

The Villager

Minsterworth News



December 2023

Edition 252

Dear readers,

Many thanks to your November editor Dawn for a great job.

Back from a brilliant trip to Georgia (the country) visiting their wine estates and tourist sites and yes, much wine was drunk and yes, it was delicious. Georgia, firmly on the Silk Road, is a melting pot of religions and cultures and has many reasons to loathe Russia, its grasping neighbour. I've got the travel bug now though...

Wishing you a lovely festive season, have fun and come back restored to a delightful and inspiring 2024!



All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager E-mail:

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thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com

Deadline is ALWAYS 10th of the month before the magazine is published, so for January it's Sunday 10th December.

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING December 2023

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy		BLUE bin & caddy	
(landfill)	(garden)	(recycling)	
Tuesday	5	Tuesday	12
Tuesday	19	Wednesday	27

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.

MINSTERWORTH CHRISTMAS TREE FARM



All sizes of trees available, from 3ft to 20ft

Free delivery on all trees; available **NOW!!!**

The Coach House, Minsterworth, GL2 8JG, from 8am to 7pm

or phone Luke on 07786 612290

(Minsterworth is grateful for trees donated to the Church, Village Hall and Harvey Centre)

VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

A vacancy remains on Minsterworth Parish Council.

Take this opportunity to influence what happens in our Village.

Please apply to Jo, PC clerk at clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk for further details, or speak to an existing PC member if you would like more information on what is involved

“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.”

J.R.R Tolkien



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Holly - The festival hedge that looks good all year round

Sharon Ingham



Holly plants are grown all over the world and used to decorate homes in winter months, and especially at Christmas time.

If you want your holly to have lots of berries, please read on...

All holly species are dioecious, meaning that you will need to plant both male and female bushes/trees if you want to see berries growing in your garden. Only female hollies bear berries. Male holly plants bear none. So, it is best to have one male holly and several female holly bushes/trees to get berries on the female hollies.



In the spring both male and female holly bushes/trees bear flowers. These are small, white and have four petals. To have lots of berries on your female plants you will need bees or other pollinators in your garden.

- You can tell the difference between male and female flowers by looking at the spring blooms. Male blooms have extended pollen-laden anthers.
- The female holly flowers feature a stigma to receive the pollen from the male and a swollen base or bump that contains the eggs. Once pollinated, these bumps will become berries

Holly trees tend to start producing berries in their fourth or fifth year.



English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*): It has dense, glossy, prickly leaves and produces bright red berries. It makes a perfect hedge with protection for wildlife, including birds. Birds love the holly berries which are a valuable source of nutrition for them. Generally, we think of robins eating holly berries but they are enjoyed in the UK by other birds too, such as blackbirds, fieldfares, redwings and thrushes.

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Continued from p5

In England we also commonly grow Golden King Holly (*Ilex x altaclerensis*) This is a good choice as it has an attractive variegated foliage.



Holly is very attractive and frequently used by florists.



It can be pruned and shaped once or twice in a year. According to the Royal Horticultural Society, the best time to prune holly is in late winter or early spring, before new growth appears. This timing allows the plant to recover from pruning before the next growing season.

“Christmas always rustled. It rustled every time, mysteriously, with silver and gold paper and rich abundance of shiny paper decorating and hiding everything and giving a feeling of reckless extravagance.”

Tove Jansson



Hot Chocolate

*Some like it
Spicy & Hot*

Ingredients



400 ml milk

3 / 4 teaspoon of ground cinnamon

1 / 8 teaspoon of cayenne pepper

2 1/2 tablespoons of brown sugar

Tiny pinch of nutmeg

Tiny pinch of salt

50g of dark chocolate or coco powder

100 ml gin (optional)

What to do

*Bring the first six ingredients together in a
saucepan and warm, stirring all the time.*

