participation@nhs.net](mailto:glccg.participation@nhs.net) or by leaving a message on the Freephone number: 0800 0151 548

**Ruth Thomas**



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APPOINTMENT

"Hedgehogs - why can't they just share the hedge?" Dan Antolpolski

## Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch



The Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch initiative was initially planned for launch in April 2020 but sadly was postponed until late June due to lockdown restrictions. When the rules were relaxed and it was deemed safe to start delivering packs, our merry band started working our way around the village whilst observing social distancing rules.

Calling on individual households resulted in 70 properties signing up to the scheme. It was however quite an eventful start as the launch coincided with a spate of rural burglaries and antisocial behaviour.

I hope that by now everyone has received their welcome pack but if you have not, or wish to join the scheme, please do contact me via email: [64Lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64Lettie@gmail.com).

I would like to thank the following people who have helped launch this initiative; Roger Blowey, Nigel Garbutt, Carole Hamlin, Sharon Ingham and Caroline Walker. With their cheerful assistance we were able to cover the whole village very quickly.

Please note that from January 2021 I will be handing over the Key Coordinator role to **Ruth Thomas**. Many thanks to Ruth for agreeing to take over this role. Further information, including contact details, will be included in the January edition of The Villager and also distributed via email. I am sure you will join me in wishing Ruth every success and I am confident she will receive much support from our village as she takes the initiative forward.

**May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021.**

Kind regards,

**Arlette Lane** 😊

[64Lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64Lettie@gmail.com)

### ***Alerts and incidents:***

A contact list has been created to ensure people are alerted about incidents in a timely manner but please remember....

Please report any suspicious activity or incidents of burglary to the police as the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators are unable to report on your behalf.

Incidents can be reported in the following ways:

-Directly to the police - **call 101**.

-Alternatively, you can pass the information by completing the online form:

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/contact-us-to-discuss-something-else/>

-The form can also be found on their website <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk>

- You can also ring Crime Stoppers anonymously on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111)



## Exciting News

for the residents of Minsterworth Village and the surrounding areas

**We are delighted to inform you that we are able to move forward with the establishment of a local Community and Education Centre in Minsterworth.**

The Centre to be created is named The Harvey Centre, in honour of the local Minsterworth poet Frederick William Harvey (1888 - 1957).

The Centre will provide a hub for a range of activities for adults, children and young people. We are particularly excited about the possibility of setting up a Café where people can meet, have a cup of coffee, and participate in the many leisure, social, well-being and educational activities organised at the Centre. The activities from the Centre will complement, and not duplicate, the activities organised by our very successful Minsterworth Village Hall.

The Board of trustees of the Minsterworth Free School Foundation (MFSF) charity have been working with the Gloucester Diocese Board of Education and the Charity Commission to resolve issues over the ownership of the school and the land on which it stands. It is now clear the assets are held by the trustees, for the benefit of the community of Minsterworth Village.

In order to be able to use the former school for a wider range of purposes, in addition to educational provision, the Charity Commission has to agree to what is known as a **Cy-pres** scheme. This requires the Board to update the **charitable objects** for MFSF, and to set out clearly the **governance structure for the charity**.

Following much discussion by trustees, and through advice from the Charity Commission on appropriate wording to be used, the Board of trustees has agreed the charitable objects set out below. These objects will determine the activities to be offered from The Harvey Centre:

1. To provide a facility to help children and young people living in area of benefit by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities and promoting their spiritual well-being to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals; and
2. To advance education and to provide recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need

Continued on p13

by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

3. The land described in part 1 of the schedule to this scheme must be retained for the objects of the charity.

The Board of Trustees are required to consult with stakeholders on the charitable objects and the Cy-pres scheme. We are asking residents to provide respond to 6 questions:

1. *Are the revised charitable objects appropriate in meeting the needs of the community in Minsterworth*
2. *Are you happy for the Board of Trustees to progress with the Cy-pres scheme to ensure that the school premises and land remain with the Minsterworth community to be used for charitable purposes, as set out in the revised objects?*
3. *Will the establishment of a local Centre enhance opportunities for community engagement and participation?*
4. *Will the establishment of a local Centre enhance opportunities for education and learning for children, young people and adults in Minsterworth and surrounding areas?*
5. *Do you have any concerns or worries about the establishment of the Centre?*
6. *Do have any suggestions for what should be available from the Centre that specifically meets your needs or interests?*

We would be most grateful if could you **complete the consultation form that is included in this magazine**, and return it to Ian Brooks by posting the completed form in the box provided on the bench at the back of St Peter's Church, or hand the completed form to one of the trustees. **Please** could you return the form by the **15<sup>th</sup> December** at the very latest.

