

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Social Distancing on VE Day 2020

on the riverside

June 2020

Price 30p

Edition 212

Dear readers,

Here we are under Corona virus lockdown, wondering how this will end & how long it will be before we can go back to being with all our friends without having to maintain 2m distance between us. We are all really looking forward to a time when we no longer need to worry about 'social distancing'. It just isn't easy for a sociable crowd like us! Working from home is proving very sensible however - no time commuting & tending to start working about the time we would previously have left for the office!

This edition of The Villager will revert to paper, hand delivered to every house after an e-edition only in May due to several people having to stay indoors isolating because of the Corona virus pandemic.

Isn't it interesting that ALL of the handy gardening tips on p9 involve conserving water.

Paula

Closing copy date for the July edition is Monday 15th June 2020.

But earlier is even better!

All items for consideration to:-

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING JUNE

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy

BLUE bin & caddy

(landfill) (garden)

(recycling)

Tuesday 9 June

Tuesday 2 June

Tuesday 23 June

Tuesday 16 June

Tuesday 30 June

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

VE Day 2020

We had all sorts of wonderful plans for the village to commemorate the ending of hostilities in Europe during WW2. The Church, the Royal British Legion and the Village Hall had met to plan a simple service of remembrance and thanksgiving at St Peter's, before continuing to the Hall for a picnic and the opportunity for some of our older residents to share with us their own memories of 1945.

But, the best laid plans.....

However, we still celebrated. And perhaps Friday 8th May became even more poignant as we had come to terms with social distancing and not being able to get together with loved ones. Perhaps for some, it gave us some idea of what it must have been like during the war years when the simple pleasures of life, like seeing dear ones, were severely curtailed.

The Village fully embraced the country's plan to still have street parties and bunting and flags began to appear around the lanes. The new union flag fluttered at the Hall. Meanwhile, neighbours came together and, while practising social distancing, it was great to see the Lyncroft residents hold a very British fish and chip supper and a celebratory Winston Churchill cake! While on the river bank several houses enjoyed the beautiful sunshine watching the lazy river and gossiping with friends. Other residents simply sat in their gardens. And perhaps for a few hours, life didn't seem to have changed.

Many of us observed the 11am two minute silence, sang along to Vera Lynn's 'We'll meet again' and joined HM The Queen broadcasting at the exact same time as her father's speech in 1945.

Given the change of plans we still managed to make Minsterworth an amazing place. The very same community spirit that helped people during wartime is supporting village residents today. The expression 'we are stronger together' has never been truer. We are blessed to live here.

So, given we sadly had to cancel our fete plus several other events at the Hall, a suggestion has been made that perhaps we could look to the Victory in Japan commemoration (VJ Day) in mid-August as a date to meet at the Hall for a picnic. On **Sunday 16th August**, we hope to be able to realise the plans made for VE Day. Of course, at this point we simply have no idea what measures will still be in place. But, if we are permitted to get together we're proposing bringing your own picnic, seats, blankets etc to the field behind the hall. Nothing fancy, all very simple. Looking on the bleak side, it might not happen. Being positive we may be able to find our own little spot of green to enjoy (hopefully) the sunshine.

So, a date for your diary. Let's just hope this time it goes ahead.

Sarah McHale - Village Hall Committee



Friday 8th May

VE DAY

75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

community based socially distanced 'Stay at Home' celebration

STREET PARTY

Place a table and chair(s) outside your house on the pavement or front garden

Make your own 'picnic food and have a few drinks.

Keeping to the 2 metre rule



4 to 6pm



Play some music

Decorate the front of you house in red white and blue

Decorate your front window

Dress up in 1940's clothes or in red, white and blue







The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits

- Albert Einstein

Before you marry a person you should first make them use a computer with slow internet to see who they really are

- Will Ferrell

I sat quietly with my own thoughts today

Remind me never to do that again

To those of you expecting me to go out of my mind at any moment

It may take a while longer as the exits are not clearly marked



Handy gardening tips



Pass on your gardening tips in The Villager – you don't need to be an expert, just an enthusiastic gardener who has come up with something that really works & would like to share it! Why not join in! e-mail thevillager@minsterworth.org.

