

KILMINGTON

POSTscript

Issue 232 March 2021



EDITORIAL

There are some days when the rain brings the sky so low that you really can walk with feet on the ground and head in the clouds. On days like that the watchman at the beacon hut would have been unable to see the sea at all, let alone any sign of a Spanish Armada. Was there much competition for his job? We have now been living with another hostile, but even less visible threat for a year and have had to adapt to three lockdowns and varying degrees of restriction. Masks have become a must-have item in public places, some clearly designed to be a fashion statement as well. We have had to rethink everyday activities – achieve it online or manage without – and IT has become indispensable. Last March the sudden awareness and shock of the new situation left Kilmington very subdued, with the main road eerily empty and silent and social events closed down. Then the bounce back began, with the Parish Council managing practicalities and scarecrows providing the first entertainment, and we settled to a different way of living, which may continue a bit longer yet.

This month's Postscript reflects that. The Hospiscare Men's Walk is a virtual one and Lent Lunches are being delivered. The roll-out of jabs continues. Some events just can't be achieved: Axe Vale Show is postponed until next year, and the RBL Extravaganza is cancelled. There are benefits too – having time to reflect has prompted some village residents to look back. One of them has been a part of this village for most of her married life and another travelled all over the world before finding it. There is also a growing awareness of the natural world, ecology, the interdependence of it all and, for many, a resolve to prevent more damage. Did you know about the very rare grey long-eared bats? Kilmington is perfectly placed between the only two roosts in East Devon to enable the bats to forage here and we have received articles about initiatives to improve their chances.

The Gardening Club's hopes for the Village Show in July have been frustrated but there are plans afoot to celebrate the spring, if possible, for it will surely come, lockdown or not. Meanwhile, when the weather prevents any view of the sea from the beacon and you decide to walk round the village instead, you might enjoy looking for some of the smaller and nearer things pictured in the centre pages. As always, but especially now, we are very grateful to all contributors to Postscript, as well as those who continue to go out in all weathers, keeping safe, to distribute it.

Janfryd

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Please remember to use the email address for Postscript:

postscript@kilmingtonvillage.com

Alternatively, please give your item to any team member.

The closing date for submitting items for the April issue is 15th March 2021. All will be acknowledged. Please email or ring 01297 639115 if not acknowledged within 48 hours.

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Printed by Axminster Printing
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Postscript is published 10 times each year and is delivered free of charge to every house in Kilmington. Almost all items in the magazine come from the village community who are very supportive of the magazine.

The Postscript team are all volunteers and your donations, together with fees from advertisers, are used to pay for the cost of printing.

DONATIONS

Arrangements for donating to Postscript have changed as a result of the closure of the village shop. Please see page 26 for details. Donations to the middle of February came to £114.20. All donations go towards printing costs. Thank you for your continuing support.

ADVERTISING RATES

Please see inside back cover for details.

Front and centre pages - Marie Gardner

The average cost per 28-page copy of Postscript with several colour pages is 75p.
Extra copies are available from Millers Farm Shop, where donations may be made.

Disclaimers: Items in this publication are the work of individuals and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or opinions of the editorial team. The editorial team reserves the right to make small alterations to items submitted. Contributors are responsible for ensuring that parental permission has been obtained before pictures of children are submitted for publication.

The content of advertisements is not the responsibility of the editorial team. Queries should be addressed to the advertiser. This publication is online at www.kilmingtonvillage.com. In addition, earlier issues will also appear online from time to time.

THE ROAD TO KILMINGTON

As a result of restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, like many other people I have had more time to think. Five years after my wife and I bought a small farm in Kilmington and moved here with our daughter, it is interesting to recall how events led here.

From the beginning Kilmington has been a positive experience, particularly because of the open friendliness of the local people, the sense of community rooted in solid worthwhile values and the sheer beauty of this part of England. The more I've thought about it, the more I count our blessings that we have been 'locked down' here rather than elsewhere.

Of all the places I've lived or worked, from America to Austria, Holland to Herzegovina or Sudan to Slovakia, this small village has been particularly welcoming, a place where we can now relax. Perhaps this is because of the contrast between Kilmington and most of the other places, some of which had awful climates or dangerous features ranging from endemic diseases or poisonous snakes to cultures of violence and suppression. Worst of all were within the Russian empire with oppressive regimes, where every aspect of life was subject to government control backed by watching and listening secret police and informers, and repeated attempts at entrapment. Ironically, the only relief from this constant surveillance was in the remaining churches which security personnel did not like entering.

Like George Orwell, author of 'The Road to Wigan Pier' and 'Nineteen Eighty-Four', my experiences in Cambridge and assignments behind the Iron Curtain made me fiercely anti-communist and anti-unfettered socialism. So when I was headhunted to work for the American offshoot of the organisation I had first joined in Cambridge, I emigrated to the 'land of the free', not as a scientist but as a business man leading a national sales team. Fortunately, I had become accustomed to sudden change because I had been rigorously screened with other Oxbridge graduates for fast-track training in commerce, research (both market research and lab research), strategic planning, communications and



advanced sales/persuasion methods. We were obliged to go anywhere and do anything required by the company at no notice. Within a year I was in an African country during a civil war, then in Europe, particularly the Iron Curtain countries of Eastern Europe, where I proved useful.

America was all I had hoped it would be - friendly, go-getting, independent-minded people, scenically beautiful and full of opportunities. After three years my wife and I started our own independent company, contracting to provide discrete advice on protecting people and property, primarily in the field of bio-security, and marketing specialist products. Clients included multi-national corporations, hospitals and the U.S. Government, with travel to 49 of the 50 states.

The whirlwind ended when family illness struck and it seemed wisest to return to England to be nearer the extended family. So, I retired at the age of 42 - no more jetting around, fast cars, surfing in Hawaii, busy social life and high income. We moved to a tranquil, beautiful market town where we could quietly deal with health issues. However, like many others, the town progressively became more crowded and noisy and the surrounding countryside setting was ruined by urban sprawl to accommodate London commuters. The final straw was when its small teachers' training college became a university which set out to attract those not up to a rigorous education. Its degree courses encompassed juggling and witchcraft and it even hosted an International Zombie Conference!

With the new university and influx of commuters came superpubs, nightclubs and drug dealers. We got fed up with being woken at four a.m. by drunks emerging from the clubs so we started looking for a final home. After three years of looking from Kent to Herefordshire and Cornwall to Cambridge, we found Kilmington. So far, we haven't been woken by a single drunk at four a.m., nor have we been offered drugs on the village green. Long may it last.

Keith



*** Don't Forget ***

British Summertime begins
Sunday, 28th March at 1.00 pm
Clocks go forward by 1 hour

LOST AND FOUND

A small brooch was found by a Hampton resident on 19th January on the lane between Hampton and Kilmington. For further details please ring 01297 552811.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Suspended at present time

KILMINGTON SKY AT NIGHT

Once again some great opportunities to view planets and stars this month so, as the temperatures rise and hopefully the skies become clearer, get outside and take a look!

3rd Mars and the Pleiades star cluster – also known as the Seven Sisters – close together. Look for them early evening as they sink westward as evening deepens into late night. This is their closest conjunction until 2038. To their left are the three stars of Orion's belt, look just above them to find the

Betelgeuse. It has a distinctly reddish appearance and is classified as a red super-giant of spectral type M1-2. It is one of the largest stars visible to the naked eye, usually the tenth-brightest star in the night sky. Calculations of Betelgeuse's mass range from slightly under ten to a little over twenty times that of our Sun.

5th Moon close to Antares, early in the morning look southward to see the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius the Scorpion. Antares is another huge red super-giant star. It has around 15 to 18 times the mass of our Sun. Its red colour indicates it has a low surface temperature.

8th, 9th and 10th Moon, Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn close in the eastern pre-dawn sky. Jupiter, the brightest of



the three planets, shines in between Mercury and Saturn, with Mercury at bottom and Saturn at top. Binoculars will help you see Mercury.

