

# **The Villager**

**Minsterworth News**



## **Leafy Face**

Bob Holder

**March 2023**

Edition 244

## Dear readers,

CORRECTION: FW Harvey's date of birth is 26<sup>th</sup> March 1888, not 28<sup>th</sup> as reported on p14 of the February Villager. Apologies for this, especially as he spent part of his formative years in Minsterworth.

This month enjoy Minsterworth's creative side, with Johnny Coppin's concert with Geoff March on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at Minsterworth Village Hall p4 and a selection of poems from our own Minsterworth poets on p13.

See p3 for the events on offer in Minsterworth Village Hall in 2023.

Take a walk around Highnam p5 and be inspired by the incredible women on p10.

Oh & a request to contributors – please make it possible for me to make necessary slight changes to your entries. I may need to make them when you are on holiday so if you are the only person who can change them that's hard!

## Paula

All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager E-mail:

Tel: 07905 694612    thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com

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

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

### KERBSIDE RECYCLING MARCH 2023

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

**BLUE bin & caddy**  
(recycling)

Tuesday      14

Tuesday      7

Tuesday      28

Tuesday      21

Please put your recycling bin & caddy out the night before, where possible.

Small electrical items now collected alongside your blue bin in a standard carrier bag (**not** a bag for life)

# MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE



## HALL : EVENTS 2023

Friday 25th March—Johnny Coppin with Geoff March

Friday 28th April—'Tipple & Talk Night' on the Severn Bore with Tony Conder

Saturday 7th May/Sunday 8th May—Coronation Village Celebrations

Friday 19th May—Comedy Night

Sunday 11th June—Car Boot Sale

Friday 8th September—'Tipple and Talk Night' on GCHQ with Dr David Abrutat

Friday 27th October—Wine Tasting with Simon Ruffley

Saturday 2nd December—Christmas Fayre

**POINT OF SALE:** Tickets available on the website or from nominated MVH Committee member. Further details nearer each event date

**SAVE THE DATES!**



## Johnny Coppin with Geoff March\*

Live Concert at Minsterworth Village Hall

Saturday 25 March 2023

Doors & Bar open 7pm

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



Geoff March is a longstanding music collaborator on cello and vocals. A fellow member of the band Decameron, he regularly plays in Johnny's concerts, Christmas shows, and features on many of his albums.

After Decameron, Geoff took up a successful career in arboriculture for the following 35 years. These days he is a self-confessed dabbler in the arts and whatever else briefly happens to catch his attention and has been a singer with The Cappella Singers chamber choir for around thirty years.



Songs will include some from Gloucestershire poets such as F W Harvey and Ivor Gurney – alongside material from Johnny's many albums.

**Tickets are £15 and can be booked online at**

**[www.Minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://www.Minsterworthvillagehall.org)**

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

\*Please note the change to the originally advertised support act.

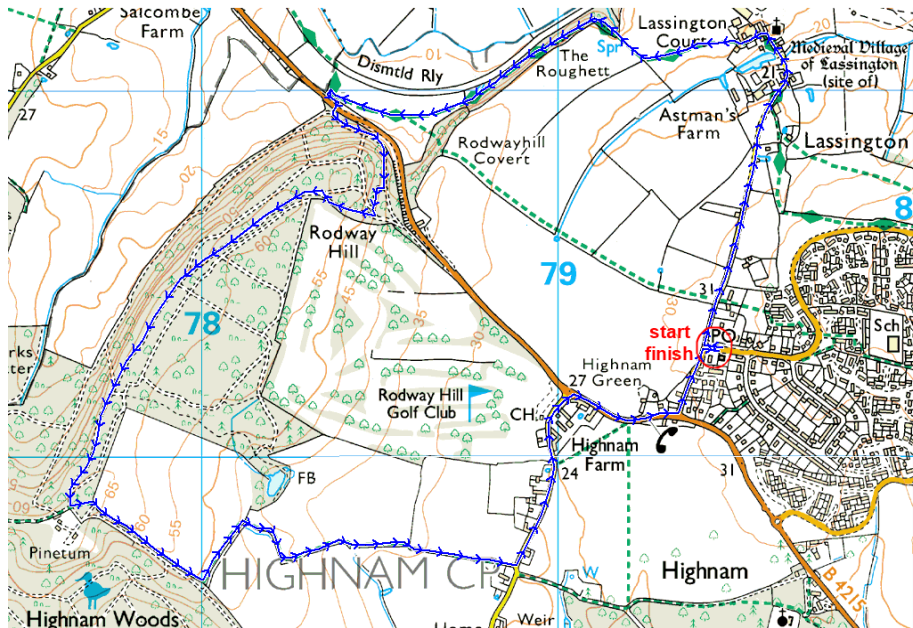
Due to unforeseen circumstances, Paul Burgess will no longer be performing at this concert.



