

Focal Point



August 2022

A Royal Tree
for a Jubilee
Year



£1

KNOWLEDGE. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

When it comes to moving home, you need professionals who are trained and trustworthy, with in-depth local knowledge and the technology and connections to market your property.

As exclusive Members of The Guild of Property Professionals we can meet your needs and clearly stand apart from the competition in both sales and lettings.

Contact us for a free confidential marketing appraisal

DAVIES & WAY

CHARTERED SURVEYORS • ESTATE AGENTS

SOLD

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

0117 9863681

daviesandway.com

Keynsham Office

1 High Street, Keynsham

Bristol, BS31 1DP

0117 9863681

keynsham@daviesandway.com

Saltford Office

489 Bath Road, Saltford

Bristol, BS31 3BA

01225 400400

saltford@daviesandway.com

www.daviesandway.com



Your property in Park Lane

Showcase your property to the
lucrative London market



By instructing your local Fine & Country agent, your property will not only be marketed locally and regionally, but nationally and even internationally via Fine & Country's Head Office and Showroom located at one of the most prestigious addresses in the world – 121 Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1.

With over 40ft of window display on Park Lane, we not only reach a lucrative buyers' market other agents cannot, we also market all Fine & Country properties 24/7 through touchscreen technology, enabling customers to browse the details of Fine & Country properties from around the globe, even when the office is closed.

For more information on promoting your property
in our Park Lane office or for a free valuation, please contact;
Fine & Country, 36 Gay Street, Bath, Somerset BA1 2NT
01225 320032 | bath@fineandcountry.com



Fonthill
Garden centre



Planting • Outdoor living • Café

Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HX
0117 932 3110 www.fonthill-lakeside.com

Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

August 2022

*A monthly church newsletter serving
Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,
Upton Cheyney & Beach*

*Published by St Mary's Church, Bitton and
the United Reformed Church, Upton
Cheyney.*

*Printed by The Mitre Press, Unit 2 Fantasie
Buildings, Waters Road, BS15 8BE*

To advertise in Focal Point
please contact Roger Tilley
rogerjohntilley@gmail.com

FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

*Deadline for the September
magazine is:*

Monday 22 August 2022

In this month's Focal Point:

Page 12	<i>Bitton & Oldland Royal British Legion—Thank You Evening</i>
Page 14	<i>Vicar's Letter: The principles of the Sabbath</i>
Page 20	<i>Ringling World National Youth Competition</i>
Page 22	<i>Cover story— Bitton contributes a royal tree to the Queen's Canopy</i>
Page 25	<i>Sprucing up the Churchyard</i>
Page 26	<i>ELLACOMBE 200—What happened to the plants after Ellacombe?</i>
Page 29	<i>All at Sea with G&S</i>
Page 30	<i>Countdown to the Fête— on September 3rd</i>
Page 34	<i>South Gloucestershire— Consultation on its Electric Vehicles EV strategy</i>
Page 37	<i>WI News & Recipe</i>
Page 41	<i>This month's Quiz (answers to last month's quiz on the following page)</i>
Page 43	<i>Last Word</i>

**Churches' news and
information about acts of
worship pages 7 to 11**

Dates for your Diary page 18

SUSTAINABLE FITNESS

A WARM WELCOME FROM
SUSTAINABLE FITNESS.

WE ARE A SMALL, INDEPENDENT HEALTH AND
FITNESS COLLABORATION LOCATED IN UPTON
CHEYNEY - CLOSE TO BATH, KEYNSHAM AND
EAST BRISTOL.

WE WORK WITH CLIENTS OF ALL AGES AND
ABILITIES INCLUDING THOSE WITH PRE-
EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS OR CONCERNS.

WE OFFER:

- SPORTS & REMEDIAL MASSAGE
- SOFT TISSUE THERAPY
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- PERSONAL TRAINING
- EXERCISE PROGRAMMES
- EXERCISE CLASSES

GET IN CONTACT TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN
BEST HELP YOU:

JO@SUSFIT.CO.UK
07845 557 862

WWW.SUSFIT.CO.UK   @SUSFITUK





UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel

Services for August 2022



Sunday services are at 3pm

Sunday 7th Service followed by a Church meeting

Sunday 14th Service led by Jeremy Andrew

Sunday 21st Service led by Sue Cossey

Sunday 28th Service led by Steve Britton

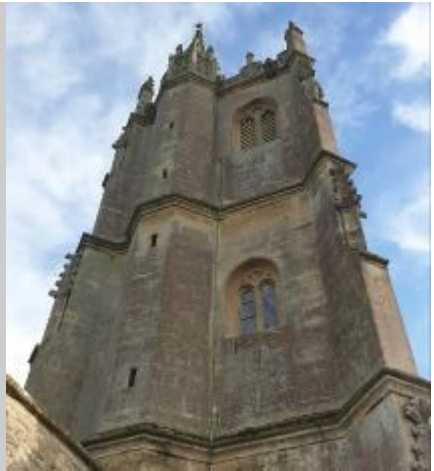
There will also be a coffee afternoon on Tuesday the 23rd at 2pm





**ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
BITTON**

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724

Ordained minister:

Rev Richard Humphrey
Splinters, Kenilworth Drive
Willsbridge **0117 949 0502**

Lay ministers:

Ken Gibson,
8 Church Road
Bitton
0117 932 2122

David Bailey,
Westover, Bath Road
Bitton
0117 932 8949

Churchwarden:

Pete Midgley
30 Kenilworth Drive,
Willsbridge
0117 932 6898

Simon Harris
41 Combe Park
Weston
BATH

Services for August 2022

Services at St Mary's

You will be very welcome at all services at St Mary's .

