

The Villager

Minsterworth News



The Mighty Bore

Bob Holder

February 2023

Edition 243

Dear readers,

Look forward to feeding yourselves up in chilly February with The Big Breakfast on Saturday 25th February at Minsterworth Village Hall p4, preceded by an evening of Puddings, Ancient and Modern on 18th at Northwood Green Social Hall p12. Fish&Chips and Film night on Thursday 23rd February at the Village Hall. Why not do the crossword on p12 over one of them. See our friends in Ukraine in their fatigues on p5 and think – it could have been me! What's to stop him?

Amazon Female Warriors – **CORRECTION** to page 17 of the January Villager

We have been informed about an error, namely that Homer's Iliad was written in Greek, not Latin!

A Minsterworth resident commented *'I read chunks of it in that language (Greek) at school, and pretty boring much of it was too. His Odyssey is much more entertaining – worth a go (in modern translation of course!). I could lend you a copy...'*

Isn't it wonderful that not only do we have classics scholars in the Village, but that The Villager is carefully read by lots of residents!

And while space may not interest you the whole world seems to be planning a trip to the moon in 2023, take a look on p25 – cash-strapped or not, space agencies across many continents seem to have found the money for another visit to the moon.

Oh & watch those Severn bores on Tues 21st to Fri 24th February, they can be very powerful!

Paula

All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager E-mail:

Tel: 07905 694612 thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com

Deadline is ALWAYS 10th of the month before the magazine is published, so for March it's Friday 10th February.

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING FEBRUARY 2023

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

Tuesday 14

Tuesday 28

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

Tuesday 7

Tuesday 21

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)