20th Spring Equinox and the sun rises due east and sets due west.

21st and 22nd Moon in the Winter Circle, sometimes called the Winter Hexagon, this large noticeable pattern of stars is an asterism – not one of the 88 official constellations. It consists of seven bright stars in

six separate constellations. Near the centre you'll find Orion's bright red star Betelgeuse (see above 3rd).

28th Full Moon, the 'worm moon' named after the worm trails that appear in the newly thawed ground following winter. This is the year's fourth-closest full moon, so some might be calling this a super-moon. The next three full moons in April, May and June will be even closer and therefore bigger 'super-moons', with the May 26th full moon presenting the year's closest.

Peter

KILMINGTON COMMUNITY CINEMA You Saved Our Community Cinema

The generosity of our supporters together with significant contributions from: Kilmington Players, Gardening Club, Parish Council, EDCC and DCC and an early donation from Millers Farm Shop which gave a notable boost at an early stage of the Appeal, has provided the funding for us to meet all the objectives of the appeal.

With this funding support we have launched the Kilmington Community Cinema with the responsibility for meeting all the objectives noted in the Appeal. We have already started. With material and time donated from Chris Stubbs (electrical) and Simon Buse (Property Maintenance) a retractable screen has been installed over the stage.

The aim is to be ready to show films in April, if restrictions allow. The intention is to be able to offer an additional and



wider selection of films and matinees subject to interest/demand. If you would like to get involved and especially if you like going to see films, please get in touch with me. There is more to the film shows than film night. How much additional help will be required will depend on how successful we make our Community Cinema, and that will be up to all of us involved

and the community coming along to see the films.

Finally, the draw for the prizes will be conducted during February, but please note all the awards are subject to COVID restriction and cannot be used until these are lifted. Looking forward to seeing you all in the not-too-distant future.

John Watts - 01297 639758
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THE INVENTION OF THE INTERNET

It was in the year 1989
That the World Wide Web came to define
A new era of machines and learning
So much to see, our brains kept turning.

GIFS, JPEGs, Bitmaps and Paint
So many pictures I nearly faint
Music and video at the touch of the buttons
No wonder we have become media gluttons.

Savvy surfers, young and old
Think a lot of this brave new world,
A world where research papers and links
Can be downloaded until we sink.

Wasn't this supposed to be a new way
Of paperless printing, the office now gay
Not with less paper - there's actually more!
It sits on the desks and covers the floor

Box files, folders and ringbinder files
Are needed to deal with the endless piles
The more we surf, the more we print
We have to buy lots of new ink!

Buttons to press and cursors to move
Web browsers to open, then close for a snooze
Whilst the printer ejects all the new documents
More paper, jargon, aggravation and torments.

To explore the world and contact your friends
It sometimes seems as though it will never end
From Facebook walls to Twitter feeds
To Instagram posts and YouTube needs.

Minute by minute, hour by hour
The news comes in - the people's power
To have their own sites, their followers too
Until I wish I could turn into a kangaroo

One of my favourite animals, the big red roo
With one special thing that he can do
An Aussie from Down Under, fast and tall
Who is able to hop away from it all!

Helen Story

SOUP ON A THURSDAY IN LENT

A small team will be making and delivering soup on Thursdays in Lent. There has been a very good response to this but if there is anyone you know who is living alone or who cannot get out at all and you think they would appreciate this, please would you contact Diana Church on 32417 or myself on 32334.

Diana Mellows

FIVE ALIVE OIL SYNDICATE

Please note that the March oil deadline ordering date falls on Thursday, 25th March. I would invite members to either request an exact amount or, if ordering either a 'top up' or a full tank, then please let me have an accurate estimate as to how much oil you require with a minimum order of 500 litres.

Colin Stewart
01297 792538
cogstewart@aol.com

THE AXE VALE SHOW

The Axe Vale Show Committee regrets that because of remaining uncertainties over Coronavirus they feel unable to commit to this year's show. They have decided to cancel it and retain financial reserves to stage the next show on June 18th and 19th 2022. They wish to thank everyone who has

supported the show for many years and are disappointed that they will not be able to provide income this year to support local organisations via their charitable grant process.

Susie McFadzean

DEVON CPRE - BEST CHURCHYARD COMPETITION 2021 COULD YOUR LOCAL CHURCHYARD BE THE BEST IN DEVON THIS YEAR?

During the pandemic Devon's residents have appreciated the green spaces around their churches as places to walk to for exercise and observe nature. Devon CPRE celebrates the people who look after them, "because they are all volunteers and they do a fantastic job".

For the fourth year this countryside charity is holding its churchyard award, open to all denominations, and hopes to receive more entries than ever by the end of March. CPRE judges Penny Mills and Ivan Buxton are not seeking the most pristine or manicured churchyards but those which are well-managed to provide a peaceful haven for people and wildlife. Each entry is assessed on a range of criteria, including the measures put in place to increase biodiversity. They have been impressed by the way these ancient burial

grounds have been made sanctuaries for the living and now include many features to encourage wildlife and biodiversity for all, not just churchgoers, to enjoy.

As last year, the judges will visit each entry to make an on-site inspection after lockdown travel restrictions are lifted. In 2020 the top prize of £200 and beautiful oak plaque were presented informally in person to the winner and runner-up, observing strict social distancing, and this year's competition will be conducted along similar lines.

The deadline for entries is March 31st. Full details and an entry form can be found at www.devoncpre.org.uk

Sharon Goble – Devon CPRE Media Contact



KILMINGTON BRANCH

As well as wishing you all well and hoping that you are staying safe, we would like to bring you news of our latest logo (proudly depicted at the top left of this article) explaining why the change, but also highlighting some of the good work that the Royal British Legion does. As always, our thoughts remain with all those who are suffering from illness, the vulnerable, and the families and friends who provide such essential support. On this occasion we also reflect on the sad loss of Captain Charles Dawson, who sadly passed away on Friday, 5th February at the age of 101; 'We will remember them'.

Some of you may have seen in the press the cost of 're-branding' the Royal British Legion and the many reasons and arguments, both for and against, the rejuvenation. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify why a new 'Logo'. Although we as a branch were surprised, a National survey highlighted that many people no longer associate the RBL with the Poppy! To address this, it was decided that the new design should incorporate the poppy, which we can now clearly see. For many months you have heard me asking 'how' do we engage better with the younger generation? As you will all be aware, electronic devices (especially mobile phones and i-Pads) are at the heart of modern communication and unfortunately, our old logo was too small and lacked clarity, hence the larger, yet simplified design. Of course, time will tell if the re-branding is successful; however, in the meantime we would like to confirm that we, as your Branch Committee will do as much as we can to continue to support our serving personnel, veterans and their dependents, especially at this testing time.

So, what do the Royal British Legion offer/do other than Remembrance and the Poppy Appeal? Its principal aim is to support serving members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and their dependents. At the present time we hear daily about the NHS and what fantastic support they are providing during the pandemic, and rightly so; however, how often do we hear about the armed forces who provide front line essential support? When did we last hear about operations in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, or the humanitarian aid being provided in West Africa or the Caribbean? Many are away from their families for six months or more at a time, leaving their young families to manage. Worse still, what about those who have their careers cut short due to injury, or leave having given the best years of their lives protecting the rest of us? All too often their sacrifice is quickly forgotten and this is where the Royal British Legion and other military charities come to the fore.

Over the past year the RBL in Devon has helped 52 families or their dependents with subsistence, ranging from replacing electrical items such as fridges and cookers to providing different types of mobility. In addition, 55 families have been given assistance with debts and another 126 helped to overcome some form of crisis! Sadly, £35,000 had to be used to provide support to personnel currently serving and their dependents with an average age of just 35!

Hopefully, this has provided a very quick insight into just some of the exceptional work that the RBL does and highlights the many good causes that your donations support. We thank you all!