If you prefer to complete the questionnaire on line, please copy this link into your browser

<https://tinyurl.com/VillagerConsultation>

Meanwhile, the trustees hope that you are pleased to hear about this fantastic development in Minsterworth.

### **Board of Trustees - Minsterworth Free School Foundation (The Harvey Centre)**

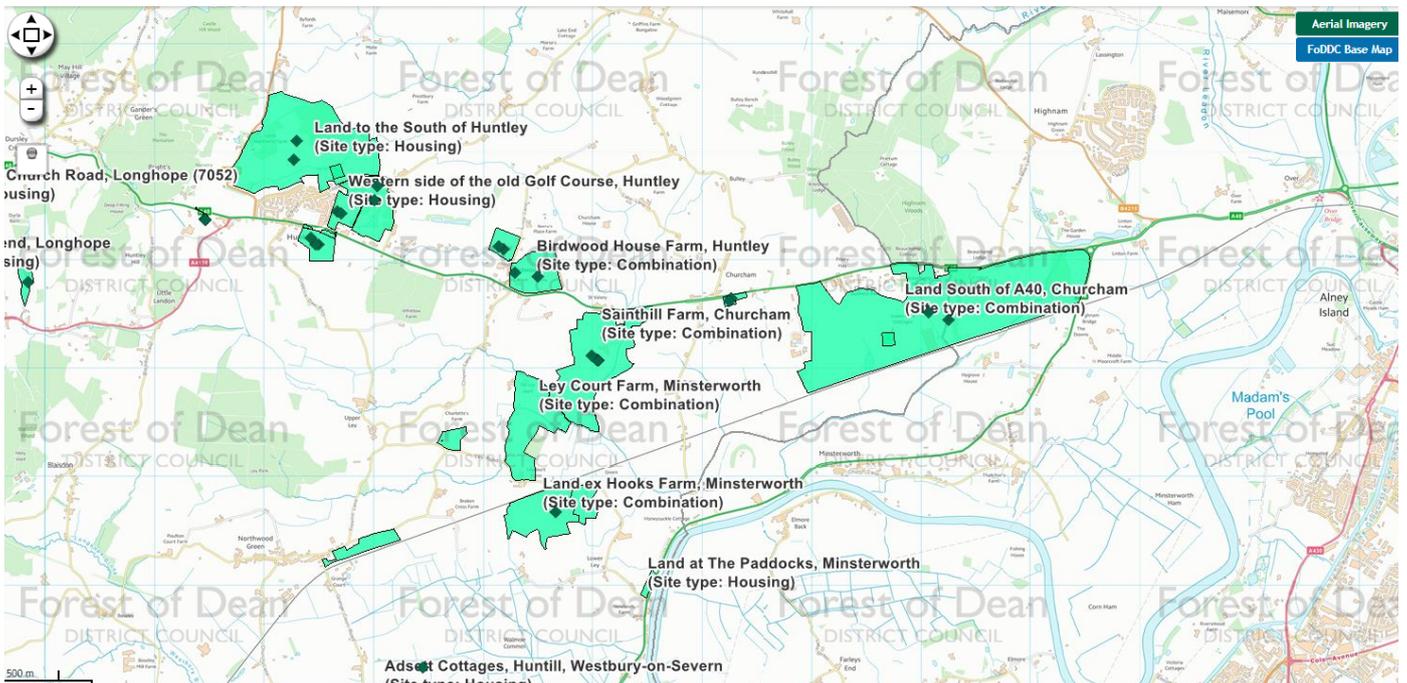
• <i>Farzana Aldridge – Chair of Board of Trustees</i>	• <i>Rev Steve Taylor</i>
• <i>Roger Ingham – Vice Chair</i>	• <i>Rita Garbutt</i>
• <i>Anne Cowdrey</i>	• <i>Ian Brooks</i>
• <i>Jo Stait</i>	• <i>Louise Treutlein</i>

