

KILMINGTON

POSTscript

Issue 257 September 2023



Editorial

A big 'Thank you' to the young artist whose print appears on Postscript's cover this month. It was created during the very successful 'Go wild on the Common' event in June. People of all ages were invited to visit and explore the area of rehabilitated heathland between Shute Road and Roman Road, with its fauna and flora, including the reintroduced rare Heath Lobelia. A lot of hard work by local people has gone into this project and the event was part of East Devon AONB's 60th Anniversary Celebrations.

We welcome Rob Swain as our new compiler, who has made some up-to-date adjustments to improve readability and usefulness. The QR codes, which appear alongside reports from some organisations, are likely to be familiar nowadays to many readers, who will be able to show others how these can be applied to lead directly to those organisations' websites, in search of further information. We hope that the content, almost entirely provided by the village community, will continue to inform, interest and entertain as it always has done and we also welcome new contributors. We especially thank all those who sent their items in well before the closing date for this month's edition.

Despite frequent torrential rain, this summer's planned events were able to go ahead, damply. The Baptist Church reports on its imaginative and enjoyable holiday club for children. KGC members visited Agatha Christie's home and garden at Greenway House in June and organised a horticultural weekend with flower show and open gardens in July. Still to come is the Village Show in September with a variety of stalls and activities. Did you grow potatoes in a bag? This may be your moment to shine! We also have news of clubs and activities which are starting up again after the August break. Country dancing sessions will resume in the Village Hall and the Community Cinema announces its next film. Experienced gardeners share their expertise and frustrations, the Axminster and District Choral Society is looking for more members and Hospiscare hopes to find people to run fundraising coffee mornings.

A recent conversation in George Lane with two hi-vis people from Openreach wielding clipboards yielded the information that another attempt is planned to improve the speed of Broadband in Kilminster. The last attempt had been abandoned, they said, because they had decided to do it somewhere else instead. Some small sections of the village with newer houses already benefited from the improvements, they said, but most of us did not. One more wire will be added to those already carried on poles along the road, but it will be welcomed by many, especially those working from home.

Janfryd

Front page photo: Marie Gardner Centre spread: Marie Gardner

About Postscript

Please email all contributions for Postscript content to:

postscript@kilmingtonvillage.com

Alternatively, please give your item to any team member.

The closing date for submitting articles for the October issue is 15th September 2023. Earlier submission is always encouraged to ease the burden on the volunteers!

All submissions will be acknowledged. Please email, or ring 01297 639115 if not acknowledged within 48 hours.

Postscript Team

Editor

Janfryd Gordon-Kerr
01297 639115
janfryd@gordon-kerr.org.uk

Compiler

Rob Swain 07771 984842
layout@invisibledoor.com

Team

Peter Ball 01297 32631
mycraigdon@aol.com

Jill Collier 01297 32390
summerleaze@hotmail.co.uk

Marie Gardner
m.gardner6819@gmail.com

Gill Perkins 01297 32888
gillperkins23@icloud.com

Gill Heighway 01297 33951
gillheighway@gmail.com

Distribution

Diane Overton
01297 33569
diane.overton@outlook.com

Treasurer

Vicky Larcombe
01297 33858
vlarcombe30@aol.com

Postal address

The Granary, George Lane, Kilminster, EX13 7RT

Postscript is published 10 times each year and is delivered free of charge to every house in Kilminster. 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.

Postscript is printed by Axminster Printing 01297 32266

Advertising Payments & Donations

Please see p26 for details for arrangements for donating to Postscript and paying for advertising.

For **advertising rates**, please see p27.

Donations to date total £46.00.

All donations go towards printing costs.

Thank you for your continuing support.

The average production cost per 28-page copy of Postscript with several colour pages is 80p. Extra copies are usually available from Millers Farm Shop.

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, and that articles do not contain defamatory, libellous, or copyright/plagiarised material (text and/or images). The content of advertisements is not the responsibility of the editorial team. All queries should be addressed to the advertiser. This publication is online at www.kilmingtonvillage.com. where there is also an archive of earlier issues.



Kilminster Parish Council

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

A notice has been posted on notice boards and on the village website giving notice that the 2022/23 accounts have now been finalised and the internal audit has been completed. If you wish to see details, please contact our Clerk
Adrian Jenkins kilminsterparishclerk@aol.com

Devon County Council Highways (DCCH)

DCCH visited and we carried out a 'walk through' meeting around the village to discuss the extent and practicalities of the proposed 20mph speed limit. The meeting was very successful and it seems we will be able to introduce the lower limit over almost all of the existing 30mph area. DCCH are developing the technical plans and will confirm the extent and signage details in the coming weeks.