Having provided you all with an overview of what is going on wider afield, I had best update you on what is happening closer to home. Although we were hoping to bring you our 'Spring Extravaganza' before Easter and a celebration marking the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion in May, we have had to cancel both events due to the current COVID situation. We are continuing to plan for our Annual Family BBQ in July as well as a 'Trafalgar Night' dinner in October. We aim to provide support to other village events as and when needed, and continue to plan events later in the year, of which details will be provided closer to the time. As previously highlighted, Saturday, 7th May 2022 is the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of our own War Memorial and we welcome ideas of how we will celebrate this memorable event. Importantly, we would very much like to encourage our younger community, so if anyone has any ideas or wishes as to how we might celebrate any of our events, please call me on 07799 612557 or speak to any of your committee.

As always, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and incredible generosity. I look forward to seeing you all as soon as we are permitted.

Our current membership sits at 129 and, as always, we welcome anyone who would care to join us. For the immense sum of just £17 a year you can join our incredible community and support those who were mentioned earlier. I should add for that princely sum you do not have to attend meetings or receive unwelcome correspondence!!!

Take great care and stay safe.

Cdr Staff Seward OBE RN Rtd
Chairman RBL Kilmington Branch

Vacancy
St Giles' Church
Kilmington
01297 35433



Letter from the Churches

Pastor Darrell Holmes
KBC Church Office
Kilmington
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Not everyone speaks Latin, but consider this phrase "*Tesco ergo sum*". If you didn't realise, it means "I shop therefore I am"!

We used to be described as a nation of shopkeepers, but it seems now we have become a nation of shoppers, a universal and relentless occupation. Apparently in the last year our shopping habits as a nation have massively changed. Those who can, often started buying online: not just groceries, but all manner of purchases. Observers claimed that the switch to online trading industry was advanced by several years in the space of a few months. Cash purchases became a rarity and companies who took their business online seemed to survive better than those who did or could not. However, those who have benefitted most have been the online globalised mega-companies, since they can trade on minimal profits per item and undercut the local shops. They appear to meet our desire to shop for the items we crave in a way that so easily feeds our self-centredness. But every time we spend we actually participate in a power decision; for all these giant winners there are a million tiny losers. As proof of that, consider the headlines in 2014 where labels sewn into garments at Primark bore the words saying 'forced to work in sweatshops conditions' and 'exhausting hours' – pointing to the unsurprising conclusion that if we pay peanuts for products, then someone along the

production line is likely to be oppressed and underpaid for their goods or labour. Okay, so Primark have been one of the online traders, but they have traded on low-cost to the consumer.

The Old Testament prophet Amos warned his fellow citizens that to live in this way is to - "*trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed*" (Amos ch2 v7).

Surely none of us want to crush the poor in this world or oppress the weak. So may I challenge myself and the reader to think carefully about the way in which we shop? Of course, we all have basic needs and wants, such as food, clothes and even a few luxury treats along the way are permitted. But taking time to consider how our purchase can place power more wisely could have significant benefits in this world, that is, on people and the environment. Shop locally in independent rather than multi-national stores, with locally-sourced or produced items where possible. Buy ethical or organic items if that is an affordable option, rejecting waste and rampant consumerism as justification for buying yet more things.

In this way, it could be possible to change the world, one purchase at a time.

Darrell Holmes

LOCKDOWN LOCKSMITH

While St Giles' Church has been closed, Robert thought it would be a good opportunity to



repair the locks on the main door and tower door, after being inspired by the BBC Repair Shop. The locks were duly removed, cleaned, re-brushed and repaired where necessary, all the cracks welded, painted and then refitted. What was very interesting was the name cast into all the parts of the locks: A Kenrick & Sons. (Archibald Kenrick 1780-1835). In 1827 the Archibald Kenrick & Co company name was changed to A. Kenrick & Sons when Archibald Jr & Samuel Kenrick joined the business. This name lasted until 1835 when, on the death of Archibald the elder, the company changed its name to Archibald Kenrick & Co and they are still trading as Kenrick today, as manufacturers of door and window hardware.

Kenrick are still trading from the same address as in the 1800s: Spoon Lane, West Bromwich. In the 1840 Kenrick catalogue are listed door locks, saucepans, waffle irons and human man traps!! The Church door locks must date from the Victorian renovation 200 years ago and are still working well, now set for another 200 years!

Anna Crabbe

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Moderate

To solve this puzzle, each 3 x 3 square, row and column must contain all of the numbers 1 to 9. The solution is on page 20.

		6			9			
		7		2		4	9	3
		1	3	8				
	6							7
4		9				5		8
3							2	
				5	3	1		
7	5	4		6		3		
			7			2		



SADLY MISSED

CAPTAIN CHARLES DAWSON

Sadly on February the 5th Captain Charles Walsh Dawson passed away comfortably at home with his family around him at the wonderful age of one hundred and one.

Charles a veteran of WWII, served in North Africa and Italy. After the war Charles joined the family business in Warrington, Lancashire and started a family, having two sons, Paul and Ian. He later went on to build his own successful business before retiring to Axminster and then on to Kilminster.

Charles enjoyed retirement with his wife Mary for twelve years in Kilminster until she passed away in June of 2019. They enjoyed the many visits of their children and grandchildren over the years.

Charles will be laid to rest with Mary in Kilminster Church Yard.

Paul and Ian Dawson

MARY WARREN SMITH

AUTHOR OF WISHFUL THINKING

Mary, a friend of John and Diana Church, and a most elegant and unforgettable lady, was a doctor's daughter whose father then became a vicar.

Her husband was a surgeon in Essex but his real passion was fishing in Devon!

Mary had often written poems but after the death of her husband her love of poetry flourished and she published several booklets of her work.



John Church

Below are two of her poems.

PRAYER

How do you pray, he asked
And I replied
My prayers are mostly etiquette,
Like entering a throne room.
I come in humbly,
Conscious of my sins
And grateful to be there.
Then I present petitions
For my loved ones,
Before I walk out backwards
Into hope.

How do you pray, I asked,
And he replied
My prayers are mostly breathing:
Deeply assured,

Sweetly in comfort,
Deeply at home,
Sweetly in peace,
Like a much-loved child
In his father's arms.

'TIME FOR AMENDMENT OF LIFE....'

If I'd known you were coming
I'd have baked a cake,
Bought some steak,
Stayed awake,
If I'd known you were coming
I'd have made my house
As nice as when you gave it to me.

If I'd known you were coming
I'd have washed my hair,
Taken care,
Said a prayer,
If I'd known you were coming
I'd have made my soul
As nice as when you gave it to me.
If I'd known you were coming
I'd have

THE FORGOTTEN PANDEMIC

A Benchmark for a Healthier Future?

How many times will you have you walked through our towns and villages and overlooked an important legacy from the recent past literally carved into the landscape at your feet?

These intriguing, yet unassuming symbols, are incised into our nation's walls and buildings without indication to their purpose past or present. There are several carved into walls in Kilmington, perhaps only noticed by the most observant of us. Mason's marks perhaps? Or part of a secret code or way marker? Well, they do mark the beginnings of a path to enlightenment. So – where did they come from?

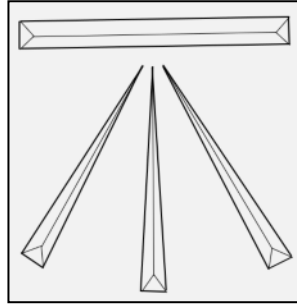
It was the public fear, health concerns and political pressure of the nineteenth century which provided the motivating force behind a programme of map-making which would take many decades in the planning and execution, resulting in the Ordnance Survey which we know today.

It was against a terrible backdrop of cholera and typhoid epidemics (cholera arrived in Britain in 1831 in a pandemic which reportedly killed over 32,000 people and over 50,000 with the later 1848 pandemic) that the government addressed the situation in 1855 by instructing the newly formed Ordnance Survey to press forward with its programme of detailed map-making, ostensibly for the purposes of improving sanitation and clean water supply in urbanised areas. Without understanding the precise lay of the land, how could the great Victorian engineers lay foundations to a healthier future? After all, water does not run uphill.

