

# **The Villager**

**Minsterworth News**



**Pollination**

by Bob Holder

**June 2021**

**Edition 223**

**Dear readers,**

As things begin to open up our village is beginning to start getting together again and even organising things for the future. Hopefully we can begin to see each other safely again and to dare to have some fun.

Why not start with the village walk on p9, follow it up with a visit to a local viewpoint on p10 and then see some of our creatives on p11.

Don't forget our village picnic on Saturday 24th July on p5 or fish & chips on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June on p4.

Julian Oxley writes on p20 about the Suez Canal - I told you he would write about something other than Gloucestershire's railways. All good stuff.

As ever contributions from villagers are very welcome. See how much better your Villager is with entries from lots of people in the village. So why not send something about your latest fascination in - with pictures of course! Don't worry about spelling or grammar - that's my job!

All items for consideration to:-  
Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager  
Tel: 01452 751226

**E-mail: [thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com)**

### **KERBSIDE RECYCLING JUNE 2021**

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

Tuesday 8

Tuesday 22

**BLUE bin & caddy**  
**(recycling)**

Wednesday 2

Tuesday 15

Tuesday 29

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



## **WELL DONE MINSTERWORTH!**

The plant sale at the Harvey Centre on Saturday 8th May was a huge success. It was a lovely social gathering – correctly distanced of course – and, despite the rain, everyone seemed to enjoy the day. There was a wide range of plants on sale, and teas were served through the opened doors of the hall.

Yes, accumulated funds from the day of just over £845 will be a very welcome boost towards a new shed, but much of the success of the day was surely seeing Minsterworth folk working together and enjoying themselves. It's something that we do well!

If you bought any plants and no longer need the pots, we would love to have them back for re-use. Drop them off at either Dawn, Judith, Anne or Sharon's house. Thank you.

The funds raised will go towards buying a shed, concrete base and erecting it up at the Harvey Centre. If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact us on 01452 751283.

Many thanks to those who donated plants, cakes, their time or just turned up to support.

## Minsterworth's Newest Resident!

Congratulations to Ross and Ceri who announced the arrival of Oliver Jack Franklin on Friday 23rd April 2021.

He was in a rush to get on with life, arriving 5 weeks early, but still weighing in at 6lbs 10ozs! Things do seem to happen at speed in School Lane though!

We wish Oliver and his parents all the best for the future.



## June Fish & Chips

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June at the Village Hall**  
**Serving from 5pm to 8pm**

[www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk](http://www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk)

Fish and chips will continue every second Thursday of the month until further notice

The more you take, the more you leave  
behind. What am I??

answer p16



Minsterworth Village Picnic  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Village Hall  
12-4pm

*Please bring your own picnic,  
and picnic rug or chairs.  
No food will be served by the hall.  
We will follow all Covid guidance as  
stipulated by law on  
the given date.  
Please be aware if weather is  
inclement we may need to  
cancel with late notice'*

# Minsterworth Parish Council - Chairman's Report May 2021

Due to the uncertainty of on-going COVID regulations the Parish Council voted to hold the 2021 Annual Parish Assembly this year as a 'virtual;' meeting, and combine it with the Annual Council Meeting (when councillors are re-elected) in May.

The COVID pandemic has certainly affected how we have conducted our business. Had all of this occurred 20 years ago it would have been much more disruptive, but thanks for Zoom and reasonable broadband speeds for most of us, we have adapted surprisingly well to virtual Parish Council meetings. COVID restrictions have certainly reduced the morning A48 traffic queues!

There was no Assembly in 2020, and no chairman's report, so the following will span two years of events. The expansion of the village has continued, with numerous planning applications received. It was in 2015 that Minsterworth was allocated as a 'service village' under the Joint Core Strategy of Tewkesbury Borough Council, and we were expected to take around 45 – 50 additional new houses. Unfortunately TBC did not – and have still not – identified sufficient land supply to fulfil their housing requirement for the Borough for the next 10 – 15 years, and there is therefore a tendency for planning applications to be approved whatever the Parish Council considers to be appropriate. The Parish Council spent some time proposing a 'settlement boundary' for Minsterworth, but this has yet to be ratified by TBC, and hence does not seem to be taken into account when planning decisions are made. Consequently we now have around 80 new houses either built, being built or where planning has been approved in principle. Not all of these houses will be built of course, but the numbers are a reflection of the changing times that we currently find ourselves in.

The Parish Council joined 5 other local Parish Councils to present a unified objection to the FoD proposal for a new town of 2000 – 4000 houses proposed for Churcham. The inter parish group was a new and rather time-consuming venture, but it did produce a well reasoned document that was presented to FoD Council and to Mark Harper, with suggested alternatives to Churcham. We await the outcome. More recently there has been an outline proposal for another 70 houses near to the Village Hall, and although this proposal has yet to be submitted as a formal application, the Parish Council have forwarded their initial comments to TBC.

