

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Light at the end of the tunnel

By Paul McHale

October - 2020

Price 30p
Edition 215

Dear readers,

Phew - all this colour - making full use of the colour we have at last! Many thanks to Dawn Ricketts who has brought in new advertising, with more to come, keeping The Villager alive.

Paula

Closing copy date for the November edition is Thursday 15th October 2020.

But earlier is even better!

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

E-mail: paularuffley@gmail.com

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

OCTOBER

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

Tuesday 13th October

Tuesday 27th October

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

6th October

20th October

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

St Peter's Church, Minsterworth – roof replacement

Many of you will have noticed the work over the last month replacing the chancel roof of the church. The contractor – with whom I am very pleased – is Treasure and Son, based in Ludlow. Steve Sedwell, the Church Architect, drew up the specification and has overseen the work.



The overall cost of the work will be about £70K, although most of the funding has come from the Church Commissioners, whose responsibility for the Chancel (the part of the church around the altar) dates back to Henry VIII and the Reformation! With the abolition of the monasteries in 1534 some churches found themselves without a Patron and the responsibility for the governance and upkeep defaulted to the central church. Today the maintenance of the chancel of about 800 of the 13,000 Anglican Churches in England remain with the central church.

On stripping back the 1870 tiles we discovered that they were hung on very flimsy battens (indeed more like lathes found in the old buildings) and held in place by the weight of the tiles resting thereon. Modern regulations require substantial battens to be nailed to the frame of the roof with each tile, whilst hung on the battens, being nailed into place. The overall result is both robust and aesthetically pleasing. What is not visible is the replacement of the gully between the Chancel Roof and the adjacent Lady Chapel

Along with the replacing two years ago of the Tower roof we are making progress in ensuring that St Peter's remains water-tight and in good external shape. However, the nave roof and the roof of the Lady Chapel are in poor repair and also need replacing. Indeed the Church Insurer have said that any future damage to these roofs is unlikely to be covered because of the lack of maintenance over many years. Sadly the Parochial Church Council do not have the wherewithal to carry out this work at an approximate cost of £130,000. We have very recently made of bid to the Covid-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund and are hopeful of receiving some support. I'll let you know how we get on.

