

# **The Villager**

**Minsterworth News**



Sunrise on Christmas morning  
over Calcotts Green

by Tony Pearson

**January 2021**

**Edition 218**

Dear readers,

2021 already here & The Villager continues with lots more features but unfortunately starting with some very sad news on p3.

All items for consideration to:-

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager

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

### KERBSIDE RECYCLING JANUARY 2021

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

Tuesday 5

Tuesday 19

BLUE bin & caddy  
(recycling)

Tuesday 12

Tuesday 26

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



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## Tony Pearson RIP

Thursday 10th December 2020 was the day that Tony was laid to rest. COVID restrictions prevented us from attending the ceremony, but a good number of Villagers lined the lower road to bid him farewell.



Tony was born in Stockton on Tees, near Middlesbrough, in 1939. As his father worked for the bank, they moved around quite a lot, eventually settling in Maidstone.

Tony was always keen on flying, and he joined the RAF as a teenager, eventually ending his career as Wing Commander. He flew a variety of aircraft including the Vampire, the Canberra, the Jet Provost and the Vulcan V-Bomber.

Anne and Tony first met when they were on holiday in Cornwall and just 15 years old. How about that for a lifetime together! Although never involved in conflict, Tony's job certainly involved a huge amount of travelling. Anne says that they lived in 27 houses over their lives due to doing numerous overseas tours including Germany, Cyprus, Perth (Aus), Nebraska and Newfoundland. In 1989 he retired from the RAF and for 10 years was a Civil Flying Instructor at Oxford Air Training School, and in later years he was a volunteer guide at the Jet Age Museum at Staverton.

Anne and Tony moved to Minsterworth in 2002 and soon became involved in Village life. It was in that year that the Villager magazine was established, and Tony took on the task of delivering copies to the many distributors around the Village, as well as delivering to a number of households himself.

Tony was chairman of the Village Hall committee for 10 years and involved in some quite big projects, such as the building of the current toilet block, and setting up the lights in the car park. During his second session on the Village Hall Committee, he was of huge help to me when we re-established the fete and in the development of Ellis Bank. Tony was also on the Parish Council for several years, and his quiet but thoughtful approach to issues was much appreciated.

Tony was easy to chat to, always had plenty of stories to tell, and always willing to give a hand. A good friend and a real asset to the Village. Our thoughts are with Anne and their sons Nigel and Richard. We will all miss him. As Anne would say, she certainly picked a good 'un!

RB

## High Flight

by John Gillespie Magee

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew –  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

## Lighten our Darkness

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the  
Lighten our Darkness idea,  
I have had lots of lovely feedback.

I certainly have enjoyed walking along The Street to light  
my candles and then walk home with all the candles and  
lights on the way.

Thank you for making it work.

And...

Happy Christmas Greetings from me to you!

*Liz Duff*

## Gardening by the Severn - Its cold outside

We may not be spending much time in the garden this month but spare a thought for the birds; their natural food supplies are dwindling by January. We can help by preparing the garden throughout the year. Don't cut everything back in your garden next autumn. The dying plants provide food/shelter for the wildlife. Finches and Sparrows love the seeds, while Wrens and Gold Crests enjoy hunting for hidden insects. The plants also look very attractive when covered in frost.



You can introduce bird loving plants into your garden; Ivy, Teasel, Honeysuckle, Sunflowers, Thistles and shrubs with berries. Honeysuckle is wonderful for attracting; Thrushes, Warblers and Greenfinches. It gives birds an ideal nesting place and autumn fruit.

Leave a few apples on your trees for the birds. The pheasants love feasting on the Naight's fallen apples. Ensure birds have access to fresh water all year round. In the cold winter months you may have to break ice on your bird baths.