Welcome to Jo Badham, our new Parish Council clerk

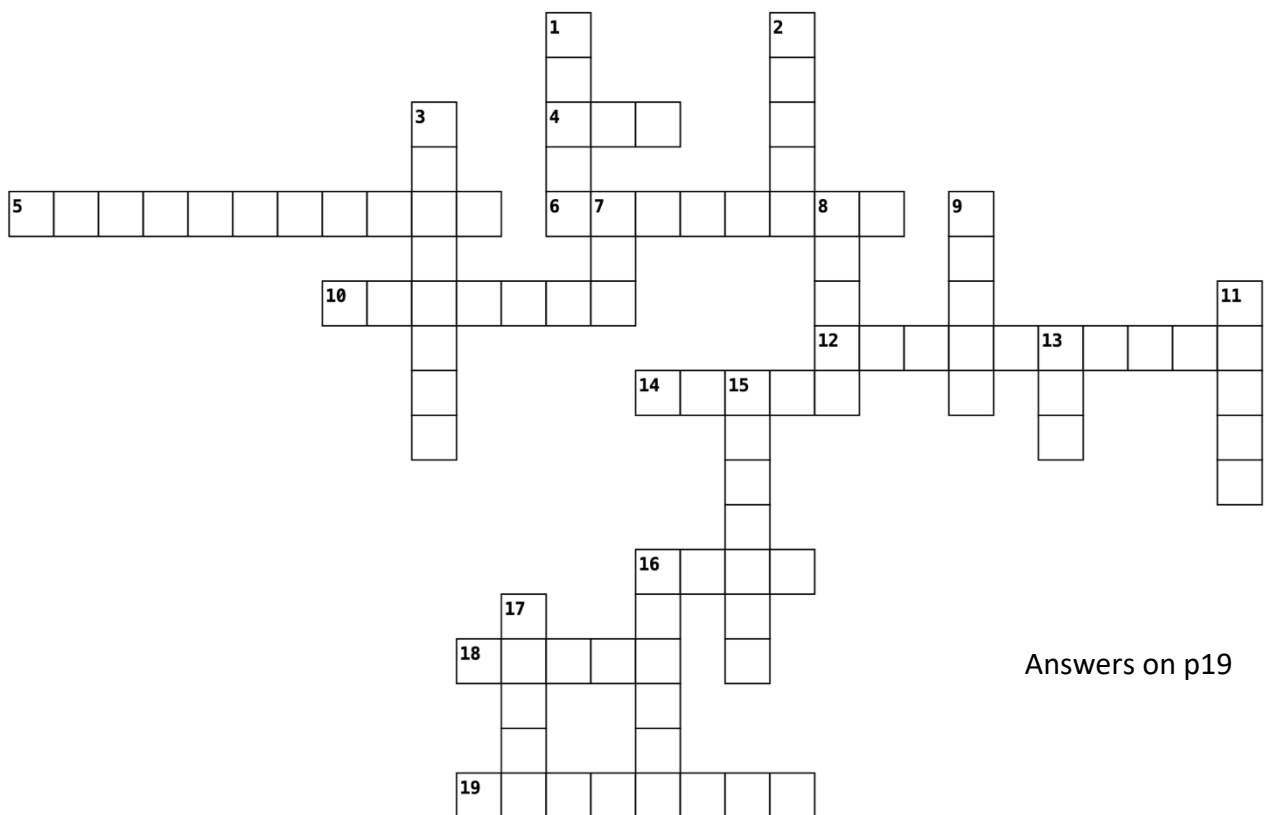
Roger Blowey

May I first say a big 'thank you' to Paul Bell, who has had to resign from the clerk position due to an increasing work load in his other post. Although Paul has only been with us for just over 18 months, he has contributed a huge amount to the village, and he has kindly stayed in post to support the Parish Council for much longer than he had initially anticipated.

We are delighted to welcome Jo Badham as our new Parish Clerk. Jo is currently clerk for another parish, so knows the processes well. She has already come up with some good ideas going forward. So when you make an enquiry to clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk it will now be Jo who responds to your emails.

We look forward to working with Jo in the future.

Trees



Answers on p19

Across

4. Back from the brink
5. Pretty, pale, a symbol of purity
6. Gnarled, year-round leaf cover
10. Drooping branches of soft needles
12. Pleasant smelling, antiseptic, highly flammable
14. Stately, aromatic, gigantic
16. Beautiful blossom, red fruits
18. Catkins resembling lamb's tails
19. Roasted winter treat

Down

1. Queen of British trees
2. Fruit, tart, tangy and crisp
3. Familiar, romantic, sticky
7. The ruling majesty of the woods
8. Swamp-dweller, water-lover
9. Bane of witches, diviner of the future
11. Trembling, fluttering and shimmering
13. Ancient, morbid, toxic
15. Fir, not just for Christmas
16. Food of the gods, medicine for the people
17. Conifer favourite with squirrels, birds and moths

Back by popular request

“THE BIG BREAKFAST”

On Saturday 25th February 2023

11am – 1pm

At Minsterworth Village Hall



*Come along & meet Villagers while enjoying a
breakfast cooked for you.*

All proceeds for Church funds

*Booking is optional, but always helpful, if you know a
time you would like to eat,
please call Cathy on 07546 497203*

Minsterworth Support for Ukraine Arrival of the generators and next steps

Rita Garbutt

In last month's Villager we reported on the sending of generators to Ukraine. These have arrived safely, and it's good to have received pictures and videos showing them being unloaded and ready for use on the front line, along with food and other supplies that have been sent. In addition to being delivered for military use, some of the generators have gone to needy families and one is in use at a kindergarten.



Igor Bilokur is delighted with the first delivery of generators from Minsterworth

There will be further regular deliveries from Gloucester to Ukraine. We are currently assessing if there are any more generators available, and also looking into camping stoves which can be used with locally available cylinders. Hot food is so essential in the bitterly cold Ukrainian winter.

In addition to the warm clothing, sleeping bags, quilts, blankets, thick winter coats, warm under clothes, socks, etc. requested last month, there is also a need for old cotton sheets (cotton only please) that can be cut up here in Gloucester and used to make winter camouflage nets. Also camping stoves, wound dressings, paracetamol, Ibuprofen, cough medicine etc. Following last month's Villager feature we have had generous offers of financial support from other Minsterworth residents for the purchase of generators and camping stoves. If you are able to help, please contact me, Rita Garbutt, on 01452 750128 or email garbutt.rita@gmail.com All offers of financial assistance will be treated in confidence.