Mervyn Cowdrey
Treasurer, St Peter's Church



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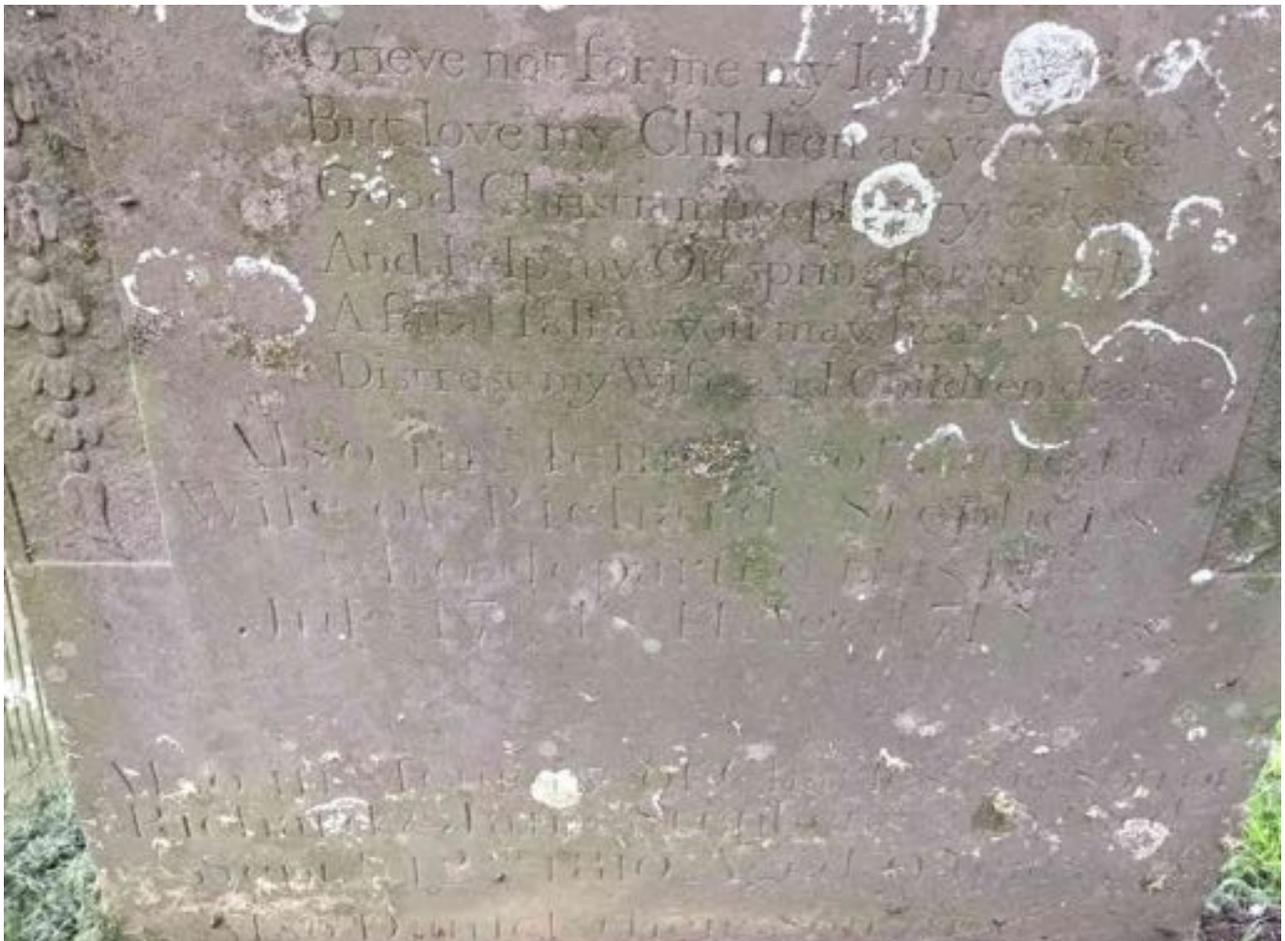
Please call Jemma to arrange your dog grooming session.

St Peter's Church graveyard project

An interesting gravestone inscription reads:

In memory of Richard Stephens
Of this parish Bricklayer
Who died March 2nd 1808 aged 42 years
Grieve not for me my loving Wife
But love my Children as your life
Good Christian people take
And help my offspring for my sake
A fatal fall as you hear
Distrest my wife and Children dear
At least we think that's what it says!

See gravestones on p5 - apologies if the words aren't that legible!





Richard Stephens

1766–1808

[LifeStory](#) [Facts](#) [Gallery](#)



Richard Stephens was born on 21 August 1766 in Minsterworth, Gloucestershire, the son of Sarah and William. He married Jane Hawks on 10 July 1792 in his hometown. They had seven children in 15 years. He died on 6 March 1808 in his hometown at the age of 41.

Show ▾



Minsterworth PCC

MINSTERWORTH 200 CLUB

The September draw which took place on the 6th resulted in the following:-

Prize	Number	
£50	156	Mike Cooper
£20	157	Graham Higgins
£10	187	Jim Lee

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA for OCTOBER

4th & 11 th	Pat Haisell-Neves
18th & 25 th	Liz Duff

what3words

To find you more easily in an emergency Gloucestershire Emergency Services are encouraging you to share your 3 word address.

How do I use what3words in an emergency?

Find the 3 word address for your current location on the **free what3words app** for [iOS](#) and [Android](#). It works offline – ideal for areas with unreliable data connection



Share your 3 word address over the phone to the call handler.

The emergency service can then coordinate a response directly to the exact location where help is needed.

EXHIBITION

HADFIELD FINE ART

I have been invited to show some paintings in this Gallery during September and October.

To view on line access www.hadfieldfineart.co.uk during September or visit the Gallery by appointment in October. The work will also be included in the Autumn Exhibition in Sevenhampton from 7th to 22nd of November viewing by appointment. It is a lovely location.