And so, from these early beginnings until the 1890s, the British landscape was surveyed and mapped in a detail unprecedented in the world. It was during those decades that perhaps 500,000 of these little symbols, about 4" square, were indelibly cut into our nation's buildings, walls and monuments, usually about one or two feet above ground level as a permanent reference, or *benchmark*, to provide accurate level (height) information for surveyors to create a topographical record of most of Britain. They appeared every few hundred yards or so, usually along the route of public highways and byways.

The design of the benchmark was based on the *broad arrow*, an upwards pointing arrow symbol associated with the then Board of Ordnance to denote government property, a symbol often stamped onto military equipment but also familiar to many as the arrowed pattern formally used on prison uniforms. The approved design included the addition of a horizontal bar above the arrow, the centre of which provided the height above sea level. The 1889 Ordnance Survey map of the Kilmington area shows the location of several local benchmarks, with their respective heights above sea level, some of which are difficult to spot or surely lost, but some of the original benchmarks remain for today's residents to see.

Early benchmarks can be inspected on the stonework of the west entrance of St Giles Church (height 174.1ft), the corner of Gowrie House at the junction of Shute Road and the Hill



(256.1ft), just apparent through layers of paint, and another, perhaps more noticeable when clear of ivy, is at the corner of Shute Road and George Lane (204ft), as the photograph below shows. This example has the reference 'KILMI' or 'KILMI' carved above it.

Surveyors, using precision instruments, patience and rigorous method, would use one benchmark to provide the reference level for the next and so on. This method is still in use today, most obviously on construction sites,

albeit now often aided by electronic equipment and laser technology.

I recall, as a young construction engineer in the late 1980s, searching for benchmarks, scrambling amongst overgrown hedgerows or just in plain sight on municipal buildings so that I could use them to construct roads and bridges at the correct height above sea level. Their practical use is now almost obsolete with the development of GPS and 'total station' surveying and the last 'cut' benchmark was made late in the 1990s. These days, surveyors often drive less-permanent nails into the road or pavement surface, but the principle is much the same.



Cholera is no longer endemic in Britain, the last reported case being 1893, but the World Health Organisation reports that there are still up to 140,000 deaths every year because of this disease. Seven pandemics in the last two centuries have killed millions worldwide. In 2017, the *Global Task Force on Cholera Control* launched a strategy to end the disease, a programme called 'a Roadmap to 2030' with intentions of eradicating 90% of cases by means of early detection, targeting transmission and the use of vaccines. Some of this may sound terribly familiar.

In a world where methods of surveying, science and medicine have developed beyond recognition, there remain echoes of the past at our feet. Next time you are permitted out, maybe look a little more closely at those old buildings and walls and you may be surprised how many more you notice, once you get your eye in. You might then also remember that world pandemics are far from new and that as a species, we have always had to battle our biological enemies. Sometimes it takes months, sometimes years and sometimes decades, but we are still here.

Alan Clarkson

Although this is the March issue, I thought that I would include a couple of Easter recipes because Easter this year is right at the beginning of April. This way you can buy any ingredients needed in plenty of time. Carrot Cake makes a lighter alternative to Simnel cake and Mary Berry's recipe is quick and easy to make. An American friend once gave me an amazing Carrot Cake recipe which resulted in a three-layer, iced creation very much like you would expect in a tearoom, but it was so time consuming to make, hence the reason I now prefer to make this simpler version.

CARROT CAKE

225g/9oz self-raising flour
2 tsp baking powder
150g/6oz light muscovado sugar
50g/2oz chopped walnuts
100g/4oz grated carrot
2 ripe bananas, mashed
2 large eggs
150ml/6 fl oz sunflower or light olive oil

Topping:

175g/7oz full fat soft cheese
50g/2oz softened butter
100g/4oz icing sugar
Vanilla essence to taste
9 walnut halves or marzipan carrot decorations

Method

1. Put all the cake ingredients into a bowl and beat well until blended. Pour into a greased and bottom lined 8" round cake tin.
2. Bake at 180C/160C fan/4 gas for 50-60 minutes or until the cake is shrinking away from the sides of the tin. Allow to cool slightly before turning out on to a wire rack.
3. To make the topping, combine the cheese, butter and icing sugar together in a food processor. Add the vanilla essence to taste.
4. Spread on to the top of the cold cake and decorate with the walnut halves or marzipan carrots.

Store any uneaten cake in the fridge.



LEFT OVER LAMB CURRY

Serves 3-4

2 medium onions, chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
1 tsp. ginger paste or a 2.5cms piece of fresh ginger, chopped
2 tbsp olive oil
4 tbsp medium curry paste
1 x 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
1 red chilli, seeds removed, chopped
½ tsp ground cinnamon
200ml/10fl oz lamb stock
500-600g/20-24oz left over roast lamb, cut into chunks
2 tbsp fresh coriander, freshly chopped

Method

1. Put the ginger, garlic, onions and 220ml of water into a blender and whizz together making a thin, smooth paste.
2. Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the onion mixture for about 15 minutes until the liquid has been fully absorbed. Add the curry paste and cook for a further minute. Stir in the tomatoes. If you prefer a smooth curry, the tomatoes can be liquidised before adding. Then add the chilli, cinnamon, stock and the lamb. Cover the pan with a lid and cook for an hour.
3. Season and add the coriander. If the curry sauce is a runnier than you would prefer, remove the lid, and cook for a further 15 minutes.
4. Serve with basmati rice and naan bread.



VIENNESE BISCUITS

Makes approx 12

100g/4oz unsalted butter, softened
25g/1oz icing sugar
100g/4oz plain flour
¼ tsp baking powder
75g/3oz plain chocolate

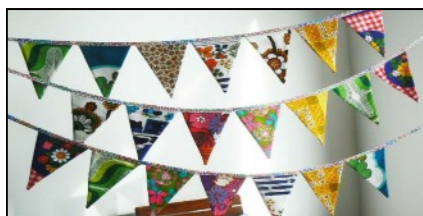
Method

1. Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until it is pale and fluffy.
2. Stir in the sieved flour and baking powder and mix thoroughly.
3. Spoon the mixture into a piping bag which has been fitted with a medium star nozzle. The one I use is approx 2cms at its widest point.
4. Pipe out fingers of the mixture, approx 8cms in length., on to a greased baking tray. Space the biscuits quite well apart. Bake at 190C/170C fan/gas 5 for 10-15 minutes. Allow to cool for a couple of mins before transferring on to a cooling rack.

5. Break the chocolate into pieces and melt gently in a bowl set over a pan of hot water.
6. Dip each end of the biscuits into the melted chocolate and leave to firm up on a piece of greaseproof paper.



Diane Overton



IT'S TIME TO GET OUT, PUT UP THE BUNTING AND CELEBRATE THE ONSET OF SPRING WITH A VILLAGE WALK, SOME OPEN GARDENS AND A FAMILY QUIZ



Do you want to know what everyone has been up to on their plots over the past months? All the efforts that have gone on behind hedges, walls and gates. Let's brush off those lockdown blues and get out for a walk around the village and into some gardens to enjoy colour, scents and sounds. Catch up with friends over a cup of coffee or just get a few ideas for your own garden.

Our village and the surrounding countryside are so beautiful. Let's celebrate this and look forward to more time together.

The Kilmington Gardening Club is encouraging folks to open their gardens to raise much needed funds for the Village Hall. There will be a planned route around the village, which incorporates a fun quiz, colourful bunting and some front garden scarecrows along the way.

If Rules and Regulations permit, please come and join in on the weekend of April 24th and 25th.

Details to follow in April's issue of Postscript.