We continue to make our village more appealing and colourful. Thanks are due to all of those who give up their time litter picking. There does not seem to be any way of reducing the amount of rubbish thrown out of cars! Over the past two years, discarded nitrous oxide canisters (correctly used for cream spraying) have become an issue, especially in laybys. Anyone standing on them could lose their balance, so they are especially dangerous. We are told that inhaling nitrous oxide is not illegal and surprisingly nor is driving immediately after inhaling the gas, so frustratingly, options for the control are limited.

It is also good to see the increasing numbers of flowers lining the A48. I am sure that they increase year on year, so many thanks to all of those who have planted daffodils along the

Continued on p7

Continued from p6

verges and trimmed back their hedges to allow easy access along the footpath. Two small wild-flower areas have been planted, and we look forward to seeing the results. The resurfacing of the tarmac footpath from the Downs railway bridge towards Minsterworth was a huge improvement. Many thanks to those who helped trimming back ivy and undergrowth generally from our bus shelters. They look much tidier.

Using funding from a 'resting places' project, we have been able to set up four very nice bench seats placed at strategic points around the village. Let's hope that they are used and not abused! It's good to see people out walking, and hopefully this improves the health and social well-being of our residents, but if you are taking your dog with you can you PLEASE clear up afterwards, keep dogs on leads when they are in fields, and keep to the footpath. The Parish Council has funded the installation of more 'dog poo bins' over the past two years, so there is no reason why fouling should occur.

Minsterworth Park (= the old school playground), which the Parish Council rents from GCC, is looking much tidier, and is certainly well used by families especially. It's a lovely facility. We had to do some minor renovations to the play equipment following a safety inspection, but with part of the work being done by Parish Council members, this was at very low cost.

We did, unfortunately, see an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) at one point, with a number of disappointing events taking place. Following a meeting arranged by the Parish Council the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was re-established. 72 households have signed up to the scheme so far, and alerts are distributed by the team via email. The scheme has resulted in better liaison with the local police for advice and tackling ASB, and following this, the Police Community Engagement vehicle has made two visits to the village. If you are the subject of ASB it is important that the event is reported. To join neighbourhood watch please email [64Lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64Lettie@gmail.com) or contact the Parish Council.

Another disappointment has been an almost total lack of progress on improving road safety. I was hoping for a reduction in speed limit in some areas of the village, and the installation of more pedestrian crossing points in others. Neither have been successful, although they will be looked at again in the coming year.

But back to good news. The Parish Council website <https://minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk> has been upgraded and is now more accessible. We intend to upload onto the website the major discussion documents that have been relevant to Council business, such as our response to the proposed 4000 Churcham houses, and the proposals for raising the A417 Maisemore Road. The documents will give increased information and hopefully greater involvement to the Parish.

Broadband has arrived in our village via Gigaclear, and a good number of residents have been connected, even if some of us are still waiting! There are various on-going community projects such as the Harvey Centre, which we hope will re-open as an Education Centre and Community Hub, The Village Hall is being extensively refurbished, and the church has undergone essential

Continued on p8

Continued from p7

repairs. All three projects have received contributions from the Parish Council.

Thanks to the editor and the new steering group for their continued efforts with The Villager, and those who distribute, or contribute editorially. The colour format is superb, and its content is a useful way of keeping in contact within the village.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, Tewkesbury Borough and County Councillors and especially Fiona our clerk for the guidance and support that she has given us over the past 15 years. Fiona left us at the end of March, and we welcomed Paul Bell, the new clerk, at our April meeting. Paul has already put in a huge amount of effort to ensure a smooth transition, for which we are very grateful.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to the Parishioners who attend PC meetings or contact us in other ways - we value your comments and input, either written or verbal. We need to know what concerns you and can do so much more with your ideas and support.

Roger Blowey  
May 2021



Minsterworth Yoga al fresco



## **Come and join in with a Minsterworth Village Walk Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2pm**

Now we are out of lockdown and can enjoy each other's company again  
how about joining in with a village walk?

It will be a chance to catch up with each other as we wander  
our beautiful countryside area.

We are planning to follow a circular route of about 3 miles, starting at the  
Severn Bore pub featured on p8 of the May issue of The Villager magazine.

To reduce parking near the pub we could  
car share from Minsterworth Village Hall.

If you are interested in coming along, please contact either  
Richard Cockroft Tel 01452 751083 or  
Sharon Ingham Tel 01452 751283



**07976896255**

[adamshayletreeservices@outlook.com](mailto:adamshayletreeservices@outlook.com)

Professional Tree Surgeon

- Tree felling/removals
- Crown lifting, thinning and reductions
- Specialist Aerial Dismantling
- Pruning
- Forestry
- Planting
- Site Clearance
- Hedge Trimming
- Fencing
- 24 hour Emergency Call Out
- Digger Work
- Firewood



Fully Insured  
& Qualified



## Viewpoints

### **DEVILS PULPIT, TIDENHAM**

Roger Blowey

Although slightly further, the easiest way to find this viewpoint is to take the A48 almost into Chepstow, but just before you enter Chepstow turn right onto the B4228 to Tutshill and Woodcroft. Go through Tutshill and Woodcroft, and after approximately 5 miles travelling towards St Briavels you will see a car park on your left signposted Offa's Dyke in on the right of the road.