Birds need feeding all year round but this is the time for high fat foods. Why not make your own fat balls: You will need 1 part

dry bird food to 2 parts lard. (You can buy pre-mixed bird food or mix your own.) Melt lard in saucepan, take off the heat and mix in bird food. Line baking tray with grease proof paper and place moulds on top. You can use biscuit cutters, china cups, fir-cones or oranges halved with flesh removed to hold the fat. Carefully spoon the fat/seed mixture into moulds, refrigerate for two hours. When fat has hardened make a hole with a skewer and thread with string.

Blue and great Tits love hanging feeders while robins, blackbirds and thrushes prefer feeding on the ground or table. I set up a table outside the kitchen window which contains: bowl of water, sunflower head, fat-balls and wood log with hidden peanuts and mealworms. I am regularly entertained by two blue tits who take on a gang of eight long tailed tits. It's like watching an episode of Peaky Blinders while I am washing up.



Marie-Clare Mawle



## VILLAGE HALL FISH AND CHIPS

IN JANUARY IT'S ON A TUESDAY!

Due to other commitments on Thursday 14th January, this month the Made without Gluten fish and chip van will be at the Village Hall on:

**TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY, serving from 5pm to 8pm.**

From February onwards we will be back to the second Thursday of the month, i.e. **Thursday 11th February and 11th March 2021 etc.** We are grateful for your support to date – it's a good opportunity for a socially distanced chat and the Village Hall receives a small sum for use of its car park.



## Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

May we wish you all a very Happy New Year, one which we hope will help us put the problems of 2020 behind us.

As per normal there will be no R.B.L. meeting this month but we hope our February meeting will be able to proceed with no problems. We will be able to start discussing many items, such as initial thoughts for our day trip to a selected attraction.

I would like to thank you for helping the poppy collection raise £1,901.81, a very good amount of money considering the rules we had to observe in our area.

Again a Happy 2021 and thank you.  
Terry Bourne – President  
Minsterworth & District R.B.L.

### Military history

Jan 23 1945  
Jan 24 1945  
Jan 31 1945

Attack on Montforterbeck  
Carrier strike at oil refineries Palembang  
Battle of Kangaw

## Go Outdoors – Dawn Ricketts

With another national lockdown in place it is so important to get out for some fresh air and exercise. Jasper, my old working cocker spaniel, highly recommends the following location for humans to walk and dogs to swim.



Mallards Pike Lake, Parkend, Gloucestershire GL15 4HD 14.8 miles from Minsterworth Village Hall.

The site is open every day from 8:00 am to 5pm.  
Car parking charges apply.  
Up to 2 hours is £3.00 and up to 4 hours is £5



Current Covid-19 Restrictions Apply as below:

OPEN	Car Park – Walking Trails – Running Trails
OPEN with social distancing	Toilets
OPEN Fri – Sun (takeaway only)	Cafe

### Mallards Pike Path 0.5 miles - level gradient

This lakeside path is surfaced for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There are several benches along the way to stop and enjoy the scenery, watch the ducks and all the dogs enjoying their water sports activities in the lake. There is even a small beach area for the dogs to paddle in slowly for any cautious canines.

### Mallards to Wenchford trail – 1.8 miles

This path links Mallards Pike to the popular summer picnic site of Wenchford. Following a stoned forest road for most of its length, the path runs through woodland rich in relics of its industrial past.

### The Soudley Circles walks – 3 miles

The Forest of Dean Ramblers have three circular walks between Mallards Pike and Soudley Ponds, each three miles in length, with climbs and a variety of views. The walks can be combined into a pleasant ten mile hike.

Ramblers routes leaflets and maps are required, available from Forest of Dean ramblers.

### Dawn Ricketts

# Minsterworth Creatives

## Applebee Woodturning Designs – Bob Holder

My first experience of wood turning was in Mr. Jennings' carpentry classes at school... so quite a while ago! It wasn't repeated until I moved to Minsterworth in 2016 that I took up wood turning again. I was reintroduced by a friend who awakened fond memories of those wood turning clubs after school!