Stop hanging baskets drying out in hot weather by sticking a sanitary pad in the bottom

– Ceri Cockram

Put used teabags at the bottom of your runner bean trench to retain water

– Roger Blowey

Get water to where it's needed by 'planting' a plant pot next to your tomato plant & watering in this. Stops the water rolling off & lets you get in more water

– Paula Ruffley

D.I.Y. Irrigation with empty tonic bottle

Step 1. Use the tonic with gin to empty the bottle.

Step 2. With a sharp knife cut the bottom off the tonic bottle.

Step 3. Drill a hole in the bottle top.

Step 4. Dig a 75-100mm / 3-4 inch hole in the compost next to your vegetable plant.

Step 5. Place the bottle cap down into the hole, use a thin bamboo stick through the hole in the bottle top to secure the bottle in place.

Step 6. Fill the bottle to half way with water. This will ensure water goes directly to the roots of your plant. The thin bamboo slows down the release of water.



Step 7. Buy more Gin and Tonic

I have spare thin bamboo sticks from a window blind and I am happy to make up samples if you can supply the empty bottles. Note lemonade and cola bottles work well but better with vodka or rum!

See picture on p9.

– Dawn Ricketts



Dawn's tonic bottles...

St Peter's Church Worship

Every Sunday morning, a group of us meet at 11:00am, via Zoom, for a short service of Morning prayer, led by the Rev Steve Taylor.

If you would like to join our group, please contact Mervyn Cowdrey, by email, for more details. It would be great to see you.

mervyn_cowdrey@hotmail.com

If you have a prayer request, tell us (via Mervyn's email) and we will happily include your request in our intercessions.

A favourite recipe

I have a little penguin cookery book written by Elizabeth David in which she describes:

foraging, growing vegetables, surveying market stalls and cooking.

It has always been a great favourite, opening our eyes to a wider world of food, preparing and eating. One of her descriptions which delighted my family was when she went "Tramping through the wet grass" in hunt for the succulent snail".

My favourite recipe from her writing is for Cassoulet, a richly flavoured dish which some of you might have eaten round our dining table.

It is a traditional French recipe from regional farm kitchens but has subsequently been modified for modern taste.

Hidden beneath a layer of creamy, golden crusted haricot beans lies the goodies:

Pork sausages, bacon, duck legs, pork rind, onion, garlic and herbs which have been covered with stock and cooked in a slow oven for up to four hours.

Detailed recipe available on demand

Liz Duff

Old English Salad

Ingredients - 2 Little Gem Lettuce, 2 Large Hard Boiled Eggs Cubed, 70g crispy cooked bacon cut into small cubes.

1/2 tbsp red wine vinegar, 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard, 1/2 tsp castor sugar, 1 egg yolk, 4 tbsp double cream, 1 tbsp chopped chives, salt and pepper.

Mix all the dressing ingredients, toss the salad leaves in the dressing, arrange on a large plate, sprinkle with bacon and hard boiled eggs, spare dressing on the side. Chill and serve.

Quantity is 6 as a starter or 2-3 as a light lunch

Dawn Ricketts

Easy Apple Cake

Much requested & always welcome.

Ingredients:

1lb cooking apples

6oz SR flour

1 level tsp baking powder

6oz sugar

2 eggs

4oz melted butter

Line the bottom of an 8-inch cake tin. Heat oven to 180°C

Peel, core & thickly slice apple & put in a bowl of water

Beat the eggs

Mix into the flour, melted butter and sugar. Beating makes a nicer cake texture

Spread half the mixture into the tin

Drain the apples and arrange on the cake mixture

Top with the remaining cake mixture

Bake for 1¼ hours until golden

Leave to cool for 15 mins in the tin

Turn out & remove paper. Cool & sift with caster sugar

Paula Ruffley



My Village by FW Harvey

Chosen by Anne Cowdrey

I love old Minsterworth. I love the trees:
and when I shut my eyes they are most clear,
those leafy homes of wren and red breast-dear,
those winter tracteries so black and light.
i love the tangled orchards blowing bright
With clouds of apple blossom, and the red
Ripe fruit that hangs a-shining in blue air
Like rubies hanging in the orchards hair.