Liz Duff



FIGURES IN ART

AN ONLINE EXHIBITION OF
CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS,
28 SEPTEMBER - 25 OCTOBER

Liz Duff will be exhibiting at this online exhibition in September. Please go to www.hadfieldfineart.co.uk

Liz's paintings will also be at The Sevenhampton Gallery GL54 5SW from the 7th to 22nd Nov 2020.



MINSTERWORTH BUS SHELTERS - HYGROVE

I'm not sure how many people use the bus shelters, but they are an important feature of our village. We have four of them, one at Hygrove, one opposite to the Apple Tree, one outside of Ellis Bank and one down by the Dinney. They were in need of some TLC!

Due to the A48 being built up over the years, the Hygrove bus shelter is lower than the road, and so water runs in. A few weeks ago it was really muddy and wet in there, with water up to the green line beneath the seat.



There were various problems. The drainage holes in the rear wall beneath the seat were blocked, earth and leaves etc had built up against the outside of the rear wall, so that even if the drain holes were open, there was nowhere for the water that accumulated inside the shelter to run out. There was so much ivy, foliage etc growing around the shelter that you had to stand outside to see if a bus was coming, the guttering was totally filled with debris so that water flowed off the roof and straight into the shelter, and there were various 'creepers' starting to grow under the tiles of the roof. If left the roof could have been seriously damaged.



This has now been sorted. We have cut away the overgrowth so that the roof is clear - and you can now see if a bus is coming up the A48! The guttering has been cleared. Considerable quantities of earth, leaves etc has been dug out and taken away from the side and rear walls of the shelter, and replaced with hard core covered by gravel to provide

Continued on p9

Continued from p8

good drainage. The rear drain holes have been cleared and enlarged, and the silt etc taken away from the front of the shelter to expose
and the silt etc taken away from the front of the shelter to expose the curbs each side of the shelter.

We are once again indebted to Chris King for all his help.

RB



Laura Hill
Mobile Hairdresser

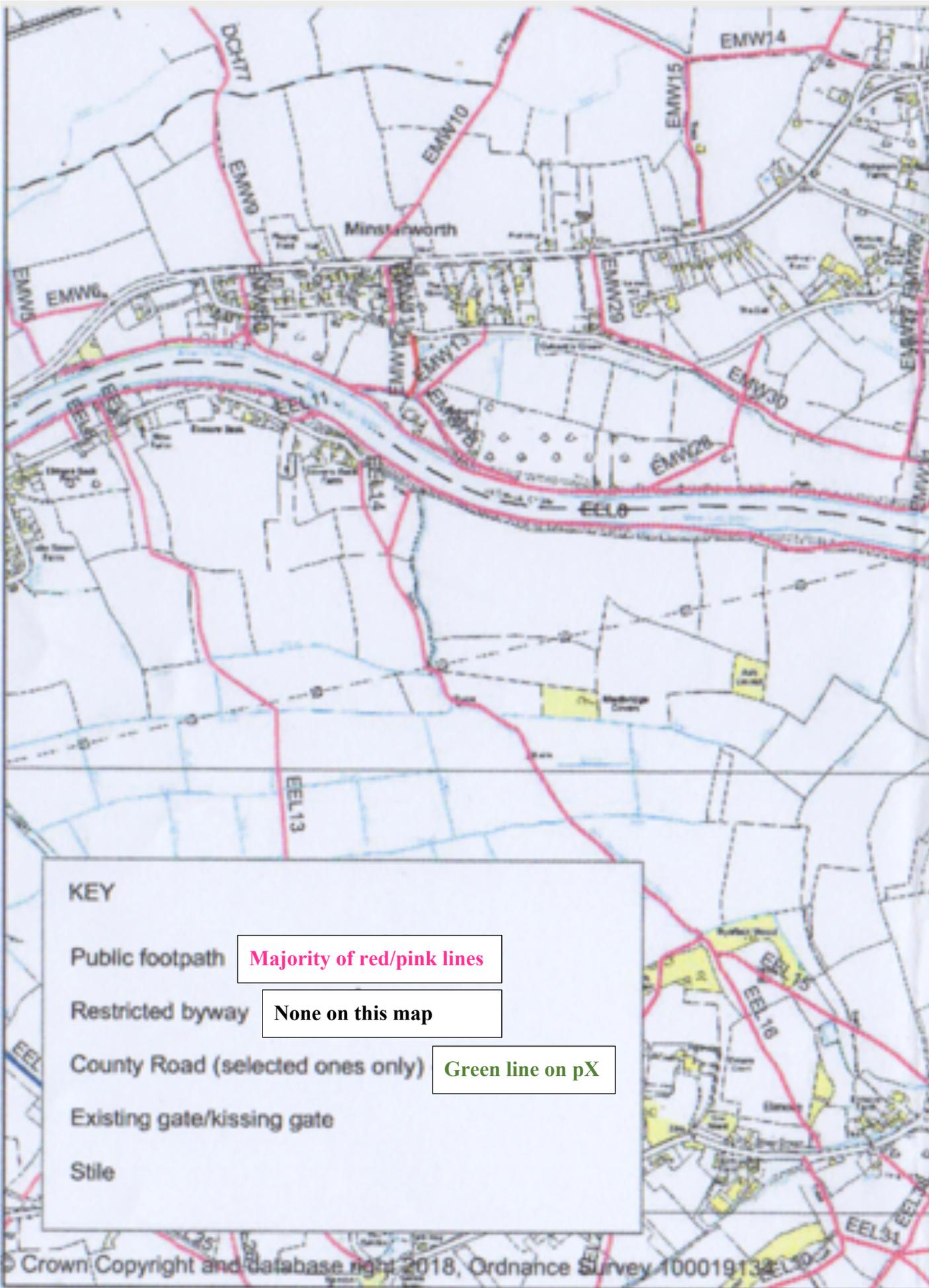
Ladies and Gents, cuts, colours,
restyles and bridal hair