MY WORKING LIFE

I started work straight from school in 1963. I had known what I had wanted to do for quite some time. My parents owned Marshwood Garage and I had always helped my mother from the age of eight when we moved there. Mum not only looked after us all (dad, my brother Brian and myself) but also did the accounts and helped serve petrol. These were the days before self-service pumps! Mum taught me how to do the accounts and I took this part over, together with the forecourt services. When I had passed my driving test I took on going to collect customers' cars, getting spare parts and going into Dorchester to register new cars etc.

I continued doing this until they sold the garage in 1972. By this time Brian had his own business in Lyme Regis (Cobb Garage) and I was already working for him as well. I left in 1973 when I had my daughter, Marianne followed in 1977 with her brother Graham. By this time I had moved from Axminster into Kilmington and I didn't do any paid work until I got my job down at the primary school. This was being in the right place at the right time – I was a school governor when we changed head teachers, Mr Bruce left and Miss Jenny Ford came. Mrs Bruce had done the administration for her husband and Miss Ford decided that she needed her own administrator (school secretary). She announced this at a Governors' meeting and I decided to apply. I was lucky and was offered the position. At the start I worked three days a week but this, over time, increased till I was working every morning and some afternoons as well. I

was also lucky to be in the job when computers came into schools and over a few years I was taught how to use the various programmes, word processing, spread sheets, etc. At the beginning, this was by having to take the computer to Exeter and having lessons on the new software as it became available.

I was in school for twenty-eight years, five with Jenny Ford and twenty-three with Malcolm Bettison. During this time I also did the odd bit of supply work for other schools when they needed help for a short time. Except, whilst I was in Dalwood when their secretary was away I took on the position of Classroom Assistant to a special needs child until he left for secondary school. It made for rather full days.

I worked at Kilmington Primary School until I was sixty-five and then after a couple of years, not exactly twiddling my thumbs, I was asked if I would like to become a member of the Postscript team, a position that I hold to this day. The then editor Judith Chapman guided me, over time, with the intricacies of the publishing programme and I eventually became the compiler.

Apart from the above I have been an Avon representative for the last forty years.

I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my working life!

Val Harding

MEADOW-MAKERS PLAN TO GET EAST DEVON AND THE BLACKDOWNS BLOOMING AND BUZZING

It is now more widely understood that 20th century changes in agriculture have resulted in a decline in the wildflower-rich grassland on which bees, butterflies and other threatened pollinators rely for food, and that it also affects the birds and mammals which rely on those insects. Several new community groups are working together with landowners and gardeners to maintain, restore or create species-rich habitat in farmland, gardens, churchyards and road verges. In Devon the Moor Meadows group started on Dartmoor in 2015 and has grown to include more than 800 meadow-makers, managing more than 1,000 acres of wildflower meadow to benefit wild plants and wildlife on Dartmoor and beyond.

The Dartmoor Group received funding from the Devon Environment Foundation, which aims to protect and restore

Devon's natural beauty by funding local nature regeneration projects, and an online forum has been set up to support new networks of meadow-makers, including the new East Devon and Blackdown Hills More Meadows groups. See <http://forum.moremeadows.org.uk/> for details. Joining the forum is free and offers resources and advice as well as free online talks by expert speakers. Those joining the East Devon group also have an opportunity to become involved with the new project led by the Bat Conservation Trust and East Devon AONB, whose project officer, Pete Youngman, has sent us an article all about the grey long-eared bats and the importance of Kilminster in their survival.

Dan Smith
media.moremeadows@gmail.com

GREY LONG-EARED BAT INITIATIVE

Grey Long-eared Bats are one of our rarest bats with an estimated UK population of just 1,000 bats and just eight known maternity roosts, where the female bats come together to give birth to their young. These roosts and the feeding habitat around them are vital for their conservation. The good news is that we have two of these in East Devon, one in Musbury and one at Colyford.



These two roosts are particularly important as they are the link between the maternity roosts in Dorset and those in South Devon.

The area around Kilminster provides foraging for both these roosts and will also improve habitat between other known maternity roosts and those of the roosts for the male bats.

Often called a whispering bat because of the very quiet echolocation that they use for finding insects in the dark, these insects are mostly found on meadows which are full of wildflowers with their nectar sources. The key then to caring for this bat is to maintain as many wildflower meadows as possible around their roosts and to enhance the wildflower interest of other fields. Wildflower meadows are not just good for wildlife they are also a real lift for humans, there is nothing that can beat a walk through one in early summer a riot of colour and alive with the buzz of insects. Over 92% of wildflower meadows have disappeared since the 1960s so they are very rare as well.

The East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team and the Bat Conservation Trust are working together to help

enhance wildflower meadows in this area to benefit both bats and people. We have a Land Advisor, Craig Dunton, who will work with landowners to help enhance their meadows and we will soon have an Engagement Officer who will organise a variety of events and activities for local people so they can get to know more about our local wildlife.

The Engagement Officer will be working with a wide range of groups and individuals from schools, youth groups and all kinds of adults. They will also be organising surveys that you can carry out as a family, so hopefully something for everyone.

So if you are a landowner and would like to increase the wildflower interest of a meadow, or would like to find out more about meadows and grey long-eared bats, then please get in touch with Pete Youngman, the AONB Project Officer, pete.youngman@eastdevonaonb.org.uk or phone him on 01404 46663 Ext 2.

This project is funded through the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. The fund is part of a Ten Point Plan to kick-start nature recovery and tackle climate change. Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, said: "These projects will drive forward work across England to restore and transform our landscapes, boost nature and create green jobs, and will be a vital part of helping us to build back greener from coronavirus."

Pete Youngman

TELEPHONE BOX LIBRARY

Due to the Covid situation, we are asking that returned or donated books are not left in the Telephone Box at the moment.

For those who have books that they wish to return, please give me a call and I will collect and quarantine them before replacing in the Telephone Box. Many thanks.

Karen
01297 35162

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!!!

So often I hear residents of Kilmington, myself included, saying how lovely the village is and how lucky we are to live here! However, on my regular jaunts around the village I have recently found myself concluding that if we don't look after what we're so fortunate to have, we'll eventually lose it and our village won't be lovely anymore!

Sadly in just the four years since I've joined the Kilmington Fannys (No 3), the amount of litter in and around the village, along with the deposits left courtesy of our four-legged friends, has noticeably increased.

The Common, Millennium Green and the often overlooked strips of green which bring colour to the village in the form of verges are slowly becoming lost, churned up by the wheels of cars and the constant stream of delivery vans. They are parked on, poo'ed on or just neglected and left to become a tangle of brambles, weeds and litter. The Common in particular is being eroded away at the edges as it is continually driven over or parked on and the triangle of green at its head where Shute Road and the Roman Road meet is getting smaller by the week!!! With just a bit of love and attention the verges could become a ribbon of colourful delight winding through the village resplendent with wild flowers or cheerful spring bulbs...far more joyous than mud, brambles, poo, litter and eventually tarmac!!

In my opinion the two factors that make this village the place I am delighted to call my home are its physical charms and its sense of community...There is a healthy mix of young families and older residents which helps keep the village alive and evolving, and it is only due to members of our community being willing to give their time and contribute which enables the continued existence of facilities we have such as the Village Hall with all its many clubs and events, the phone box library and the Cricket Club. Without our volunteers none of these would exist, but new volunteers are always needed to ensure these valuable community facilities continue to survive....and so the long-serving elderly can step down and have a rest!!!



Verge damage at The Common



Verge Damage

I am a great believer in the importance of aesthetics, agreeing with the theory that a pleasant, respected and cared-for environment can not only be beneficial for community spirit and mental well-being, but also helps create a more pleasant, respectful and caring attitude in people too. I also believe in the old adage 'rubbish breeds rubbish', i.e. it only takes one person to drop rubbish, then another person followed by another will do the same. (We are often quick to blame visitors rather than residents for such misdemeanours as littering and not picking up dog poo, but I'm not convinced all villagers are issued with a halo upon arrival and it is the responsibility of all of us to behave in a way that is considerate to our neighbours.)