# Walk around Highnam

Ruth Thomas

This is a lovely walk around Highnam. It's about 4 miles long and mostly flat, with few stiles. There's one uphill section in the middle but it isn't too steep and thankfully fairly short.



The walk starts in the centre of Highnam. Park on Lassington Lane or somewhere near the Post Office. With your back to the Post Office, turn left to the T junction, then right to walk down Lassington Lane. As you near the end of the road, you'll see a fine, tall redbrick farmhouse.

You might, at this point, want to divert from the path briefly to climb the steps to the right, to visit St Oswald's Church (although only the tower remains) and cemetery. The church and tower were built in the 11th Century and there's a picture board by the tower giving some of its history.

**St Oswald's Church Tower**



Turn left, behind the farmhouse, where there's a Bridleway sign, to walk between the farm outbuildings, following red and white 'close the gate' signs. After the last gate you'll enter a long rectangular field.

Head diagonally across the field, heading about half way down the long side. You won't be able to see the footpath sign to start with but it should come into view on a low post, once you are about half way across. Follow the footpath sign as the path drops into woodland. You'll make a brief reappearance into a field but the path is obvious and quickly dips again into the woods. At the end of the woods, emerge into a field, through a small gate.

Follow the faint path, first going straight ahead towards the road but then curving to the right to go through two gates at the far corner of the field. If in doubt, head toward the house you can see. The gates will bring you out onto the B4215. Turn left (towards Gloucester) briefly and

Continued on p6

Continued from p5

cross the road carefully, where you can see two large, silver gates on the opposite side. The gates are padlocked but there's a gap on the right where you can slip through.

Walk straight ahead briefly and then left to follow the wide track up hill, curving right half way up and then ahead again. Don't carry on all the way to the top, but look out for a brown wooden post, about 3 feet high, with an arrow on it where the path splits. Take the right-hand, flatter path.

Follow the wide path through the woods for about a mile until you reach a T junction. You'll be able to see the Pinetum and associated buildings (available to rent on Airbnb!) ahead through the trees. Turn left, and then shortly after, where the path splits three ways, take the left-hand route, essentially straight ahead, following the field edge. Don't head back into the woods.

Follow the field edge, ahead then curve left, continuing to walk around the field. When you reach a short concrete bridge, turn right over the bridge and continue to follow the path, along the edge of the next field and then through a further field to reach Two Mile Lane.

Turn left along Two Mile Lane (take care of the traffic on this section) cross back over the B4215, turn right and then left to head back into Highnam to re-join your car.

## **MINSTERWORTH PCSOs**

Roger Blowey

Tania Shuttleworth has now moved to a new posting elsewhere, so our two PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) are currently:

Tracy Garcia – Cote and Janine Diamond

We are grateful for the support they provide to us within the Village, and to the additional patrols that they have been carrying out within the Village over the past few months. Both hope to be with us during the Parish Assembly Meeting on Wednesday 10th May 2023, so please join us if you wish to put a face to the names.



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# The History of Gloucester Docks

Roger Blowey

Many thanks to all those who supported our evening on the history of Gloucester Docks on Friday 27th January. Tony Conder was a superb speaker, with a clear and relaxed style of presentation, and a wealth of background information on the history of the docks.

Remnants of the original Roman docks can still be seen in the vaults of St Mary de Crypt Church, just off Westgate Street. This branch of the river Severn became silted up, so trade moved to the bank of the Severn along today's Quay Street. At that stage, being well inland, Gloucester competed with Bristol as a trading port, with imports of sugar from the Caribbean, timber and grain from Scandinavia and Russia, and exports of salt from Worcestershire. The salt travelled down the Severn into Gloucester and was then transhipped for export. The Custom House is associated with Queen Elizabeth 1st when she approved Gloucester as a customs port in 1580 to monitor trade.