The car park has a display board showing you the 1.8km path to Devil's Pulpit. Park here and follow the directions on the board. You will walk through a wooded area, across a small road, then walk along a footpath over 3 – 4 fields before finally going downhill slightly to reach the Devil's Pulpit viewpoint. The views across Tintern Abbey and the river Wye are just superb!

There are kissing gates all the way along, so the path is easy to negotiate, but the fields stay very wet in winter, even though it's on high ground, so best not to walk here until the weather has dried up a bit. If you are very enthusiastic you can start at Tintern Abbey and walk up the steep path to Devil's Pulpit, but I have never done it that way.



From Devil's Pulpit you can either retrace your steps back to the car park, or you can turn left, walk along the Offa's Dyke path for some more lovely views of the Wye Valley, until you come back out onto the B4228. Walk up along the road for a short while, turn first left up a minor tarmacked 'no through road' where there is a letter box on the right of the B4228, and a brown 'racing flag' on the signpost opposite. This is the lane that you crossed earlier. When you get to the woodland footpath, turn right and retrace your steps to the car park.

If you feel you need a bit more walking, cross the B4228 at the car park, go through the heavy ornate wooden pedestrian gate beside the Offa's Dyke sign, and down across the woodland. After 3 – 5 minutes walking you have glorious views of the River Severn.

## Far Open Studio Trail 2021

Sarah McHale



Having had to cancel last year's event due to Covid, we are excited to be able to look forward to opening our doors to visitors this year. All being well, the studio trail will open on Saturday 3rd July 'til Sunday 11th July. Do look on [www.faropen.co.uk](http://www.faropen.co.uk) for a map and brochure. Some 65 studios are open, in addition to an exhibition at The Dean Heritage Centre, with a very diverse range of work and media. Prices vary from small amounts for hand-made cards, to several thousands. You are guaranteed to find something to fit both your taste and your budget.

A few things to remember when shopping for Art: It's always more worthwhile to buy direct from the artist, prices are always higher in galleries as they add on commission. Remember you are purchasing a unique product and prices reflect not just the cost of the materials, but the artist's time, expertise and experience. Always ask about commissions if you don't see exactly what you want, most artists really enjoy the challenge of working to a brief.



Finally, don't feel you can't just go and browse, there's no pressure to purchase. In the brochure there are suggested routes to take around the Severn and Wye region, but don't forget we have three studios on our own doorstep.

Art@Oaktree is the name of Sarah McHale's studio in Bury Lane. Sarah is a retired Art teacher who finally began painting upon taking early retirement. She is fascinated by the landscape, focussing on the atmosphere of places and what resonates about the physical features and the effects of weather. She enjoys playing with colour, building up canvases with layers of paint applied in a range of consistencies.

Mermaid Cottage is the venue for Liz Duff and Marie Clare Mawle. Liz's work often focuses on keen observation of figures to capture body language but in doing so often throws up more questions than answers. 'Who are these people? Why are they there? What's their relationship?' Liz also works with landscape motifs. Working in oils she has a wonderful sense of colour.



Continued from p12

Marie Clare works in textiles and often recycles materials to produce unique and beautiful pieces. She cites poetry, literature and nature as her influences. Her recent work has seen her explore the beauty but fragility of flowers.



Leigh Sladen works out of her studio in Oakle Street. Working in glass, Leigh produces stunning pieces inspired by nature, frequently the sea and particularly the Isles of Scilly. Layers of different coloured glass produce gorgeous effects whether worn as jewellery or something more decorative. Leigh also runs courses.

Studio opening times do vary so please check the brochure pages before setting out. We're very much looking forward to seeing you in July.

### **Household tips that everyone should know**

- mix coke and toothpaste to clean your bathroom
- remove water stain circles from wood furniture using mayonnaise
- treat stains on the mattress with a combination of baking soda, vinegar, and liquid dish soap
- if your kid painted the walls with a crayon, melt crayons using a hair dryer and easily clean with a cloth
- use salt to clean your iron



Tel 01452 760511

Open Weekdays 8:30am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Closed Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

We are located on the A48, travel from Minsterworth through Westbury on Severn, down the hill, left hand side before the garage.

**Special Offers** - 40L & 60L compost, topsoil, farmyard manure, ericaceous compost and seasonal plants.

Food, bedding and health care products for farm animals, horses, pets and birds (garden and ornamental).

**Nature's Menu** frozen and ambient temperature pet food.

Calor gas, logs, kindling, coal, briquettes, firelighters and paraffin.

Stockists for **Cherry Tree** jams, curds and chutneys.

Local eggs, honey and potatoes.