## The Churcham Houses Development

I am not a planning expert, but as far as I am aware, the following is correct. The initial concept comes from an ORS study for the whole of Gloucestershire which forecasted a need of an additional 280 houses per year in the Forest of Dean (FoD) over the next few years. As the FoD is planning up to the year 2041, that's at least  $21 \times 280 = 5880$  houses needed as a minimum. If you accept that a 40% uplift may be required, the figure comes to over 8,000 extra houses. So it is very reasonable to try to forward plan where they should be sited.

The current map of suggested sites can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/ChurchamDevelopment>

A section of the map is copied below.



It can be seen that the largest development, for 2000 houses initially, is suggested in an area running from the Highnam roundabout along the A40 to west of Churcham garage. The southern boundary would be the railway line, so none of this is in Minsterworth. The land from the roundabout to Beauchamp House is in Highnam, which is part of Tewkesbury Borough. There is also a significant increase in size proposed for Huntley.

If there is truly a need for around 6000 additional houses up to 2046, then there are several factors to consider.

1. There are enough brown field sites to accommodate a proportion of the extra houses, and this would then reduce the need to use prime agricultural land. However, as brown field sites are apparently considerably more expensive to develop, one option is that we all pay more tax to fund brown field site clearance, making them economically viable. Environmentally it must be the right thing to keep as much green field as possible.

2. The smaller farms that have been identified as potential sites are all County Council owned and rented. It would be a pity if these 'starter farms' were no longer available to those wishing to enter agriculture.
3. There has been a discussion as to whether it is better to spread the houses all over the FoD, significantly increasing the size of each existing village, or is it better to have at least some housing in a single large development? The advantage of the latter is that it MIGHT fund some of the infrastructure that would be needed to go with the increased traffic, for example a dual carriageway from Over to Longford, or even better a new road from Highnam or Over to join the M5 at junction 12 (Hardwicke). There would also need to be provision for additional schools, health services, leisure and local employment.
4. A large development along the A40 might be the impetus for the installation of mains sewage in the area. On the other hand, it would result in increased water running into the Severn, probably near to Over, and thus increase the risk of flooding in Minsterworth.
5. One option would be to concurrently fund industrial, employment and leisure site development within the FoD, thereby reducing the need for those living in the area to travel to Gloucester every day? This could be partly County Council funded so that again we all have to pay our share.
6. There is one thing that I suspect that we can all agree on, and that is that having a large development without any improvement to our already crowded road network is not an option. This is agreed, but there are currently no plans for any such projects, the view being that until it has been established where all of the houses are going to be sited, what is the point in looking at new road networks. But maybe post COVID far more of us will be working from home in the future anyway. Interesting times!

**Roger Blowey**

**Tony Pearson, RIP Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Our thoughts are with Anne, Nigel and Richard, who wish to thank everyone for the support and offers of help that they have received.**

# M.B

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## A very easy recipe for Christmas from someone who never uses recipes!!!



© Can Stock Photo - csp0243786

Being of Asian heritage, I was taught cooking by looking and tasting rather than weighing and following instructions. Whilst people say that food that I cook tastes good, I know that the dishes I make more than once are never exactly the same. So when I was invited to put forward a Christmas recipe, I was in a bit of a panic. I provide a very simple recipe for a pudding, which never goes wrong, but I do recommend you adjust to taste!!! **Farzana Aldridge**

### Lemon and Raspberry Trifle

#### Ingredients

Half of a loaf style Madera cake, or half of an 8 inch round home made plain vanilla sponge  
2 heaped tbsp of strong lemon curd  
2 tbsp of Limoncello Liqueur  
Lemon zest and juice from half a lemon  
250 g of mascarpone cheese  
400 g of custard  
250 ml of whipping cream  
300 g of fresh or frozen raspberries  
2 tbsp of finely chopped almond and pistachio nuts



#### Preparation

Cut the cake into thin slices and spread with lemon curd making small sandwiches. Place in glass bowl. Drizzle the cake with the Limoncello and lemon juice and zest.  
Scatter most of the raspberries onto the base of cake.  
Whip the custard and mascarpone together and spread over the raspberries.  
Whisk the cream till it forms soft peaks and spread over the custard and mascarpone mixture.  
Sprinkle the nuts with the saved raspberries and **enjoy!**

#### HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

**The Parish Council website** - agenda, minutes, councillors etc

<https://minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk/>

**The Village Hall website** - [www.minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://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

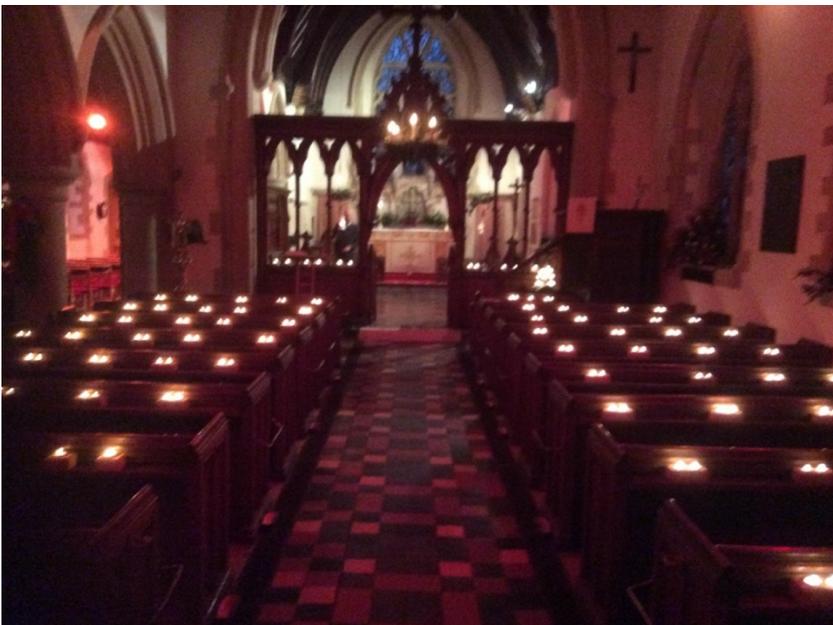
**Minsterworth Matters App**- join by texting Roger Ingham, 07525330364 immediate village interests

## HISTORICAL SNIPPETS AROUND MINSTERWORTH

I am sometimes asked “What is the oldest standing building in the village?” In many rural villages like ours the oldest building is invariably the ancient parish church but, in our case, this can't quite be said. The lovely parish church of St Peter which we see today dates from the latter part of the 1800s but its history goes back a great deal further in time.

We know that in the 1200s there was a small chapel here dependent on a mother church in Westbury and the list of incumbents at Minsterworth starts in 1261. By 1304 however it was established as a parish church in its own right and that medieval church served as the place of Christian worship in the village for over 500 years. The passage of time was not however without its misfortunes. For example, we know that in 1702 lightning struck the tower destroying its wooden steeple and causing the five bells in the tower to melt. River flooding was a persistent problem too: the old church suffered especially bad flooding in 1770 and again in 1852 (when, according to church records, the parish clerk went up the nave aisle in a boat!).

What do we know about this original medieval church? We know that it comprised a nave and chancel, each with north aisles, an oblong-shaped tower (not square as today) at the west end, and north and south porches. In the aisle to the north of the chancel was a small chantry chapel (where a priest would have been paid to sing masses and pray for the souls of the deceased). We know from old records that there were ancient memorials on the walls and many flat memorial stones on the floors of both the chancel and nave. We are also told that, when observed in 1849, the external walls of the church were coloured yellow!



A past candle-lit Christmas at St Peter's Church, Minsterworth

By the mid 1800s it was clear that repeated flooding, damp and decay had rendered this ancient building no longer viable and beyond repair and a decision was made to pull it down and build a new church on the foundations of the old church, following the same basic plan but set four feet higher to avoid flooding. Construction started in the late 1860s and the new church (which cost the local community all of £3,037.4s.1d) was finally consecrated in 1870. At the time a decision was made to incorporate some features from the old church such as the Jacobean (17th

century) wooden pulpit, the finely carved stone font, the linen-fold pew ends and a few of the wall memorial stones, all of which are still there to see.