As it was difficult working with the tidal rise and fall of the river, the dock area, 16 feet deep, was dug out of the clay by hand! With the River Severn so near, leakage and flooding of the construction site was common, making labouring, often in deep mud, even more difficult. Like many of today's projects, the construction of the canal went hopelessly over budget and the finishing date was delayed, at least partly due to the on-going wars with the French. By 1797 the Main Basin had been dug, although the first section of the canal only got as far as Hardwick.

As the docks became busier, it was extended into the Victoria basin in 1849. Connecting the railways gave the area a further boost, and it was not until the arrival of motorways and container ships that the decline began.

Thanks once again to Tony Conder for such an excellent presentation - and make sure you don't miss his talk on the Severn Bore on Friday 28th April!



## Minsterworth 200 Club

The draw for February resulted in the following winners:-

£50 No. 034 Pat Knight

£20 No. 139 Betty Jayne

£10 No. 184 Barry Tovey

## Whist Drive

Again there were enough people to make up just over 6 tables. Thanks to all who supported the evening which resulted in £74 for church funds. The next whist drive at the Hall will be on March 6th - why not come and try your hand.

## Church service times and flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
5 <sup>th</sup> March	11am	Family Service	No flowers
12 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Holy Communion	No flowers
19 <sup>th</sup> March	5pm	Evening Worship	No flowers
26 <sup>th</sup> March	10am	Holy Communion (at Rudford church)	No flowers

## March space news

Paula Ruffley

In this year busy with space travel SpaceX launched a totally reusable rocket, Falcon 9 on its first orbital test flight in late February from Texas. The mission will attempt to travel around the world for nearly one full orbit, resulting in a re-entry and splashdown of the Starship near Hawaii. Several satellites will launch from Falcon 9 in March.

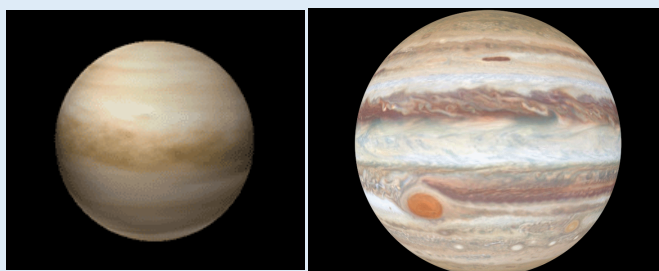
Finding and observing the planets of the Solar System in the night sky isn't as tricky as you think. You just need to know where to look.

1-5 March: Venus and Jupiter appear very close together in the sky. Much brighter than any stars.

Funny how we did so much in 1969 when we were space primitive and over 50 years later everyone (who has lots of money!) wants a go.



Apollo 11



Venus

Jupiter

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## The world's richest women

Paula Ruffley

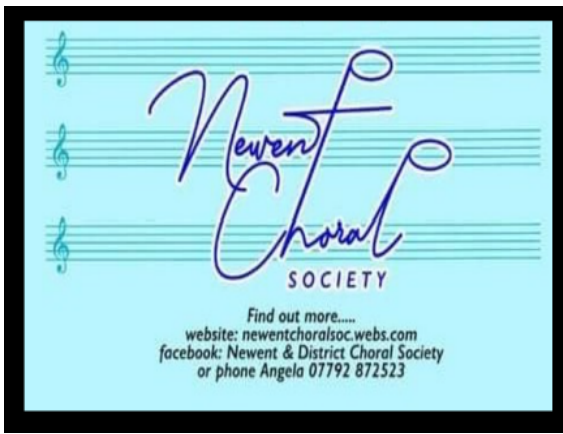
We all know who many of the world's richest men are but can you name the world's richest women?

Gina Rinehart is the world's richest self-made woman. She took on her father's bankrupt mining estate in 1992 and has since rebuilt it, becoming a billionaire in 2006.

MacKenzie Scott was catapulted into the wealthy super league following her £38 billion divorce settlement from Amazon tycoon Jeff Bezos in 2019. Her wealth topped out at around \$66 billion in 2021 but, since then, she has given away an astonishing \$14 billion to charity.

In future, she has promised to give away even more as she has signed the Giving Pledge and promised to donate more than half her total wealth.

Wow MacKenzie you are amazing.



**Newent Choral Society Concert**  
At Newent Community School  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023**  
£12 tickets on the door or in advance  
Contact - Angela Jones Tel 07792 872523

Where did the IT guy go?

Why did the nurse need a red pen?

What's red and moves up and down?

