

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Katie Panting

**The editor challenges Ollie Panting to a race
Ollie won!**

October 2021

Edition 227

Dear readers,

Thanks to everyone who attended the Charity Fashion Show at Leaf, with clothing and accessories from Raft, Newent. We will publish in The Villager and on social media when we know how much was raised for the three Minsterworth Charities.

Another edition packed with news and colour. Lots going on now that things are starting to open up again.

Your assistance is required to keep the churchyard looking spic and span see p3. Look out for the Harvest Supper on p4, the return of the excellent Johnny Coppin on p5, fish & chips on P9, news on all the clubs and enjoy our regular features. Maybe round it off by trying your hand at Matt Singer's recipe on p27 – it sounds delicious. Go on, try something different!

And temporary farewell to Dawn, who'll hate me for this but has made such an impact while she has been here! We will miss you.

All items for consideration to:-
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thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com

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

KERBSIDE RECYCLING OCT 2021

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy		BLUE bin & caddy	
(landfill)	(garden)	(recycling)	
Tuesday	12	Tuesday	5
Tuesday	26	Tuesday	19

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

CHURCHYARD TIDY UP

October 16th 2021

Please support us to tidy up the Churchyard before winter sets in
Any time during the morning will be greatly appreciated, from 9am

Refreshments provided

Many Thanks

Jo Stait 01452 750709

Did you hear about the
claustrophobic astronaut?

Answer on p27

WARNING

I was recently walking my dog in a local field in Minsterworth when I was approached by a young lad on a quad bike who set about trying to entice my dog to follow him. My dog was off the lead at the time and fortunately I was able to call him to me whereupon I was able to put him back on his lead. Hearing of how many dogs have been stolen I felt I needed to warn local residents.

Name & address withheld

A HARVEST SUPPER



**Saturday 2nd October 7pm in
Minsterworth Village Hall**

Including a Talk by

Pete Wilson

**Radio Gloucestershire Presenter
On his life in radio and other stories**



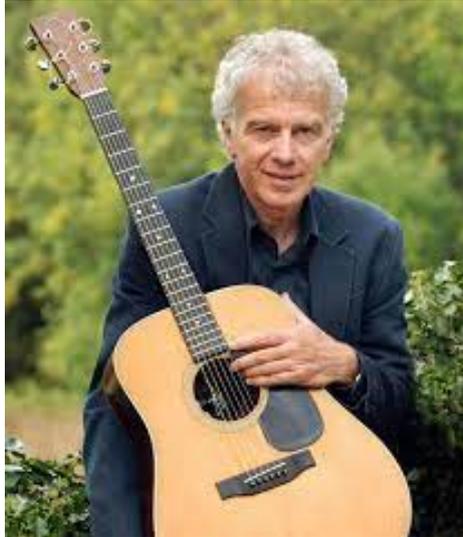
**Ploughman's Supper
BYOD**

Tickets £10

Jo 01452 750709, Anne 01452 751295
or Liz 01452 750401

Proceeds to Minsterworth Church and Village Hall

**NOT LONG TO GO NOW
– DON'T MISS OUT!**



We are delighted to announce another visit to Minsterworth by the accomplished Gloucestershire folk musician

JOHNNY COPPIN

**along with Paul Burgess
on SATURDAY OCTOBER 23rd 2021**

**at Minsterworth Village Hall (GL2 8JH)
Starting at 7.30 p.m.**

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or the fresh waters of the streams”**

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**For more information contact Terry on 01452 750160 or
Joanna on 01452 750709.**

(This event is being organised jointly by the church and village hall)

HISTORICAL SNIPPETS AROUND MINSTERWORTH

You can easily not notice it, but if you are walking beside the river near Pershbrook at Severn Bank and choose to look across to the opposite side of the river to Elmore Back, you may just see behind the trees a building close to the river side. It is now a private residence but in days gone by it was one of a number of riverside pubs along this stretch of the river. Known as The Salmon Inn, it had a long history, from the time when riverside alehouses were in great demand from sailors of vessels sailing up and down the river. The Salmon's location near to the Church Rock meant it could take advantage of the fact that vessels could not pass over the rock at low water and had to tie up and wait for a high tide. This often meant vessels waiting for long periods and what better for the sailors than to have a nearby pub to slake their thirsts.

Things changed around 1827 when the river was effectively bypassed by the opening of the Gloucester-Sharpness canal and the volume of traffic on the river reduced significantly. The Salmon seems to have continued operating though and it was still being licensed as an alehouse in 1891, serving both Elmore Back and whatever traffic still used the river.

Back in 2004, I had the pleasure of carrying out an oral history interview with then 90 years old Mrs Vera Smith of Elmore Back whose stepfather Walter Wellington had run The Salmon. She recalled that he also ran the ferry across to Pershbrook on the Minsterworth side of the river. The ferry was a simple affair, just a small punt or rowboat with a stern oar to drive and steer it. But it was used regularly by people of Elmore Back wanting to catch the bus into Gloucester and by children needing to get to their school in Minsterworth. All available records point to the inn closing down around 1940.