For those who are unable to attend some services are provided online .

More details on our website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

Sunday, 7 August

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 14 August

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family service with
the St Mary's Minstrels

Sunday, 21 August

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Morning Worship

Thursday 25 August

9.30am Celtic Communion followed by
coffee, tea and cakes

Sunday, 28 August

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Café Church



THE SISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE CHURCH LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY

Gifts may be left in St Mary's Church Porch between 10.15 and 11.45 on the First Sunday of each month and will be delivered to the Sisters on the following Wednesday.

Non-perishable food and toiletries will be welcome and the Sisters' Top Ten requests are:

Tinned fruit	Long-life milk	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
Shower gel	Toothpaste	Deodorant	Shaving gel
	Sanitary towels	Nappies	

Any other non-perishable gifts will be gratefully received

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Tuesday 2 August at 7.30 pm on Zoom

Saturday 20 August at 9.00 am Prayer Breakfast
at St Anne's Syston Church Hall

From the Register



3rd July Baptism Iona Faith Mackay

St Mary's Matters

A number of people have told me that churches have been finding it difficult, post-pandemic, to recruit new churchwardens. This was also a subject for discussion at the Bishop's garden party I attended recently for churchwardens and lay ministers. At St. Mary's we found ourselves looking for a churchwarden this spring to replace Jacqui Harris who had completed a six year term – the maximum permitted before standing down. Huge thanks are due to Jacqui for all the work she did during those years and we were able to present her with a substantial gardening voucher to thank her for this. The normal procedure would have been to vote in her replacement at the annual meeting of parishioners on 4th April. Unfortunately we were struggling to find someone to take her place and at this time there was no candidate.



Pete Midgley

Then Jeremy had inspiration and asked Simon Harris if he would be willing to take on the role. After some deliberation and enquiry into what it would involve Simon agreed to take it on. Although living in Bath, Simon and Melanie his wife have strong connections with Bitton and with St Mary's. After being voted in by representatives of the parish Simon was able to attend a so-called Archdeacon's Visitation – a service where wardens officially take up their role. He was also able to attend the Bishop's garden party!

Simon has thrown himself enthusiastically into the job and seems particularly committed to helping with the building project. I'm looking forward to working with him to further the work of the church over the next year and beyond.

I must also take this opportunity to welcome Rosemary Radcliffe to the clergy team. Rosemary was recently ordained and has begun her training as a curate in the benefice, so will be working alongside Jeremy and the rest of the ministry team in each of the three parishes. It was a pleasure to meet her at the Family Café Church service in July and we look forward to seeing more of her over the next weeks and months.

**Bitton and
Oldland
Royal British
Legion
Thank you
evening**



Members and supporters of the Branch gathered on a pleasant summer evening at Avon Valley Railway. The occasion was to say thank you to those who have helped with the Poppy Appeal over the past year raising a superb £24,500.

The County Chairman, Jackie Robertson, whose area runs from Tewkesbury to Cirencester and also takes in the whole of South Gloucestershire, was the speaker. Jackie told us how the monies raised in the Poppy Appeal are used across the country to support members and former members of the armed forces and their families wherever there is a need.

Jackie also brought with her the Platinum Jubilee book which will be presented to Her Majesty the Queen. It contains a double page from each Branch in the County and the photo shows the Bitton and Oldland page being completed.

If you would like to help with this year's Poppy Appeal in November you are welcome to contact Dawn Harrill at dawners@btinternet.com



E. C. Alderwick & Son Ltd *Funeral Directors*

Serving Bristol since 1945

Kingswood - 11 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8JX
Tel: 0117 967 3609

Hanham - 71 High Street, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3DG
Tel: 0117 935 3746

Medivet *Oldland Common*

Visit the friendly team led by Stephen Pullan BVSC MRCVS. We pride ourselves in delivering exceptional care for animals and their owners.