What is an astronaut's favourite part on a keyboard?

What's a private investigator's favourite shoe?

Answers on p29

[bestlifeonline.com](http://bestlifeonline.com)

## Historic March

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1 March       | St. David's day, National day of Wales  |
| 2 March 1969  | First flight of Concorde, the Anglo-French supersonic passenger carrying aircraft   |
| 7 March 1876  | Scottish-born inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, patented the telephone   |
| 12 March 1904 | Britain's first mainline electric train ran from Liverpool to Southport   |
| 19 March 1834 | Six farm labourers from Dorset, were sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia for forming a trade union  |
| 21 March 1556 | England's first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer is burnt at the stake as a heretic, under the Catholic Queen Mary I, also known as "Bloody Mary". |

# M.B

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## *Anne's hints & tips*



If you have silk flowers in the house and they are getting dusty put about a tablespoon of salt in a large poly bag. Put the flower heads in the bag and hold right round the stems and neck of the bag. Shake thoroughly for two or three minutes to disperse the salt. It is a good idea to take them out of the bag outside as there is always some salt on the petals. You'll be amazed at how dirty the salt is but it can be reused if it isn't too bad. Anne

Anne will be an occasional contributor of useful hints & tips and things she has come across that she thinks you may find interesting.

# MINSTERWORTH POEMS BY MINSTERWORTH PEOPLE

## For Sabrina's Moonchild

I am the Severn Bore,  
Sabrina's own moonchild.  
I have coursed the River Severn  
Since men and beasts were wild.

One of Mother Nature's wonders,  
I'm capricious, just as she,  
The moon my only master  
And yet, my soul is free.

And I will still be running,  
As Nature says I must,  
When all those man made wonders  
Have crumbled into dust.

I am Sabrina's Moonchild  
Known as the Severn Bore  
And all life's ancient mysteries  
Lie hidden in my roar.

Lin Hart  
13/01/2018

Lin's poem Diamonds will be  
printed in the April edition



Continued on p14

## Glorious Gloucestershire

St. Peter's is our saving grace;  
For Harvey it's his resting place;  
For elvers and the orchard trees;  
We bless Thee, Lord, for all of these.  
Yet Minsterworth has even more –  
We're famous for our Severn Bore!

R.E.H-N

## WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Why do they do it I ask myself? Has pride gone amidst  
all this wealth?

We all have shoes upon our feet no rationing of food,  
even meat

We think its ok to drop our rubbish wherever we are,  
town, country lane, out of windows from the car!

Mc Donalds, Costa, take aways, we see it all, would we  
notice if it were 10 feet tall?

Where will it end, injured wildlife, a child treads on  
broken glass in this throw-away society and upper class.

Not satisfied with polluting earth we could be living on  
the moon, would this suffer the same doom?

Maybe our children left with all of this sin will finally  
think to take it home or use a bin!!

Ann Baston



**The Silent Moon**

*Slowly, silently  
the moon  
glides smoothly through  
the cloud*

*And suddenly the garden  
is filled with light  
and long shadows*

*The scent of greenery fills the air  
and the feeling of the  
natural world  
inhabiting this place  
by Liz Duff*

## A Swan in the Evening



by Liz Duff

Sweet was the sight  
When, up the bank I stepped  
No other walker  
Coming this way.  
All to myself this magnificent  
display

A swan in the evening  
Brooding and melancholy  
it seemed to me  
Without its partner



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

**Closed Sunday & Bank Holidays**

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# Minsterworth welcomes the Bidmead family

Judith Bidmead

My immediate family comprises of my partner Ian, and daughters, Leah, 12 and Keziah, 6. However, between us, Ian and I have 4 older children - Alex, David, Jacob and Millie - so one of our main considerations when we were looking to move was to find a house and garden big enough to fit everyone in when we all got together. Including partners, our clan can easily get into double digits!



Space aside, our choice of Minsterworth was down to a combination of factors including its strong sense of community spirit which was evident each time we visited when the house was being built and took a walk along the river. We were immediately struck by how friendly everyone we bumped into was. We knew the beautiful scenic views were wonderful but didn't really appreciate just how truly stunning they were until we moved in and got to see them every morning from our bedroom window - every sunrise and sunset seems different from the last! We loved the idea of being in the peace and quiet of the countryside, whilst being only a bus ride from the restaurants and shops of Gloucester Quays or a 20-minute drive to Cheltenham.