**Coming Soon** - Hand poured, fragranced candles from the **Forest of Dean Candle Company**.

**From brooms and buckets to wheelbarrows, wellies and waterproofs, we are here to help so please do call in and see what we do.**

COVID -19 Restriction are in place. Only two customers in store at any time. We ask that you wear a mask/face covering (unless exempt). Use the hand sanitizer provided at entrance. Orders can be placed over the telephone for collection.

**YOUR LOCAL, FRIENDLY, HELPFUL STORE WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF  
MINSTERWORTH, PLENTY OF PARKING FOR ALL**

# Summer on a Minsterworth Farm

by Helen Few

Most of the time, farming in summer is all about the weather - whether it's too dry or too wet, many hours of the night are spent worrying about it!



It is much easier now that there are contractors with huge machinery and equipment who race around the farms in a rota, working much of 24/7, literally 'grabbing' crops in between the rainstorms forecast. The speed rescues many crops that used to be lost in a bad year.

The cattle love the turn out, as soon as the ground is dry enough.

The wheat needs just the right mix of sun and rain.



The combine harvester gathering in.



The maize growing well, ready for silage in autumn.





# L COWARD & SON Ltd

12 Oakbank, Stroud Road, Gloucester GL4 0AZ

Tel/Fax: (01452) 421311 e mail: [dave\\_coward@lineone.net](mailto:dave_coward@lineone.net)

[www.lcowardandson.co.uk](http://www.lcowardandson.co.uk)



ALTERATIONS:EXTENSIONS:PAINTING & DECORATING:ROOFING:PLUMBING:BUILDING REPAIRS

Established in 1965, L Coward & Son Ltd has been offering a first-class building service for domestic customers in Gloucester and Cheltenham. From house extensions to complete home improvements, we can handle it all.

We recently completed updating the kitchen at Minsterworth Village Hall

BEFORE



AFTER





# Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

As I am sure you are aware 2021 is a very important year for the Royal British Legion as we celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> year of formation.

The Royal British Legion was born in the aftermath of the First World War. Four National Organisations of ex-servicemen came together to give a unified voice to those facing the bleak reality of Britain after that harrowing and deadly conflict.

Since then the needs of the men and women who fought for our nation have changed but the support to the R.B.L. has enabled those needs to be met.

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

## Military History

June 6 <sup>th</sup>	1944	Invasion of Normandy
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	1982	Attack on Mount Harriet
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	1982	Attack on Two Sisters
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	1982	Falklands liberated
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	1775	Battle of Bunker Hill
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	1596	Capture of Cadiz

## Footsteps

Question on p4

### **MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

The Village Hall Trustees are looking for a person who is qualified to independently check the Annual Accounts.

The accounting year end is 31st December, and the check would need to be undertaken in the first quarter of the year.

If you are interested in the role or would like more information, please contact any of those listed below or any other member of the Committee that you may know:

Andrea Holder (Chairman): 0780 403 3838

Bob Holder (Treasurer): 0794 146 5780

Julie Fisher (Secretary): 01452 750562



**Contact us on**  
**01452-543990**

[www.woodvets.co.uk](http://www.woodvets.co.uk)



**Purpose built Accredited Veterinary Hospital  
with extensive parking**

**Providing professional veterinary care for all  
Companion animals including Exotics**

**Long established farm animal service offering  
expert opinion on all common farm animals**

**24 Hour care with a vet and nurse on site 24  
hours**

**Fully stocked pet shop supplying all the needs of  
your pets at the vets**

### **OPENING TIMES**

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8am till 7pm**

**SATURDAY 9am till 5pm**

**SUNDAY 10am till 4pm**

**EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS 24/7**

**Wood Veterinary Group  
125 Bristol Road  
Quedgeley  
Gloucester  
GL2 4NB**

**Branch Practice  
83 Windermere Road  
Longlevens  
Gloucester  
GL2 0LZ**

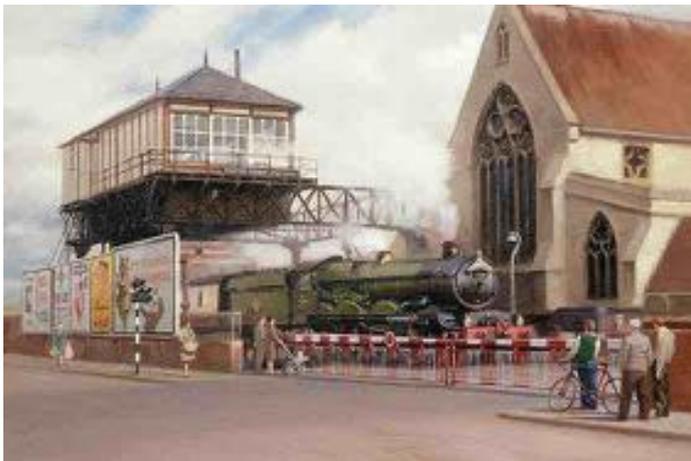
## Gloucestershire's Railways: Then and Now

Julian Oxley [part three, part one in April, part two in May]

On the other side of the river there are two main lines which are still very much in use: Brunel's (originally) broad gauge (Great Western Railway) line from Swindon to Gloucester via Kemble (see photo – old Cirencester Branch on right) and Stroud, and Stephenson's standard gauge (Midland Railway) Birmingham to Bristol line. The GWR line had branches from Kemble to Cirencester and to Tetbury, both closed under Beeching.