So is the church the village's oldest building? Strictly speaking 'no' but I would just point out that below the present building almost certainly are the structural remains of the old church,

Continued from p18

including very possibly the old floor and those very early slab memorials. But I like to think further on this. At a time of worry and uncertainty like the present and with thoughts turning to what might be a strange Christmas for us all, we should take comfort from the fact that our church, which has been woven into the fabric of the village for so long, is still with us. Through plagues, religious upheavals, civil wars, economic and natural disasters and world wars, for approaching 800 years, Christmas has been joyfully celebrated in the church and will still be.

**Terry Moore-Scott**

## **St. Peter's Minsterworth**

During the month of November we were unable to hold services at St. Peter's, but our lovely church was open daily for private prayer and contemplation. Folk could enter and sit a while in the peace and tranquillity of the building and just be! An act of remembrance took place in the churchyard on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, led by the Rev. Steve Taylor. There were poppies too on the church steps.

This was to be Steve's last month of leading worship, prior to his retirement at the end of November. Sadly there were no regular services, due to Covid restrictions, but some of us did meet via Zoom!

We are now in the time of Advent, looking forward to Christmas. Things are different this year, we may have a carol and Christingle service at St. Peter's, this is yet to be decided. Maybe the children in your family would like to make a Christingle at home, then they would be all ready for our time of celebration. Go to [www.christingle.org.uk](http://www.christingle.org.uk) for instructions.

If you are feeling a little down or would like to pray for our country and are not sure what to pray, why not phone the Church of England's 'Daily Hope' number for reflections, a word of encouragement, hymns and a guided chair exercise!! (Freephone 0800 804 8044).

**Annie Cowdrey**





## Minsterworth District Royal British Legion



With all Covid-19 regulations exercised we were thankfully able to hold the Remembrance Service on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>. As indicated previously the Service was held outside. Wreaths were laid at the memorial on behalf of the Royal British Legion Minsterworth and the Parish Council. As always the Service was superbly led by our vicar Reverend Steve Taylor.

Terry Bourne  
President

Minsterworth District R.B.L.

### Military History

Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	1914	Battle of the Falklands
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	1941	HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse sunk
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	1962	Raid on Limbang
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	1939	Battle of the River Plate
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup>	1943	Scharnhorst sunk

Answer to riddle on p8

**A shadow**

### **MINSTERWORTH 200 CLUB**

The winners for the November draw were as follows:-

£50 number 144 Sue Barnett  
£20 number 25 Sue Marshall  
£10 number 29 Julie Fisher

### **CHURCH FLOWER ROTA for DECEMBER**

6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> No flowers (Advent)  
25<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Pat Haisell-Neves



## 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](http://www.Minsterworthvillagehall.org)

## Thank You!



What a different and challenging year this has been and is still being. And not one that is going to disappear overnight, I fear.

In respect of the different lives we are all living at the moment I took the decision not to invite you take part in the **Shoebox appeal**. I felt families had more than enough to contend with – I hope that was the right call to make.

However, I have been humbled and amazed that you have remembered and contacted me or your neighbour to ask if we were going ahead and to say that you would like to take part again. Westbury on Severn CofE school also said that they would like to be involved again as usual. And between you I have sent off an incredible 92 boxes!! They will leave the UK by lorry towards the end of November, arriving 4-5 days later; being received by the poorest children and adults in Romania, Belarus and Moldova.

Once again, your **incredible acts of thoughtfulness and kindness** have ensured families' Christmases will be brightened. It has been said that the 'kindest thing one can do is to do something for someone you will never meet' and you have certainly proved that point!

**A huge Thank You from Eastern Europe and from both Jayne and myself.**

**Elaine Incher**

## WREATH MAKING EVENING – by Julie Fisher

For the last four years a group of ladies have met in Minsterworth Village Hall during the first week of December to make their Christmas door wreaths. Sadly, Covid 19 restrictions prevent us from doing that this year and I shall greatly miss guiding and helping with your door wreaths. But no excuses ladies, here are a few hints and tips to enable you to make this year's wreath:

The ring base may be purchased from any of Hobbycraft, The Range, some Garden Centres, and Cathedral Flowers.