I'm sure most of you will have noticed the signs outside the Village Hall and the plaques by some of the trees recording Kilmington's past victories in the 'Best Kept Village' competitions, all of which is, once again, thanks to the efforts of past and current villagers who've willingly given

their time and enthusiasm and got involved. So the same must be said about the care of the village itself. It will only be as special a place to live as we make it through our collective efforts as families, individuals and businesses coming together to maintain, nurture and contribute to its rural charm and prevent its character from being slowly eroded away....or one day it will be too late and we will all be reminiscing how lovely Kilmington USED to be...



Verge Rubbish

Some of you may have read this and rolled your eyes, some of you may have no interest, some may think it's a good idea, but you couldn't possibly participate as you have no spare time (tell me about it!), but hopefully there'll also be some of you who are enthused and willing to get involved by 'Adopting a Verge', litter picking, planting a tree or a bulb or two, spending time showing your front garden some love or maybe putting up a hanging basket...even the smallest contribution is greater than no contribution at all!!!

P.S. Since writing this ramble Christine Thorne has put a post on the Kilmington Now Facebook page regarding wild flower and fruit tree planting throughout the village which has received a positive response...hoorah!! So please contact her if you wish to get involved. (See page 16)

Nicky Bailey

HAIKUS

Inner Glow

Candles flare softly
We curl up by the warm fire
Savouring mulled wine

Snowdrops

White flowers pierce snow
Shielding shy inner petals
Spring is not far off

After Rain

Rain sparkles on moss
Mist hangs low in the valley
Soft drips from the trees

Beverley Perkins

Kilmington Walk-about March 2021

Have a look around the village and local area on your walks and see if you can find some of the items shown below and work out where or what they are.



NATURE NOTES

“There is no time like Spring, When life’s alive in everything”

March is usually a month of contrasts, when nature feels the rising temperature and, sensing the longer daylight hours, begins to awaken. Isn’t it great to have more light in the evenings again? And you’ll appreciate it even more after the 28th - if you remember to put your clocks forward! This year our mild winter has brought forward much of nature’s activity. The warming soil has already given us snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. Small clusters of yellow lesser celandines also appear almost everywhere throughout Kilmington. A member of the buttercup family, the blooms are sensitive to cold and light, so a sunny midday will see them at their best, as they close up under dull overcast skies.

Birds are singing more again and I know some villagers took part in this year’s Big Garden Bird Watch, so you may be interested in the latest BTO’s preliminary report. 2020 recorded a much more positive year than 2019 in terms of the abundance of our resident Blue Tits and Bullfinches, Treecreepers and Goldfinches. There were also above average numbers of Great Tits, Robins and Dunnocks. However, the breeding season for some of our resident birds was poor, with five species (Blue and Great Tit, Song Thrush, Dunnock and Bullfinch) displaying below-average numbers of young fledglings. The hardest hit were Blue Tits, suffering a 55% decline and Great Tits, a 39% decline. It is thought perhaps the warm April temperatures advanced the emergence of a major food source - caterpillars to a greater degree than it advanced the birds’ egg laying, resulting in nestlings dying short of food. Also Chaffinch and Greenfinch continue to decline significantly; both were recorded in lower numbers. It was better news for our migrant species; none displayed a significant reduction in numbers. Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Whitethroat were all significantly higher than the five-year



mean (2015–19). We have a pair of Blackcaps on our feeders regularly. Already I’ve heard the woodpeckers drumming out their territories in Shute woods. And among the first migrants to arrive will be Chiffchaffs after their long journey up through Africa. You’ll hear their distinctive and repetitive ‘chiff chaff’ call.

Pond life is also awake, with frogs and toads already active. They’ll be busy spawning, so look out for the jelly-like bundles that can be seen in local ponds and ditches. As frogs don’t look after their young and most will die, females lay as many as three thousand eggs! As the month continues to warm, hedgehogs, slowworms, lizards and snakes will all become more active. And snails, which have been sheltering from winter under stones and piles of wood, will return to chomp through your flowers and veg!

Bumble bees are already up and about; we saw our first fly past one lunchtime in mid-February. The Queens, who have survived the winter, now venture out on warm days seeking nectar and pollen from spring flowers to ready themselves for their year of motherhood. Honey bees have been active throughout this winter and on days when the temperature has been above about 10 degrees they have been flying out to forage. Their queens are also laying to build up numbers for the spring and to replace the older bees that overwintered. Ladybirds have been appearing on warm days too. Later this month butterflies, which have been hiding away in nooks and crannies in your sheds, will also appear on sunny days and seek out leaves on which to lay eggs. Their year will then be done.

So it’s all systems go - unless we have some hard frosts or snow, which isn’t unusual in March!

Peter

KILMINGTON GO WILD!

A bunch of us in Kilmington are keen to let ‘Kilmington Go Wild’ this spring by planting wild flowers, herbs and fruit trees in and around the village. If you are part of a school, church family, community group, have a garden, or a window box, a hanging basket etc.... and it's easy for you to get permission to plant and bring some much needed cheer to our lovely village, then please do get in touch. We just want to encourage people to get stuck in, share seeds and trees and then get planting and enjoy the fruit of our labours. We don’t have to stop at spring let’s make Kilmington bloom.



Kilmington Parish Council like our idea and they are happy to give advice on which areas are appropriate. So could we have suggestions please of where you think it would be nice to plant seeds and trees in

the village, other than on your own property. We can then suggest these places, together with what we would like to plant, to the Council to check that they are happy for us to proceed, or not - in which case they would give advice.

We’ve already had some enthusiastic response for the project, so I hope we can get an active group together to share ideas and get some results working together. I guess we need to think about what seeds and trees we can source, perhaps in bulk.

We will be setting up a Facebook page with maps etc. of where we can plant as some areas are protected. We understand a lot of people may not be on Facebook or Emails, but we can find other ways to update you.

If you are interested to learn more or join us, please contact me: christinethorne1958@gmail.com Telephone: 07814 041059 or 01297 34946 or pop us a note at 6 The Orchard.

Christine Thorne

NATURE NOTES

KILMINGTON HEDGEHOG UPDATE

It's been a busy winter for hedgehog rescues, through lockdown there have been more people out and about walking and a much greater number of small, struggling hedgehogs have been found and handed in. Most years they are not seen and perish in the cold. The local rescue group I work



with has had almost 40 to look after these last few months. I have continued to look after a few to help out. Some of you may have seen my post on the Kilmington Now Facebook page when I found a very small hog on the grass along The Street just before Christmas. We named him Noel! He was only 228 grams; how he was still alive is a miracle. We didn't think he would make it as he had lungworm. Thankfully he has responded well to treatment and today is very healthy weighing in at 922 grams.

Here in the Southwest we are lucky to have mild winters and this means our hedgehog population doesn't hibernate throughout the whole winter. Only when it gets really cold do they sleep, sometimes only for a few days at a time. Then they'll often wake up and go looking for food and replenish their bedding before returning to sleep again.

Last autumn we housed six hogs in our garden, each in its own little house. We keep an eye on their activities by putting a small stick in front of the entrance to each house. We can see if and when they're up and about as they knock the stick out the way - simple but effective! We don't take the lids of the boxes off to check as this would disturb them

and may wake them up if they are hibernating. We have kept several feeding areas going in the garden, putting dry kitten food and water in them for when the hogs do wake up. However, after a WebCam showed we were feeding the local cat population and a passing fox, we had to make special covered areas with small entrances that only the hogs can squeeze through.

In addition to those hogs out in the garden, we have been nursing a few underweight hogs indoors that couldn't be released. Keeping them indoors, they are warmer; we can monitor their feeding and check regularly to make sure they are putting on weight. I've had up to five in individual cages in the garage and one very small one, called Woody, who was on a heat pad in her cage in my office, as she was only 360 grams. Thankfully she fattened up and is now just over 1 kg. The target is to get them well if they have any illness, worms etc. and increase their size to over 750 grams. I then transfer them into hutches in the garden shed, where it's quieter, to acclimatise to the cold and encourage them to hibernate. We now have three down there, with two still in the garage. All have been sleeping for a short periods, especially when we had that really cold spell in early February.