FISH 'N' CHIPS & FILM £15



FISH 'N' CHIP AND MYSTERY FILM NIGHT ON
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BY TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY



A Minsterworth funded generator delivered to Ukraine with food supplies from Gloucester



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Aspects of Love

'Love changes everything' was a big hit for Michael Ball in 1989. The song comes from Andrew Lloyd-Webber's musical 'Aspects of Love'. I never saw the musical, but I remember the song very well – and it still gets played on the radio. Some of the words are a bit sentimental, but I do remember certain lines which stuck in my mind. For example:

Love changes everything – how you live and how you die;
Words mean more;
Pain is deeper than before;
Love will turn your world around;
Love changes everything,
Brings you glory,
Brings you shame.
Nothing in the world will ever be the same.

Those lines give us some clues about the reality of love – rather than the sloppy, sentimental words of many love songs. And – don't forget – love is right at the heart of the teaching of Jesus.

We're just coming up to the season of Lent – it begins on Ash Wednesday – the 22nd February. Many people decide to give things up for Lent. But I'd like to suggest something more this year. Active love. Find time for other people – family, friends, neighbours. What's sometimes called 'quality time'. Even in a busy life we manage to find time for anything we think is really important. Well – our relationships are important, and we should make sure they're at the top of our priorities.

Lent is actually a good time to sort out those priorities. I think that's what a lot of the teaching of Jesus was about. Well summed up in the words: 'Love God, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.' And don't forget that last bit – loving yourself, liking yourself. God loves you – wants you to be a full and complete human being. You're not perfect – none of us are. But neither are you a worthless, sinful worm. You have God's potential within you – and God can help you to make that real - to be healthy in body, mind and spirit, and in your relationships with everyone around you. As the writer of the First Letter of John in the New Testament says: 'God is love, and all who live in love - live in God, and God lives in them.'

I hope you have a holy, happy and positive Lent.

Rev'd Geoff Crago
Highnam Benefice

Minsterworth 200 Club

The draw for January resulted in the following winners:-

£50 No. 137 Mark Sawyers
£20 No. 006 Margaret Davies
£10 No. 130 Katie Panting

Whist Drive

Despite being the Bank Holiday, there were enough people to make up just over 6 tables. Thanks to all who supported the evening which resulted in £75 for church funds. The next whist drive at the Hall will be on February 6th.

Church service times and flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
5 th February	11am	Family Service	Cathy Thomas
12 th February	11am	Holy Communion	Cathy Thomas
19 th February	5pm	Evening Worship	Liz Savage
26 th February	10am	Holy Communion (at Highnam church)	No flowers – season of Lent
22nd February	7.30pm	Service for Ash Wednesday	

**KNOW WHERE YOUR
OLD STAMPS ARE?
USE THEM UP BY
31ST JANUARY 2023**

We're adding barcodes to our regular stamps. After 31st January 2023, regular stamps without a barcode* will no longer be valid. You can either use up these stamps before this deadline, or swap them for the new barcoded ones.

Turns out there's no rush after all. The deadline has now been extended to **31st July 2023** & by the time you read this who knows how much later you can use them. Still, better to get on & **use them up** before you can't use them anymore!

Wild rabbit

Paula Ruffley

What did the Romans do for us? Apart from sanitation, public order, roads, medicine, wine and education it seems they also introduced rabbits to Britain for food and fur.



Rabbits live in large groups in underground burrow systems known as warrens. Tunnelling is undertaken predominantly by the female. They make a tasty snack for stoats, buzzards, polecats and red foxes, which is why having a warren to hide in for shelter is so important. Rabbits eat a wide range of plants including grasses, cereal crops, root vegetables and young shoots of meadow plants. They will eat tree bark, especially when snow covers other food sources.

With their infamous ability to reproduce freely - a female (doe) can have a litter of 7-12 babies each month during the breeding season (March to October!) rabbit populations grow rapidly and damage crops.

Thomas Austin introduced rabbits to Australia in 1859, for sporting hunters. But with no natural predators and litters of five or more baby bunnies seven times a year, soon there was a rabbit plague. Farmers ripped out their warrens, laid poison and shot them but still they multiplied. By the late 1940s after the second world war rabbits had reached plague proportions and were ravaging vast areas of Australia. They bred rapidly and trapping did little to control them. Farmers and graziers had been away at the war, unable to carry out normal trapping, shooting and poisoning which kept rabbits to manageable numbers. The Australian government sought a biological control to limit damage done to crops. Myxomatosis quickly reduced the rabbit population.