Wood is a lovely medium to work with. Turning wood is very therapeutic. When I work on a piece, I am the first person to “see inside the wood” and discover the natural beauty, colours, and grain that a piece of wood can give. There are hundreds of different wood types, but even from the same tree, so many different lines and colours can be exhibited, making each piece unique. If a tree or log becomes “spalted”, this can only add to the lovely patterns and lines that appear. (Spalting is when fungus enters the wood as it dies.) I think spalted beech is my favourite wood to turn – it's an easy wood to shape and produces great results! I often “let the wood tell me” what shape will emerge from the piece, but I will always work to my customers' requirements.

So far, my most challenging item has been a candlestick which is 53cm high. Challenging as it had to be made from 3 pieces and joined together on the lathe. The next challenge is to turn a large piece of rubber wood – the largest piece I've tackled so far. It really had the workshop shaking until I could get it round!

I source forestry-sustained woods from all UK suppliers, and ecologically sourced when buying from abroad. It all must be kiln-dried to ensure it doesn't split during turning, as fresh wood will twist split and warp as it dries.



Modern ways of turning wood use electrically driven lathes, so no more spinning the wood by leg power. Speeds of around 3,000 rpm can be obtained, making for very smooth cuts and less work to have to do



when sanding the finished item. Chisels have changed too. When I was at school, I used a gouge and scraper. Now, there are many types that give different cuts and shapes in the wood – roughing gouges, spindle and bowl gouges, parting tools, skew chisels, the list goes on, and all must be ground to the right angle.

The more exotic woods can be cancerous, and the fine dust from smoothing the wood can be very harmful to the turner's lungs, so dust extraction and masks are essential. And if the wood piece is not secure on the lathe, it can fly across the workshop at some speed!

*You can view my work at [www.applebeewoodturning.co.uk](http://www.applebeewoodturning.co.uk). I'm very happy to take commissions and will have a go at just about anything round and wooden!*

## The 5 most dangerous scams and how criminals trick us

Many of us have heard about or been victims of the various scams that are going around. These tend to be either by telephone, text or online. The five most common are listed below:

1. Upfront payment fees - When scammers ask you to pay fees to release compensation pay outs or loans, and traders disappearing after payments are made.
2. Fake services or invoices - this includes charges to remove fake computer viruses and fake advertising invoices being sent to small businesses.
3. Goods not being received - purchases made through social media or auction websites, where the scammers are private sellers or based abroad can leave you out of pocket.
4. Vishing - These are phone calls where the scammers attempt to get sensitive financial info from you, such as credit or debit card details to renew a subscription, or for information about personal debts.
5. Subscription traps - This is where people are misled into signing up to subscription services, usually with a free or discounted trial – and scammers then take multiple large payments, often changing their company name to throw you off the scent.

### How do they trick you?

They present themselves to you, scammers will always use a certain set of tricks, generally focused on making you believe something's gone wrong, that you are out of control, and that they can put you back in control. These are the hallmarks of the 'confidence trickster'.

Personal details: Info about you is everywhere. Thanks to social media, the fraudster can get hold of your address, name, number. If they've illegally obtained personal data, through spyware on your phone, tablet, computer or other means, they could have even more.

Making you act and panic: Scammers tell you that your cash could be at risk – and making people panic can make them take rash action.

Trick numbers: A realistic sounding number makes you more likely to pick up the phone.

Holding the line: A classic trick. If you hang up to call back the bank, but they stay on the line, you can end up talking back to the scam team.

### What can you do to protect yourself against them?

A basic rule of thumb – if anybody asks you to do something 'different' from normal, be suspicious. For example, no bank will ever ask you to transfer money to a 'new' account. A bank will never need secret personal details such as a password or PIN to block a card or a suspect payment. And if you don't recognise the number don't answer. They will phone again if they genuinely need to get hold of you.