The MR had branches from Stonehouse to Stroud and Nailsworth (closed in the 1940s), and also from Coaley to Dursley and from Yate to Thornbury, again all long gone.



The two main lines converge at Gloucester, where from the 1840s both passengers and goods had to be transhipped due to the gauge difference, apparently a chaotic procedure. Eventually Brunel's more efficient and comfortable wide gauge lost out, but not before many years of nationwide argument and turmoil. Gloucester's legacy was two stations, Central (GWR) and Eastgate (MR), with a

250-yard pedestrian bridge connecting them – a real footslog if you had luggage! The Midland line had three level crossings, the one at Barton Street lights (see photo above) causing particular road congestion. So Eastgate station was closed in 1977 and the site became the Asda supermarket. As so often this was a short-sighted decision, and now many long-distance trains bypass Gloucester and you have to go to Cheltenham to catch cross-country services. In the early 1970s there was a serious proposal to build a brand new "Parkway" station at Barnwood which would have overcome the problem, but it came to nothing – short-sighted again. Cheltenham boasted three stations until the 1960s, when the GWR terminus at St James and the through platforms at Malvern Road were abandoned, leaving only the Midland (Lansdown) station to serve the town, well away from the town centre and very cramped.

At the southern tip of the county the GWR "cut-off" line avoiding Bristol and Bath was opened at the turn of the 20th century. The ex-Midland Gloucester to Bristol line was later rerouted to join it near Yate, enabling Bristol Parkway (opened 1972) to serve both London to South Wales and Birmingham to Bristol and West Country trains. The Severn Tunnel, taking thirteen years to build, had opened in 1886, relieving the pressure on Gloucester which up to then had provided the only route from London to South Wales.

Continued from p18

Finally, I mustn't omit the Oxford to Worcester main line (now called the "Cotswold Line") which passes through Moreton-in-Marsh by way of abandoned stations at Adlestrop and Chipping Campden. Much of it was reduced to single track after Beeching, but increased demand and much lobbying by Cotswold residents resulted in (very costly) redoubling for most of the route, showing what can be done with sufficient public pressure.

While much has been lost by way of (often very scenic) branch lines, the main routes continue to thrive. But also lost have been many intermediate stations on these main lines, serving villages and small towns. With seemingly interminable local expansion and development, some of these (e.g., Bishop's Cleeve, Churchdown, Newnham) would now benefit from stations providing more rapid passenger travel and relieving pressure on congested roads. But around the country many stations are being re-opened and even old disused lines rebuilt, so here in Gloucestershire you never know.

## The Eagle

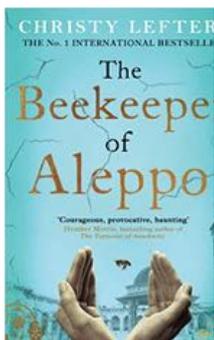
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

## Minsterworth Reading Group

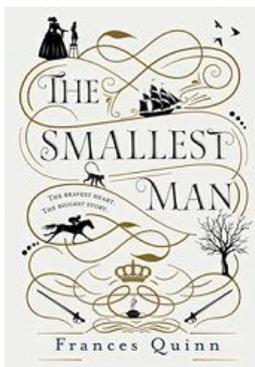
### The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri



The Beekeeper of Aleppo is a poignant, thought provoking and compelling story of love, courage, determination and survival. Nuri and Afra lived a simple life with a close family and friends in Aleppo. Nuri is a beekeeper and Afra an artist. Their world is torn apart by the civil war and after their son is killed they embark on the perilous journey through Turkey and Greece to an uncertain future in Britain. On their journey they confront dangers and hardship, whilst enduring the pain of their devastating loss. The author, having worked in a refugee centre in Athens, shows clear insight into the

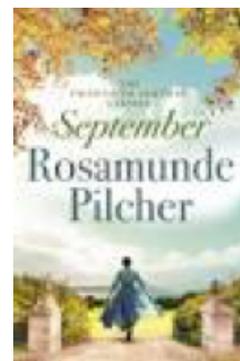
suffering and emotional plight of Syrian refugees. "A powerful testament to the human spirit". Whilst some members of our reading group felt the book would be too harrowing to read during lockdown, the majority who read it felt that whilst sad it was also uplifting, moving and enlightening.

We reviewed The Smallest Man by Frances Quinn on 5<sup>th</sup> May and on 2<sup>nd</sup> June we will review September by Rosamund Pilcher.



See the list below of future books and review dates. Should you wish to join the Book Club, please email [vicki.hewlett@googlemail.com](mailto:vicki.hewlett@googlemail.com)

Meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm. They are either via Zoom or face to face. In June we plan to meet in person for the first time in ages!