National Highways A35

We await further news.

Community Speed Watch

We await the delivery of equipment and the on-site training.

Allotments

Nicky and Kieran are now your councillors responsible for the allotments. They have been meeting some allotment holders already to discuss the site. If you would like details of

the village allotment scheme, please contact them. Their contact details are on notice boards and the village website.

Kilminster Common

Thanks to our volunteer group who continue their work on the common. We have agreed a plan for the management of the common which provides defined areas for recreation and enjoyment whilst providing different areas of habitat. We hoped to give the details this month but will now publish the plan in the next Postscript.

New Inn Defibrillator

Fund raising for the third village defib. which will be located at The New Inn, has been progressing well thanks to Spike and Vikki. A massive thank you to all those who have donated funds so far. We are now discussing the final details for purchase, insurance, the Palmers hosting agreement, and a maintenance package. We hope to be able to install the new equipment by the end of this month. We are also planning training sessions to familiarise residents with the unit. However, fundraising will continue to enable the on-going maintenance to be financed.

Peter

Next Meeting 11th September 19:00 in the Pavilion

Helen Shaw



Postscript readers who have been loyally reading our village magazine since early 2000 will be saddened to learn of Helen's death on 10th July. She was the editor of Postscript from 2004–06. Co-opted to the team as the cub reporter, I enjoyed her wicked sense of humour and great sense of fun. Our "planning" meetings for the next issue, whilst addressing the serious side, were hilarious.

She was a great researcher and wrote interesting articles throughout her life, as well as being an avid bridge player and even joining the Silver Swans ballet class when she moved to Sidmouth. Socially she was warm and friendly to everyone and when she and Julian left Kilminster to move to Sidmouth, we all felt the loss. At peace now after her bravely fought illness, we extend our sympathy to her husband Julian and children Austin and Penelope and grandchildren Tom and Sophie.

Stephanie Hathaway

Farewell to Val, Hello to Rob



Many thanks to Val Harding for all that she has done for Postscript. As you will have read, the July/August 2023 edition was the last compiled by Val, after 10 years of hard work pulling together the disparate stories, adverts, and contributions from across the village. It is now my task to take over as your new compiler.

Some of you already know me as I have lived in the village for about 2 years with my wife and two feline overlords. Although my wife is Devon born and bred, I originate from Kent (someone has to). We moved to Lyme Regis over 20 years ago, but had been frequent visitors to the area from the early 80s onward; consequently we are familiar with the history and amenities of the wider environs of the Devon/Dorset border, and have shopped at Millers for many years.

My working career was spent in the Broadcast industry, starting in BBC Outside Broadcasts where I had the pleasure of working on many sporting events, dramas and, thrillingly in retrospect, Live Aid. My first visit to the area was working on the Radio1 Roadshow in 1984, if anyone remembers those?

I then worked at ITV for 4 years, where I became heavily involved with what are termed "Access Services", which includes Subtitling, and it was through this that I learnt a lot about making things clearer for the visually impaired. I left ITV in 2000 to work with two other colleagues to set up our own broadcast service company, where I filled a vast array of roles, including user manual writing, sales brochure design for trade shows and web marketing, aspects of which will be useful for Postscript, I hope.

Rob Swain

What's On in September

Kilmington Community Cinema

What's Love Got To Do With It? (12A)

Wednesday 13th September
Thursday 14th Matinee

Kilmington Village Hall



Kilmington Community Cinema

KCC is licensed for the screening of cinematic productions to an audience.

"Think about it: when did you last see a great British romcom? Can you even remember the last time anyone achieved that perfect alchemy between wistful longing, self-deprecating humour and characters who live in incredibly nice houses?"

There's been endless fretting about whether the genre can adapt to a more inclusive, feminist age – but with the big-hearted *What's Love Got to Do With It?* we can call off the search party. The first feature film written by Jemima Khan is a charming cross-cultural comedy that can be ranked alongside British classics like *Bend It Like Beckham* and has the confidence of a Richard Curtis classic."

The Independent

Come along and enjoy a film and have wine/soft drinks, ice-creams/tea/coffee. Cream Teas available during the matinee interval.

Wednesday, Doors open 6:45pm, and the evening's entertainment starts at 7:15pm and ends about 9:30pm.
Thursday matinee, Doors open 1:45pm, Film starts 2pm.

Upcoming films:

October



November



December



Country Dancing

Country Dancing starts again the 11th September 2 – 4pm.
New members welcome.

For more information please contact either
Gill Perkins 01297 32888 or Marie Thorne 01297 631194.

