

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Greater Spotted Woodpecker
by Bob Holder – in his garden

January 2020

Price 30p
Edition 207

Dear Readers,

Phew! That's Christmas & New Year over with for another year. Hope you all had a great time and are keen to start organising new and interesting things in Minsterworth Village Hall in 2020. Speaking of which see p3 for Ukes Anon on Saturday 18th January - sounds like good fun.

Start recycling early with your (real!) Christmas tree see p5.

Paula

Closing copy date for the February edition is Wednesday 15th January 2019
but earlier is even better!

All items for consideration to:-
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E-mail: thevillager@minsterworth.org
Tel: 01452 751226.

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



KERBSIDE RECYCLING JANUARY

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

Tuesday 7 Jan

Tuesday 21 Jan

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

Tuesday 14 Jan

Tuesday 28 Jan

Please put your bin & caddy out by 7am

See p6 for Christmas tree recycling.

Ukes Anon

Ukelele band based in Cheltenham



Play a range of music...
from the expected to the less expected. But always
popular and fun!

Contact Sharon Ingham for tickets

Tel 01452 751283

mrssharoningham@gmail.com

Minsterworth
Village Hall
Saturday 18th
January 2020
7.30-10.30pm
£10 ticket
including supper



TREECYCLE 2019

Start your New Year's resolutions off by recycling your Christmas tree!

You can deposit your tree between 5 - 20 January at:

Wyevale Garden Centre, Evesham Road, Bishop's Cleeve

Dawn Nurseries, Shurdington Road, Shurdington

Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane, Staverton

GL3 Community Hub, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown

Gotherington Nurseries, Gretton Road, Gotherington

Greenway Nurseries, Main Road, Shurdington

Tewkesbury Garden Centre, The Mythe, Tewkesbury

Toddington Garden Centre, Toddington Railway Yard, Toddington

Wyevale Garden Centre, Shurdington Road, Brockworth

Pamington Farm, Pamington Nr Tewkesbury

Over Farm Market, Over, Nr Gloucester

Norton Garden Centre, Tewkesbury Road, Norton

Primrose Vale, Shurdington Road, Bentham

**REAL TREES
ONLY
PLEASE!**

Go to www.tewkesbury.gov.uk for more information

Your tree will be collected and composted. If it is taller than six feet, please cut it in half.



Household and Cyber Security Minsterworth Village Hall Tuesday 3rd March 7-00pm

All of us will be concerned about the continued risk of being burgled or subjected to some form of scam. Sometimes it's really difficult to know if that email or phone call is genuine or just 'phishing'. At the above meeting Jill Croxall and Chrissie Parkes from Neighbourhood Watch and members of the Police will discuss various methods of crime prevention, and how we can help ourselves to become more secure.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) exists to help communities work together to prevent crime and make individuals feel safer. This is an opportunity to find out more about NHW and, if you wish, join the network to receive updates about criminal trends and crime prevention on an ongoing basis.

In addition to the talks, there will be free leaflets on crime prevention, and for those attending the meeting an opportunity to purchase property marking devices such as 'magic marking water' at a discounted price.

We attended a similar event at Westbury in November and thought it was well worthwhile – fun and interesting.

RB

Is it solipstic in here or is it just me?

A roman walks into a bar and asks for a Martinus.

"You mean Martini?" the bartender asks.
The Roman replies, "Slow down there! I'll let you know when I want more."

What does a dyslexic, agnostic insomniac do at night?

He stays up wondering if there is a dog.

AIRGUN LEGISLATION

On 7th December a small group of 4 to 5 boys and a dog were seen in an area of private woodland within the Village carrying what was believed to have been an air rifle. The legislation states that they should not be using an air gun if they are under 14 and unsupervised, nor on private land without permission. There are similar restrictions when shooting on a riverbank or near a public footpath. For further information see <https://www.airgunshooting.co.uk/expert-advice/airgun-law-in-the-uk-1-1111764>.

The legislation changed in 2007 and this now states “It is illegal to shoot an airgun on any land, including common land, river banks, public land, recreation areas or playing fields and land covered by water, i.e. lakes, ponds, canals and rivers where you do not have full permission from the land owner or its tenant. It is also illegal to fire an airgun closer than 50 feet (15 metres) from the centre of a public highway, bridleway or footpath, if your shooting causes upset or inconvenience to those using the highway.”

Air gunners between 14 and 18 years of age are no longer allowed to transport an airgun to the venues at which they shoot. These shooters must be accompanied and supervised by someone of 21 years or above.

The Police were informed, and the caller was told that they should phone 999 if a similar incident with small boys and a gun is witnessed.