In 1953 myxomatosis broke out in Britain for the first time. It rapidly killed tens of millions of the animals from Kent to the Shetlands. Many farmers and foresters welcomed a disease that virtually eliminated a longstanding and serious agricultural pest. However, meat continued to be rationed in 1953 and rabbit was a very welcome, cheap protein source so myxomatosis wasn't welcomed by all.

Today rabbits are beginning to develop resistance to myxomatosis and we have a love/hate relationship with the rabbit. Cute and fluffy pets, Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit for some, vermin for others. Perfectly adapted for life in the countryside but dinner for all carnivores.

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Manlates (= Pilates for men) on Tuesday evenings

Roger Blowey



A small group of us, ranging from approx. 55 to 75yo meet every Tuesday evening at The Riverside for a bit of exercise and (optional!) a beer afterwards. Cost £5 per session, first 'taster' session foc.

Contact Roger on 07768 451071 if you are interested in joining us. I never thought that I would ever do anything like this, but I quite enjoy it!

Saturday 18th February -7.30pm

Northwood Green Social Hall

PUDDINGS ANCIENT & MODERN



£8 a head

Come & indulge before Lent begins.

Fundraiser for the Hall, at the Hall

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by 11th February at the latest



Historic February

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2 Feb 1665 | British forces captured New Amsterdam, which was the centre of the Dutch colony in Manhattan, North America |
| 8 Feb 1587 | Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded on the orders of her cousin England's Queen Elizabeth I |
| 11 Feb 1916 | Emma Goldman jailed in the US for advocating Birth Control |
| 16 Feb 600 | The Black Plague was sweeping through Europe and Pope Gregory the Great declared that the proper response to someone sneezing should be 'God Bless You' |
| 28 Feb 1954 | DNA Double Helix Discovered |

A Volunteering opportunity in Minsterworth Parish

Sharon Ingham

There are plenty of ways that you can help keep Minsterworth Public Rights Of Way (PROW) in good order by donating your time to help look after them.

Opportunities include working as part of a team, aiming to keep public paths, stiles and kissing gates clear and in good repair.

We need a range of volunteers to carry out a number of tasks but it does not have to be outdoors. You could find yourself making good use of your



organisational and administrative skills.

You would be working with a local PROW team from Gloucester, landowners and other local residents. Working party events would be on two or three days or half days a year, dependent on need.



For further information please contact Sharon Ingham by email mrssharoningham@gmail.com

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

“In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret.”

— Patience Strong

“Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.”

— Oprah Winfrey

Would you like to write a poem to be published in Minsterworth's Villager Magazine, starting this March 2023?



We are calling all poets, from the parish and locality, to help celebrate the birthday of Minsterworth's and England's famous poet Will Harvey, DOB 28th March, 1888. More information can be found by following this link www.fwharveysociety.co.uk

The poem below, **If We Return**, is by FW Harvey.

Your poem can be:

- on any subject matter and any type of poem
- no longer than one A5 page in length
- If you want it presented in a certain layout, please send it as a PDF in that layout

Poetry is one of the most universal vehicles of human expression, and one that helps us understand ourselves and others, as we describe our experiences.



If we return

If we return will England be
Just England still to you and me?
The place where we must earn our bread?
We who have walked among the dead
And watched the smile of agony,
And seen the price of liberty,
Which we had taken carelessly
From other hands. Nay we shall dread,
If we return,
Dread lest we hold blood-guiltily
The things that men have died to free.
Oh, English fields shall blossom red
For all the blood that has been shed
By men whose guardians are we,
If we return.

1. What do dentists call their x-rays?
2. Why did the melon jump into the lake?
3. Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?
4. Why did the mushroom get invited to all the best parties?

Answers on p17

Tagliatelle with Prawns & Asparagus

Ritchie Hudson

Nice simple pasta dish that's ideal for a mid-week meal

Prep Time 10 mins: Cooks in 10 mins and serves two.