Continued on p7



07976896255

adamshayletreeservices@outlook.com

Professional Tree Surgeon

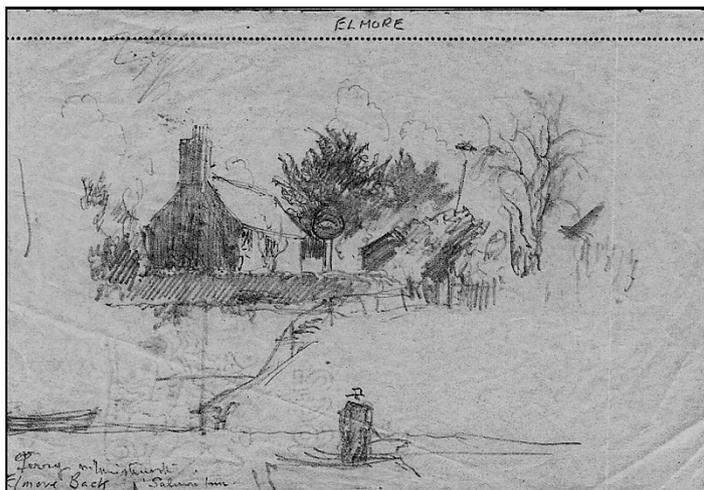
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Continued from p6



This is the earliest image of the inn that I have. It is an amateur artist's drawing of the inn produced around 1920 and shows the inn and a line of steps down to the ferry; the artist has even put in the ferry boat and oarsman:

Then there is this iconic picture which may be more familiar to older residents: It comes from a Gloucester Citizen published in 1940 and shows the river iced over during the big freeze of that year. In the background is The Salmon with its big sign board. The steps down to the ferry are clearly shown as well as a boat moored to the bank. The rope lying on the ice, I believe, was used to pull the ferry across. The men and boys standing on the ice were obviously having a lot of fun!

Sad to think that very soon after this picture was taken the inn had closed.

A little way upstream from the Salmon Inn was another ferry which ran from Elmore Back to the Church Landing Yard on the Minsterworth side. This was primarily used to carry across sheep and pigs from farms on the Elmore side destined for Gloucester market.



TM-S

Q: What did one hat say to the other?

Answer on p24

A RIVER, A PIG AND BRAINS

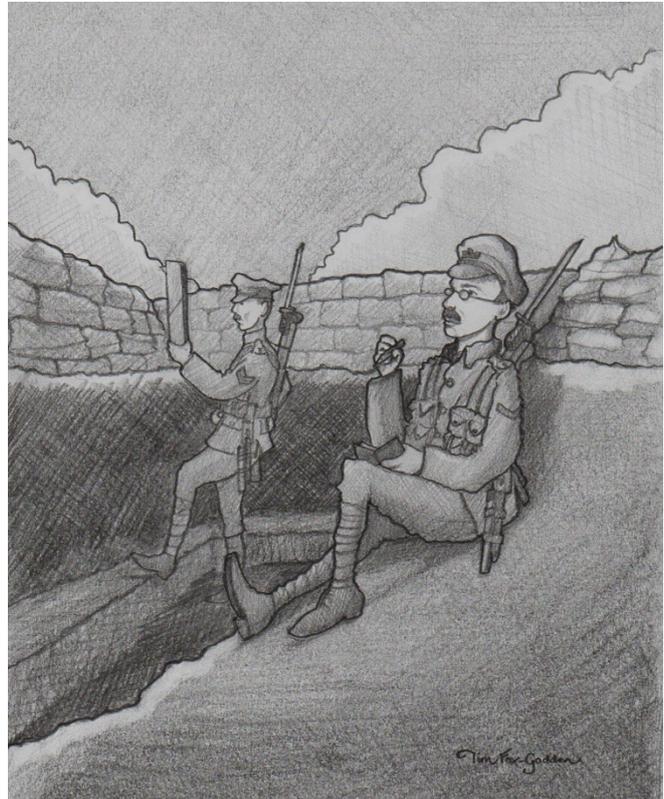
FW Harvey

Last fall, to sell his oldest perry,
Old William Fry did cross the ferry,
And thur inside of an old sty
'A seed a leanish pig did lie:
A rakish, active beast 'a was
As ever rooted up the grass:
Eager as bees on making honey
To stuff his self. Bill did decide
To buy un with the cider money
And fat un up for Easter-tide.

He bought un, but no net 'ad got
To keep thic pig inside the boat.
"Thee'll drown wi' pig and all at ferry!"
Cried one. Said Fry, "Go, bring some perry,
And thic old drinking-horn you got,
Lying inside the piggery cot!"

'A poured a goodish swig and soon
- As lazy as a day o' June -
Piggy lay boozed, and so did bide
Snoring, while him and Fry were taken
'Cross Severn: and 'a didn't waken
Until the boat lay safely tied
Up to a tree on t'other side.

TM-S



Graphite drawing of FW Harvey with his mate Raymond Knight created by Tim Fox-Godden.

The drawing depicts the pair in the Western Front trenches some time in 1915. Notice that Tim has made Harvey's uniform slightly dishevelled in this drawing. Harvey admitted that he was known to be a 'somewhat unkempt soldier'.