Five Alive Oil Syndicate

The September order deadline falls at
6pm on Tuesday 26th September

Please submit a request for either an exact amount or if requesting a "top up", a full tank, then please furnish me with an accurate estimate (100 litres) of the quantity you require. A minimum request of 500 litres applies.

Colin Stewart
01297 792538
cogstewartcs@gmail.com
cogstewart@aol.com



Local hospice charity, Hospiscare, is once again asking the community to come together and host a Coffee Morning this September. Hospiscare provides specialist care to patients diagnosed with a life-limiting illness. During such a difficult time many cups of tea and coffee are given to each patient, their friends and family.

For more information and to find out all the different ways you could set up your own Coffee Morning event, please visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/coffeemorning Upon signing up, you'll receive a free fundraising pack with lots of helpful tips to get your Coffee Morning underway!

Mobile Library

Tuesday, 19th September 2023 at 11:15-11:45 am The Street

What's On in September

Kilmingtion Sky at Night

Throughout September you can see Jupiter, Saturn and Venus, and there is one meteor shower:

- **Venus** can be seen easily in the morning sky, appearing around 04:00 in the East North East
- **Jupiter** at the start of the month rises in the East North East around 22:00, appearing earlier as the month progresses to 20:30 by month end
- **Saturn** appears in the south east sky around 20:30, also getting earlier to 19:30 by month end
- **Mars** is below the horizon through the night, so can't be seen

September

- 1st **Sunrise 06:27 Sunset 19:59**

Aurigid meteor shower starts our month having been active from August 28th to September 5th, producing its peak rate of around six meteors per hour on 1st September. The radiant point rises above our eastern horizon and is likely to produce its best displays shortly before dawn

- 4th **Jupiter** and the moon appear close together tonight, rising in the east north east around 22:00
- 23rd **Autumn equinox** (aequus – equal; nox – night) marks our first day of autumn
We'll get almost exactly 12 hours of day and night. And the Sun will rise from the point on the horizon which lies due east, and set beneath the point which lies due west
- 27th **Saturn** and the moon appear close throughout tonight
- 29th **Full 'Harvest' Moon**, the term traced back to at least 1706 by the Oxford English Dictionary
- 30th **Sunrise: 07:12 Sunset: 18:55**

Peter



Kilmingtion Village Show

Saturday 9th September at 1pm



Join us for a great afternoon of fun for all the family, including your dog, at our annual village show. We have loads of lovely stalls, skittles, sideshows, and games so there's lots to do and see. If you prefer to sit back and relax, you can listen to the music from The Jurassix. There is also plenty to eat and drink, a beer tent, barbecue, cream teas, cake, and ice creams.

The kids' favourite, Professor Bumble will be clowning around the showground, and with a bouncy castle, games, races and face-painting, the kids should be kept happy all afternoon. The children's fancy dress will be held at 1:30pm in the arena with the theme 'Best of British'.

The Gardening Club will be holding their Baking, Art, Crafts, Photography, and Junior competition in the village hall.

The schedule is available to download from www.kilmingtongardeningclub.co.uk or you can pick a copy up from Millers Farm Shop, or St Giles' Church.

Garwynn will be bringing along his snakes and reptiles for you to cuddle! and the crocs are giving the chickens a year off, so we have croc racing!!

Our Family Fun Dog Show has 10 classes, so there's a class or two for your four-legged friend, Rosettes for 1st – 6th place, and a trophy for Best of Show.

We look forward to seeing you. Please note this is a cash only event.

Kilmingtion Community Association



Axminster & District Choral Society



Come and sing with us

If you are thinking of joining a choir, Axminster and District Choral Society will welcome you as we start rehearsals for our autumn concert. The programme includes J S Bach's joyful cantata *Wachet Auf* (Sleepers Wake), and Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and *Credo*.

Our autumn term starts on September 5th. Do come along for a trial rehearsal or two to see whether you would like to join us. There are no auditions and you don't have to be able to read music. Scores are provided.

We meet in the Minster Church, Axminster on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30. Rehearsals are led by our Music Director Peter Parshall, and are both enjoyable and interesting.



For more details please contact the Membership Secretary through the Join Us page on our website www.axminsterchoral.co.uk or phone 01404 43805.



Baptist Church Annual Summer Holiday Club

During the first week of August, the Baptist Church Kilminster explored science and faith at its annual Summer Holiday Club. Scripture Union's Wonder Zone holiday club explored various passages from the Bible and the aspects of science they related to. It was a week of science experiments, songs, games, stories, drama, puppets, snacks, workouts (led by the 'Axe Valley Scientists'), fun & lots of laughter.