The objective is to release all the hogs in March when the weather is milder and their natural food, insects etc. are plentiful. We have already fixed release sites across the village so, when the weather really does warm, we can all enjoy them wandering around the village.



Lesley

DID YOU KNOW?

On 27th September 1940, Hurricane pilot Charlton Haw was shot down over Bristol after destroying a Messerschmitt Bf110 and landed his damaged aircraft in a field at Gammons Hill Farm, Kilmington, unhurt.

Haw would later be awarded the 'Order of Lenin' for his "devotion to the common cause" as one of only four RAF pilots to be honoured by the Russians for fighting on the Eastern Front in WWII.

Alan Clarkson



WE NEED HELP!

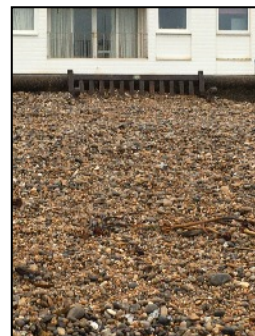
If anyone feels that they can open their garden on the weekend of 24th/25th April, however small and even if work is in progress, then please get in touch with Mary-Anne on 07778 000200 or Jane on 01297 33063.

We need miles more bunting! Anyone good with a needle (or sewing machine), then please get sewing and feel free to be as creative as you like!

THE POWER OF THE SEA

Many of us have enjoyed a walk along Seaton seafront, but just look at what a few hours of storm can do. This happened on Saturday night the 30th January 2021. All the pebbles were pushed up by the waves onto the promenade, thank goodness the wall was there or there would have been a lot more damage. I can remember many years ago when they built the 'wall' there were many grumbings about it but it has served its purpose many times. The sea is not a force to be reckoned with!!

Jill Collier



ANSWERS TO WALK-ABOUT QUIZ

Left to right top row: The New Inn Garden; Topiary - Beacon Car Park; Post Box - Whitford Road; Beacon Flame on the Beacon Baptist Church, Kilminster - Whitford Road, Light - The New Inn

Left to right middle row: Old Newtons gate - The Street; Arthur Hitchcock gate - Playing Field; Original Beacon - Shute Woods; Seat - Whitehayes Close

Left to right bottom row: Water filler - The Street; Benchmark - Shute Road; War Memorial - Shute Road; Bird House - Brookside, The Street; Sight Screen - Cricket Pitch; Elf? - The Street (not sure what he is really?)

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MAD moments in the garden

Looking through seed catalogues recently with an abandoned promise to myself not to succumb, I was surprised how many varieties were out of stock or the wait time for delivery was very long. It got me thinking about the benefits of saving your own seed and that led me to my favourite seed suppliers called The Real Seed Company. Their website gives a lot of information about how best to save seed for future years.

Sitting down to write the article this month I was tempted to write about that, given supplier problems resulting from the high demand and importing from the EU now being somewhat problematic. It however seems much more sensible to address this topic later in the year when seeds will be there to be collected! Something however to remember is, if you decide to save seed in particular from vegetables, do choose one or a few healthy plants to grow on past harvesting the crop. The plants are best grown from field-germinated seed rather than hybrids or F1 varieties, as those are apparently less likely to come true.

So I turned to my garden for a moment and realised the beauty that is easily achievable underneath deciduous trees. The selection of plants growing or beginning to grow brightens the winter flowerbed before the trees block out some of the sun and it becomes a different growing environment altogether.

A friend's daughter has recently moved and was asking advice about planting her small city garden. I promised to think about it and get back to her. Looking at the snowdrops and hellebores, I remembered reading about planting in layers as a way of maximizing plant choices and seasonal interest in a small space. My excitement around planning and planting a new garden I was more than happy to share. Using the layers idea, I suggested starting at the top; three small trees perhaps, one narrow upright evergreen for structure, an *Acer palmatum* for light shade, good colour in winter and maybe a Crab Apple to provide blossom, autumn

colour and food for the birds. As I look out of my window I see *Acer palmatum* Sango-Kaku, its bark glowing a pinky orange through the gloomy afternoon low light. Behind it is a Silver Birch, *Betula Jacquemontii*, another striking tree in winter and the light branches and foliage provide some good movement, this might be another option.

So the middle layer, a shrub (depending on the garden's shape and size) or two, perhaps, an evergreen to provide winter interest. I can't help suggesting *Daphne bholua*, Jacqueline Postil (as usual), a pretty flower and fabulous wafting scent all winter long, or maybe some clipped balls of box or *Pittosporum*. The latter is, I think, more interesting and not prone to box blight, *Pittosporum* Golf Ball or Tom Thumb would be good. *Hydrangea arborescens* Annabel would make another mid-layer plant, with a long season of interest, the flower heads appealing in early summer, light green opening to a creamy white on slender arching stems which last well into late autumn. I leave mine until spring to prune along with removing the old flower heads. By then they are a bit tatty but have given a bit of variety to the winter scene. The next layer can move between the ground and the middle layer with perennials to provide some ground cover such as geranium, or height and texture with a few grasses for summer and autumn. In the gaps masses of bulbs, snowdrops, narcissus, tulips, alliums, all to add a range of colour.

I bet she wished she had never asked.

Just to finish off, I say, oh yes, remember a focal plant, a wow flower, colour or a fabulous scent for each month, oh, and winding paths and a seat in the sun. The kids will have to go to the park for football.

"Well," she says, "that's easy then! When are you coming to help."

Mary-Ann Driscoll

KILMINGTON GARDENING CLUB - UPDATE

Last month we mentioned the possibility of offering our members some talks via Zoom. Having considered this idea, with both speakers and yourselves, we now believe that this is not a feasible proposition. These are unprecedented times and the Committee, like many other Clubs, have been trying to navigate a way through the maze to find a solution for you all. What we intend to offer to members as an alternative, is a list of suggested talks, speakers, workshops and gardens that can be accessed online. This will give members the flexibility, of watching at their own convenience.

In spite of our previous optimism about being able to hold the Village Show on July 24th, the Committee have had to postpone this event. We have not arrived at this decision lightly, but the health and safety of everybody involved in both organisational aspects and for all visitors attending, is paramount. The current restrictions around people mixing and the financial implications makes planning near impossible. We have decided, however, to provide some sort of garden event for the Village in September, but cannot be more specific at this point.

Following the success of a limited opening of gardens last year, the Committee are planning to hold a Village Open Gardens in the Spring. The NGS and Hospiscare will be announcing the opening of some gardens in the coming months as well. Plans are also being made to hold a Plant Market on May 1st, depending on our Nursery supplier and restrictions leading up to the date.

In the meantime, the virus does not prevent plants from growing! Spring bulbs are beginning to flower in the banks and gardens, with many camellias in flower. The grass is also showing signs of growth, people are chitting their seed potatoes for rewards later in the season. As the vaccination timetable progresses, we hope that the next article will be more positive and upbeat. Meanwhile, enjoy the longer daylight hours and positive signs of new colourful growth that we are seeing in and around the Village.

Gill Gibbs (Chair) and Committee



HOSPISCARE MEN'S WALK 2021



Hospiscare provides end of life care for terminally ill adults and their families in Exeter, Mid and East Devon at no cost to its patients. It receives 18% of its funding from the NHS and the rest is raised from donations and events in the local community. This year it needs that support more than ever because the pandemic has had a drastic effect on its income. The Men's Walk, in which over 1,000 men walked eight miles through Exeter, has devised a way of celebrating its tenth anniversary safely but differently. Taking place on Saturday, 20th March, participants will take part in **Men's Walk – Your Way** and will walk a route of their choice in their local area. All the iconic elements of Men's Walk will

remain the same. Every walker will receive a Men's Walk t-shirt, a special 10th anniversary beer, courtesy of Exeter Brewery, and a pasty from Chunk of Devon – and Ireland v. England in the Six Nations rugby tournament to enjoy on the box afterwards! It is a popular event and some people have taken part every year since it began. The charity is grateful to all the walkers, as well as the generous event supporter, Wilkinson Grant.