Add the chocolate or powder and whisk

Add the gin and stir

Contributed by Sharon Ingham

Serve in mugs or glass tumblers - Enjoy

A Glorious Christmas

with The Tan House Singers

Featuring Antonio Vivaldi's

Gloria

Seasonal Music by a Variety of Composers
& Carols for All

**Saturday, December 2nd 2023
at 7.00 pm**

**Holy Innocents' Church, Highnam
GL2 8DG**

Tickets

Adults **£15.00** Under 16s **£8.00**

Available from 01594 516207,

Choir Members and on the door

Website: tanhousesingers.org/concerts

Bar available



Music Director - Lee Wiltamuth

Collaborative Pianist - Tim Dexter

Accompanied by Guest Instrumentalists

Borough Councillor Jill Smith gave the Parish Council (PC) an update of developments at Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC). The Joint Core Strategy, the 'plan' that guides development and other important issues, is to be replaced by the SLP, a Strategic and Local Plan that combines the interests of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury. Until the new SLP has been ratified, TBC are no longer going to challenge planning decisions that are taken to appeal. For Highnam, this means that their Parish Council will have to mount their own objection to the proposed expansion of the housing development and business park. Minsterworth has an interest in this, because water from the expanded business park will run into Highnam Court ponds, and then under the A40 and into Manor Ditch, which subsequently flows into Minsterworth. The concerns of Minsterworth PC is that this will increase the risk of flooding of the A40 just before the Newent junction traffic lights, and also increase the risk of flooding within Minsterworth itself. Our written concerns have been sent to Highnam PC who will use our document to raise the issue at the appeal.

Planning Applications

1. 23/00259/FUL. Land adjacent to The Redlands. The PC objected to this application because it is outside of our settlement boundary, rain water would run into Watery lane (which already floods badly), foul water would be pumped to a drainage mound, and we have no evidence that these systems work, and finally we consider that we already have enough new houses planned for Minsterworth
2. 23/00923/CLE, hobby room at Elver Close. As this building has already been erected, the PC considers that a retrospective application should have been submitted.
3. 23/00909/LBC – retrospective application for replacement doors and windows in the porches at Street End Cottage. As the porches were a relatively recent addition and not part of the original building, the PC supported this application
4. 23/00864/PIP – application for an additional house at The Hawthorns site. The PC objected because this is not in the settlement boundary, water would run into Watery Lane, no mains sewage, and the new driveway exiting onto the A48 appears to be too narrow for two vehicles.

Improving A48 Road Safety

Cllr Ruth Thomas gave an update on the PC speed camera. Letters are sent from the police to offending drivers. Since we started gathering information on 16th June 2023, we have recorded 150 going above 60 mph. Of these 7 have had no Tax and or MOT. The highest recorded speed was 69mph. 6 cars are recorded as repeat offenders, one on 3 occasions, and 2 on two. Unfortunately, the camera is solar powered, so with shorter days and recent wet weather the number of recordings has reduced. The PC agreed to purchase 'speed camera' warning signs to hopefully reduce the number of incidents. We are still waiting for a date for a combined meeting with Mark Harper and Highways to discuss further changes on the A48, perhaps 'engineering' changes, such as cycle lanes, central reservations near bus stops for pedestrian crossings, and altering the cross hatched areas. There is a suggested plan to restrict the whole length of the A48 from Highnam to Lydney to 50mph. Maybe if this change is coming we could get Minsterworth reduced to 40mph!

Village Greens

The PC is looking at ways of improving our Village Greens. Two picnic tables have been purchased using grant funding, at least one for the playground area, which we hope will further increase its use.

THE EFFECT OF THE 'FIVE YEAR LAND SUPPLY' IN RELATION TO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Government legislation states that planning authorities must have a five-year land supply available for future development, i.e. there must be enough land allocated and available for the building of the required number of houses over the next 5 years. Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) considered that they had a 5 year housing supply, but recently this has been challenged on the basis that TBC had included in their housing figure sites in Innsworth, Churchdown and Longford where housing applications had been 'given' to Gloucester City for their housing supply. This means that TBC have now conceded that they now only have a 3.5 year land supply, and as such they will find it very difficult to challenge future planning appeals for larger sites, i.e. anything over 10 houses. TBC have lost the last 3 appeals, where they had objected to a planning application, and they spent over £500,000 challenging those appeals. For this reason, they have stated that they can no longer challenge appeals based on the 5 year land supply.