**BT Call Protect** is a service that will send nuisance and unwanted calls to a junk voicemail. It will help to stop the worst offending nuisance and scam calls, as well as providing you with the control to stop other unwanted calls. It's simple and easy to manage. To find out more information on this service and how to activate it, go to [www.bt.com/help/bt-call-protect](http://www.bt.com/help/bt-call-protect) >

Roger Ingham

## The Reporting of Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

In the December article it was suggested that ASB should be reported to the Police or Tewkesbury Borough Council. I had assumed that TBC passed on the information to the Police, but apparently that is NOT the case.

Hence in future could you please report all ASB to the Police by calling 101 or use [www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk) I am informed that the website has been upgraded recently and is easier to use. We shall see!

We have also made contact with our new Police Community Support Officer, PCSO 249287 Amber Jenkins. In a recent email she says that she has organised more patrols through the village, and some residents have been given information on how to deal with ASB. The Parish Council hope to 'meet' PCSO Jenkins (virtually at this stage) at their Council meeting on 11th January 2021.

Hopefully where we can we will begin to explore a wider range of important preventative and problem-solving options, which can yield much better and longer lasting results.

Roger Blowey



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## Forest of Dean District Council Strategic Option Consultation

A cross-Parish group, including Minsterworth, has been formed in response to the District Council's 'preferred strategy' for housing 2021-2041.

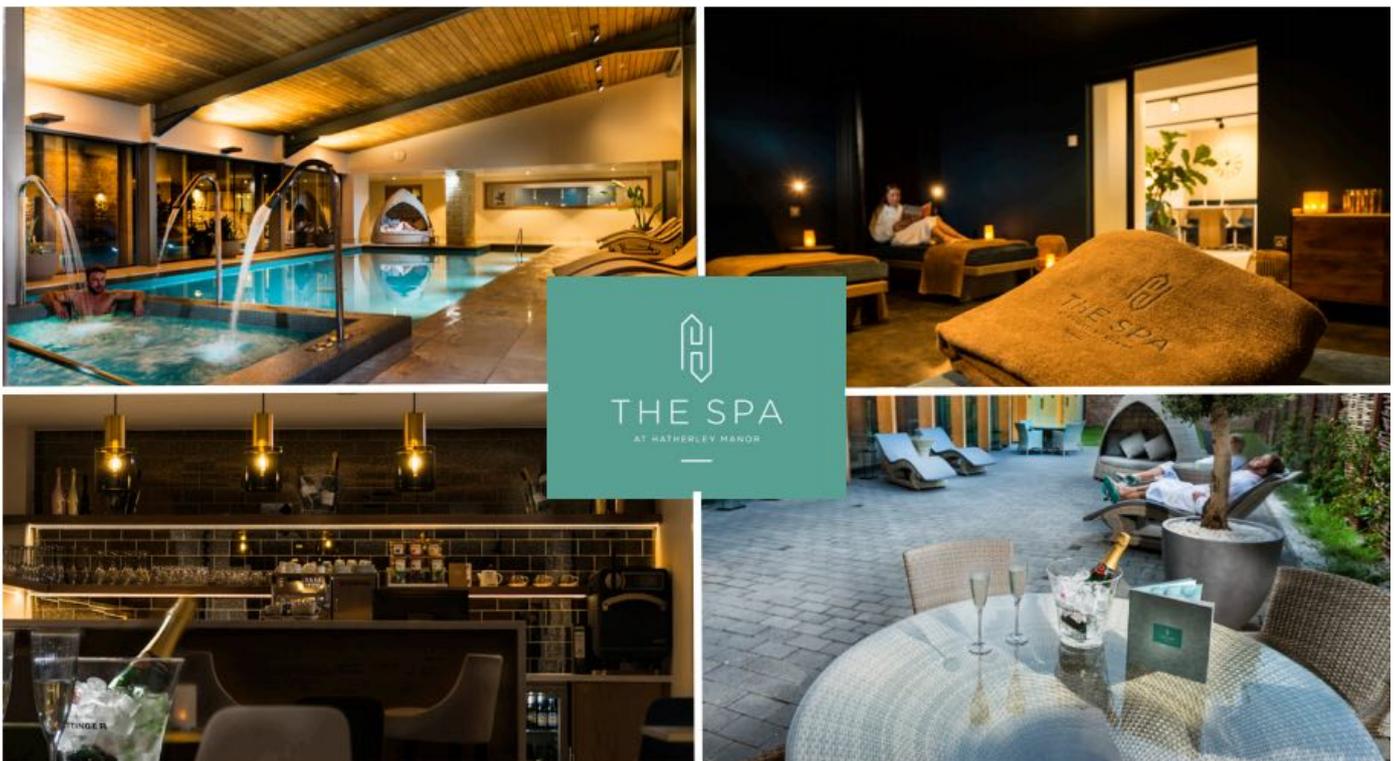
Plans to build a new 4000+ house town in Churcham, as well as large settlements in Huntley and Beachley, have been approved and are now open for public comment.