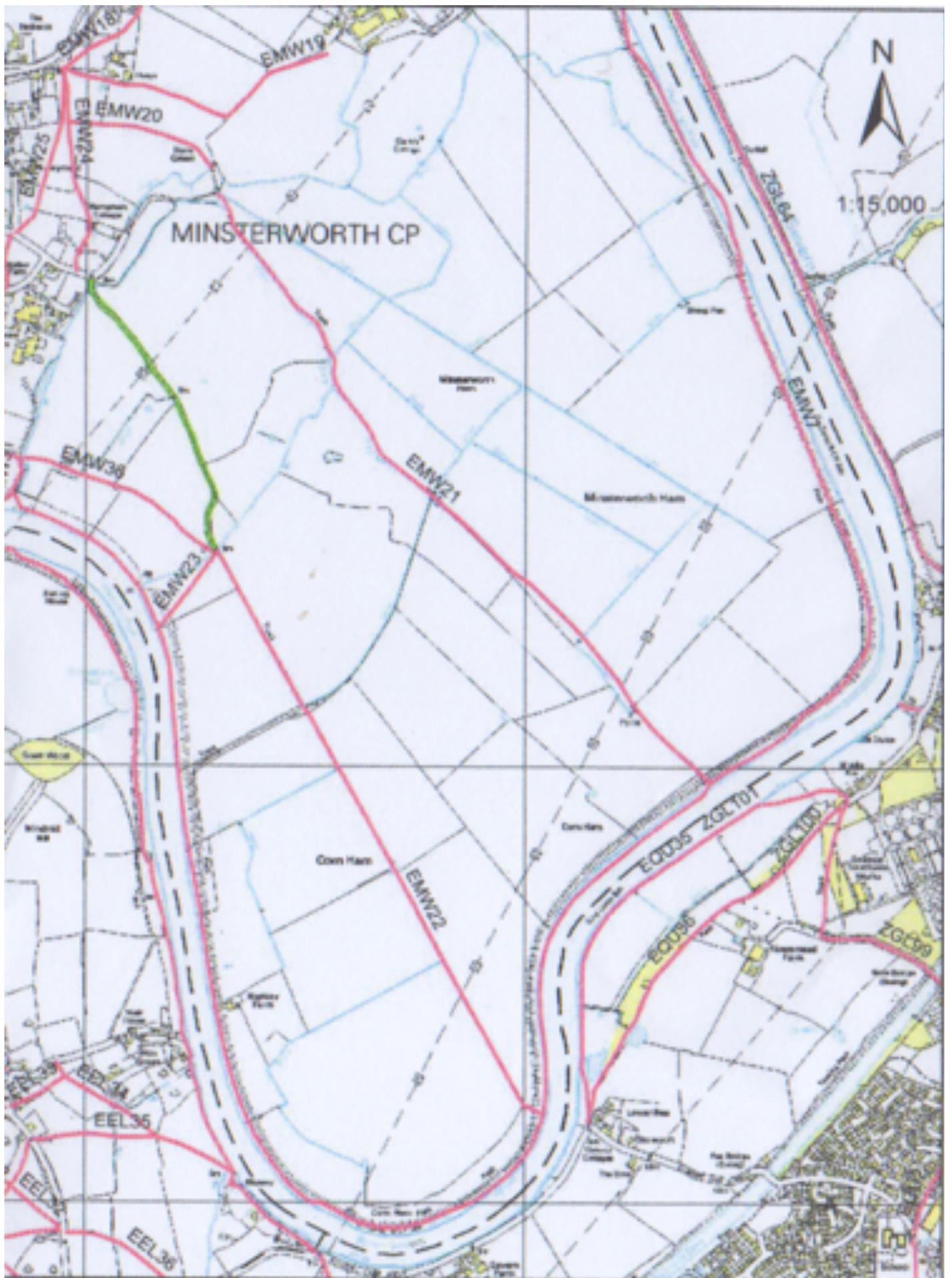
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Fish and Chips on Thursdays