While this situation persists, it's almost 'open house' for developers of larger sites. It's also very frustrating for Parish Councils. Five years ago, Minsterworth PC put huge efforts into establishing a 'settlement boundary' for our Village, but this can now be virtually ignored by developers if they decide to take a planning objection by the Parish Council and TBC to appeal. In Highnam the Parish Council are having to challenge an appeal against a large planning development on their own, with no support from TBC. Things are changing however. The Joint Core Strategy from TBC is being replaced by a Strategic Local Plan (SLP) that combines the housing requirement for Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury, and when this is finalised and adopted, we may have our five year land supply figure achieved.

“Where art thou, Mother Christmas?
I only wish I knew
Why Father should get all the praise
And no-one mentions you”

Roald Dahl



The original Michelin Man from 1894

Emma Clack

The Michelin Man is white because rubber tyres are naturally white. It was not until 1912 that carbon chemicals were mixed into the white tyres, which turned them black. The change was structural, not aesthetic. By adding carbon, tyres became more durable.

Michelin also began reviewing restaurants so that more people would travel longer distances in their

cars to eat at these restaurants. This in turn would wear down their tyres faster and force them to buy more.

The star system that Michelin used went up to three and was broken down by whether or not it's worth driving to the restaurant.

One star: "A very good restaurant in its category"

Two star: "Excellent cooking, worth a detour"

Three star: "Exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey..."

Today not much has changed.







Lighten our darkness in Minsterworth's Lower Lane.

Now that we are looking towards Christmas it would be lovely to continue with our lighting of candles, lanterns or fairy lights along the lower road starting on Saturday 16th December until Christmas Eve.

This will help light the way for the Donkey Walk (p16), a lovely start to our celebrations.

Thank you for your contribution.

Liz Duff, Mermaid Cottage

  	 <h2 style="text-align: right;">The Harvey Centre Calendar – December 2023</h2>
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 4 weeks on a Tuesday 11:00am – 1:30pm. No Charge Next Café, Tuesday 5th December Safe space for dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch. For further info call 01452 750128 Crafternoons Will return in the spring 2024 - Contact roger.ingham@btinternet.com for more information</p>
WED	<p>Community Café @ The Harvey Centre <u>LAST WEEK 13th December 23</u> <u>Reopens 10th January 24, extended Warm Space session for all ages, with lunches provided</u> The drop-in community café open from 10:30 am to 12.30pm Lifts can be arranged if you are unable to make it under your own steam on 17th Jan, 21st Feb & 20th March Tel 01452 751283 or roger.ingham@btinternet.com and someone will get back to you. Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility Class Weekly from 10:30 to 11.30am (Note new time) 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. FREE - Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available 11:30am to 12:30pm</p>
FRI	<p>Art for Wellbeing Weekly from 10.00 to 12 noon – final 2 sessions Friday 1st & 8th Dec £15.50 adhoc sessions Watercolour & pen work <i>Please pop along or Telephone 07525 330364 to book a place</i> New Art session will commence 5th to 26th Jan (£48 for all 4 sessions, £15.50 adhoc sessions) Theme Movement in People & Portraits in watercolour and penwork FREE - Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available 10:00am to 12:30pm</p>



8 weeks of Warm Spaces Morning Activity returns in January 2024

Wednesday morning 10.30am-1.30pm Soup, roll and hot drink £2.50

1st of 3 Warm Spaces Evening Activities – Games night 26thJan, 7pm

WARM SPACES AT THE HARVEY CENTRE

Shake off the winter chill at a relaxed evening open house. Play board games, enjoy hot drinks & snacks and see what the Centre has to offer. BYO alcohol if you'd like!

26TH JAN - 7PM

CRAFTERNOONS FOR 2024 START WITH

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024 CROCHET - 2pm - 4.30pm

Join Lisa for a very beginner friendly and relaxed workshop. This session is for you if you're curious about crochet but have never touched a hook and is also for those that have dabbled but have got stuck along the way. We will start from scratch, learning all of the basics from how to hold the hook and yarn comfortably in a way that works for YOU (**we can accommodate you too lefties!**) and learning some basic stitches and techniques. We will work at your speed, no matter what the person next to you is doing! Cost per person £25.00.