So, nearly 3 months in, how has Minsterworth lived up to our expectations?

Without question, it has exceeded them in all regards! We've been warmly welcomed by everyone we've met, and what an unexpected delight the Monday Walking Club has turned out to be for me. The sense of community is palpable and far stronger than we'd experienced in 20 years of living in Churchdown. We love how pitch black the nights are and how peaceful it is, when the only noise and light is from the passing train in the distance. And, we absolutely love the new house that we've moved into - the local builders, RES, did a great job. What's more, both Ian and I agree that we're loving it more the longer we're here, which has to be a good sign, and there is so much of the local area we haven't even discovered yet. Maybe one day, our lovely village will have a pub and a shop and maybe even a slower A48 to make it perfect (?!) but whether it does or it doesn't, it won't change the fact that we made a great decision to move here, and look forward to many years ahead of us getting to know Minsterworth, and our lovely community, even.



# 'UPS AND DOWNS OF THE SEVERN'

An illustrated talk by Tony Conder

Friday 28th April 2023

7-00pm at Minsterworth Village Hall

This is a second talk by Tony Conder, who gave us such an excellent presentation on Gloucester Docks in January. Ups and Downs of the Severn discusses the River in all its guises and looks at the Severn Bore over history, how it works, where to see it, and some background on other river bores across the world. This well illustrated talk uses pictures from Fred Rowbotham, who for many years was the river engineer.

For the people of Minsterworth the Severn is certainly important, whether it be a place to catch elvers, the cause of flooding, or the source of traffic congestion when there is a large bore!



**The Bore at The Lower Parting – one of the best view points**  
(where the two river channels join back together)

Tickets (£5) are available online at <https://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/events-coming-soon.html>

or from [rogerblowey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rogerblowey@hotmail.co.uk), or text 07768 451071.

**PLEASE purchase your tickets in advance**, preferably on-line, because we need to know how many are coming. We got very close to having to decline ticket sales at the door in January!

**Wine, soft drinks and snacks available, so let's make it another nice social evening!**

<b>The Harvey Centre Calendar – March 2023</b>	
<b>MON</b>	<p><b>Tan House Choir:</b> Weekly from 7.00pm - 9.00pm Telephone <b>01452 750128</b> to join or find out more...</p>
<b>TUES</b>	<p><b>Move classes:</b> Weekly from 9.45am - 10.45pm <b>A blend of Yoga and Pilates for all ages and abilities</b></p> <p><b>Memory Café:</b> Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am – 1.30pm. No charge Safe space for Dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch. <b>For further info please call 01452 750128</b></p>
<b>WED</b>	<p><b>Community Cafe: The Harvey Centre Warm Spaces initiative for 8 weeks from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Open weekly from 10.00am - 2pm</b> Delicious cake, tea coffee available as usual <b>Soup and Rolls served from 12.30pm – 2pm - £2 per serving</b></p> <p><b>Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility class</b> <b>Weekly from 10.00am - 11.00am</b> Telephone 01452 234005 or email <a href="mailto:info@farrphysio.co.uk">info@farrphysio.co.uk</a> leave mobile number/email address. A member of the team will then contact you to arrange. <b>**Play area open in main hall from 11.15am</b></p> <p><b>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange: 9.30am to 12 noon</b></p>
<b>THURS</b>	
<b>FRI</b>	<p><b>Art for Wellbeing:</b> <b>Weekly from 10.00am - 12.30pm</b> £10 per single class or £37.50 for term (5 classes) *There may be a small charge for consumables depending on medium used. Please pop along or call <b>07525 330364</b></p> <p><b>Book/DVD/ Audio Book exchange: 9.30am - 12 noon</b></p>

## Food Bank:

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

## Educational and Wellbeing Events

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

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

**OR**

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

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

**\*New Email Address: [harveycentre23@gmail.com](mailto:harveycentre23@gmail.com)**

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# The Silver Fox Café

RESTING ON THE BANKS OF THE MIGHTY RIVER SEVERN

## Mistle Thrush

Paula Ruffley

We have a mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) who visits the crab apple tree in our back garden that is riddled with mistletoe. It spends hours gorging on the white mistle berries. It is a



pale thrush with obvious spots on its chest, and it is large, aggressive and powerful. It stands boldly upright and bounds across the ground. In flight, it has long wings and its tail has whitish edges. It is a large bird with pale grey-brown upper parts, a greyish-white chin and throat, and black spots on its pale yellow and off-white under parts. It is most likely to be noticed perched high at the top of a tree, singing its fluty song or giving its rattling call in flight.