Ideal foliage to use: Small pieces of conifer/Leylandii (bushy pieces are best. It takes a lot of sparse flimsy pieces to fill a wreath). Ivy leaves and sprays of ivy (small to medium size leaves up to about 2" diameter). Pittosporum, Euonymus, Box/Privet, Skimmia (flower and berry varieties), Hebe.

Decorations: Sprays of berries e.g. Pyracantha, Hypericum. Fir cones, dried Poppy heads, baubles (small or medium). Ribbon (ribbon edged with wire is easiest to work with when making a bow). Artificial flowers/berries/fruit.

Basic instructions:

1. Take a length of wire about 24" long, overlap the ends and twist to make an oval shape. Place under the ring and take the bottom part of the loop over the top of the foam ring and push it under the top part of the loop. Pull tight so that the wire goes through the foam leaving a loop at the top to hang the wreath. Alternatively, make a hanging loop with ribbon.
2. Soak the ring by gently placing it on the water and let it absorb the water, it will take about 30 seconds. Do NOT push the ring under or into the water.
3. First line the inside of the ring with Ivy leaves. Cut the stem about ½" to ¾" long and slide diagonally into the foam, slightly overlapping each leaf. Use mossing pins or pearl headed pins to anchor the leaf so that they remain flat and in place. You can use other foliage to do this.
4. Cut pieces of foliage about 3" to 4" in length. Strip the bottom inch of any foliage so that you have a bare stem. Insert into the foam either in groups or scattered. If you take a piece of foliage out of the foam, do not put it back into the same hole as it will be sat in air and not in water.
5. Cover the sides and top with foliage ensuring you have an even covering in height. Periodically place your wreath on the floor to check you have maintained an even round shape.
6. Decorate as you wish

### Competition – open to Minsterworth residents only

Email a photograph of your Christmas door wreath to me at [Julie dawn fisher@hotmail.com](mailto:Julie_dawn_fisher@hotmail.com) by 10th December together with your name, address and telephone number. I will choose my favourite wreath and deliver a bottle of wine to your door. The wreath must be your own work.

I should like to thank all the ladies for supporting the wreath making evenings held in aid of Minsterworth Village Hall and St Peters Church. I am sure we will be able to get together again for Christmas 2021 but until then I wish you a very happy Christmas and to stay safe and well.

**Julie Fisher**



## Garden Services

Lawn mowing

Strimming

Chainsawing

Hedge cutting & reduction

Tree pruning

General maintenance

For further information contact Ash:

**07812 077367**

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"Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom."  
Queen Elizabeth II

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

I'm not a very muscular man; the strongest thing about me is my password - Rory O'Keeffe

A Spa hotel? It's like a normal hotel only in Reception there's a picture of a pebble - Rhod Gilbert

What's Postman Pat called on his day off?  
Pat - Aisling Bea

'Son, I don't think you're cut out to be a mime'  
'Was it something I said?' asks the son  
'Yes' - Damian Slash

## A message to all Minsterworth children up to the age of 16 yrs



The Villager, Minsterworth's monthly magazine, would like you to write or draw your New Year resolutions to share in January 2021's edition.

- **Is there something you'd like to learn to do or do better?**
- **Is there a place you'd like to visit?**
- **Is there someone you'd like to help?**
- **Is there a bad habit you'd like to stop?**



Please complete your resolutions on ½ A4 paper. It can be word processed, handwritten, drawn in felt tips, include photographs. We will scan your work and resize to fit. It's up to you what it looks like (under 6's can have some help).

Please include your name and date of birth. All contributions will need to be with the Editor by Dec 8<sup>th</sup> to go off to the printers in good time for the January 2021 edition.

Entries can be put through the letterbox of Street End Cottage, The Street, Minsterworth or emailed to [mrssharoningham@gmail.com](mailto:mrssharoningham@gmail.com)

R. Rest enough at night
E. Eat breakfast
S. Set alarm
O. Organize binders
L. Look out for quizzes
U. Use the teacher's advice
T. Take good notes
I. Initiate conversations
O. Open emails
N. Never forget homework

## *Festive stroll*

Get some fresh air on a festive stroll this Christmas, from your home to Ham Green. Take your time to look out for features you may not have noticed before along the lanes in Minsterworth, such as how many weathervanes, black and white houses and types of chimney tops are there in the village? Can you spot the decorative woodpecker or pigs bottom! It's a lovely simple walk along Church lane to the T-junction where you go right onto Pound Land, (some maps call it Watery Lane) then continue on bearing left to a gate and stile. The triangle of land ahead of you is Ham Green.