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024 CARD MAKING INCLUDING A TASTE OF SUMINAGASHI

Create beautiful patterns with Japanese Inks and turn them into the most unusual cards crafted for every occasion. Full details to follow next month; cost per person £15.00.

MARCH WORKSHOP DETAILS TO FOLLOW BUT THINK FLOWERS, AND AN ADDITIONAL ENAMEL WORKSHOP IS TO BE ARRANGED. DATE COMING SOON.

All afternoon sessions must be booked through the Harvey Centre by ringing Roger on 07525 330364 or Sue on 0777 6666 222.

Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the October draw was as follows:-

£50	No. 086	Colin Bolton
£20	No. 133	Terry Bourne
£10	No. 032	Pat Haisell-Neves

Whist Drive

Again, this month there were enough people to make up almost 7 tables. Thank you to all who help prepare the whist evenings and to those who help clear up afterwards. The next whist drive will be on **Monday 4th December** - traditionally we try to make the December drive more festive. If you would like to support the evening but do not play whist, then any gift of festive prizes would be appreciated. If you would like to donate a prize then please contact Liz on 750401.

Church service times and flower rota

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Flowers</u>
3 rd	11am	The 11 o'clock (Christingle)	No flowers
10 th	9.30am	Holy Communion	No flowers
17 th	5pm	Evening Worship	No flowers
24 th	11pm	Midnight Communion	Group flowers
25 th	10am	Benefice Family Communion At Taynton	Group flowers
27 th	5pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Group flowers

St Peter's Church - Christmas Services

Jo Stait



Christingle Service

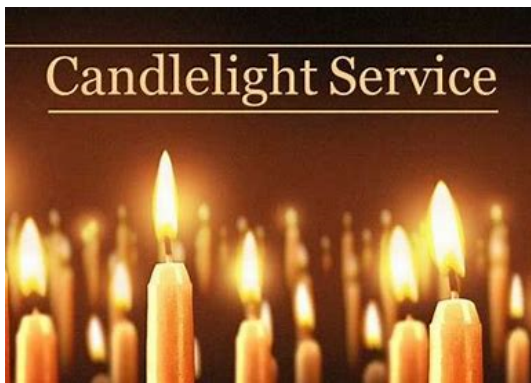
3rd December 2023 at 11.00

Midnight Service

24th December 2023
starting at
23.00 hours



Continued on p15



Candlelight Carol Service
at 17.00
Wednesday 27th December 2023

Please join us, you will be very welcome!

Advent and Christmas

I wonder if you have an Advent Calendar? Much as I love chocolate, I still prefer the old-fashioned cardboard ones that have nativity pictures on them (but then I am a vicar!)

As a child I loved the excitement of waking up each morning and seeing what was behind the door that day – an angel? A star? A camel? A baby!

Advent is all about hope and expectation as we wait to celebrate again the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day – God’s gift to the whole world. And there is no coincidence that we celebrate this festival in the bleak midwinter at the darkest point of the year. Jesus is often called the Light of the World and into the darkness around us is born the Light of Lights.

This Advent the world seems very full of darkness and many people I speak to see little to hope for but there is a reading in the bible that says:

“The Light shines in the darkness
And the darkness will not overcome it.”

As we wait and hope for Christmas, whether we have any faith or not, we can all wait and hope for a Lighter, Brighter world.

With blessings this Advent

Rev. Heather de Gruyther
Priest in Charge of the Highnam Benefice and Minsterworth Parish
01452 942173
revheatherdg@gmail.com

The 2023 Donkey walk

On **Saturday 16th December** we will meet the Donkeys outside Redroofs & Highcross House . We will leave there at 5.30pm sharp, to walk along the lower lane, singing carols together. We will finish at the Church with mince pies & hot non-alcoholic mulled 'wine' or squash.

If you would like to leave your car in the Church car park, please drop your passengers at the start & drive down to park your car – Drivers are able to get a lift at 5pm (latest) back to the start by the Tractor & Trailer.

The Tractor & Trailer will lead the 'procession' anyone not able to walk with the Donkeys is welcome to ride on the Trailer (Adults must accompany their children on the Trailer for safety reasons please.)