<b>Read</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Author</b>
May	2 <sup>nd</sup> June	September	Rosamund Pilcher
June	7 <sup>th</sup> July	The Sentinel	Lee Child
July	4 <sup>th</sup> August	The Glass House	Eve Chase

### Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the May draw was as follows:-

£50	No. 163	Hazel Sealey
£20	No. 034	Pat Knight
£10	No. 074	Neil Pittman

Thank you to all who have renewed their subscription for the 200 Club year. There are some vacancies to fill so if you would like to join or have an extra number then please contact Liz Savage on 750401.

### Flower Rota

6th & 13th June	Gill Payne
20th & 27th June	Anne Pearson

## Gearing up for the new season of churchyard recording

Spring has sprung and, with the easing of Covid regulations, a recent day of fine weather saw an al-fresco gathering of most of our team of churchyard recorders in the churchyard to launch the new season's work. It was great to be together again in the flesh and to be able to chat about the new season's work.



Just to remind you, this project was started last year to produce a full record of all the burials in Minsterworth's churchyard, bringing up-to-date the last recording of this sort compiled well over half a century ago. Such a record is important for the church to have of course but also, with the increased popularity of family history research, such information is now more and more in demand from people from around the country and abroad seeking information about their ancestors believed to have been buried in St Peter's churchyard.

A great start was made last year when just over a half of all the 500 plus grave sites in the churchyard were examined, details recorded and (where appropriate) photographs taken. It isn't always easy: grave mounds recorded back in 1950 have disappeared, new burials have been inserted among old ones and there are now a number of cremation plaques to record. The old stones become very weathered or over-grown with moss so that inscriptions, where present, are often difficult to discern. Happily, none of this has deterred our worthy band of volunteers from wanting to resume work again this summer.

On top of this, excellent work has been done by Bob Holder in developing a marvellous system of processing the data collected and already much of it has been put on a web page devoted to the churchyard project which Bob has designed as part of the new Minsterworth Village Hall website ([www.minsterworthvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org.uk)). This has already resulted in several on-line enquiries from people searching for information on ancestors believed to have been buried in Minsterworth. Bob and Andrea also hope to be able to combine selected churchyard information with relevant genealogical information obtainable on-line (Ancestry etc).

Anyone doing this kind of research quickly begins to sense that behind so many of these dumb memorial stones lie so many very human and interesting stories. I certainly have. One example I've looked at relates to this memorial just on your left after entering the churchyard via the corner gate on Church Lane.

Continued on p22



It is a memorial to Sir Arthur Percy Douglas who died in 1913. He is buried with his wife Mary Lady Douglas who had passed away four years earlier while staying at Hygrove. Sir Douglas, 5th baronet of Carr in Scotland, came from a distinguished naval and diplomatic family with strong connections to several commonwealth countries: he had served in the R.N. and ended up between 1895 and 1903 as Under Secretary for Defence in New Zealand. Sir Douglas lived in Scotland but after his wife's death he made regular trips to Minsterworth to visit her grave. On one such journey in September 1913, the train he was travelling in was involved in a disastrous collision with another train at Ais Gill just south of Carlisle; it received wide publicity at the time, not least because of the unexpectedly high number of

casualties. 16 people died including Sir Douglas. Despite his strong family links with Scotland, Sir Douglas was buried with his wife here in Minsterworth. Among the mourners at his burial, apart from family, was an Admiral of the Fleet and also Mrs Harvey of Minsterworth (mother of the poet F W Harvey).

TM-S

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it  
Life is beauty, admire it  
Life is a dream, realise it  
Life is a challenge, meet it  
Life is a duty, complete it  
Life is a game, play it  
Life is a promise, fulfil it  
Life is sorrow, overcome it  
Life is a song, sing it  
Life is a struggle, accept it  
Life is a tragedy, confront it  
Life is an adventure, dare it  
Life is luck, make it  
Life is precious, do not destroy it  
Life is life, fight for it  
*Mother Teresa*

# M.B

**HOLDER & SONS LTD  
GLOUCESTER**

**01452 521 905**



**MINSTERWORTH GARAGE  
MAIN ROAD GL2 8JG**

**SOLID FUEL  
FIREWOOD & LOGS  
RAILWAY SLEEPERS  
ROAD HAULAGE & DISTRIBUTION  
HAULAGE CONTRACTORS  
LOGISTICS  
LOCAL & NATIONAL SERVICE  
24 HOUR SERVICE AVAILABLE**

**[TRANSPORT@MBHOLDER.CO.UK](mailto:TRANSPORT@MBHOLDER.CO.UK)**



## **SERVICING, REPAIRS, MOT'S AND CAR SALES**

Here at TL Automotive we are a friendly and trusted independent garage dedicated to providing sensational service to you and your vehicle.