We have now had 3 successful evenings of Made Without Gluten (madewithoutgluten.co.uk) fish and chips at the Village Hall, and intend to make it a regular event.

It's going to be on the **second Thursday of each month**, because when the Hall eventually re-opens, it is more commonly booked for other events on Friday than on Thursday.

The next three Thursdays are:

8th October

12th November and

10th December

Serving from approx. 5pm (or a few minutes earlier if you are hungry!) to 8pm at the Village Hall.

Reminders will be sent out on Mailchimp and WhatsApp. We look forward to seeing you on 8th October.

R

Local footpaths in the parish of Minsterworth



Since Covid, March 2020, I have heard endless times how very lucky we are to live in the parish of Minsterworth; how peaceful it is with a sense of remoteness despite only being a few miles from Gloucester. Often, I see people walking the lanes with their family, friends or dogs but much less so using the local PROW, (Public Rights of Way) parish footpaths. The local footpaths are frequently marked on the roadside with the common green arrow sign. Once you are into fields or along the River Severn bank you should follow the much smaller and discrete yellow signs which you will find on stiles, kissing gates, small ditch bridges and posts which have been placed to keep you safely on the right pathway.

In this month's Villager we have attached a pull-out map on the centre pages which shows all the local parish footpaths, for your use, which we will be referring to in coming months as we look at the local pathway routes in greater detail. Much more detailed maps can be found at <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/51.85286,-2.32504,16/pin> or <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/public-rights-of-way/rights-of-way-online-map/> or

<https://osm.mathmos.net/prow/progress/gloucs/tewkesbury/minsterworth/>

Most footpaths remain easily passable when walked regularly but occasionally extra work needs doing to keep them bramble and nettle free and in a good safe condition. If you come across a pathway that needs some repair or improved access please let Suzanne Hope, PROW Officer for our local area know by email highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Minsterworth has a Ladies Walking Group which meets three times a week at the bottom of Bury Lane at 8am Monday, 7.30am Wednesday and Friday. We walk for an hour to an hour and a half. Everyone is welcome.

SI



Emilia Babbage arrived exactly a week early on 31 August bright and early at 6.40am to Sophie and Elliot Babbage. Congratulations to you both and welcome Emilia!

Excellent News!

We now have three Poo Bins in Minsterworth village



WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO BAG AND BIN DOG POO

1. No one, not even dog lovers, likes treading in dog poo. A pile of poo can take a year or more to fully break down.
2. Parents don't want to have to avoid a park or recreational areas because of the risk of their children treading in or worse, falling in poo.
3. All poo contains bacteria that can cause an upset stomach if ingested. The biggest risk, however, is Toxocariasis which is an infection caused by round worm.