Last year's donkey walk

Please bring torches & wear sensible footwear for a muddy lane!

If any houses along the lane would like to 'light our way' with fairy lights or candles, that would be delightful, Thank you and see Liz Duff's 'Lighten our darkness' on p11.

The Donkey walk has been called the start of the Christmas journey, EVERYONE is very welcome to come along. There is no charge to celebrate the meaning of Christmas in Minsterworth.....The Donkeys love it too!!



WEDDINGS AT HATHERLEY MANOR

From the moment you arrive at Hatherley Manor Hotel & Spa, you will recognise that it is a very special wedding venue with an individual style and character of its own.

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Highnam Court

Dr Roger Head OBE DL

As a young man I used to fish in the lakes at Highnam Court, little did I know that I would eventually become its custodian.



Highnam court is one of the most important buildings to the west of Gloucester, this is reflected in its grade one listed status.

First recorded by the abbots of Gloucester in 1022 AD and later in the Domesday book it was referred to as the great house at High Ham. The house was rebuilt by the then abbot John Wigmore in 1330 AD and was called the Great Grange. History records it as a retreat from pestilence and plague, it was of course home to many of the monks with land extending to many thousands of acres providing food and revenue for the abbey.

With the dissolution of parliament in 1529 the estate became crown property and was leased to a man called John Arnold, the estate then passed to the Cooke family. In 1642 a great battle was fought at Highnam after it was taken over by Royalist forces, they were defeated by Parliamentary forces led by Edward Massey but as a result of the battle the house was badly damaged and rebuilt in the Commonwealth period.

1648-1659 One of the reasons Highnam court is so important is that very few great houses were built in this period as it was a time of great austerity. The house passed by marriage to the Guise family who made extensive changes to the interior of the house in 1760 using Italian craftsmen to create the extensive high relief plasterwork that is found in the main state rooms. They also created the magnificent cantilever staircase that only rises to the first-floor primary bedrooms. In 1830 the then Sir John Guise fought a very expensive parliamentary election and he decided to dispose of Highnam Court. The family owned many of the other great houses of Gloucestershire.

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The estate was purchased by Thomas Gambier Parry. He was extremely wealthy, his parents were major shareholders in the East India Company. He was only 22 years of age when he fell in love with Highnam. Parry made significant changes to the Court, adding the billiard room to the east of the house and erecting a new entrance to the main house with the construction of a portico to the north with Ionic columns which became the main entrance.



Winter garden

Parry then set out his gardens which would have rivalled any of the great gardens in the country. Together with Thomas Holford, his great friend from Westonbirt, he collected many rare trees for his arboretum in Highnam park.

Parry was also responsible for the construction of the magnificent Highnam Church built in memory of his

first wife and children who had died from TB. Thomas died in 1884 and the estate passed to his son Hubert the famous composer, Hubert spent most of his time in London where he was director of the Royal College of Music.

Hubert died in 1918 from Spanish flu. The estate gradually declined until the last Parry died in 1966 and was inherited by Thomas Fenton who sold the house and gardens to a musician called Roger Smith, Tom retained the rest of the estate and cottages. Roger Smith died in 1988 and the house remained unsold until I purchased it in 1994.



East Garden

I always wanted Highnam Court and used to tell my late wife Jenny that one day I would buy it. Well in 1994 I did without telling her as I knew she would not be pleased with me purchasing such a dilapidated property. Although she was annoyed at the time, she grew to love it, shortly after we moved in, we had our only child Jasmin. Tom Fenton became a good friend and sold me all of the land and park surrounding the Court.

Over the last thirty years I have restored the house but my greatest love are the gardens which have been restored to their former glory. The gardens attract many thousands of visitors which raises funds for my nominated charities, particularly the Pied Piper which I am privileged to chair. We open on the first Sunday of the month from April until October for the National Garden Scheme so come and take a look.

Requested by Sharon Ingham



Minsterworth Village Hall

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 2nd December

10:00am to 2pm

Arts and Crafts made in Minsterworth

Village-baked goods

Silver Jewellery and Ceramics

Handmade Chocolates

Giftwrap and Cards

Baby dresses and dungarees

Cake Stall and refreshments

...and much more.