Knight is holding a trench periscope used to observe the ground in front of their fortification without attracting enemy snipers.

P Ruffley

OCTOBER FISH & CHIPS

Thursday 14th October 2021

at the Village Hall

Serving from 5pm to 8pm

For menu etc see www.madewithoutgluten.co.uk

There was some discussion about possible use of the village hall and a bar in October.
For a variety of reasons this will not be happening.

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



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Minsterworth Photographic Club is Back!



Following the long break imposed on us all, we're delighted to say the Minsterworth Photographic Club is resuming its twice-monthly evenings, starting properly in October on the 3rd and 4th Monday of each month, in the village hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. (There was a club night on the 20th of September.)

As it's been so long since we were together, the first few months' evening talks and demonstrations will be going back to basics, covering camera controls, image composition and delving into the misunderstandings and mistakes that people make when taking photographs.

We will be running every month from October with new plans and formats to suit everyone.

We had a most enjoyable river walk along the Severn in August, some images you can see here in this article.



We also now have a presentation area in the newly refurbished village hall, where past competition winners and members' favourite photographs are displayed and can be viewed whenever you visit the hall.

So, whether you are an accomplished photographer, just starting out, or would like to know more about your camera and photography, why not give us a try? We are a friendly club and welcome anyone who is looking to give any form of photography a try, be it camera or smart phone... it's the image that counts, not the equipment!

Please check out our website www.minsterworthphotoclub.co.uk

Email minsterworthphoto@gmail.com

or contact me – Bob Holder on: bob.holder3@hotmail.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Musings on the River continued – Art of the River Severn

Sarah McHale

Following on from last month's article that focussed on literature inspired by rivers and concluding with mention of Sabrina and her commemorative sculpture in Tintern, I thought I'd look at how artists have been inspired by the water that flows through our village. As an artist I never cease to be fascinated by the Severn; how it changes every day, and within the day by the hour and minute. The Severn has the largest tidal range in the British Isles and third greatest in the world. Tides can range as much as 15m, and this combined with the funnel effect provided by the estuary causes the fabulous bore. Who can fail to be impressed by the river's energy as water gushes past Church Landing and the whoosh of the wave?



Many artists have made the Severn the focus of their work and as often is the case, in researching names I uncovered some interesting local information regarding harnessing the river's energy, a topic often discussed. But I had no idea about Thomas Fulljames, an architect born in 1808. He opened his first architectural practice in Barton Street in 1830 and was elected County

Surveyor in 1831. While a barrage would allow us to harness the vast hydro energy reserves, the bore would cease, and doubtless the fascinating ecosystems of the river and estuary potentially affected.

Back to the 'fine art' inspired by the Severn. Inevitably J.M.W Turner painted the river during a visit c1798 to the area. While there is no record of him visiting Gloucester, he is recorded as being in the Wye Valley. 'Panoramic View of the Junction of the Rivers Severn and Wye' is a typical Turner watercolour sketch, soft colours and washes of paint capturing an approaching storm. Turner was fascinated by the power of the elements (sticking his head out of the train window to experience the weather inspired 'Rain, Steam, Speed'!) and Man's relative insignificance versus the forces of nature. I wonder what he would make of climate change? I really think if he was living now he'd be using his work to comment on our current concerns.



Continued on p17



Tel 01452 760511

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Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

We were able to hold our meeting last month on the 8th September, one which was well attended by a number of our members. Several items were discussed including the arrangements for the Remembrance Service in November.

Our next meeting will be this month on Wednesday 13th October at 7pm in the Legion Room. You are welcome to join us even if you are not a member of the R.B.L.

MILITARY HISTORY

Oct 3 rd	1943	Landings at Termoli (40 Commando R.M.)
Oct 8 th	1990	First WRNS serve at sea in HMS Brilliant
Oct 21 st	1805	Battle of Trafalgar

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

Gardening by the Severn

Marie-Clare Mawle

When Alison and David fell in love with their home seven years ago, they not only took on a house restoration project, but a garden restoration project too. Over the years they have unearthed the garden's original; planting, structure, features and some wonderful specimen trees. The beautiful garden that stands today is a testament to a labour of love and help of many hands. They have developed a formal garden that could have been very stuffy, into a delightful space with many rooms, fit for all the family.



You were brave to take on such a project. What was the first job that you tackled in the garden?

The first task was to try and reverse many years of intrusion by nettles, brambles and other invasive plants that had taken over much of the garden. This allowed us to see the underlying layout as a basis for our future renovation project. We were delighted to discover that a lot of beautiful roses and other significant plants had managed to survive in spite of being largely overgrown.

Continued on p14

What was the best decision you made when renovating the garden?

Our initial thoughts were to engage a company to completely redevelop the garden in one fell swoop. After taking some time to reflect we changed our approach to gently renovate and update the garden in several distinct phases with the help of our ever-patient expert gardener, Ella. While this meant that the project has taken longer (and cost more!) it has resulted in a more natural feel that fits an old garden. Simply tearing up what was there and starting again would have been far simpler but would have risked creating a sterile show garden instead of one that continues a 200- year story.