**Llanthony Industrial Estate,  
Llanthony Road  
Gloucester GL2 5HL**

**Tel: 01452-524234**  
**[info@2mautomotive.co.uk](mailto:info@2mautomotive.co.uk)**  
**[www.tlautomotive.co.uk](http://www.tlautomotive.co.uk)**

**Our special offer for The Villager**

**We will collect and then return your car for servicing and repairs free of charge**

## You lovers of the English language might enjoy this

by Margaret Owen

**There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP.'**

**It's easy to understand UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list.

When we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP ?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP ? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election, and at other times the little word has real special meaning.

**We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP !**

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP , look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP , you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

**When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP .**

**One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP , for now my time is UP , so.....it is time to shut UP !**

Now it's UP to you what you do with this email.

Why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends.

And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver

We warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP .

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP .

When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP .

**When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP .**

# OVER FARM 1982 MARKET



## Click & Collect

Our easy to use click & collect service is fuss free, contact free, and offers a wide choice of local food and drink items, as well as farm grown produce and homemade treats!



Allowing you to avoid busy shops and unnecessary contact during these difficult times.

## 3 Easy Steps

Step 1- Place your order through our website:  
[shop.overfarm.co.uk](http://shop.overfarm.co.uk)

Step 2 - We'll let you know when it's ready.

Step 3 - Give us a call when you're in the car park and we'll pop your shopping straight into the boot for you.



**VISIT: [SHOP.OVERFARM.CO.UK](http://SHOP.OVERFARM.CO.UK)**

Drink up!

## Love the Loire

Simon Ruffley

With the swallows flying above us it's a sure sign that summer is happening and they likely flew across the Loire to get to us. It's a fascinating river, not just as a holiday destination with its beautiful chateaux but also for the variety of excellent wines that are made all the way from where it enters the Atlantic at Nantes to the centre of France, south of Paris in Sancerre.

Starting at the coast you may not have heard of the grape Melon de Bourgogne (Muscadet) but you'll recognise the main grape varieties grown further upstream Chenin Blanc (Anjou, Vouvray and Saumur) giving way to Sauvignon Blanc (Sancerre and Pouilly Fume). In the Touraine region you find Chinon wines made from Cabernet Franc. All these wines are characteristically fragrant and whilst they are mainly dry in style you also get fantastic off-dry, sweet and sparkling Chenin Blanc based wines too.

I'm a bit of a fan of the Chenins as they are so versatile and for me have lots of character and if you forget to drink them not to worry as they can age very well.

The wines below should delight you either on their own or with food...

<b>Oliver Dubois Muscadet 2019</b> Noticeably dry – great with seafood	Majestic	£8.99/*£7.99
<b>Sainsbury's Crémant de Loire, Taste the Difference</b> Easily competes with champagne for me	Sainsbury's	£9.00
<b>Réserve Champalou Vouvray 2019</b> Award winning producer – classic chenin blanc, off-dry with a glass full of character	Laithwaites	£16.49/*£14.79
<b>Les Andides Saumur</b> Dry and vivid wine – drink on its own or try with a Thai or Chinese takeaway	Waitrose	£7.99
<b>Chateau Coudray-Montpensier Chinon</b> A great example – aromas of plum and blackberry with balanced tannins	Hay Wines (Ledbury)	£13.99
<b>Tesco Finest Sancerre</b> A top quality sauvignon blanc – dry, crisp with tropical and grassy notes – worth it	Tesco	£14.00

\*Mix-6/12 price or on offer

## Boiled Cake by Anne Cole

This Boiled Cake recipe was given to me by my Mum-in-law many, many moons ago and it is a great favourite in my family.

### Ingredients



Sugar	1 cup or 200g
Milk	½ pint
Mixed dried fruit	1lb or 160g
Margarine / Butter	4oz / 125g
Bicarbonate Soda	½ tsp
Self-raising flour	2 cups or 250g
Eggs - beaten	2

### Method

Grease and line a 2lb bread tin

In a saucepan add the fruit, sugar, milk and butter

Bring to a gentle boil, stirring all the time

Allow mix to cool properly (can take upwards of an hour).

Once cool add flour and eggs to the mix and stir thoroughly.

Transfer mix to the tin and place in the centre of a pre-heated oven (Gas 5 / 190°C) for 1hr / 1½ hrs

Look out for the wild flowers growing on the two test sites at the opening of the drive into the Village Hall and at the front of Minsterworth Park. We are hoping to see some Red Campion as it was in the Wild flower mix we purchased!