Contact Gordon Taylor for more info

gordon@minsterworth.co

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Natalie Wang



Festive fun



Knock, knock! *Who's there?* Anna. *Anna who?* **Anna partridge in a pear tree**

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? **"It's Christmas, Eve!"**

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? **The elf-abet!**

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? **He got 25 days!**

Why don't you ever see Santa in hospital? **Because he has private elf care!**

What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? **Rude-olph!**

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? **Santa walking backwards!**



As Christmas approaches, everyone starts thinking about one thing. Presents. Whether it's what you want to unwrap on Christmas morning or what to buy your grandkids, the thought of presents can bring either complete joy and excitement or unnecessary stress to our minds.

The hardest thing about buying presents is that the most popular items (if you can get your hands on them before they sell out) are always changing. From Rubik's cubes to x-box, here are the most popular items from the last 50 years:

1970's: space-hopper, etch a sketch, skateboard, twister, pet rock, Sony Walkman

1980's: sylvanian families, ghostbusters, Batmobile, talking Alf, my pet monster

1990's: PlayStation, buzz light year, Nintendo 64, furby, Pokémon, Goopey Louie

2000's: Tesla robotic dog, PlayStation 2, iPod mini, GTA, Xbox, Nokia N-Gage, Bratz dolls

2010's: Xbox360, Nintendo DS, Wii Sports, Star Wars Lightsabers, iPhone 3G, Guitar Hero 3

2020's: iPad, Lego Ninjago, Skylanders, Xbox 1, PlayStation 4, Bop it!Beats, iPhone6

Air Pods, Squishmallows, Lego Star Wars, interactive pets, Barbie DreamHouse



Are there any gifts from your childhood? Hopefully this has given you some ideas of what to get your kids or grandkids and maybe you can even gift them one of your favourite toys that you received for Christmas when you were a child.

The Cold Face



Hi, carrying on from the winter theme last month, I thought I would go a bit deeper into the benefits of cold exposure, in particular face dunking.

Face Dunking is where we place our face in a sink or bowl of cold water, it stimulates an innate physiological response called the mammalian dive reflex. The cold activates our parasympathetic nervous system (rest and digest) via the vagus nerve, which slows everything in the body down, making us feel relaxed.

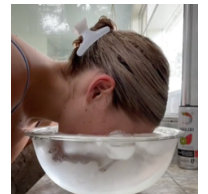
Also, our face, hands and feet have glabrous (non-hairy) skin which is more sensitive to the cold.

Benefits:

- Improved lymph, blood flow and temporary skin tightening.
- The cold and holding of our breath slow down the heart rate.
- Forces us to focus on the cold and stops the mind from wandering.
- These actions can help to reduce anxiety.
- We also get a sense of achievement as you are overcoming something that is usually quite difficult to start.
- If we can add hands, it will further stimulate the mitochondria to create heat by burning fat, this is the start of adapting to the cold.
- To state the obvious once you are cold adapted you don't feel the cold as much as other people might.

How to face dunk

- Start with tepid water in a bowl or sink.
- Take a normal breath and place your face in the bowl.
- Come out slowly once you can't hold your breath any longer, but not needing to gasp.
- Work up to 30 seconds and for 3 to 5 times.
- Decrease the temperature of the water at your own pace, the cold tap in the winter is cold enough but you can add ice if you wish.
- Consistency is key, so better to do little and often rather than a 10 minute one, once a week. Best to do in the mornings it may reduce puffiness from sleeping and will wake you up!



Good luck,
Cheers Nigel



NB, this article is for information only and should not be taken as health advice.

nigel@humanblueprint.co.uk

07590 537392



Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

The next meeting of the branch will be held in January 2024 on Wednesday 10th commencing at 7pm. You are all very welcome to attend and discuss some activities for the branch. May I, on behalf of the branch, wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

MILITARY HISTORY

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

Terry Bourne – President
Minsterworth & District RBL



RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER

Paula Ruffley

Everyone knows the story of Rudolph, the deer whose inflamed nose was valued so much by Santa that Rudolph became leader of Santa's sleigh team on the most important night of the year.