You will need:

8 coils of Tagliatelle about 220g

200g Jumbo cooked prawns

100g Asparagus tips

1 large clove of garlic peeled and finely chopped

200ml Double cream

80ml of white wine (optional)

6g Fresh parsley chopped

12ml Pantry lemon juice

Black pepper

Olive oil

Parmigiano or similar hard cheese



Method

Defrost the prawns. Cook the pasta in a large pan of boiling water for about 8 minutes then drain well.

Whilst the pasta is cooking, chop the asparagus into chunks. In a large frying pan or wok sauté the prawns and the chopped asparagus in a little olive oil for 3 minutes. Add the chopped garlic and cook for another minute. Add the cream, wine, parsley and lemon juice and cook for another minute until it starts to thicken.

Add the drained pasta, season with some black pepper and heat through gently for another minute.

Serve alongside shavings of the Parmigiano.

Enjoy.

FEBRUARY QUOTES

*All the world's a stage, and all the men and women
merely players – William Shakespeare*

Hell is other people – Jean-Paul Sartre

*Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely
– John Dalberg-Acton*



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We are open:

Weekdays: 8:30a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Saturday: 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Closed Sunday & Bank Holidays

 01452 760511



The Harvey Centre Calendar – February 2023

MON	<p>Tan House Choir: Weekly from 7.00pm to 9.00pm Telephone 01452 750128 to join or find out more...</p>
TUES	<p>NEW Move classes: Weekly from 9.45am to 10.45am A blend of Yoga and Pilates</p> <p>Memory Café: Tuesday 14th February 11.00am – 1.30pm. No charge Safe space for Dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch. For further info please call 07926 986 247</p>
WED	<p>Community Cafe: * NEW! The Harvey Centre has Signed up to the Warm Spaces initiative for 8 weeks from Wednesday 4th January Open weekly from 10.00am to 2.30 pm Delicious cake, tea coffee available as usual Soup and Rolls served from 12.30pm – 2pm - £2 per serving</p> <p>Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility class Weekly from 10.00am to 11.00am Telephone 01452 234005 or email info@farrphysio.co.uk leave mobile number/email address. A member of the team will then contact you to arrange. **Play area open in main hall from 11.15am</p> <p>NEW Move evening classes: 1st February A blend of Yoga and Pilates Please see advert in this edition for further details</p> <p>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange: 9.30am to 12 noon</p>
THURS	<p>Adult Literacy & Numeracy Classes 1pm – 4pm</p>

<p>FRI</p>	<p>The Harvey Centre Calendar –January 2023 cont.....</p> <p>Art for Wellbeing: Weekly from 10.00am to 12.30pm £10 per single class or £37.50 for term (5 classes) *There may be a small charge for consumables depending on medium used. Please pop along or call 07926 986 247</p> <p>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange: 9.30am to 12 noon</p>
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Food Bank:

Donations of tinned and dried goods always welcome. These can be dropped off at the centre during café or opening hours above. Donations are collected weekly and transported to The Gloucester Food Bank.

Educational and Wellbeing Events

Is there an educational course, for children or adults, or a wellbeing event that you would like to be arranged?

Please contact us and we will do our best to facilitate this.

OR

If you can offer a wellbeing, learning or sporting opportunity for adults, young people or children we would be delighted to hear from you.

It's your centre so please support it! A warm welcome awaits.

***New Email Address: harveycentre23@gmail.com**

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Answers to jokes on p14

1. Tooth pics
2. It wanted to be a water-melon.
3. He was just going through a stage.
4. He was a fun-gí!



Community Cafe Open Here!