103 High Street, Oldland Common

0117 932 3100

oldland.common@medivet.co.uk

[medivet.co.uk/oldland-common](https://www.medivet.co.uk/oldland-common)

Mon – Fri: 8:00am – 7:00pm
Sat: 8:30am – 12:30pm

M
MEDIVET
ALWAYS THERE

The Vicar writes

The principles of the Sabbath



Dear Friends,

As I write, rather late in the month the local school children have begun their long summer holidays and, even if you are still at work, there is a calm about the week with less traffic on the commute to work and, after Covid, perhaps a few days a week working from home. When I was a minister in Cornwall, August was the busiest month of all with the annual beach mission and then a camp for our youth group. In Bristol, all is a bit quieter, perhaps people have all migrated to Cornwall! August is a month for relaxation and enjoying the summer weather and resting and this thought prompted me to think again about Sabbath rest.

Sabbath keeping is of course rooted in a biblical principle. We look as Christians to God's character and actions throughout the bible as a blueprint of how we should conduct our own lives and we find at the beginning, in Genesis 2.1-3, there is the root cause of Sabbath keeping when God finished all his work by the end of the sixth day and on the seventh, he rested. Not only did he rest but he blessed the day and hallowed it. These three principles of Sabbath keeping can continue to offer us a sustainable model for our lives: rest, blessing and hallowing of the seventh day of the week. Then further on in the book of Exodus (20.8) Sabbath principles are enshrined in God's commands. God first sets the example in Genesis and then commands it so in Exodus. Here are the same three principles, rest, blessing and hallowing, or making holy (in Exodus 20.11 the day is described as consecrated). For us Anglicans the



Exodus commandments have found their way into Cranmer's prayer book, and we have cause, therefore, to recite them at the beginning of the communion service. I think Cranmer encourages us here to be mindful of the Christian way of life and to remind us of when and where we have fallen short, so that later in the service we can thoughtfully repent. The commandments are for our wellbeing rather than being some sort of oppressive rule. Again, the three Sabbath principles apply but couched this time in Cranmer's more poetic language so that, "six days shalt thou labour and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

As we reflect on the principles of Sabbath keeping the first consideration is that of consistency. It is every seven days for a reason and that is that resting, blessing, and hallowing every seven days really has an impact on the other six. We approach six days with energy, interest, motivation, and care if we approach them from a holy, rested, and blessed place. Second, this takes discipline and organisation. Six days are for work, commercial

enterprise as well as household chores and projects. We need to commit ourselves to our work and to finishing what we need to finish in this space of time so that even food is already prepared and doesn't cause us to work on the seventh day. Third, rest from work is important and there are all different types of work and so stopping what we do for work and doing other things that bless us forms the second principle of the Sabbath. The seventh day should be a blessing to us. This is what Jesus offers to us when he says, "the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath". So, if you are most blessed by a day of gardening or reading or sharing a meal with others and you find it restful, then that is a good way to spend the sabbath as a rest from normal activity. Finally, this is a holy day, a day of attention to God, a day for public worship together and private prayerful rest and activity. If we are active and blessed by our activities and in them our attention is on God, then we bring this to public worship and make holy the day that we spend.

We might think too about extending the Sabbath principle into our everyday lives and in doing so apply Sabbath principles all the time rather than just on one day of the week. Moments of prayer and worship, peace-making, time to build relationships, activities that bless you and moments of rest can all be embraced and recognised as Sabbath moments. Sabbath in this way pervades our every day and becomes blended and integrated as a life principle.

Perhaps in the quieter moments of August there is a chance to reflect on life and how paying attention to the Sabbath might change things for the better. This is a chance for us to change and grasp new ways and thoughts and to recover the idea, principles, and practice of Sabbath keeping. I believe it will make such a positive difference to us and the way we live.

Yours in Christ

Jeremy

Sun shines on Songs of Praise

The weather could really not have been better for this year's *Songs of Praise in the White Hart garden*. The event, which took place on Sunday 10 July, was a cheerful and uplifting occasion; one that is becoming a regular fixture in the church calendar.

Steve Painter Decorating Services

A family business for three generations offering professional exterior and interior painting and decorating services locally

- ❖ Traditionally trained
- ❖ Quality workmanship
- ❖ Paperhanging specialists
- ❖ Friendly and reliable
- ❖ Competitively priced
- ❖ No VAT added

Contact Steve on 07853 250035

or 0117 956 5190



Absolutely Feet

Caring for your feet, in your own home.

Professional treatment of corns, callus, fungal infections, painful or thickened nails, diabetic foot care, nail trimming etc.

Joanne Nash MCFHP MAFHP

Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600

absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Dates for your Diary

Until 4 September

Canon Ellacombe 200 Exhibition

An exhibition focusing on the life and work of Bitton's late 19th century vicar, horticulturalist and traveller.

Open daily

Saturday 3 September

1.30pm—5.30pm

Annual Church Fête

In the church and Glebe Field

Saturday 29th October

Autumn Fayre—*Stallholders' Fair*

with an emphasis on Christmas items

Church & Church Hall Bookings

The Church Hall is available for hire and is a popular location for children's parties as well as regular events.

For larger events such as community meetings or concerts the Church itself may be more suitable.

For Church Hall bookings contact Jill Gibson on

0117 932 2122.

Rates from £12.50 per hour.