To sign up to Men's Walk – Your Way and raise sponsorship to support your local hospice charity, visit <https://www.hospiscare.co.uk/menswalk>

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF AXMINSTER HOSPITAL FUNDING AXMINSTER HOSPISCARE AT HOME

In support of Axminster medical practice (AMP) we are augmenting their media communications with our own. The AMP is working seven days a week to provide the continued GP services alongside the vaccination programme. It has vaccinated a significant percentage of at-risk patients using both Pfizer and Oxford/AZ vaccines and is working to the government's roll-out priorities. The practice will contact you to offer you a vaccination date. Looking at the success and efficiency of this method over the recent months for both the flu vaccine and the Covid-19 vaccine, there is no need to consider changing it. People will be contacted: a) in line with the government's priorities, and b) by the availability of the vaccine. The latter is not within the control of AMP.

Please also be aware that the vaccine may not be suitable for people with certain medical conditions. Be patient and do everything you can to keep yourself and others safe.

It is expected that priority groups 1 – 4 will be processed by the end of February. Then the order is:

- 5) all those 65 years of age and over
- 6) all those aged 16 – 64 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality.
- 7) all those 60 years of age and over
- 8) all those 55 years of age and over
- 9) all those 50 years of age and over

Obey the rules and stay safe.

Ann Veit – LOF Secretary



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4	2	9	6	1	7	5	3	8
3	7	5	9	4	8	6	2	1
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Mina x



Scott Rowe

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KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus Neighbourhood Support Group

We hope you are keeping well despite the news that this new variant of Coronavirus is spreading more easily. It is at least heartening to learn that vaccinations are already well underway in the village. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Following the Government announcement of the latest 'Lockdown' we are continuing to run the volunteer help system that has worked so well to date, thanks to the excellent community spirit we enjoy in the village. We will update this support as and when we need. Please follow the guidelines below. Then, if you need further help, contact one of our team.

Volunteer Helpers: If you were offering help to 'vulnerable residents' previously, we assume you will kindly continue, unless you tell us otherwise. Please make contact to those you were assisting to reassure them of your continued help. If you are now unable to provide assistance, please let Peter Ball know who you were helping and we will arrange alternative support.

Vulnerable Residents: If you were receiving help from a volunteer neighbour previously and now need help, please contact them again to ask if they can assist you during this new 'Lockdown'. If they are unable to help, please contact Peter Ball and he will arrange for another volunteer to call and assist you. If you did not need help previously but do now require some assistance, contact Peter.

Axminster Medical Practice: Residents have been collecting their own prescription medicines for some time now. However, if you are within the 'vulnerable' category and do not now wish to visit the practice, please contact Sally.

Parish Council Support for Kilmington residents is available from:

Peter Ball: pball@kilmingtonvillage.com 07747 636810

Stafford Seward: sseward@kilmingtonvillage.com
07799 612557

Sally Huscroft: shuscroft@kilmingtonvillage.com
01297 32243

As always, official information can be found at:

Kilmington Village Website has local and Parish Council information and links to National Government and Devon Council sites.

Kilmington Council Notice Boards display Parish information.

The Kilmington Now Facebook site also publishes some important updates from Kilmington Parish Council.

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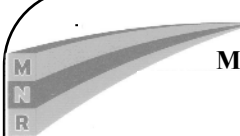
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DATES FOR MARCH 2021

Mon	1st	Early	Your House	Landfill with recycling
Tues	2nd	Early	Your House	Garden Waste Collection
Tues	16th	Early	Your House	Garden Waste Collection
Sat	20th		Your Area	Hospiscare Men's Walk Your Way (<i>see page 20</i>)
Mon	22nd	Early	Your House	Landfill with recycling
Sun	28th	Early	Your House	British Summertime Begins
Tues	30th	Early	Your House	Garden Waste Collection

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It has been necessary to set up alternative arrangements following the closure of the village shop.

DIRECTIONS FOR FINDING Vicky Larcombe's house. Vicky is treasurer for Postscript.

From Whitford Road turn left and walk up The Street, passing Koppers, Kushi Kitchen, the Bull Pen and West Gate on your right. The next house is **Brookside** where Mrs Vicky Larcombe lives. If you find yourself crossing Meadow Bank, you have gone a few steps too far.

Please post payments for advertising in Postscript and donations to help with printing costs through the front door of Vicky Larcombe's house. Thank you.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

VILLAGE NUMBERS

Bell-ringing - Celia Dunsford	01297 33563	Kilminster's Little Helpers - Sally Huscroft	01297 32243	Short Mat Bowls - Ron Foster	01297 35529
Bridge - David & Stephanie	01297 35033	Kilminster Pre-School - Now part of primary school	01297 32762	Sunday School - Christine Thorne	07795 552675
Country Dancing - Gill Perkins - Marie Thorne	01297 32888 01297 33906	Kilminster Primary School	01297 32762	Table Tennis - Jenny Nickolls	01297 639758
Cricket - David Lavender	01297 631868	Millers Farm Shop	01297 35290	Tennis - Sue Moore Sue Wells	01297 32361 07912 272102
Footpath co-ordinator - Elaine Penzer	01297 34287	Moviola - John Watts	01297 639758	Village Hall bookings - Louise Quincey	01297 32358
Hitchcock Pavilion bookings - Peter Huscroft	01297 32243	The New Inn	01297 33376	Village 100+ Club - Jean Falconer	01297 33708
Kilminster A35 Pit Stop	01297 598060	The Old Inn	01297 32096	www.kilminstervillage.com - Luke & Maxine Lawson	07719 909532
Kilminster Cross Services	01297 631089	RBL - Jean Falconer - Sec Stafford Seward - Chairman	01297 33708 01297 33909		
KGC - Jean Falconer, Secretary	01297 33708	Scrabble - Sylvia Newbery	01297 34326		

MEDICAL AND SUPPORT

Axminster Hospital	01297 630400	'Devon Doctors on call' (Out of hours GP service)	0845 6710270	Veterinary Surgery	01297 630500
St Thomas Court Surgery	01297 32126	Dentist Helpline	03330 063300		

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Refuse Collection	01395 571515	Axminster Library	01297 32693	Clerk to the Parish Council	07800 826657
Water - general - leaks	0344 346 2020 0800 230 0561	Mobile Library	01404 42818	E. Devon District Councillor - Iain Chubb	01297 35468
Electricity - emergency	0800 365 900	Ring & Ride	01404 46520	Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown, Iain Chubb	07932 459595
		Axminster Care Service	01297 35550		

Police: Crime stoppers - 0800 555111; Emergency - 999; General - 101

CHURCHES

St Giles' Church Pastoral teams	01297 33777	Baptist Church Office Pastor Darrell Holmes	01297 631638	Axminster Catholic Church Parish Priest: Father Anthony Cockram	01297 32135
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PAYMENT: Cheques should be made payable to: Kilminster Postscript and posted to: **Mrs V. Larcombe, Brookside, The Street, Kilminster, EX13 7RJ.** BACS account name is **Kilminster Postscript**, sort code: **51.61.23**, account no: **18159400**

COMING AND GOING FOR A SONG: There is no charge for these entries for items valued up to £20 or less. However, donations are appreciated - these can be popped through Vicky Larcombe's door (please see directions on page 22).



Celebrate the onset of Spring

**Kilmington Village Open
Gardens**

Decorate the village
Share the gardens
Enjoy tea, a family quiz
Raising funds for our Village Hall

April 24th and 25th

Organised by Kilmington Gardening Club