Have you learnt a lot from your experience and would you call yourself a gardener now?

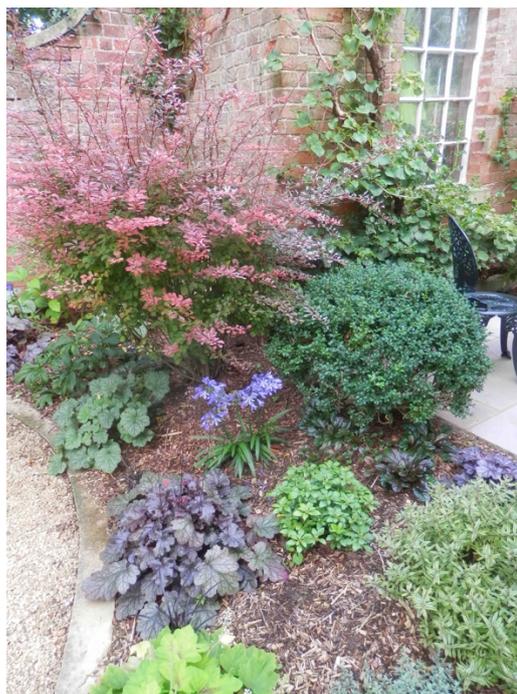
The transition from ‘people who have a garden’ to gardeners is progressing but certainly not complete! The last seven years have taught us a lot and between us we can now turn our hands to most tasks. Our knowledge of plants and trees has increased with each year and we are now much more confident in making planting decisions as well as planning new developments, most recently a small orchard and a vegetable garden.

We have acquired a wealth of new plant names for our vocabulary as well as understanding their preferences for planting location, feeding and care. We have also

discovered how much effort is needed to maintain a garden, not least the time spent watering during dry spells and dealing with the damage caused by occasional extreme weather.

It has been deeply satisfying learning how to bring the garden indoors by making use of the huge variety of flowers and foliage that can be found throughout the seasons. These can make a real difference inside the house, particularly on miserable grey days. We are lucky to have many flowers that aren’t grown commercially for florists so we can enjoy the unique character of our garden even when we aren’t in it.





Which garden open to the public would you recommend everyone should visit?

Arundel Castle Gardens in West Sussex is spectacular in the summer. If you aren't able to visit in person, then why not take a moment to watch a virtual video on their website - www.arundelcastle.org/gardens/

Also I must add how much we enjoy our local Highnam Court Gardens when they have open days. We've seen it develop year upon year, it's astonishing for a private garden. If you've not been, then you're missing out on something special that is right on our doorstep!

Do you have a favourite spot in your garden?

We have created a number of areas to sit and appreciate the garden as the sun moves across the sky but our favourite remains the south-facing terrace beside the

House. It gives a perfect view of the formal part of the garden with a backdrop of our avenue of mature yews framed by specimen trees and a small wildflower meadow. The changing colours and contours of the garden give pleasure from the terrace all through the year. Our daughter commented this week that our garden has all the colours of the rainbow! We also enjoy watching for wildlife and have been fortunate enough to see a variety of birds and animals over the years. One highlight was watching three fox cubs playing on the lawn.

What is your favourite time of the year in the garden?

Late spring and early summer in our view brings the best of the garden. Some of the rare and unusual narcissi planted in the mid-20th Century are still in evidence as the many varieties of rose burst into life. The roses bring riotous colours, heady fragrances and interesting structure to the garden and really usher in the start of summer.

What's next? Any more projects in the pipeline?

The next big task will be developing an area known as the Spring Garden. This feels like a secret garden and, as the name suggests, has thousands of spring bulbs which carpet the area in flowers starting with snowdrops in February and ending some months later with the last of the large daffodils. Unfortunately, this area is still largely overgrown with



nettles, brambles, ivy and other undesirables. We want to maintain a balance between making this part of the garden pleasant through the year without losing its essential character so we will start gently by clearing some meandering paths between a few large specimen trees and eradicating the worst of the weeds over winter. There are a few dead or dying trees to remove



as well as a couple of difficult decisions to take about thinning trees that are encroaching badly on each other.

We are now seven years into a ten year renovation project so we have quite a few big jobs left on our enormous to-do list. We do feel that we are now on the home straight though. As with all gardens this won't be the end of the journey and we are excited to see potential for all sorts of projects in the future. A debate is currently raging over the merits of a duck pond!

Hallowææn

Historic-uk.com

Throughout Britain, Halloween has traditionally been celebrated by children's games such as bobbing for apples in containers full of water, telling ghost stories and the carving of faces into hollowed-out vegetables such as swedes, turnips (ghostly white!) and now pumpkins.

All Hallows' Day was established to commemorate Christian saints by Catholics in the 7th Century, possibly as a way of Christianising a pagan holiday.

The day before All Hallows was known as All Hallows' Even or Hallowe'en, and October 31 became associated with prayers for the dead.

It was once thought that mischievous spirits were especially naughty on Halloween, and if you weren't careful you could feel their wrath.



by Denise Luckman

Continued from p11

As an artist who explores a more abstract narrative in my own work, I was fascinated to discover a painting by Peter Lanyon (1918-1964) 'River Severn in the Mist' from 1961.