For Church bookings contact the Social Secretary, Jenny Harris by email on **djacharris@hotmail.com**

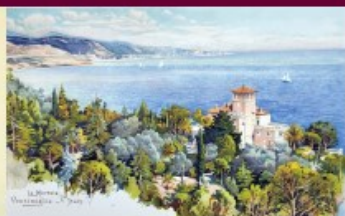
Rates from £25 per hour (2 hour minimum hire).



**The church is
open every
day—Exhibition
in chapel**

ELLACOMBE 200

*Celebrating the life and times of Rev Canon Henry Nicholson Ellacombe,
Vicar of Bitton, Gardener, Writer and Traveller 1822-1916*



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON
22 May—4 September 2022

Ringling World National Youth Competition



Picture: Nigel Scudamore

Both Elliot and Ada, two of our young ringers, were selected to represent Gloucester and Bristol in the Ringing World National Youth Competition held in Exeter on 2nd July 2022.

16 teams from all over England entered and competition was very stiff, however two teams were entered by Gloucester and Bristol and were placed in 5th place (6 bells) and 2nd place (8 bells) -pipped for the win by half a point—to Essex.

As a special treat all the youngsters were invited to ring the beautiful Cathedral bells of Exeter. It was a very enjoyable day for over 200 young ringers.

We are very proud of both of our Bitton ringers and hope they continue representing our District and our Tower.

Nigel Scudamore

Top picture: The Gloucester & Bristol Youth Ringing Team
Opposite: Nervously awaiting results in Exeter Cathedral



Picture: Nigel Scudamore

Bendrey Bros

TIMBER RETAILER SINCE 1890

Your local stockist of:

- Fencing Materials
- Graded Building Timber
- Timber & Composite Decking
- Sleepers & Landscaping products
- Gates - Residential & Agricultural
- Wide range of Timber Claddings
- Fast Local Delivery Service or collect from our yard

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday Morning:
8.00am - 12.00pm

www.bendreybros.co.uk ☎ **0117 9674382**

The Sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgegate, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW

Continued overleaf

Bitton contributes a royal tree to the Queen's Jubilee Canopy



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". The initiative encourages individuals, groups and communities to come together to plant a tree this year.

In Bitton one such tree now stands at the entrance to Bitton Mill and close to the large circular open public space and was funded by the Bitton Village Residents' Association (BVRA). The tree was ceremonially planted on 24th July by Becky



Focal Point, August 2022

Feather, editor of The Week In and former editor of Focal Point. A Rowan tree, or Mountain Ash, was selected or to be more precise a ***Sorbus Aucuparia Cardinal Royal*** -its royal title seen as particularly appropriate.

Becky said a few words of reflections on the tree and its type before lifting up a spade and placing the tree in the newly dug hole. A small group of local residents turned out to witness the event and we all hope to watch the tree grow and for it to produce an array of bright red berries.



Opposite: Becky Feather makes a short welcoming speech to the small crowd that gathered before getting stuck in to the planting.

Above: There was no shortage of helpers to make sure the tree was well dug in and secured.

Bitton Gardening Club

invites you to our next meeting on

Monday 15th August

at

THE MEADOWS SCHOOL HALL

Doors open 7.15pm

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

Philip Aubury

**Retired Director of Birmingham Botanic
Garden**

and the title of his talk is

Labour Saving Gardening

Philip is a popular speaker and experienced gardener.

He is planning to bring several gardening tools
and will talk about different techniques
that can help us manage our gardens with less effort.

For more information
contact Bridget at b.hetzel@btinternet.com
or just come along to the meeting

Sprucing up the churchyard



Hard at work were Pam Hacker, Anna Skuse and Barbara Merritt.

Picture by Nicola Bennetts

The extremely hot weather in July did not stop volunteers turning out on three occasions during July to help to spruce up the churchyard and expose grave stones that had been grown over. The result had a surprising impact and it is intended to have further activities in the near future. The volunteers were led and organised by Anna Skuse, Chair of the Bitton Village Residents' Association (BVRA).

What happened to the plants after Ellacombe?



In the 20 years leading up to the First World War, there were few better known nor more visited gardens than that of the Vicarage Garden at Bitton. It was intensively gardened by the team of gardeners, and had an almost unrivalled collection of plants for its size. The vicarage garden was in the hands of the Ellacombes for nearly a century, but it belonged not to them but to the church and became the responsibility of the new vicar.