We would be grateful if anyone else in the village experiences a similar incident it is reported using the link <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/contact-us/report-a-crime-or-incident/>. It is only by reporting such events that the authorities become aware of this illegal behaviour.

RB

The importance of Empathy

You can be the most disciplined, brilliant & even wealthy individual in the world, but if you don't care for or empathise with other people then you are nothing but a sociopath – Kamia Taylor

Empathy is a fundamental human ability that has been too readily forsworn by modern business.

When customers perceive your company as empathetic, you will see sales increase, but wait... there's more. Employees with strong empathy skills are also more productive and innovative.

– Jane Wurdwand



Wreath making evening

On 4th December 2019

Of the 25 ladies some were experienced and others were 'novices', all ready to have a go at making a wreath for their door or table.

The basic wreaths were ready for use and, armed with secateurs, lots of foliage, ribbon and baubles, each lady made a very individual and gorgeous wreath. It was a lovely sociable event and all finished the evening by having a good look at the different designs and joining in the Group photograph.

Thank you to everyone who helped clear up the Hall – gosh did we make a mess!! But it was well worth it with £55 for Minsterworth Village Hall and £45 for Minsterworth Church.

Julie Fisher

Fun facts

- In Switzerland it is illegal to own just one guinea pig
This is because guinea pigs are social animals, and they are considered victims of abuse if they are alone
- Snakes can help predict earthquakes
They can sense a coming earthquake from 75 miles away (121 km), up to five days before it happens.
- If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground it can't hop
- During your lifetime you will produce enough saliva to fill two swimming pools
- Heart attacks are more likely to happen on a Monday morning
- In 2017 more people were killed from injuries caused by taking selfies than by shark attacks
- The only two countries named after a woman are Saint Lucia and Ireland
- Vincent van Gogh only sold one painting in his lifetime

Minsterworth Reading Group



The book chosen for our February 5th meeting is 'Everything I Never Told You' by Celeste Ng.

In March we will review 'Girl, Woman, Other' By Bernadine Elvaristo.

Daddy Fell into the Pond

a poem by Alfred Noyes

Everyone grumbled. The sky was grey.
We had nothing to do and nothing to say.
We were nearing the end of a dismal day,
And then there seemed to be nothing beyond,
Then
Daddy fell into the pond!

And everyone's face grew merry and bright,
And Timothy danced for sheer delight.
"Give me the camera, quick, oh quick!
He's crawling out of the duckweed!" Click!

Then the gardener suddenly slapped his knee,
And doubled up, shaking silently,
And the ducks all quacked as if they were daft,
And it sounded as if the old drake laughed.
Oh, there wasn't a thing that didn't respond
When
Daddy Fell into the pond!

Alfred Noyes



ST PETER'S P.C.C.

The Whist Drive

Thank you to the Village Hall committee who were kind enough to decorate the hall in time for the December whist drive making it all very festive. There were prizes of chocolates, biscuits, wine, groceries etc chosen by the lucky winners of both the whist and the raffle. Thanks are due to all those who gave prizes which reflected in the proceeds being more than usual - £97. As always thank you too, for the kitchen helpers, and those who set up and put away the tables and chairs.

The next whist drive will be on Monday 6th January at Minsterworth Village Hall, 7.30pm. New players are always welcome.

200 Club

Anticipation was mounting after the December whist drive as to who the winner of the £100 would be this year – congratulations to Bill.

£100	No. 068	Bill Mogg
£50	No. 169	Chris East
£20	No. 015	Irene Herridge
£10	No. 129	Roger Ingham

Church Service Times & flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
6 January	11am	Family Service	Beverley Robinson
6 January	5pm	Evensong	Beverley Robinson
13 January	11am	Holy Communion	Beverley Robinson
20 January	5pm	Evening Prayer	Kate Oxley
27 January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Kate Oxley

Gardening...

Would any garden lovers be interested in meeting up... perhaps seasonally for a coffee gathering just to exchange ideas and comments?

I tried some purple vegetables this year and wasn't overwhelmed with the results... but someone else might have had a better outcome... and maybe arrange help for holiday cover for plants... Personally I don't want another committee in my life... or too many meetings... but I love sharing ideas!

If you are interested in this proposal just email or call me and we can fix a date in the springtime... and thereafter plan ahead... perhaps a spring... summer... and autumn... gathering..?

I personally think chocolate biscuits help such things along very well indeed...

Nicky Milligan

Nicky.milligan.healing@gmail.com

In the morning you beg to sleep more, in the afternoon you are dying to sleep, and at night you refuse to sleep.

Why is Monday so close to Friday, and so close to Monday?

Laughing is one of the best exercises, it's like running inside your mind. You can do it almost anywhere and it's even better with a friend.