I love old Minsterworth. I love the river
Where elver fishers bend with twinkling lights
And salmon catchers spend their fruitful nights.
I love the sleek brown skin, the mighty rush,
The angry head upreared, the splendid hush
When the Great Bore, (grown breathless) 'ere he turns
Catches his wind; and nothing on the thick
Tide moves: and you can hear your watch's tick.

I love old Minsterworth. I love the men:
the fishers and the cider makers and
All who laugh and labour on the land
with humour and long patience loved of God.
I love the harmless gossips all a-nod,
the children bird-like, and the women old
Like wrinkled crab-apples: and I will pray -
God save old Minsterworth, and such, for aye.

St Peter's Church, Minsterworth

If you walk past the church late next month I hope that you will see work underway replacing the chancel roof – the chancel being part of the church that contains the altar. This is the next stage of the refurbishment of the exterior of the church that is needed to ensure St Peter's can continue with its ministry that has taken place since medieval times. This work follows on from the re-roofing and repair of the tower and turret that took place in 2018. The contract is, as you would expect, fully covid 19 compliant.

The tiled roofs are those originally constructed when St Peter's was rebuilt in the 1860s and a cursory look from the church yard will show you that they have sadly come to the end of their lives; their very poor state can only be properly rectified by complete replacement. Fortunately a quirk of history going back to the Reformation of Henry VIII gives responsibility for the upkeep of the chancel at Minsterworth to the Church Commissioners in London who are funding the majority of this phase. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are contributing 50% of the cost where work is required at the juncture of the Chancel with the Lady Chapel roof (the smaller of the two roofs facing Church Lane).

Whilst the Lady Chapel roof and the main Nave roof also need replacing now, the significant 6 figure costs are beyond the means of the PCC and will require grant aid for which bids to date have been unsuccessful. A further bid will be made later this year.

Mervyn Cowdrey
Treasurer, St Peter's



Whilst we are unable to hold our monthly meetings at this very distressing time we would like to wish you the very best and trust that you are in the very best of health.

Obviously our annual day trip, which this year was to go to the Ironbridge museums, is at the moment uncertain. Rest assured that when we all get the green light to return to normal all effort will be made to resurrect such a super day out.

Good wishes to you all from all at the Royal British Legion Minsterworth branch.

Terry Bourne

President Minsterworth RBL

Gigaclear Update

We understand that around 50% of POTs in the Minsterworth area are now able to take a service and that some of you are already connected and delighted with the service – lucky people!

Next week Martin Vile from Gigaclear will be posting letters through Minsterworth doors, but ONLY to those residents whose connection POTs are RFS (Ready for Service). This means that, if they wish, these residents will be able to order a service from Gigaclear.

Martin will adhere to all the current UK Government guidance on social distancing. He will only do letter drops and will follow up via telephone calls or emails. He will not do any appointments in person.

Any enquiries that the Parish has on POTs that are NOT yet RFS, should still be directed to Ben Stone at ben.stone@gigaclear.com or via Network Build Care.



Minsterworth Picnic

Sunday 16th August

Noon

A commemoration of both VE and VJ Days at the end of World War 2 and the chance for the village to come together

Please bring a picnic and furniture/blankets etc

This event will only go ahead if government advice permits and all instructions pertaining to safety must be strictly adhered to



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.
Suitable for outdoor events and marquees.*

Main Road, Minsterworth, Gloucester GL2 8JH

e-mail – village_hall@minsterworth.org

website – [www.](http://www.minsterworth.org)