It is illegal to allow your dog, or any dog you are in control of, to poo on the footpath or any other land open to the Public. Failure to clean up after a dog in your charge will lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice, similar to a parking ticket, for £80, or prosecution, which may lead to a fine of £1,000 plus costs. It is not an acceptable defence to claim ignorance of the dog's actions or that you did not carry means to dispose of the fouling at the time.

SO PLEASE BAG IT AND BIN IT (in biodegradable bags)

Bringing the outside inside

by Pat Haisell-Neves

A number of years ago, I attended a three-year City and Guilds course in flower arranging. It covered flower arrangements, botany, and the history of this art and craft. I enjoyed it very much and the knowledge and skill I learnt then I've applied in many different ways. For many years I was one of a number of regular volunteer flower arrangers at both Gloucester Cathedral and our church of St Peter's here in Minsterworth. I have decorated Minsterworth's church so many times for weddings (including rugby player Phil Vickery's with a local girl at which Princess Zara attended with Mike Tindall). For one local wedding, the requirement was for a lot of very special dark red roses, the bill for which was over £400 and it took almost three days to complete all the arrangements! I also had a hand in decorating the church for my own youngest daughter's wedding which was a very special event for me.



Above is a picture of a dried flower tree I once made and, with winter approaching and the taking up of more indoor hobbies, I thought some of you might be interested to make something similar, and at this time of year there are so many seed heads to be gathered from the garden and hedgerows which can be used. Here's how it is done.

Firstly, select as a support a piece of driftwood of an interesting shape and right size; a good place to find this is of course on the riverbank, especially after a bore tide (but do be careful!). Then use a suitably sized plant pot. Fill it with Polyfilla which you leave to dry off, but just before it starts to harden, place the stem of the wooden support in the centre and leave to fully harden off. Next take a ball of oasis sec (this is not like the normal oasis used for flower arranging and can be obtained from good florists like Cathedral Florists in the Bristol Road); stick it to the top of the wooden support with glue and leave to dry. Paint the driftwood with black or dark green paint and cover the oasis sec ball lightly with sphagnum moss (available from most florists shops but you quite often find it in churchyards around old gravestones!).

Now comes the 'prettifying part' using dried seed heads, dried flowers and small fir cones etc. A few small silk flowers can be added for extra colour. Place the completed 'tree' in an attractive china or copper container to complement the surrounding room.

PH-N



At our meeting in September, held under the correct restrictions, a number of important items were discussed at length. Unfortunately there will be no door to door poppy money collections this year as a result of R.B.L. head office instructions. Should you require anything special for Remembrance please do not hesitate to contact us.

The war memorial at Minsterworth church will be professionally cleaned before Remembrance Sunday, November 8th. At present we plan to hold the Remembrance Service as normal but this may change if circumstances alter due to the ongoing restrictions.

Stay safe, good luck to you all.

Terry Bourne
President
Minsterworth and District R.B.L.

Military History

Oct 3rd Landings at Termoli - 1943
Oct 21st Battle of Trafalgar – 1805

"I doubt there's a heaven; I think the people from hell have probably bought it for a timeshare." - Victoria Wood

"I went to the doctor and he said, 'You've got hypochondria.' I said, 'Not that as well.'" - Tim Vine

"Nothing funny happened to me on the way to the theatre tonight. So good night." - Jackie Benny

"I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any." - Tommy Cooper

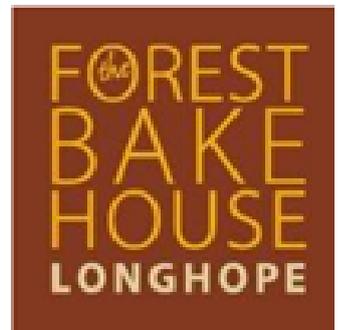
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Mushroom 'Fairy Circles'

This spring I had noticed a few circular patches of darker green grass at the bottom of my orchard and wondered why, then in late August mushrooms appeared around the perimeter in an almost perfect circle!