His energetic marks and layers of monochrome with those swipes of dark ochre could easily be a close-up image of the bore water as it swirls through the foliage on its way up-stream. Lanyon is best known as Cornish artist I can't find any other Severn works or a record of him visiting the area. But knowing his passion for the landscape and the sea, this study must have been recorded directly from first-hand.

Doug Eaton lives and works in the Forest of Dean. I adore colour so am instantly attracted to Eaton's strong palette. I love the brilliance of his work, the layering of colour and the strong line evident in his landscapes. He perfectly captures the majesty of the Severn as she meanders through the landscape – physical geography meets fine art! Doug exhibits each year in the Far Open Studio trail so I feel that Liz Duff, Marie Clare Mawle and I are in good company!



Finally, another local practitioner and fellow exhibitor from Far Open: Carolyn Black who lives and works in nearby Newnham-on-Severn. Carolyn is fascinated by the Severn and living on its banks she is on hand to record the many changes she observes in the estuary. In her own words Carolyn describes the river: 'The Severn is a shape-shifter, endlessly changing – it never ceases to engage me in some way – through filming, drawing, writing, or simply gazing at it'. I particularly adore 'When You Call I shall Come', a video made during lockdown last year. With a soundtrack by Swedish folk singer Eva Rune, the haunting vocals accompanied by the rush of the bore wave inspire me to think of the legend of Sabrina. Could Rune's ethereal sound echo the mermaid's song luring us up-river?

I'm hoping to interview Carolyn for a future column. In the meantime she has kindly shared the URL for her film: <https://youtu.be/EU8VgcYUml> it is simply stunning, please take a look. Carolyn informs me that her film is currently showing at Wells Cathedral!

More information: www.carolynblack.com www.evarune.se www.dougeatonart.co.uk



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Gloucestershire Composers

Julian Oxley

[Part Three continued from September]

Finally we have two composers who, although not born in Gloucestershire, nevertheless had strong connections with the county throughout their lives.



Gerald Finzi was born in St John's Wood, London, in 1901 to a well-to-do family; his father was of Italian descent and died when Gerald was seven. The family then moved around the country a good deal, his mother encouraging his love of the English countryside. He was already a promising musician, and during a spell in Harrogate took organ and composition lessons from Sir Edward Bairstow, organist of York Minster. In 1920 they stayed at Churchdown for the summer, returning the following year to stay at Chosen Hill Farm. Finzi climbed May Hill and enjoyed the "wonderful" view of the Severn, Gloucester, and beyond. He

discovered Gurney's poetry and music, and also the music of Vaughan Williams, Parry, Holst, and Elgar, and decided that this was truly "composers' country" where he belonged.

In 1922 they returned, this time to Painswick (strangely to the same road where one of my daughters now lives). This inspired much composition, and for the next three years he rarely left the Cotswolds, believing he could only compose in the countryside. He also befriended Herbert Howells, who came to stop with his family. But in 1925 he wanted to be on his own, so returned to Chosen Hill Farm. To advance his career London was calling, and just before his departure on New Year's Eve he climbed to the top of the Hill to hear the midnight bells ring out and to join the ringers in their celebrations.

Once in London he still continued to travel extensively around the country, staying with friends in the Gloucester area and at a cottage owned by Vaughan Williams (who with his wife were the only witnesses at Finzi's marriage to Joy Black). They settled at Aldbourne, near Marlborough, where he continued his walks, often with Herbert Sumsion, organist of Gloucester Cathedral. In 1935 they stayed with the Sumsions in Gloucester and climbed May Hill during the King George V Silver Jubilee. With two small sons he needed a bigger house, so they found a large plot in the countryside on the Berkshire/Hampshire border where, apart from composition, he was able to indulge his interest in cultivating rare English apples.

After WWII he completed a major setting of Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality" which reflects the poet's own love of countryside, so very much in tune with Finzi's own inspiration. It was first performed at the Gloucester Three Choirs' Festival in 1950, and again by Gloucester Choral Society in the Cathedral in 1977.

But Finzi's health was never robust, and in the following year a rare form of cancer was diagnosed. At first this responded to treatment, but during the Gloucester Festival in 1956 they took the Vaughan Williamses up Chosen Hill to show them the place and view which had

Continued on p20

Continued from p19

inspired Finzi's choral work "In Terra Pax" (Peace on Earth) on New Year's Eve 31 years earlier. And they visited the sexton's cottage where one of the children had chickenpox, which alas Finzi caught. This developed into encephalitis which despite treatment in hospital in Oxford caused his death on 26th September. Joy eventually scattered his ashes on May Hill.

Last, but certainly not least, there is Edward Elgar (1857-1934). Although he was born just

outside Worcester, died in Worcester, and is buried at Little Malvern, Elgar was hugely involved with the Three Choirs Festival in all three cathedrals (Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford), both as performer (violinist), conductor, and composer. He was a great walker and cyclist, and while living in the Malverns and Hereford must often have strayed across the county boundaries into Gloucestershire. He loved the countryside and its inspiration shines through much of his music. He had a wide circle of friends, including the Meath Baker family at Hasfield Court, where he often joined house parties (William Meath Baker is represented as Number Four of the Enigma Variations).