Recently, the chance discovery in St Mary's of a copy of Ellacombe's biography has cast light on this period. The book belonged to John Scott Parker, himself a keen and later professional gardener. Parker was appointed as the Chief Horticultural Officer for the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission for France and Belgium;



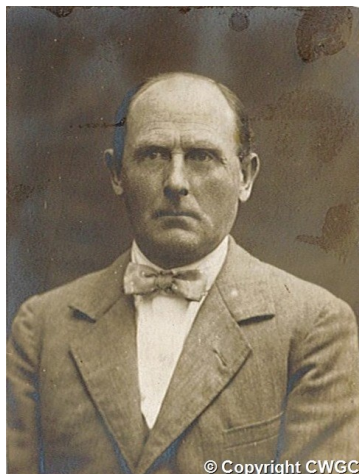
Ellacombe photographed in 1909 supervising the plants with his head gardener, Ashmore. Both men died, within months of each other in 1916, and the garden quickly became overgrown.

an appointment made on the recommendation of A V Hill, the director of Kew Gardens and both a close acquaintance and the biographer of Canon Ellacombe. In the back of the biography in small but very legible writing, Parker has left an account of what happened to the vicarage garden and the plants after the Canon's death in 1916.

It would seem that once the vicar had been put to rest that the garden was closed up. The head gardener, Ashmore, died just a few months after the Canon but in the middle of a war, men could not be spared to maintain it. Moreover, as Parker describes, the new vicar, Frank Taylor, was in France himself and did not return to take up his post as vicar until 1919.

As a result the garden was left to its own devices and for two years the plants grew as did the weeds. The garden and vicarage were uncared for, other than the occasional visit from Parker himself or Mrs Cumberland, the Canon's daughter.

When the new vicar took up his post, and the garden in something of a wild state he employed some local labourers to clear it. Parker says they used "reaphooks" (or sickles) to complete the task and did so with some enthusiasm clearing away three seasons of wild growth and weeds. Quite often their hooks caught the Canon's metal plant descriptors making an initial clang pulling them out and causing them to fly through the air. At the end of their day's work they would replace the descriptors closest to the plant where they

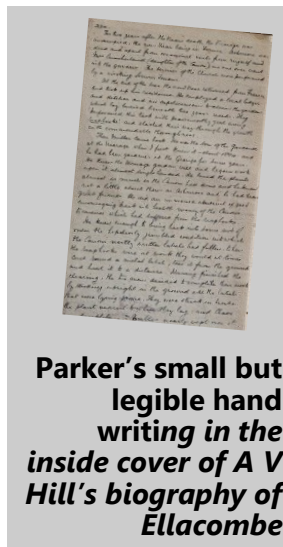


© Copyright CWGC
**John Scott Parker, CBE,
Chief Horticultural Officer
for France & Flanders for
the Imperial War Graves
Commission.**

***Picture courtesy
Commonwealth War
Graves Commission,
London***

lay, so that the whole curated garden with carefully named plants became something of a muddle.

Order it seems was only restored to the garden by the intervention of Miller the gardener at The Grange, and the son of Thomas Miller who had until the 1890s been Ellacombe's head gardener. He set about returning the Canon's plant descriptors to sit beside the right plant and even wrote to some of Ellacombe's friends for some roots or cuttings of plants he could no longer find restoring the garden to some kind of order.



Parker reflected, however, that the garden could never be the same. The new vicar had no interest and knew hardly one plant from another. Even with Miller's care, the garden lacked its "Master Mind".

There is, however, a twist to the story. John Scott Parker's work in France and Belgium after the war was to turn the battlefield cemeteries into places of peace with appropriate planting, which he did with remarkable success. To achieve this he organised the delivery of masses of fertile soil to the cemeteries and established four large nurseries for the propagation of plants and shrubs required. It was Ellacombe's old garden that provided some of his materials.

He wrote: ***"I have taken large numbers of cuttings and seeds from the garden and have grown these on for the decoration of the graves in France and Belgium and have perpetuated (for myself at least) some of the interest and charm of the old garden. I think the Canon would have been pleased to know that some of his plants had multiplied all over the warriors of the British armies in Flanders."***

All at Sea with G&S



For lovers of light opera, there was a treat at St Mary's on 25 June with a concert of mostly Gilbert and Sullivan favourites. The concert was presented by the Bath Gilbert and Sullivan Society and the audience was given a wide rendition of well loved tunes (including some with props) as well as some delicious tea and cakes.

A total of £720 was raised which was split between St. Mary's and Bath G&S.



Main picture: The Bath G&S Society in full voice

Inset; Jenny Harris and Liz Wilson with the raffle prizes

Pictures by Jane Clapp

Countdown to the Fête



Are you ready for the fête? The summer wouldn't be the same without it and this year is planned to be one of the best. Let's just hope that our summer weather is to match.

In particular, don't forget the dog show run by Highcroft vets and always attracting a high number of lovely dogs and owners.

Of course there is plenty to do and see for all ages, including many old favourites and perhaps something new. The fête committee is particularly pleased to have secured the services of a new Morris group, *Tatters and Tails*, as well as *Professor Hudd and his Punch & Judy Show*. And the fête won't end without the traditional egg throwing contest!

As always the fête depends on a small army of volunteers as well as donations from all over the village. If you can help, there are contact details below. You can do a little or a lot—an hour on a stall or an activity is very much appreciated, and people who are willing to join the *heavy gang* to put up tents and prepare the field on the Friday and take them down again on Saturday are also welcome.