For some reason we particularly like this bird in our house, despite its aggression. We think of it as rare, but apparently, it's widespread. The mistle thrush is a bird common to much of Europe, temperate Asia and North Africa. It is a year-round resident in a large part of its range, but northern and eastern populations migrate south for the winter, often in small flocks.

Found in open woods, parks, hedges and cultivated land, the mistle thrush feeds on a wide variety of invertebrates, seeds and berries. Its preferred fruits include mistletoe, holly and yew.

Mistletoe is favoured where it is available, and this is reflected in the thrush's English and scientific names; the plant, a parasitic species, benefits from its seeds being excreted by the thrush onto branches where they can germinate.

In winter, a mistle thrush will vigorously defend mistletoe clumps or a holly tree as a food reserve for when times are hard. I've seen them aggressively chasing blackbirds out of the tree laden with mistle berries in our garden.

The open cup nest is built against a trunk or in a forked branch, and is fearlessly defended against potential predators, sometimes including humans or cats. The clutch, typically of 3 to 5 eggs, is incubated for 12 to 15 days, mainly by the female. The chicks fledge about 14–16 days after hatching. There are normally two broods.



**Mistle thrush on nest**

Given its high numbers and very large range, this thrush is classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as being of least concern so it's great that we can expect to see it in future too, even though it's so aggressive!

Strange that just two birds – the blackcap and the mistle thrush – eat the sticky mistle berry, it seems such a waste of good food. The truth is that it contains a poison, viscotoxin and only these two birds are immune to it.

## MARCH QUOTES

“March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes and a laugh in her voice.”

– Hal Borland

“March is the month God created to show people who don’t drink what a hangover is like.”

– Garrison Keillor

“In March winter is holding back and spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside of us too.”

– Jean Hersey

[www.fillingthejars.com](http://www.fillingthejars.com)



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## Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

Our next meeting will be held next month on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7pm. You are welcome to come and join us to discuss our venue for September, one which has been suggested is Ironbridge. If you are unable to attend the meeting please consider becoming a member of the Royal British Legion. Your branch needs your support.

### MILITARY HISTORY

March 1 <sup>st</sup> 1942	Battle of the Java Sea
March 20 <sup>th</sup> 2003	Assault on the Al Faw Peninsula
March 28 <sup>th</sup> 1941	Victory over the Italians at Cape Matapan

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



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## Minsterworth Reading Group

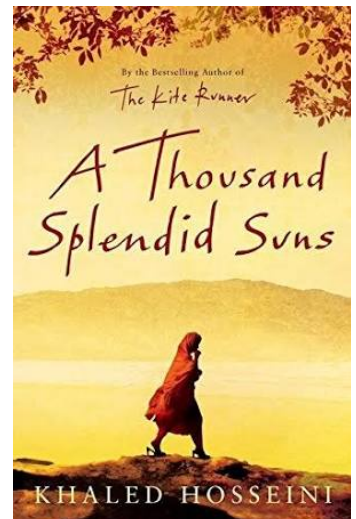


This month we sat down to discuss 'The Split' by Amanda Brookfield. It tells the story of Esther and Lucas who, after 20 years of marriage, are getting divorced due to his unfaithfulness. They have 2 children Lily 23 and Dylan 18, who are facing their own personal challenges. Esther is struggling to forge a new life, living in a rented property and getting to know her neighbours. She feels the loneliness of being single and is attempting on-line dating which leads to unwanted attention. Lucas however has been enjoying a successful career and is settled into a relationship with an intelligent younger woman. His life is shattered when he faces an accusation leading to his suspension from work. That leads to a temporary break from his recently engaged girlfriend who wishes to consider their relationship and future.

Dylan then runs away from home, telling the family he is travelling whilst he is staying with his paternal grandfather who is estranged from Lucas. All of the above bring Esther and Lucas together to work through the many issues.

We all agreed the book was complicated, having several side stories exploring relationships with family, friends and new acquaintances. It was an enjoyable read that led to a positive outcome and a stronger Esther.

Next month we are reviewing 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini



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- I asked my date to meet me at the gym today. She didn't show up. That's when I knew we weren't gonna work out.
- Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
- I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.
- Before I criticize a man, I like to walk a mile in his shoes. That way, when I do criticize him, I'm a mile away and I have his shoes.