Elgar had hardly any formal musical training, so he is rather the odd one out compared to the others. This meant that he had little to do with them, although they had huge respect for his music and his achievements, Parry in particular giving him practical encouragement and support. His wife Alice came from Redmarley, and her maternal great-grandfather was Robert Raikes, a Gloucester native well-known as the founder of the Sunday Schools Movement.

So Gloucestershire has had more than its fair share of eminent composers, with much of their music still regularly performed and available in numerous recordings. Maybe it has something to do with the rich variety of the landscape?

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. - Abraham Lincoln

All gardeners know better than other gardeners. - Chinese Proverb

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. - Cicero

The best place to find God is in a garden. You can dig for him there. - George Bernard Shaw

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There's lots going on at Over Farm this Halloween. From fun shows at Spookyard to horrifying attractions at Frightmare there's something for everyone.



Spookyard

The spectacular Spookyard Halloween event is jam-packed with exciting activities for the whole family this October half term. Take a stroll through the pumpkin walk-through, bounce on the jumping pillows, get lost in the maize maze, have a ride on the quad train, take a tour of the farm on the tractor-trailer ride and lots more! There will be incredible shows on all day every day, improve your skills at Trick or Treat Training, compete in the Fancy Dress Competition, have a boogie at Monster Mashup and more!

Spookyard will be running on the 16th and 17th October and then from 23rd-31st October. Tickets are £10 for children, £9 for adults and £6.50 for concessions. Book your tickets online.

www.overfarm.co.uk/events/spookyard/

PYO Pumpkins

Pick your own pumpkins from Saturday 2nd October. Tickets are now on sale, entry is £2-4 depending on seasonality and pumpkins will be £2-£10 according to size. It's the perfect Halloween activity for all the family and a lovely way to get some autumnal photos. Whether you're taking your pumpkin home to carve or cook up into a delicious soup, there's nothing better than the satisfaction of picking your own. A brilliant activity to tag onto the end of your Spookyard visit, book your timeslot online.

www.overfarm.co.uk/events/pick-your-own/



Frightmare is back for 2021, prepare to be scared!

With 6 terrifying attractions, side shows, food vendors and more you're guaranteed to have a great evening. The event will be running on 15th and 16th October, 22nd and 23rd October and from 28th to 31st October. Preview night is on 9th October with £3 from each ticket going to Maggie's Cheltenham. Book your tickets on the Frightmare website.

www.frightmare.co.uk/

Join in the Halloween fun this October at Over Farm



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Minsterworth Village Hall**



TEAMS4U - SHOEBOX APPEAL

Where is this year going?

Can we begin by thanking everyone who supported the shoe box appeal last year. We were amazed so many people found the time and compassion to think of the appeal and respond by either contacting us direct or asking a neighbour if the appeal would be going ahead. In total, nearly 50,000 boxes went to vulnerable children and families living in Eastern Europe.

We are again supporting the charity 'Teams4U' who run this Christmas appeal in relation to a long-term commitment to children the world over. This includes financing pre-school programmes to support their education and development. Some of the boxes this year will be going to the children of internally displaced families in the Batumi region of Georgia.

If you would like to take part in this year's appeal, leaflets will be available in due course, to collect from St. Peter's Church, Minsterworth; or we can pop one over to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Collection of boxes will again be in November; either give us a ring and we will happily collect them or Mary Cooper has once again said that you may leave them in the front porch at her house. If you prefer to leave them in the drive, could I ask you to put them in a plastic bag please, just in case of bad weather. Alternatively, if you would like to donate any of the following items, we will be delighted to accept them - please contact us and we will happily collect them.

Gift suggestions for a child are:

Hygiene items (flannel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb) – school writing equipment and paper – a soft toy – a small ball – puzzle - jewellery – hair accessories – bubbles - sweets – hat, scarf and gloves- new socks/underwear.

Or you may prefer to fill a shoebox for the family. Gift suggestions are:

Candles – tea-towels – plastic utensils – bowls and cups – soap – washing up cloths – clothes pegs

Thank you in anticipation

Our phone numbers are: Elaine Incher 01452 750140 Jayne Stephens 01531 821385

A: You stay here, I'll go on ahead.

Question on p7

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A table decoration

- 1 Oasis wreath
- 1 candlestick about 10" in height (I painted mine green)
- 1 candle cup
- Small amount of Oasis
- (Oasis and candle cup are obtainable from most good florists)



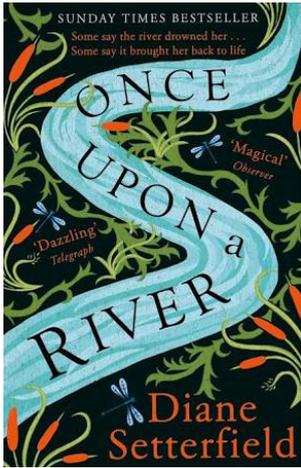
First make your wreath with greenery and flowers. Stand the candlestick in the centre of the wreath, insert the candle cup into the top and decorate with greenery and flowers.