The map shows you how to follow Pound Lane all the way round to Ham Green, Parish Council land.

**To add some extra interest for the children there are 10 Christmas decorations along the way. These will go up on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Will you find them all?**

Happy Christmas from **Sharon Ingham**



## Christmas Word Puzzle

Can you find:

Baubles, Christmas Tree, Family, Nativity, Present, Boxing Day, Crackers, Father Christmas, New Years Eve, Snowflake, Celebrate, Decorations, Mulled wine, Pigs in blankets, Turkey?

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

Katie Panting

## Drink up! – Dec 2020 by Simon Ruffley



Unsurprisingly there has been an increase in supermarket and independent wine merchant wine sales during this topsy-turvy year. Thinking that this may be something also happening in Minsterworth I have been encouraged to share some ideas for the Village in the inaugural Wine Column... What a challenge. Our individual tastes and likes being different all I would encourage those who enjoy a glass of wine is to perhaps try something a little different to your usual choice. Looking forward to

Christmas I'll share some wines that will likely be poured in the Ruffleys' glasses this season. We all like to find something to celebrate so I'm going to stick to mainly sparkling wines on this occasion so here goes:

1. **Prosecco – Aldi – £13.99 (Magnum 150cl)** - Costellore Prosecco Magnum DOC – made from the Glera grape in North East Italy it has become the world's widely consumed sparkling wine of choice.
2. **Prosecco Valdobbiadene DOCG (T) – Sainsbury – £10.00 (Offer £8.00)** – Sainsbury's Conegliano Prosecco, Taste the Difference – the Valdobbiadene area is the best place for making Prosecco with its premium wine rating – can you notice the difference – maybe a fuller, longer tasting wine?
3. **Pignoletto (T) – Tesco Finest – £8.50 (Offer 7.00)** – the Pignoletto grape is grown in the foodie area of Emilia-Romagna region in northern Italy and is worth a try.
4. **Cremant de Bourgogne/Loire/Jura/Limoux (T) – M&S Classics No.12 Cremant de Bourgogne – £10.00** – the Cremants use the same winemaking process as Champagne, sometimes with the same grape varieties but in this case with Pinot Noir, Aligote, Gamay and Chardonnay. Don't be afraid to try a Cremant they tend to be very good.
5. **Cotswold Classic 2017 (T) – Woodchester Valley (Stroud) – £19.99** – for something a little more different and special try an award-winning UK sparkling wine. Worthy of a trip to the vineyard.
6. **Ice Wine (T) – Pilliteri (Canada) – Lidl – £13.99**– these wines are always a bit special and generally quite expensive so this is a treat and I would certainly enjoy with some Panettoni or the odd mince pie or whilst relaxing in a hot sud-laden bath (hot tub optional) ☺.  
Warning: This is a sweet wine!

**(T)** – tasted

I hope you have enjoyed this column. If you get to try any of the above and/or have some thoughts as to what to include next time (2 months' time) send your comments to Paula at paularuffley@gmail.com.

## BABY BOBBLE HATS FOR SALE

Cosy hand-knitted bobble hats for babies up to six months  
Perfect for your little one for the cold weather



I started knitting these bobble hats in the first lockdown for my two nieces who have small babies and I have carried on knitting in my spare time. If you would like to buy a bobble hat please get in touch with me either by email [joy@minsterworth.co](mailto:joy@minsterworth.co) or by text 07590 727105.

We live just opposite M B Holder on Main Road, so hats can easily be collected from the front door. I have some other balls of wool so other hats will be available in the next few weeks. I use an ostrich egg from Over Farm shop to display the hats, it's the perfect size!

Each hat is £8. If you would like your hat posted the cost for P&P is £3.50.

**Joy Taylor**

My husband designs and makes a range of silver, bronze and copper jewellery and has a selection of pieces for sale and will make pieces to your own design. If you would like to see his jewellery please email [gordon@minsterworth.co](mailto:gordon@minsterworth.co) or by text 07786 446334.