Stalls that rely on donations are also ready receive. There are contact numbers opposite to arrange delivery or collection, or you can leave items in the church porch, which is open every day .

RAFFLE TICKETS are now on sale from Barbara Merritt.



DONATIONS PLEASE

Books	<i>Sarah Heavens</i>	0117 932 5376
White Elephant	<i>Nicola Bennetts</i>	0117 932 4696
Nearly Nu (clothes)	<i>Annette Vowles</i>	0117 932 6352
Tombola	<i>Alison Wride</i>	0117 932 4931

A wide range of items would be welcome for the tombola, including toiletries, games, children's toys, soft toys, sweets, chocolates, household items or gardening.

Bottles	<i>Sarah Craddock</i>	0117 932 8644
Jams	<i>Janet Ballinger</i>	0117 932 4728

Janet would be particularly grateful for donations of empty small jam jars.

Items can be left in the church porch when the church is open, but please don't leave them outside the church door when locked.

Can you help at the fete?

There are so many ways you can assist both before after and during the fête – even for just an hour or so. There's the heavy gang to set up the tents on the Friday and dismantle after the fête closes. Programme sellers and stall helpers are also wanted.



Could you be in our fete pageant?

For the last few years we have revived an ancient ceremony of ***Shooting the Meadows*** as part of our fête opening ceremony. We are looking for children and adults of all ages, who don't mind a little dressing up and playing along with the action. There are no lines to learn.

**If you can help please email
jimheavens@outlook.com.**

St Mary's Church Fête Photography Competition 2022

Photographs must be printed and be a maximum size of 20cm x 20cm . It must be your own work and have been taken within the last 2 years.

There are six categories and two sections, one for adults (entry fee £2 per picture) and one for juniors under 16 (entry fee 50p)per picture.

Colour or black and white photographs are accepted.



This years categories are:

- 1. Jubilee**
- 2. Bitton Life**
- 3. The colour—Royal Purple**
- 4. Architecture**
- 5. Opposites**
- 6. Best holiday**

Entries must be supplied in a sealed envelope with the entry fee and on the reverse of the photo, your name, a contact number or address, the date the photo was taken and which category you are entering it for, Please give your age if under 16.

**Entries must be supplied directly to Martin House,
Church Road, Bitton by 6.30pm on
Thursday 25 August 2022.**

All entries and winners will be displayed at the Fête. The overall winner will receive the David Smith Cup, and there will be other prizes too.

GOOD LUCK



South Gloucestershire consults on EV Strategy



Do you have an electric or a hybrid plug in car yet? Sales of these types of vehicles are rapidly increasing and by 2030 no new petrol or diesel vehicles will be manufactured for sale. It is estimated that the number of electric vehicles (EVs) registered within South Gloucestershire will have risen from 3000 in 2019 to 96,000 by the end of the decade and account for over 26% of all journeys.

Such a change will require a major shift in infrastructure , and not least the number of charging points provided within the area. Electric vehicles can be charged at home from domestic sources, particularly at night when there is less pressure on electricity generation. But to accommodate the rise in the number of electric vehicles, it is recognised that the number of charging points available will have to be vastly increased.

The council has now set out its proposals in a strategy which sets out the issues (there isn't just one type of charger, for example) and how it is proposing to meet the demands by 2030 – a date that South Gloucestershire has set itself to become carbon neutral. The centrepiece of the strategy is to ensure that the vast majority of households in South Gloucestershire are within 1 mile of reliable and accessible charging infrastructure. In addition they want to encourage the creation of e-mobility hubs including electric car clubs and requiring new developments to cater for EVs and set minimum standards for e-charging.

It is not just about cars, of course, there are other modes of transport that need to be put into the mix, some of which can be beneficial to our lifestyles and health, and they are looking for your views.

If you would like to participate, or just find out more go on to the council website – or you can find the address immediately at:

www.southglos.gov.uk/EVChargingStrategy/consultation

CORRECTION

In the last edition it was reported that 8 of the fine table tombs in the churchyard have been restored. The correct figure is 13 table tombs have now been restored, almost entirely due to the efforts of Ann Willis (and a large number of builders who have been employed to do the work).

Thank you to all and apologies for the incorrect number.



**Royal British Legion
Bitton and Oldland Branch**

**Harvest Auction
Monday 5 September
at 8.00 pm at
The Upton Inn
Upton Cheyney**

by kind invitation of
Theresa and Chris Meaker

Featuring Oldland Brass

Have a wonderful night!

Proceeds in aid of the
Royal British Legion

Auction purchases payable by
cheque or cash please

News from Bitton WI

We were very lucky with the weather on June 20th when members of the WI met at Florence's home, Cully Hall Farm, for our annual summer garden party. We all arrived clutching a rose in a jam jar hoping to win the best rose prize. The committee treated us to a delicious tea of scones and cake, whilst we enjoyed the sunshine and the delights of Florence's garden.