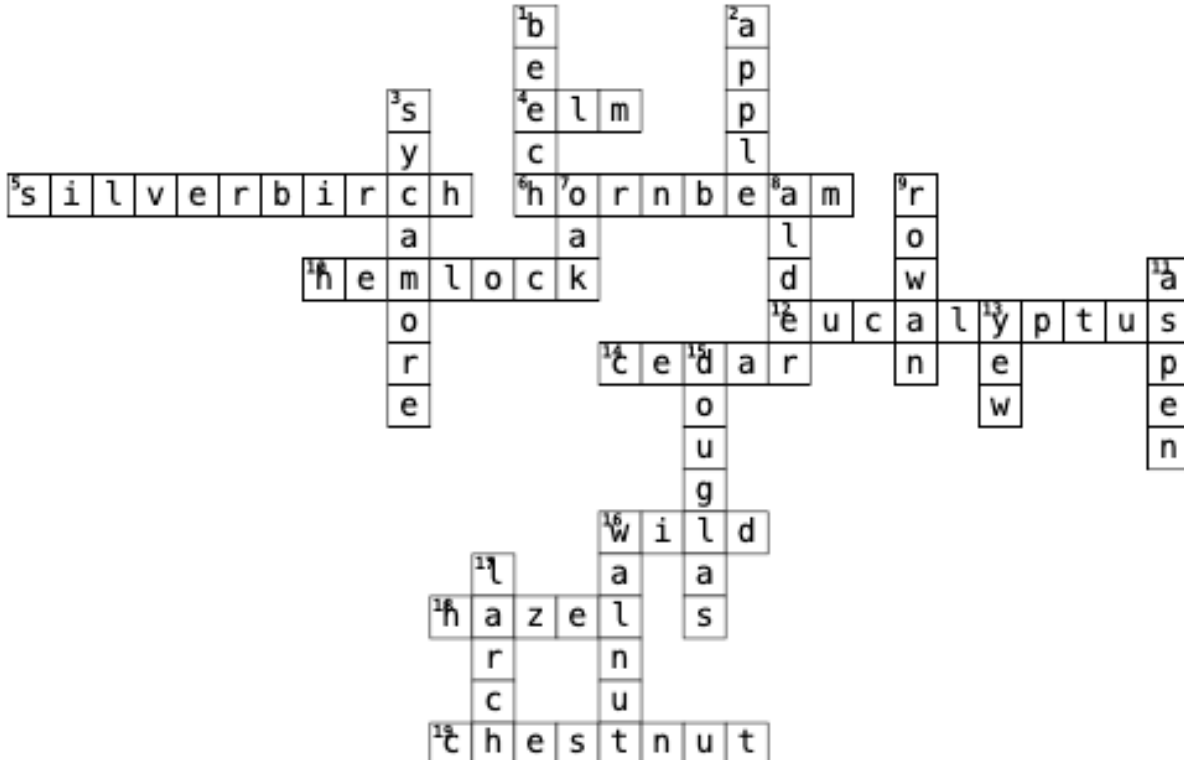


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Answers to crossword on p3






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The Silver Fox Café

RESTING ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY RIVER SEVERN



Johnny Coppin with Paul Burgess

Live Concert at Minsterworth Village Hall

Saturday 25 March 2023

Doors & Bar open 7pm

Performance starts 7.30pm



Johnny's gorgeous and seemingly effortless vocals have graced the folk-scene since the emergence of Decameron in the early 1970s. An experienced solo performer, accompanying himself on piano and guitar, he is a talented songwriter and a fine interpretative singer. He also presented the Acoustic Music Show on BBC Radio Gloucestershire for over twenty years.

Paul Burgess is a longstanding musical collaborator, including regular participation in Johnny's annual Christmas tour. A classically trained recorder-player and defiantly un-classical violinist, widely considered to be one

of the leading exponents of English fiddle playing, he also has a talent for deadpan humour. A magical combination at any time of the year.

Songs will include - some from the latest album River of Dreams – and some from Gloucestershire poets such as F W Harvey and Ivor Gurney – alongside material from Johnny's many albums.

Tickets are £15 and can be booked online at

www.Minsterworthvillagehall.org

Full bar will also be available through the Bespoke Brewery at Littledean



Countryside Code for Walkers

Roger Blowey

We are privileged to have some lovely walks around Minsterworth, but after another recent unfortunate report of dogs chasing sheep, may I once again remind residents of some of the major points of the countryside code:

1. Please stick to the footpaths. Details of footpaths in the area can be found on line at the Gloucestershire Highways site, Rights of Way on line map, <https://maps.gloucestershire.gov.uk/MapThatPublic/Default.aspx> . I find this map very useful to identify roads, house names in Minsterworth and footpaths.
2. If there is a gate on the footpath, please leave gate as you find it. If the gate is open there may be a good reason why it's open, and probably more importantly, if its closed, make sure that its left securely closed.
3. If your dog is with you, make sure that it is under close control and on the footpath, and if near livestock your dog MUST be on a lead.
4. Clean up all dog mess. If left it's unsightly and represents a health risk to both man and livestock.