This is the largest decision to be made by the Forest of Dean District Council since its formation in 1973.

The official consultation document can be accessed and commented upon at <http://www.fdean.gov.uk> under 'Consultation on Local Plan preferred option'

Let your views be known!

A leaflet providing more details is being distributed with this edition of The Villager.



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## A MINSTERWORTH ELEGY FROM F W HARVEY

With the exciting new development of 'The Harvey Centre', we have become more aware of Minsterworth's own poet laureate F W (Will) Harvey (1888-1957) after whom the new centre is named. Will spent his boyhood here in Minsterworth living at his family's elegant home The Redlands (opposite the Appletree). He is perhaps best known for the powerful poetry he wrote about his WWI experiences serving with the Gloucester Regiment at the front in France, reflecting not only the rigours of war but also about his intense nostalgia for the Gloucestershire countryside and especially for his home village Minsterworth and its folk.

He lived for much of his later life in the Forest but the attachment to Minsterworth stayed with him always. To find out more about Harvey, take a look at the F W Harvey Society's website ([www.fwharveysociety.co.uk](http://www.fwharveysociety.co.uk)) or why not stop and look at the information board about him recently erected outside the church here in Minsterworth.

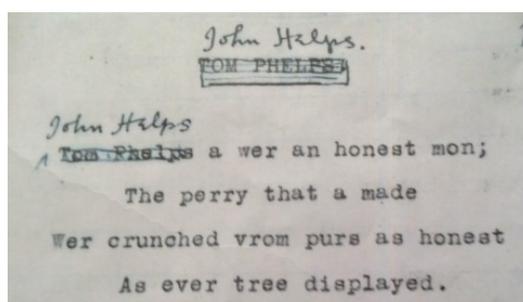
In the late 1940s he penned a poem in memory of an old friend who had recently died, a man evidently well respected and also known for the excellence of his cider. Written in Forest dialect, it's entitled 'John Helps':

John Helps a wer an honest mon;  
The perry that a made  
Wer crunched vrom purs as honest  
As ever tree displayed

John Helps a wer an honest mon;  
The dumplings that a chewed  
Wer made vrom honest apples  
As Autumn ever growed.

John Helps a were an honest mon,  
And I be sorry a's dead.  
Perry and honest men be scarce  
These days,'tiz zed.ç

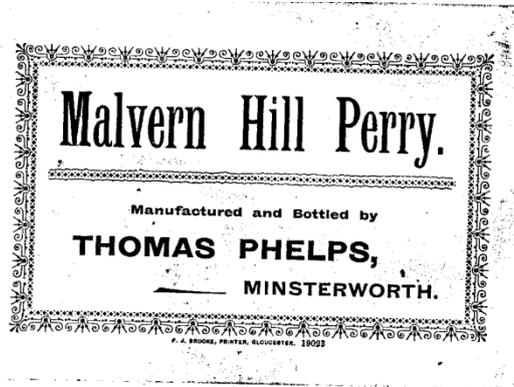
You may well be wondering why I am telling you all this, but there is an added twist to the tale with, for me, a personal connection. The Harvey Society has recently had access to a copy of Harvey's original writing of this poem done in typed text but with ink scratchings out done by the man himself. The original title of the poem has been scratched out and a new one, 'John Helps', written over. Under the scratching however it is clear that Harvey's original title read 'Tom Phelps' and that name appeared at the start of each stanza:



Continued on p13

Continued from p12

The name is very familiar to me. Tom Phelps (c.1869-1943) was in his youth a fisherman but later came to be a well-known producer of cider in Minsterworth and, during the 1920/30s was known for being the only local cider producer possessing a motor lorry for his deliveries. I also have this copy of one of his bottle labels:



Really exciting (for me anyway) is the fact that the same Thomas Phelps and his family actually lived in my cottage, Lyn Paddock, and it is known that his cider was made in a large barn immediately behind my cottage (later taken down for new housing to be built). I already knew that he was a highly respected member of the village community but we now know that Harvey himself held him, and his cider, in high regard - enough to pen this very personal and touching tribute to him in verse.

T.M-S

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## A Happy Retirement Reverend Steve!

The Reverend Steve Taylor was ordained on 29th June, 2008, by Bishop Michael. He took up his post as Priest in Charge of Westbury-on-Severn, with, Flaxley, Blaisdon and Minsterworth Benefice, on 1st December 2013, having retired from his teaching post at the end of the Summer term.



He led his last service, via ZOOM, on 30th November 2020. We wish Steve and Viv Taylor a happy retirement and hope that they enjoy the next phase of their life together, with time for family and hobbies and walks in the countryside.

We are pleased to say that Steve and Viv are not moving. They will continue living at Perrick's Farmhouse in Northwood Green and so we may well see them out and about in the next few weeks and months.

Anne Cowdrey & Jo Stait

# M.B

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### Quick Chickpea and Spinach Curry

#### Ingredients

1 medium onion diced	10g fresh coriander (cilantro)
2 garlic cloves crushed	0.5 tsp ground coriander
400 g chopped tomatoes	0.5 tsp paprika
400 g canned chickpeas drained	0.5 tsp cumin
100 g spinach	0.5 tsp turmeric
1 pinch Sea salt and black pepper	0.5 tsp cayenne pepper

diced butternut squash or sweet potato can also be added for extra veg and to make it go further!

#### Method

1. Heat a little oil in a large saucepan, add onion & garlic & cook for 2 mins.
2. Add spices & stir well.
3. Add the chopped tomatoes, drained chickpeas, salt & pepper. Reduce heat & simmer for 8 mins.
4. 2 mins before it has finished cooking add the spinach and coriander & stir well.
5. Cook for 2 mins or until the spinach has wilted.

Enjoy! Arlette Lane – AKA the reluctant cook



## Reflections on the Gloucestershire landscape

Part one (part two will be in February 2021 issue)

We're so fortunate to live in a county which is acknowledged to have one of the most varied landscapes in England. Why is that so? Well, the countryside we see every day has evolved over thousands, even millions, of years. So essentially, it's down to the underlying soil and rock formations, which ultimately determine what will grow best in a given area, or even not grow at all.

The geological map of the British Isles is basically quite simple, with the oldest rocks in the north-west (Hebrides, North Wales) and the newest in the south-east (East Anglia, Kent). And the boundaries of the different geological periods (measured in millions of years) often make clear marks on the landscape.