Fedex 'gripes'

After every flight, FEDEX pilots fill out a form, known as a 'gripe sheet' to tell mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics fix the problem and then document their repairs on the form.

Here are some actual maintenance problems submitted by the pilots (marked with a 'P') and the solutions recorded (marked by an 'S') by maintenance engineers, who by the way have a sense of humour:

P: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.

S: Left inside main tyre almost replaced.

P: Test flight OK, auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed in cockpit.

I have a big fat cat
The fattest for miles around.
Wherever there's lots of food,
That's where he'll be found.

I'd like to tell you, teacher,
I'd like to tell you straight,
I might have 'accidentally' dropped
My homework on his plate

Christian M Mitewu

Aethelflaed, Athelred, Aeflwynn, Athelstan and St Oswald

So lets get this right – Aethelflaed was the daughter of King Alfred and Queen of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia. In the mid 880's, she married Athelred, King of the Saxon kingdom of Wessex, and together they drove the Danes out of much of northern Britain. They were succeeded by their daughter Aeflwynn and their foster son Athelstan, who finally defeated the Vikings and became the first king of all England. Well done them - but they could have been a bit more imaginative with names! Aethelflaed built the church of St Oswalds, now St Oswalds Priory, and she was buried there just over 1000 years ago, in 918.

But why was the church called St Oswalds? St Oswald was one of the most important founding saints of Anglo-Saxon Christianity. He was born around 604 AD, the son of a king, and was ruler of the kingdom of Northumbria, the area that incorporated the famous Lindisfarne monastery. He converted to Christianity during mid-life, and did much to spread the religion, as well as leading a pious life. Consequently in the 630's AD, when he died in battle against the pagan Mercians near Oswestry, he was venerated as a saint, and the site of his death became associated with miracles. Originally St Oswald was buried at Bardney Abbey in Lincolnshire, so he had nothing to do with Gloucester. His remains were said to have cured fevers and banished evil spirits.

The Vikings slowly spread over England, and in 877 they even occupied Gloucester, the very south of the remaining English kingdom. This was for only a short period however. Having expelled the Vikings, in 896 a meeting of the Mercian witan (ruling council) was held in the Royal Hall at Kingsholm, which was then just outside the fortified city. The Mercian rulers decided to build a new church in Gloucester dedicated to St Peter and, although small, it was so highly decorated that it was referred to as 'the Golden Minster'. To give the new church even greater importance, in 909 AD, Aethelflaed decided to send a Saxon raiding party to Bardney Abbey (which was by then in the Viking controlled part of England) and bring part of St Oswalds remains back to Gloucester. The church was then renamed St Oswalds Priory, and became a place of pilgrimage – thus encouraging tourism Saxon style!

What's possibly even more remarkable is that I have spent the past 50 years in Gloucester associating St Oswalds only with Tesco and the old cattle market, without realising the importance of his name to the city!

Continued on p15

Footnote - If you feel in the mood for even more Saxon history, vaguely around the same time (673 AD), Aetheldreda founded a monastery at Ely. The abbey was rebuilt in 1109 following the Norman conquest and remains today as the current Ely cathedral. It's a beautiful building if you are in the area and have time to visit. I am told that in the 1860's part of the current ceiling was painted by Gloucester's T Gambier Parry. And finally Athelstan, Alfred the Great's grandson and the first king of all England, who reigned between 925 and 939 AD, is buried at Malmesbury Abbey, which is another beautiful building well worth a visit.

References

*Wikipedia is an excellent source of information (and I have made my donation!)
The Bone Thief, by VM Whitworth is a fast moving novel based on the escapades of the small band of people who travelled from Gloucester to Bardney to recover the bones of St Oswald around 909AD. I have no idea how much of it is true, but it's a good read!*

Aethelflaed, England's Forgotten Founder, by Tom Holland is a nicely illustrated 50 page booklet giving the history of Gloucester's Saxon Queen in a condensed format.

RB

Q: What do you call ten Arctic hares hopping backwards through the snow together?

A: A receding hare line

Q: What do Snowmen call their offspring?

A: Chill-dren.