Our official WI meeting was at the St Mary's Church Hall on July 11th and although it was a very hot day there was a very good attendance. We were welcomed by Jean, our president, and the minutes of the June meeting were read and agreed.

A number of outings were announced, including a trip on August 8th to a garden in Newton St. Loe. It is St Mary's church fête on September 3rd and WI will be having a cake stall, so cakes are needed for sell and will be gratefully received. There will not be a meeting in August so the next meeting will be on September 12th.

We were then introduced to our speaker John Gingell whose talk was called *Bean to Bar*. It was about the history of chocolate. We were told that between 1500-400 BC cacaos crops were grown in South America. It was in 1519 that Don Cortez discovered that people in Mexico were roasting the cocas beans and using them as currency. Chocolate was made from sugar, vanilla, nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon and in 1674 was produced as solid chocolate. Unfortunately the chocolate did not look very attractive because tempering had not been invented, so the chocolate was used in when making cakes and rolls.

It was in 1756 that Joseph Fry started to make chocolate in Bristol where he experimented until the method was invented of tempering (heating the chocolate to 46 degrees and then cooling it to 37 degrees) before putting it into moulds.

Focal Point, August 2022

Tempering made a big difference to chocolate production as it made the chocolate look more attractive and appealing to people. The butter could be removed from the bean by passing it through a press and cocoa was produced. The waste pods are still used in cattle feed.

We could all remember Fry's that used to be in Keynsham and many members had worked there. It was not surprising that we could all fondly remember the bars of chocolate which were made there.

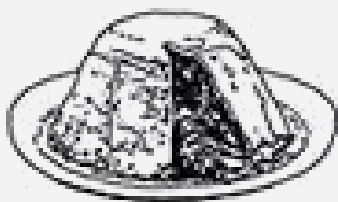
After we had thanked John for his very interesting talk we enjoyed some delicious refreshments. This month's recipe is ideal for a hot summer day and is easy to make.

I hope you will enjoy making and eating this pudding, and look forward to seeing everyone in September .

Lyn Coles



Easy Summer Pudding



There's nothing better than a summer pudding served with lashings of cream or cold custard—whatever your fancy. But you don't need fresh fruits as this easy summer pudding recipe shows. It takes its richness as much from the surround as it does from the fruit.

Ingredients

- 600g. bought Madeira cake
- 1 Tin blackcurrants in juice
- 2. Cooking apples
- Cream for serving

Method

1. Grease a pudding basin, slice up cake to fit in the bottom and around the sides with no gaps.
2. Cook apples in a drop of sweetened water until broken up. Drain off 1/4 cup of blackcurrant juice and then add the blackcurrants and remaining juice to the apples.
3. Pour the fruit mixture of apples and blackcurrants into the basin and top with the remaining cake slices to seal. Pour the saved juice over the top. Press down with a saucer and weigh down with a tin.
4. Put into the fridge until next day.
5. Loosen sides gently with a palette knife. Tip out, slice and serve with cream.

You can use any soft fruit fresh or frozen.



KIM
*Unisex Hairdressing with
Beauty Room & Solarium*

*188 High Street
Oldland Common
Bristol
BS30 9QQ*

Tel: 0117 932 3539



Robert Pearce has over 40 years' experience
plumbing in the local area



Available for
general plumbing
and repairs

Tel: 07814 607974

Email: robsuep@btinternet.com

Hanney Welding Limited

For all your Welding & Fabrication
requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647

Email: martin@hanneywelding.co.uk

The July Quiz

The theme of the quiz is car logos and names

No. Clue

1. The centre of this badge depicts the Bavarian flag
2. A three-pointed star meant to represent land, sea and air
3. Two dots separated by seven bars representing the company when it manufactured armoured vehicles
4. Logo of the ancient alchemist symbol for lead
5. Four interlocking rings, which represented the four different companies that joined together to form Auto Union
6. Logo which shows the gears which were patented by the founder of this car company
7. A raging bull, as the founder of the company was a Taurus
8. All the letters in the company name can be spelt out with lines in this symbol
9. The logo depicts a cluster of six stars, which is part of the Taurus constellation.
10. A snake on the right side, signifying the house of Visconti, a Milanese red cross on the left side
11. Initially a simple superimposed A and M letters in a circle, it evolved into a V shaped winged logo
12. The 'Prancing Horse'
13. This represents both the initial H and two people shaking hands. The oval around it adds a symbolic perpetuity
14. A fast member of the cat family
15. The 2 overlapping Rs, are a symbol of, you have me, I have you, reflecting both harmony and harmonious relationship
16. This pointy badge is the trident held by Neptune
17. This S is simple and recognizable worldwide. Headquartered in

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, August 2022

18. An arrow representing speed with wings representing progress
19. B Representing to build a fast car, a good car, the best in it's class
20. The logo is based on a mythical creature called the Griffin

Name:

Contact:

Please send your answers to Carolyn Russell at Martin House, Church Road, Bitton (the yellow house) or email mrsrussell@icloud.com by 15 August.