- “People say ‘Bill, are you an optimist?’ And I say, ‘I hope so.’” – Bill Bailey
- “My star sign is Pyrex. I was a test-tube baby.” – Billy Connolly
- “I always take my wife morning tea in my pyjamas. But is she grateful? No, she says she’d rather have it in a cup.” – Eric Morecambe
- “I doubt there’s a heaven; I think the people from hell have probably bought it for a timeshare.” – Victoria Wood



## Garden Services

Lawn mowing

Strimming

Chainsawing

Hedge cutting & reduction

Tree pruning

General maintenance

For further information contact Ash:

**07812 077367**

### NEED A CLEANER?

I TAKE THE HASSLE OUT OF HOME  
CLEANING  
WITH OVER SIX YEARS EXPERIENCE

REGULAR HOME CLEANING  
COMPLETE FULL SPRING CLEAN

**PLEASE CALL CHARLOTTE**

**07398-236131**

NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO  
SMALL

### Laura Hill

Mobile Hairdresser

Ladies and Gents, cuts, colours,  
restyles and bridal hair

Covering Forest of Dean and  
Gloucester

☎ 0788-8226616

✉ [laurahillhairdresser@icloud.com](mailto:laurahillhairdresser@icloud.com)

f@laurahillhairdresser

# The Suez Canal

Julian Oxley

The Suez Canal has joined the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean for just over 150 years. It runs 120 miles through Egypt from Port Said to Suez City and does away with the need for shipping to travel 5,500 miles round the Cape of Good Hope on the Southern tip of Africa. This makes it a vital route for international trade.

Up to the 19th century it was thought that construction of a canal was impossible due to apparently different levels of altitude at each end of any possible route. However, in the 1830s a French explorer and engineer who specialised in Egypt conducted a survey confirming that the levels were the same, and this was confirmed in 1846 by another group including our own renowned engineer Robert Stephenson. This would make construction much easier as no locks would be needed.

In the 1850s the Ottoman Empire which governed Egypt at the time granted permission to a French diplomat, Ferdinand de Lesseps, to form the Suez Canal Company to build the canal. An International Commission was formed with thirteen experts from seven countries. The most notable of these was Italian nobleman and engineer Alois Negrelli, who led the development of the plans up to the formal establishment of the company in 1858.

Construction began the following year and was hampered throughout by political turmoil in the area, the limitations of engineering technology at the time, and disease in the workforce. It was officially opened on 17th November 1869, and the first vessel to enter it was HMS Newport which had barged the queue under cover of darkness; the captain, George Nares, was reprimanded but secretly praised!

Although France soon became the majority shareholder, Britain retained a substantial interest, and in 1888 it was decreed that the Canal would operate as a neutral zone under British protection. In World War I we defended the Canal from attack by the Ottoman Empire, and in 1936 the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty reaffirmed our control. Egypt withdrew from the Treaty in 1951, and after years of negotiation in 1956 we withdrew our troops, precipitating the "Suez Crisis" when in the July the Egyptian President Colonel Nasser effectively nationalised the Canal by transferring its ownership to a new Suez Canal Authority. This in turn led a coalition of Britain, France, and Israel to mount a short-lived invasion which was quickly aborted due to US pressure.

On 4th November the UN immediately established a peacekeeping force, which maintained access and peace in the region until the Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt in June 1967. When this broke out Nasser ordered the UN force out of the adjacent Sinai Peninsula, so Israel invaded and took control of the east bank of the Canal. This caused Nasser to blockade the Canal to all traffic, lasting until 1975 when British and US minesweepers cleared the Canal and it was reopened by Nasser's successor President Sadat. The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty of 1979 provided for a multinational force to maintain order and to protect the Canal, which it still does.

In 2014 Egypt oversaw an \$8 billion expansion project which widened the Canal from 61 to 312

Continued on page 30

Continued from p29

metres for a central 21-mile stretch, enabling vessels to pass one another, opened the following year. But despite that on 23rd March this year a massive container vessel “Ever Given” (launched in 2016 and registered in Panama but operated by a Taiwanese company) became wedged in the channel south of the newly widened stretch after being caught in a 40 mph sandstorm. It was released six days later by a flotilla of tugs after causing a huge backlog of traffic. It’s estimated that 12% of world trade passes through the Canal, so if you were expecting delivery of anything made in China you may have had to wait a few more days!





## The Fairview Gardener

A centre for gardeners not a garden centre

This is the destination for all your gardening needs.  
We pride ourselves on giving excellent customer service and have the necessary knowledge to give good advice on plants, garden design and all aspects of your garden



The tea room is open daily  
10am to 4pm  
Try our breakfast or lunch menus, or relax with fresh coffee, loose leaf teas and a delicious cake

The Fairview Gardener & Tea Room, Chapel Lane, Birdwood, Glos.

GL2 8AR tel: 01452 750436

### HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch - join by emailing [64lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64lettie@gmail.com)



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

# Contents June 2021

Page	Item
2	Recycling
3	Plant Sale
4	June Fish & Chips
5	Picnic Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> July
6	Parish Council Chairman's report
9	Local walk
10	Viewpoints
11	Minsterworth Creatives
14	Summer on the farm
16	Minsterworth RBL / Village Hall recruitment
18	Gloucestershire Railways
20	Reading Group / 200 club
21	Churchyard recording
26	Drink up!
25	Recipe / Village Hall recruitment
29	Suez Canal
31	Helpful community links



## 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](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org)

e-mail [minsterworthvh@gmail.com](mailto:minsterworthvh@gmail.com)

Tel: 01452 750492