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See the Snowdrops at The Naight House Minsterworth

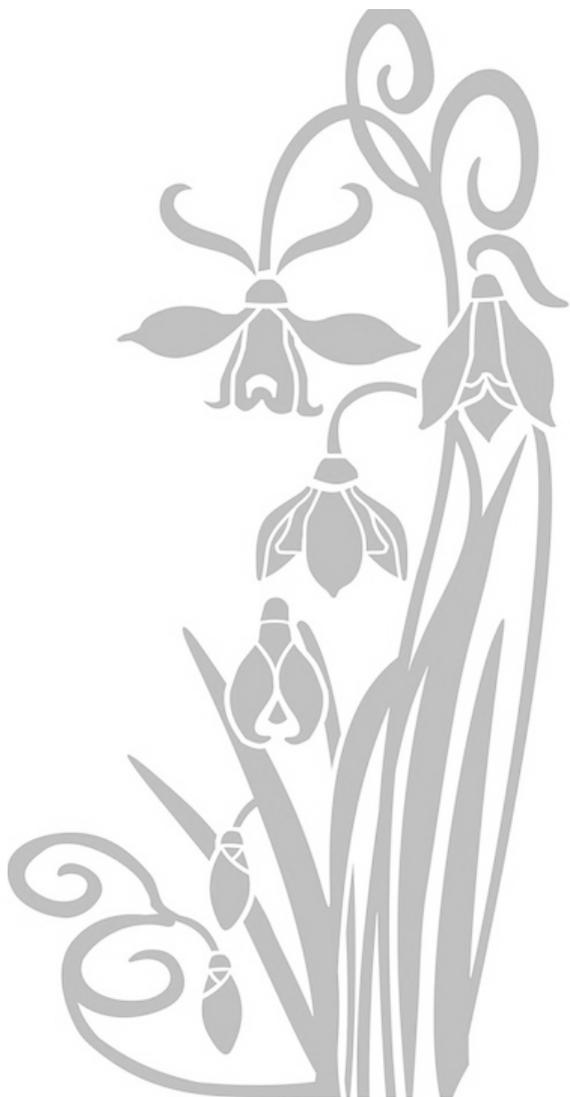
The Naight woods will be open to the public throughout February for you to wander its paths and gaze upon the snowdrops.

On the weekends 8th-9th and 15th-16th February we will be serving hot drinks and cakes from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Donations kindly accepted for St. Peter's Church Minsterworth and Minsterworth Village Hall.

If arriving by car, please park in St. Peter's Church car park and walk along the riverbank.

*Marie-Clare and
Richard Mawle*



Notes from Minsterworth Parish Council meeting 9th December 2019

Present: Cllr. R Blowey, Cllr. S Ingham, Cllr. R Crisp, Cllr. N Garbutt, Cllr. C Thomas, Cllr. N Powell, clerk F Wallbank, Boro' Cllr. J Smith, County Cllr. P Awford
Apologies Cllr. S King

Dist Cllr. Smith said that they were working towards 'fit for the future'. Potential merger of Cheltenham & Gloucester's hospitals is currently being discussed. There is a new focus on increased fly tipping, leading to several prosecutions. Please report any incidents. TBC's Treecycle will encourage recycling of real Christmas trees in January (see p5).

Members of the Harvey Centre's management sought the Parish Council's moral support to add credence to their application to the Charity Commission and other grants. The Parish Council confirmed its decision not to give funding to the Harvey Centre in this financial year but voted to support the efforts of the Harvey Centre to establish a community centre.

The Park has had a final grass cut. The white stones outside the school on the lower road should be removed. Mole traps will be placed. A date is needed for the 1st aid training. Walcotts Green has been corrected to Calcotts green and the central reservation sign has been done. There are lots of potholes on the way to Orchard End.

Neighbourhood Watch and the Police will give a talk on household and cyber security on 3rd March. This was well received in Westbury.

Planning: Old Beams no objection. Deepfurrow several applications - need more information.

There has been a case of antisocial behaviour involving boys and airguns on private property. If it happens again dial 999 to report a crime.

The 2019 Donkey Walk takes place on Saturday 21st December.

The next meeting is on 13th January in Minsterworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

This report doesn't necessarily reflect the minuted discussions and decisions of the Parish Council; anyone wanting further information, or to inspect the agreed minutes, should consult the Clerk Fiona Wallbank on 01452 849178.

Minsterworth Village Hall

Registered charity 255668



Available to hire

Booking Clerk - Brian Billingham 01452 750492

*A beautiful, traditional Hall with a stage,
well-equipped kitchen and recreation ground.*

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e-mail - village_hall@minsterworth.org

Website - www.minsterworth.org

FOR YOUR DIARY

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6	St Peter's PCC		12
	TBC's Treecycle		5
13	Minsterworth Parish Council		18
18	Ukes Anon		3

Recycling Collection dates 2

Mailchimp is the internal e-mail system used to get important & sometimes urgent information to Minsterworth people. It uses mass e-mail and is sent as required.

e-mail thevillager@minsterworth.org & ask to subscribe to Mailchimp.

Your privacy will **always** be protected & you will only ever be sent important news for Minsterworth.

Thank you.

Minsterworth Village Hall