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## Garden Services

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For further information contact Ash:

**07812 077367**

## Hedgehogs near the River Severn

Sharon Ingham

The River Severn is a hazard for hedgehogs, with its fast running water, and they will avoid it, preferring gardens, woodlands, and meadows. Hedgehogs are typically found in gardens. They do need water to drink and sometimes to bathe in. In our Garden ponds we need to ensure that there is a shallow exit point, an escape route for them to use, or the hedgehogs will run out of energy and die from exhaustion in the water.

Sadly, we rarely see hedgehogs roaming in our garden during the day. BUT this is a good thing, as they are nocturnal and seeing a hedgehog by day may mean that there is a problem. You can ring BROCKWORTH HEDGEHOG RESCUE 07789 268296 for advice, if you see a hedgehog in daylight hours.

You can tell if hedgehogs are in your garden by:

- Listening for piggy snuffling noises after dark
- Looking out for hedgehog poo, about an inch long, shiny black and bullet shaped.
- Looking out for hedgehog tracks
- Looking for tunnels in your undergrowth
- Getting a night camera

We have a night camera at Street End Cottage that we will be putting out towards the end of



March when they come out of hibernation. Hedgehogs usually hibernate from October/November through to March/April. Hedgehogs are one of the few mammals that are true hibernators. During hibernation hedgehogs are not really asleep, instead they drop their body temperature to match their surroundings and enter a state of torpor. This allows them to save a lot of energy and slows down all other bodily functions making

normal activity impossible.

Hedgehogs can cover an enormous amount of space during an evening to find food, and it is really helpful if gardeners put in small gateways for the hedgehogs to travel through from garden to garden. . Individual hedgehogs can travel as far as one or two miles in one night! If we provide easy access from adjacent garden to adjacent garden, hedgehog highways, they are much less likely to try and cross the A48 when out hunting for food.

People often ask should we be feeding hedgehogs? The answer is yes. Supplements to their natural diet by leaving food and water is a great way to encourage local hedgehogs into your garden. Follow the simple rules overleaf and you cannot go wrong:

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- small sizes of tinned cat / dog food (never bread)
- water (never milk)
- throw away uneaten food and wash bowls daily

Over half of hedgehogs have been lost from our countryside since the millennium and hedgehogs have disappeared from a third of sites in towns and cities. However, in urban areas like Minsterworth, where hedgehogs are still found, it looks like they're increasing.

Let us all hope that the village of Minsterworth is a hot spot for them, with all our big gardens and fields. Gardeners love hedgehogs as they eat all the slugs and snails!

If you manage to get any pictures of hedgehogs in your garden please send them in to The Villager, your monthly magazine. [thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com).



## Severn Bore

March is another month with large Severn Bores, some of them at reasonable times in the morning but remember to always be careful! The force behind these waves is huge so view them by all means but give them the respect they deserve. The number of sheep that get carried up and down the river with the tide tells you all you need to know – don't be one of them!!!

Remember, lots of people may come and timings are never precise although February had very similar bores too. [www.severn-bore.co.uk](http://www.severn-bore.co.uk)

Date	Day	Newnham	Severn Bore Inn	Minsterworth Church	Stonebench	Over Bridge	Tide (m)	Prospect
21	Tue	06:44	07:37	07:44	07:59	08:19	9.4	**
		19:08	20:01	20:08	20:23	20:43	9.5	**
22	Wed	07:26	08:19	08:26	08:41	09:01	10.0	****
		19:48	20:41	20:48	21:03	21:23	9.9	***
23	Thu	08:06	08:59	09:06	09:21	09:41	10.1	****
		20:26	21:19	21:26	21:41	22:01	9.8	***
24	Fri	08:42	09:35	09:42	09:57	10:17	9.9	***
		20:59	21:52	21:59	22:14	22:34	9.4	**

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About a month before he died, my uncle had his back covered in lard. After that, he went downhill fast.

When I was a boy, I had a disease that required me to eat dirt three times a day in order to survive... It's a good thing my older brother told me about it.

Two wrongs don't make a right, take your parents as an example.

What did E.T.'s mother say to him when he got home?  
"Where on Earth have you been?!"