But have you ever wondered why his nose was so red?

There have been several theories, such as the excessive weight of the Christmas sleigh causing cerebral and bodily hyperthermia (overheating), overworking the nasal cooling system, causing the nose to glow. But I favour that it was his adaptive trait of nasal bioluminescence.

Paula
xxx



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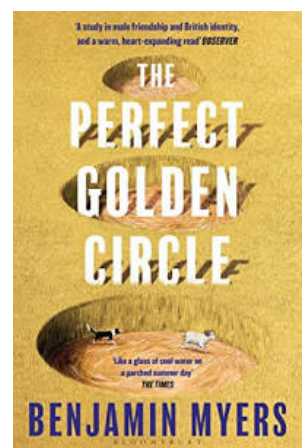
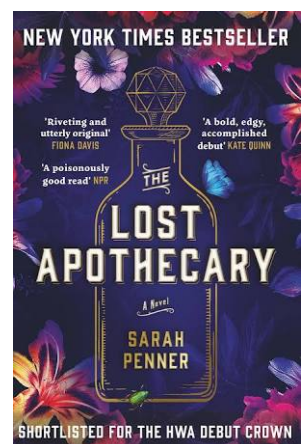
Minsterworth Reading Group

This month the book club reviewed *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner. This was her first book, a fictional story based on true facts. Hidden in the depths of eighteenth-century London, a secret apothecary shop caters to an unusual kind of clientele. Women across the city whisper of a mysterious figure named Nella who sells well-disguised poisons to use against oppressive men in their lives.

Overall the book was well liked, particularly the social history and narrative of old London. The book was across two time zones; Nella living in 1790's and Caroline in present day. Most readers thought the present day was rather superficial and a little too good to be believable. We would have preferred more of the old London story. However, the book was easy to read and quite a page turner.

We will review it on Wednesday 6th December.

Next month we'll be reviewing *The Perfect Golden Circle* by Benjamin Myers.





******SAVE THE DATE******

Saturday 10th February 2024

**COMEDY IS BACK AT THE VILLAGE HALL!
FULL DETAILS BEING FINALISED AND TO FOLLOW**

LOCAL COMEDIAN NIK HILL WILL BE OUR COMPERE

What people said last time....

*"It was hilarious I can hardly speak now because I laughed so much "
"Brilliant comedians tonight at the village hall"*



Santa's Secret Identity



A little boy secretly followed a department store Santa to the changing room. The man came out in his street clothes, ready to go home. The boy popped out, "I knew it."

Nervously, the man looked around, asking, "Knew what?"

Smiling ear to ear, the little boy leaned in close and whispered, "I knew that Santa wouldn't be able to keep an eye on all the little girls and boys without a secret identity."

The man smiled, nodding. "Just make sure not to tell anyone."

The little boy nodded enthusiastically, "I won't, San..." the boy paused, looking around cautiously before adding, "I mean Kris Kringle."



How They Forecast a Cold Winter

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if the winter was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with reading the signs from the natural world.

In truth, neither of them had any idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and rang National Weather Service in Gaylord Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect every bit of firewood they could find.

A fortnight later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked. 'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him. 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'



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RESTING ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY RIVER SEVERN

- What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? **Claus-trophobia!**
- What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? **A Holly Davidson!**
- What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? **A Christmas Quacker!**
- Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? **He was picking his nose!**
- What do snowmen wear on their heads? **Ice caps!**
- What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? **Cross-mouse cards!**



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Damaged Gravestones in Minsterworth Churchyard

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

It is with regret that this Gravestone has had to be laid flat in its original location to prevent harm. The Gravestone relates to: **Albert Henry Meadows et al. 1950.**

The other stone is currently still in place and action is being taken to reduce immediate risks. This relates to: **Gilbert, son of John and Lydia Phelps 1905.**

If anyone knows anything of the relatives of either Albert Henry Meadows or Gilbert Phelps then **please make contact with the Churchwardens** so they can follow this up appropriately.

They are both local names so hopefully we will be able to contact a relative.

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

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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