July's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz had a theme of four letter words in sport.

The correct answers are:

(1) Pool; (2) Love; (3) Puck; (4) Judo; (5) Finn; (6) Over; (7) Gold; (8) Golf; (9) Oslo; (10) Graf; (11) Cubs; (12) Luge; (13) Nine; (14) Pink; (15) Bolt; (16) Isis; (17) Sumo; (18) Card; (19) Polo; (20) Prop.

Correct answers were received from:

Alan & Sue Murtagh; Ken & Jill; Sue & Rod Nethercote; Frank & Co; Pam & Jon Booth.

This month's prize goes to:

Ken and Jill

The last word



August is not supposed to be a time of normal activities. It is, as the vicar's letter notes, a time of holidays, but one in which it was still important to respect such matters as our routine observation of the Sabbath.

July was far from normal. A heatwave hit the country with the hottest day ever recorded, highlighting the effects of global warming. It also saw the non normal resignation of a Prime Minister and the start of a particularly peculiar process to identify a successor.

At least so far as this country is concerned, the recognition of global warming and the need to do something about it is shared pretty widely across the political spectrum. Yet, apparently in a modern mature democracy of 60 million people it is still sensible to select a new Prime Minister by entrusting the selection to a small group of people (about 160,000), themselves elected by no-one and who may well elect someone who does not have a majority of the elected Parliamentary Party. Whatever the sense or the normality of that arrangement it seems set to drag on throughout the month of August. Prepare yourselves—it could be even more abnormal than usual. Jim Heavens

TO ADVERTISE HERE

Focal Point is received by about 200 households in Bitton, Beach, Upton Cheyney and Willsbridge. It is a great way to get your business seen.

Rates are competitive and we can be flexible on the number of editions.

Current full year rates are:

Full page is £175.00

Half page is £105.00

1/3 page is £85.00

For all advertising enquiries, please contact Roger Tilley
rogerjohntilley@gmail.com



- Design and build
- Building Maintenance
- Renovation
- Refurbishment
- Roofing

K P Wilton & Son Ltd

11/12 Brighton Place, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QY

Tel: 0117 967 1207

Email: info@kpwilton.co.uk



ROY PREDDY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

2 Cossham Street, Mangotsfield BS16 9EN (0117) 9562834

We are at your service 24 hours a day

We will help and guide you every step of the way

We will guide you through our choice of funeral plans

We can help and advise you choose a memorial

We are members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

Our other Bristol businesses can similarly help you -

Roy Preddy - Kingswood (0117) 9446051

TB & H Pendock - Hambrook (0117) 9566774

Stenner & Hill - Shirehampton (0117) 9823188

R. Davies & Son - Westbury-on-Trym (0117) 9628954

R. Davies & Son - Horfield (0117) 9424039

R. Davies & Son - Bishopsworth (0117) 9641133

Whitchurch FS - Whitchurch (01275) 833441

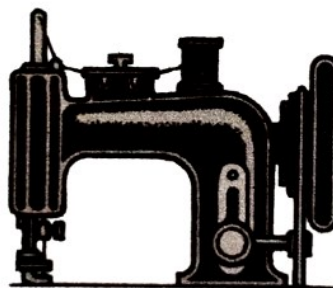
Part of Dignity Ltd, a British Company

Parker's Sewing Services

**Clothing alteration
and repairs**

Soft furnishings

**Specialist projects
and commissions
undertaken**



Telephone Lizzie : 01179326662

Mobile : 07837126945

Email :

lizzieparkerclarke@rocketmail.com



Collingwood

Care Home for the elderly

Collingwood Care Home provides the best possible care to our residents.

We ensure it is a happy, safe place to live...
“home from home”

Please contact one of our friendly Management team for an appointment to discuss your requirements.

Lizzy, Mandy or Suzy

Collingwood Care Home
78a Bath Road
Longwell Green
BS30 9DG

0117 9324527

linkside-care@btconnect.com

www.collingwoodcarehome.co.uk

NORTON TAX SHOPS LTD

ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS

FREE INITIAL
CONSULTATION

Would you like...

- To pay less tax;
- Accurate and high quality work;
- To be eased through the tax minefield;
- Work on time, every time;
- Competitive fees;
- Friendly, qualified staff;
- Quick, responsive service, tailored to you;
- Up to date expert advice;
- To maximize profit;
- To reduce the burden of your paperwork.

You would? Then please contact us for help with:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Self-Assessment | ■ Annual Accounts |
| ■ Capital Gains Tax | ■ Limited Companies |
| ■ Income from Property | ■ Bookkeeping & Payroll |



sage

Keynsham Office

3&5 Station Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2BH
Telephone: 0117 986 0960

Kingswood Office

7 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8JX
Telephone: 0117 967 47474

Email: admin@nortontaxshops.co.uk

Website: www.nortontaxshops.co.uk



Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton
Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT
Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning
Welding Tyres Exhausts Cam belts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686