Sophie Raeburn standing in the centre of a mushroom circle. Note the second circle in the background
So why the dark green grass and why the perfect circle?



The Bloweys, their grandchildren & more mushrooms

Google says 'Fairy rings are caused by an individual fungus growing underground. The fungus sprouts lots of small threads, called mycelium, in a circular shape. A year later, the mushrooms pop up out of the ground at the edge of the circle, creating the fairy ring'. Or 'Fairy rings are caused by many different soil inhabiting fungi of the class Basidiomycetes. These fungi can cause the development of rings or arcs of deep green grass as well as unthrifty or dead grass. ... The mushrooms that appear after rainfall are the fruiting bodies of the fungus'

The mushrooms certainly came up after the rainfall, and it was warm. I presume that the dark green grass is due to the increased nitrogen content of the area, but it doesn't say why that should be. We did have mushrooms growing in the same patch last year. Google also says that there will be dead grass covering the mushrooms because they have used up all of the nutrients – certainly not the case with ours! There is lots more information – and some amazing pictures! – in Wikipedia.

Apparently mushrooms reproduce both asexually (spores dropping down from the veined underside) and sexually (the fusion of mycelial hyphae underground). I have been told that it's best to pick mushrooms by cutting off the stalk, i.e. leaving the base of the stalk in the ground. We picked and ate plenty (they were delicious!) but also left plenty to drop their spores, so we look forward to more again next year!

Notes on Minsterworth Parish Council – August 2020

Meeting held on Thursday 20 August 2020 via Zoom

Apologies Cllr King

Planning

20/00618 Eame Hill, Main Road. Change of use of vacant barns to use class B8 (storage & distribution).

PC **supports** application

20//00662FUL Highbury Main Road. Erection of extensions and demolition of garage. Revision of 19/00711/ FUL.

PC **supports** application.

19/00465/FUL Charlton, Main Road Change of use C3 (dwelling house) to C2 children's care home. Erection of replacement single storey rear extension and front and rear dormer windows.

The Parish Council strongly objects for the following reasons:

1. Inadequate parking for staff on shifts
2. The proposed west facing windows will look directly onto the garden of the adjacent property
3. Bring the building line forward represents a significant change to the Street View
4. TBC's flood risks management surveyor finds that the means of managing foul and surface waters inadequate
5. There are no facilities in Minsterworth for multiple teenage children in a semidetached house as a care home.

TBC decisions

20/00252/APP Land at Hectors Farm, Hygrove. Lane. Approval of reserved matters for the erection of 9 dwellings and vehicular access. Granted

20/00081/PIP Land to the west of A48. Residential development for 4-8 houses. Granted

20/00257/APP Land at Appithorne Main Road Approval of reserved matters for the erection of 5 dwellings and vehicular access . Granted

20.00252/APP Hectors Farm, Main Road. Approval of reserved matters for the erection of 9 dwellings and vehicular access.

Paid prior to meeting – 4 x Neighbourhood Watch signs £49

Agreed – AGP Garden Services 2 grass cuts 3 & 7 July £74

1.5 hrs mole services £104

Urgent matters raised for notification

Discuss future continuation of the publication of the magazine. Unfortunately there has been an almost total loss of revenue from advertisers which normally subsidises the production costs. Over the last two years production costs have far exceeded revenue. After a lengthy discussion Councillors welcomed Dawn Ricketts' kind offer to take on the role of attracting more advertisers while expanding and improving the content. It was agreed that the Parish Council would financially support The Villager for the next 6 months with production of a magazine every other month.

All Bus Shelters are in a state of disrepair and very overgrown. The Chairman will obtain quotes for improving drainage of the Hygrove shelter he and Cllr Powell will see what work needs doing on the other shelters.

Highways. Reduction of Speed Limit A48. The Clerk reported that an e-mail had been received from a local resident asking for the Parish Council to again consider pursuing a reduction in the speed limit on the A8, especially if the new proposed houses are built. To be discussed at the September meeting.

Date for next meeting: Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.00pm

Minsterworth Village Hall

Registered charity 255668



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