There are lots of guides on-line where more detailed information is available, for example <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/paths-in-england-and-wales/rights-of-way-law.aspx>



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Blowin' In The Wind

Bob Dylan 1962

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly
Before they're forever banned?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many years must a mountain exist
Before it is washed to the sea?
And how many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
And pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
And how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows
That too many people have died?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Source: Musixmatch

Blowin' in the wind became a symbolic song of fighting for the rights and equality of people in society and went on to become an anti-war song.

Image of latest album released Jan 2023



Recruitment Event at Minsterworth Village Hall

7-9pm Wednesday 15th February

Join us and meet up with the current committee members or trustees and friends of both community facilities over a cup of coffee. Find out if your skills would enhance the development and running of the Village Hall or the Harvey Centre,
We'd love to meet with you.
No hard sell, we promise!



Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

As has been reported previously our meetings are now held quarterly, meaning our next one will be held on Wednesday April 12th 2023 starting at 7pm in the Legion Room.

Everyone is invited to join us at the meeting to put forward suggestions for our day coach trip to an interesting location and to consider joining your branch.

MILITARY HISTORY

Feb 10 th	-	1906	Launch of HMS Dreadnought
Feb 12 th	-	1942	Channel Dash
Feb 14 th	-	1797	Battle of Cape Vincent

Terry Bourne – President
Minsterworth & District R.B.L.



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Minsterworth Photographic Club – “We TEACH Photography!”

A new year, and a new look to Minsterworth Photographic Club. Unlike other clubs in the area, we teach photography! We don't sit around looking at others' images, we create our own! We have an enthusiastic membership who are learning to create amazing images, through composition, understanding their cameras, and new for 2023, using photo-manipulation software.



With monthly challenges to put into practice new techniques, and friendly critique sessions to take images to new heights, we work with you and your camera to improve your shots, and make others go “WOW” when they see them! Trips out during warmer months to local attractions and programmes designed to help you improve your photography, all with the help of more experienced photographers to make this hobby an artform. We have a fully equipped studio set up for portraiture and still life images, so why not give us a try? Dust off that camera and come and enjoy 2 sessions free!

We meet twice a month at Minsterworth Village Hall at 7.30 – 9.30 on the third and fourth Mondays.

For more information, go to our website at www.minsterworthphoto.co.uk or email us at: minsterworthphoto@mail.com

We'd be delighted to see you there!

The cosmos in 2023

Paula Ruffley

Lots going on in space in 2023. Who would have thought...

Several companies will try to land on the moon to test new technologies and search for water ice among the shadows of the south pole.

The privately funded Hakuto-R carries rovers built by Japan and the United Arab Emirates. It's expected to touch down in March.

Two more landers, Peregrine and Nova-C are close behind, part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payloads Service project which wants Artemis to piggyback such commercial activities.

NASA'S Luna Trailblazer orbiter will take up the search for water from the middle of the year.

India's second attempt with Chandrayaan-3 launch is planned in June 2023.

Japan's space agency also has several projects. The SLIM Smart Lander for Investigating Moon doesn't have a launch date yet but once there it will deploy the radical SORA-Q rover. It's a fist-sized transforming robot developed by toymakers to roll (or wobble) across the lumpy surface.

Russia has announced its withdrawal from the ISS by 2024 and launch its own space station. China's Tiangong Space Station was launched in 2022 and will collaborate with Europe in 2023.

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For further information contact Ash:

07812 077367

- Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
- Intelligence is like underwear. It is important that you have it, but not necessary that you show it off.
- Maybe if we start telling people the brain is an app, they will start using it.
- You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

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HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch – join by e-mailing 64lettie@gmail.com

Parish Council – agenda, minutes, Councillors etc

www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk

www.minsterworthvillagehall.org – booking, recent events

Minsterworthmatters Facebook website – news, local produce etc

www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/

St. Peter's Church – www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/ services, events

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