At Christmas time, use evergreenery and bright Christmas baubles and a candle can be placed in the centre of the cup.

This makes a beautiful table decoration.

P.H-N

Minsterworth Reading Group



The book group reviewed *Once Upon a River* by Diane Setterfield in September, a book chosen by Ruth Thomas. Ruth said “I chose the book because I’d previously read something by the same author, which I enjoyed, and because it was recommended to me by my daughter-in-law, and she has good taste in books!

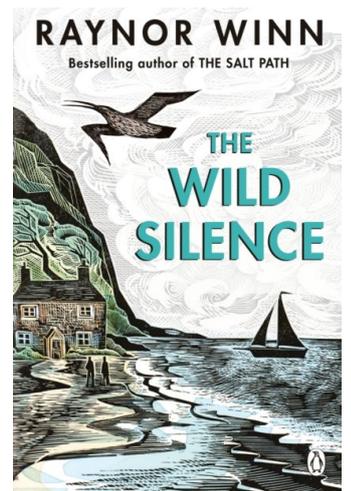
I thought it would be an interesting read because the book has a river as a main theme running through it, and our lives in Minsterworth are so influenced by the Severn which runs through our village. In this case though, the river in question is the Thames, particularly the area around Cricklade and down to Oxford. Inextricably tied up with the river the book

also focuses on a small child, rescued from drowning in the river, and the way in which the lives of the characters in the book weave around this strange young girl.

Book club members enjoyed the book, with its river connections. They enjoyed the writing style which some described as almost poetic, and the way the writer wove the idea of storytelling into the narrative. They enjoyed the array of characters, although we agreed there were many and some members felt it was sometimes a bit hard to remember them all!

We were also interested to know that one of the characters was based on a real person, Henry Taunt, who’d taken lots of photographs in and around Oxford, when photography was in its infancy in the late 1800s.

And our discussions led us on to talk about Sabrina, or Hafren as she’s also known, the Welsh Goddess of the river Severn, and the mythology of her story.



Information about Sabrina and where you can see her statue was included in Sarah McHale’s Minsterworth Creatives article in the September edition of *The Villager*, inspired by this book.

Our next book is *The Wild Silence* by Raynor Winn which we will review on Wednesday 6th October.

Should you wish to join the Reading Group please email 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, as appropriate.

Japanese Salmon and Avocado Rice

Matt Singer

We love this dish from BBC Good Food. It is quite simple to put together but looks and tastes like it's a special occasion! It reminds us of the lovely Sushi we had when we lived in Singapore.

We buy 5kg bags of Sushi rice from Amazon for just under £10, but you can also buy Sushi rice from Sainsbury's and Tesco in 500g boxes.

Ingredients

300g Sushi rice
350g skinless salmon fillet
2 small, ripe avocados, sliced
juice 1 lemon
4 tsp light soy sauce
4 tsp toasted sesame seeds
2 spring onions, thinly sliced
1 red chilli, deseeded and thinly sliced
small handful coriander leaves



Method

STEP 1

Rinse the rice in a sieve until the water runs clear. Drain and put in a large pan with 400ml water. Bring to the boil, turn the heat to low, cover, then cook for 10-12 mins until the rice is almost cooked. Remove from the heat, then leave, covered, for another 10 mins.

STEP 2

Thinly slice the salmon and arrange on a platter with the sliced avocado. Drizzle over the lemon juice and soy, making sure everything is evenly covered. Leave in the fridge to marinate for 10 mins.

STEP 3

Carefully tip the juices from the salmon platter into the rice, then stir in with a little salt. Divide the rice between 4 bowls. Scatter the sesame seeds, spring onions, chilli and coriander over the salmon and avocado, then serve with the rice.

www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/japanese-salmon-avocado-rice

He just needed a little space

Question on p3

Glorious Gloucestershire – Days out

Roger Blowey

One of the best days out we have had is to hire a canal boat for the day. Originally they were hired from Gloucester Docks, but the company doing it sold out in May of this year and the business and boats have now been transferred to Saul Junction Marina, which is sited on the Stroud Water arm of the canal. Turn right from the A38 at Whitminster and simply follow the signs. It's well marked. For details see <https://www.saulmarina.co.uk/boat-hire> . This year we went out on Otter.



We hired our boat for the day, but other boats have overnight facilities. The boat had ample cutlery and crockery, running water, a gas hob for tea making, a frying pan for pancakes (we took the batter with us!), toilet facilities and steel pegs and a hammer for when you want to moor up against the bank.

Tea making – the most important part of our canal boat!

Make sure that you arrive by 9am prompt. On both of our trips out we have been amazed at how quickly the time passed. After a short introduction to use of the boat and safety aspects you are taken out onto the Gloucester to Sharpness canal and left to get on with it. From Saul Junction you can either go towards Sharpness or to Gloucester. We did Gloucester to Saul junction and back last time, so this time we went south to Sharpness. It does take a little



while to get used to the boat. First of all you drive on the right and not on the left. Because the 'steering' is from the stern and not (as in a car) from the bows, the response time is slightly delayed, and finally you have to get used to pushing the tiller to the left to go right and vice versa. You are only travelling at 4mph though, so it all very soon becomes second nature.