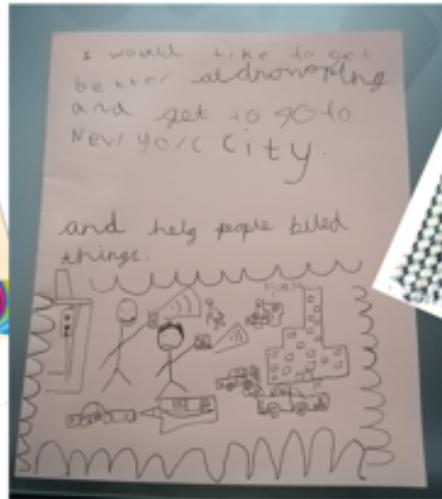
Gloucestershire falls naturally into three distinct areas – Forest, Vale, and Cotswolds. The most westerly, the Forest, is the oldest. The dividing line between the Forest and the Vale is of particular interest, marked by a geological fault running north-south from the Malverns to the Mendips and known as the Blaisdon Fault (or the Malvern Axis north of the Severn and the Bath Axis south of it). It crosses the A40 just west of Huntley church, carries on down just on the west side of the Huntley-Blaisdon road, and crosses the Newnham-Littledean road just north of Newnham. It then crosses the Severn north of Lydney where the river narrows markedly, and where the Bore begins.

It goes on down near Michaelwood Services on the M5, and eventually reaches Bath, where there are links to the Spa. It's an ancient inactive fault, so hopefully any movement or 'quaking is exceedingly unlikely! If you travel out of Huntley up towards Dursley Cross, or from Newnham to Littledean, the changes in the contours and the vegetation are quite obvious. Incidentally Huntley Quarry Reserve, just behind Huntley church, is an important site for geologists, revealing what may be the oldest rock formations in the county, with adjacent May Hill a close second in age.

Next month in part two I will further illustrate how underlying geology affects the landscape, not just in this corner of England, but anywhere on Earth.

Julian Oxley

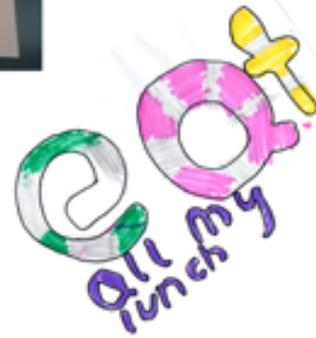
# New Year's Resolutions



Oliver Panting's New Years resolution

- 1) I would like to do 2 flicks on the air track.
- 2) Help out in the village more.
- 3) Help out in the house more because I never do.

Top left Sophie aged 5  
 Top right Lorna aged 7  
 Bottom left Oliver aged 9  
 Bottom right Archie aged 9  
 Middle Riley aged 8





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Duck goes into the  
chemist's shop. 'A tube  
of lipsol please.'  
'Certainly, that will  
be fifty pence.' 'Put it  
on my bill, please.'  
- Les Dawson

"Life is what happens when you're  
busy making other plans."  
- John Lennon

#### 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

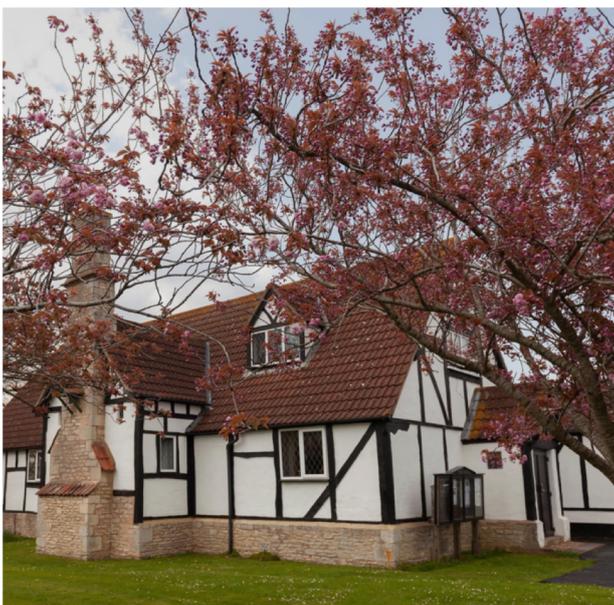
<https://www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/>

St Peter's Church - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/> services, events

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

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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.  
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