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Recipe for a light March supper  
**Macaroni Cheese for 4 people**

Sharon Ingham

**Ingredients**



Milk	500 millilitres
Macaroni	250 grams
Salt	1 tablespoon
Butter	400 grams
Plain Flour	400 grams
Dijon Mustard	1 tablespoon
Double Gloucester Cheese - grated	150 grams
Mozzarella Cheese - grated or chopped	150 grams
Cream Cheese	50 grams
Breadcrumbs- wholemeal or white	50 grams
Olive Oil	1 tablespoon

**Method**

1. Cook the macaroni in a large saucepan of boiling salted water for 8–10 minutes. Drain well and set aside.
2. Melt the butter over a medium heat in a saucepan slightly larger than that used for the macaroni. Add the flour and stir to form a roux, cooking for a few minutes.
3. Gradually whisk in the milk, a little at a time. Cook for 10–15 minutes to a thickened and smooth sauce.
4. Meanwhile, preheat the grill to hot.
5. Remove the sauce from the hob, add most of the cheese and stir until it is well combined and melted. Keep back one handful of Double Gloucester.
6. Add the macaroni to the sauce and mix well. Transfer to a deep, suitably sized ovenproof dish.
7. Sprinkle over the remaining handful of Double Gloucester. Place the dish under the hot grill until the cheese is browned and bubbling. Serve straightaway.

Answers to riddles on p11

He probably ransomeware

In case she needed to draw blood

A tomato in a lift

The spacebar

Sneakers

## Minsterworth Parish Council



**February 2023**

### **What are our priorities and what are we doing?**

Our priorities are to maintain the environment and character of Minsterworth for the safety and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Our main safety concerns are the reduction of the impact of flooding and the maintenance of our highways. To achieve these aims we are in close and constant contact with various departments of Gloucestershire County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council and the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board as well as our MP.

The council has been working with the Police Commissioner to secure funding for a community speed watch camera. In addition to support road safety Minsterworth council agreed to fund 5 village gates located on the main road, two at the east end of the Village and three at the west end. Research demonstrates village gates have been effective in reducing speed.

In January the council considered the precept for the 2023/2024 year. The council agreed to increase the precept by 10% to £12,133.00 to reflect the current rate of inflation. Details of the budget will be available shortly.

### **Planning Applications**

01362/FUL Change of use from a public house to two residential semi-detached dwellings. Apple Tree Inn, Main Road, Minsterworth - **Objection.**

22/01349/FUL Change of use from agricultural land to residential and erection of out building. Former Ham Green Cottage, Pound Lane - **Support**

22/01277/FUL Technical details pursuant to ref 20/01281/PIP Erection of 8 dwellings and associates vehicular. Part Parcel 0003 Church Lane, Minsterworth – The planning has been agreed in principle by TBC, however council **objected.**

22/01388/FUL The erection of a 3-bedroom bungalow next to Apple Tree Inn. Main Road, Minsterworth – **Objection**

### **Planning Decisions by Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC)**

22/00991/|FUL Retrospective permission to install a garden building. 5 Elver Close, Minsterworth. **PERMIT.**

The council acknowledges planning within the village is important to residents and we recommend checking the website for the Agenda on upcoming planning applications, as the Council is given a very limited time period in which to respond. You can also sign up to receive notifications of applications from the TBC planning portal.

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The council are more than happy to report highways issues on behalf of the community. However, there is a Gloucestershire Highways 'Report it' portal, public can report issues on the roads or public rights of way.

[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/)

**The next meeting of the Council takes place Monday 13th March @ 7pm in Minsterworth Village Hall. As always, all residents are very welcome to attend.**

**Parish Clerk: Jo Badham (07815 193851) [clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk)**

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## **HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS**

**Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch** – join by e-mailing [64lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64lettie@gmail.com)

[www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk)

[www.minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org) – booking, recent events

[www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/](https://www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/)

St. Peter's church – [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/) services, etc

Minsterworth Matters WhatsApp – join by texting Roger Ingham on 07525330364 immediate village interests

Harvey Centre – [www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/the-harvey-centre](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/the-harvey-centre)

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## Welcome to Minsterworth Village Hall

### Why not plan your next event with us?

The village of Minsterworth can be found on the A48 to the west of the city of Gloucester, on the north bank of the River Severn nestled between the Cotswold Hills and the Forest of Dean.

### At the heart of the village is Minsterworth Village Hall.

This website is for Minsterworth Village Hall activities, clubs and events.

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

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

Tel: 01452 750492