Watch out for the red light as you approach the bridges. Red light means stop (obviously!), a flashing red light means that the bridge keeper has seen you but you must still wait (maybe someone is coming the other way) and the green light means go. There is just LOADS to see! Lots of boats lining the canal bank, all with different colours and styles; people fishing from the bank; people walking; people cycling – and that's another good day out. It's a lovely cycle ride along the towpath from Sharpness to Gloucester!

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Continued from p28

The banks of the canal vary enormously, in some areas full of vegetation, in other areas there are lovely views across the River Severn. It's worth taking a map with you to try to work out when you are opposite to Westbury, Newnham or Lydney. There is also plenty of wildlife – dragonflies, ducks, swans, moorhens, pigeons, cormorants, and on one occasion a kingfisher swooped into the canal beside us and carried off a small fish!



Boats moored along the canal bank

There are plenty of paddle boarders and canoes on the canal, and you are requested to slow down as you go past. The Black Shed café area on the Slimbridge Road looks to be a good place for boat hire. We found the area around Sharpness particularly interesting. At Purton you have the 'ship graveyard' where around 30 boats, most of them concrete, have been pulled onto the bank on the Severn to reduce the rate of erosion of the bank. Closer to Sharpness there is the remains of the railway bridge that was knocked down one night in the 1960's when two ships collided in the fog on the Severn.



Concrete boats lining the Severn Bank at the ship graveyard, Purton



A structural tower of the railway crossing demolished following an accident in the 1960's. with the Lydney bank of the Severn in the background.

The structural stone towers remain a grand reminder. What a shame the bridge was pulled down and not repaired. An additional Severn road crossing from Lydney to Berkeley would be extremely useful! The boats in the marina area at Sharpness are interesting, and there are lovely tow path walks, with the canal on one side and the Severn on the other.



Bridge ahead opening for us to pass

Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the August draw was as follows:-

£50 No. 005 Nigel Garbutt
£20 No. 045 Sarah Lee
£10 No. 085 Andrew Billingham

Whist Drive

How good it was to be able to hold the whist drive again in September, in a newly decorated hall and new comfortable chairs. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by those who came, and the result was £60 towards church funds. It was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome some extra players who came from Gloucester. The 4th October is the date of the next whist drive starting at 7.30pm. Thanks too to Carol who has joined the list of helpers for serving refreshments.

Church service times and flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
3 rd October	11am	Harvest Celebration	Group Flowers
10 th October	11am	Holy Communion	Gill Payne
17 th October	11am	Morning Prayer	Anne Pearson
24 th October	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Liz Duff
31 st October	10am	Benefice Holy Communion	Liz Savage

The Benefice Service is at Blaisdon

HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS

Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch - join by emailing 64lettie@gmail.com

The Parish Council website - agenda, minutes, councillors etc

<https://minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk/>

The Village Hall website - 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

"I have been younger in October than in all the months of spring." W.S. Merwin

"October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book." John Sinor

"October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter." Nova Bair

"October had tremendous possibility." Sarah Guillory – Reclaimed

"A mask tells you more than a face" Oscar Wilde

"There is something at work in my soul, which I do not understand." Mary Shelley – Frankenstein

"Where there is no imagination, there is no horror." Arthur Conan Doyle



Garden Services

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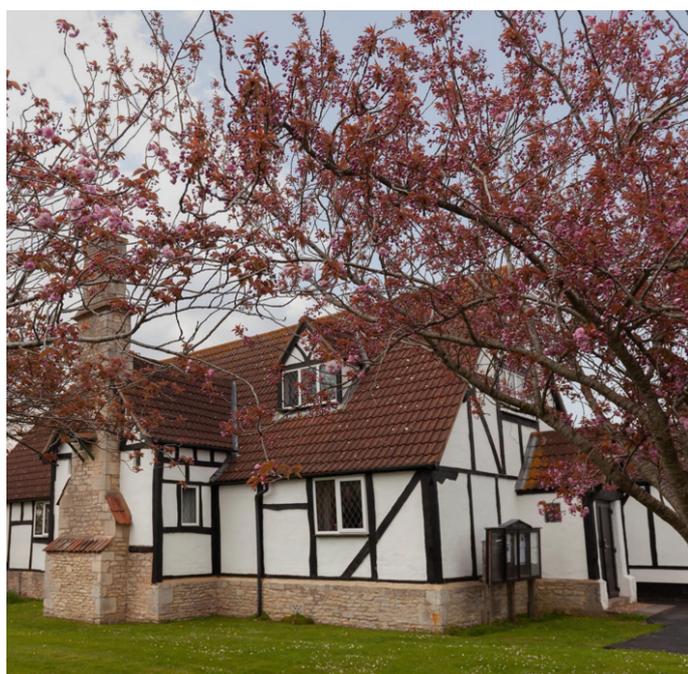
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Welcome to Minsterworth Village Hall

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

e-mail minsterworthvh@gmail.com

Tel: 01452 750492