We were able to welcome a total of 75 children, mainly aged 5 – 11 years, from various schools in the area, plus a few visiting children too. Some came excitedly remembering previous holiday clubs, others nervously joining us for the first time, and as the week progressed, we could see their increasing eagerness by the queue forming at the door earlier and earlier for a 10 o'clock start. We also had 10 amazing youth volunteers, most of whom have come up through our holiday clubs and enjoyed it so much they wanted to come back as helpers. It was lovely to see relationships build & strengthen, especially between children from different schools.

On the Friday afternoon, over 150 of us enjoyed the 'Sausage Sizzle', where parents, carers, family, and friends were able to join their children and the volunteer team for some delicious hot dogs, prepared by our catering team, and get a bit of a taste of what the children had been up to throughout the week.



It was wonderful to see so many people having fun together. The 'Sausage Sizzle' finished with the children singing some of the songs from the week, Prof J (Juletta) & Prof K (Karen) gave an overview of the topics covered, a song was performed by our puppet team and a slide show of photos was shown.

On the Sunday morning, our week culminated with the Holiday Club Celebration service, we welcomed our Holiday Club families and our church family to share and celebrate together all that had been going on in the previous week. Every child received a personalised certificate for all their efforts, and once again the children put on a great show for all who attended.

It was an incredible week for all involved with some wonderful children. Our volunteer team was made up of people from The Baptist Church Kilminster, St. Giles' and Purzebrook Chapel Axminster. Even the adults enjoyed building and strengthening their relationships. There were so many people involved in making the club a success, from those who were working behind the scenes and helping with advance preparations to all those involved during the week. A massive thank you goes to each and every one.

Juletta Obudo

Healthy Start Scheme

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, the Healthy Start Scheme can help you get free vitamins, or buy healthy food such as:

- plain liquid cow's milk
- fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables
- fresh, dried, and tinned pulses
- infant formula milk based on cow's milk

You need to be claiming certain benefits, such as Universal Credit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Tax Credit or Pension Credit to qualify.

If you're pregnant and under 18 you can claim even if you do not receive any benefits.

Eligible applicants receive a Healthy Start card with credit on it, which will be topped up every 4 weeks.

If you qualify you get:

- £4.25 each week of your pregnancy from the 10th week
- £8.50 each week for children from birth to 1 year old
- £4.25 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old

It is estimated that nationally some £45 million pounds' worth of 'Healthy Start' vouchers go unclaimed each year, so make sure you don't miss out. Apply online at <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/apply-for-healthy-start/>



Ann Dorey



QUESTION: WHAT DO THE MAJORITY OF THESE HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS HAVE IN COMMON ?

ANSWER: Chemicals in : cleaning materials, make-up, detergents, fabric conditioners, body wash, deodorants, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, mouthwash, perfumes, beauty products, air fresheners etc

1

PLASTIC PACKAGING

- So much around the items and poured into it.
- Much of it single-use.

TRICLOSAN

- Anti - microbial agent. Classed as a pesticide. Can affect the body's hormones, Toxic to aquatic life. Used in deodorants, cosmetics, toothpaste, mouthwash etc.

2

3

PARABENS

- Preservatives, anti-fungal agents. Linked to hormone disruption, skin irritation, reproductive toxicity

SODIUM LAURYL SULPHATE (SLS)

- Foaming agent. Used in cleaners, cosmetics, hair, shower and dental products. Also a food thickener! Known skin irritant

4

5

FORMALDEHYDE (E.G 'QUARTERNIUM-15')

- Preservative. Used in nail polishes, eyelash glues, hair gels, cosmetics, shampoos. Also used as a food preserver. Causes skin irritation.

PHthalATES

- Preservative. Used in cosmetics, shampoos, deodorants, laundry detergents, food etc. Linked to endocrine disruption, reproductive toxicity, cancer. Gives plastic different properties e.g. flexible, rigid etc.

6

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Research the above
- Look for products that are marked as free from SLS, Parabens etc
- Look out for and avoid ingredients with the suffix 'phthalates'
- Look for eco friendly options

It's not the amount in the individual products but the fact that these chemicals are in so many goods which we use over a prolonged period of time in our daily lives. These then damage our environment.



Devon's Best Young Landscape Artist Competition 2023

Are you aged 7-11 or 12-18?

To celebrate the natural beauty of Devon's coast and countryside, Devon CPRE's 'Best Young Landscape Artist' competition is inviting young artists to submit a painting, drawing or mixed media artwork capturing a landscape of their choice. Anything goes as long as it's in Devon - a favourite beach or beauty spot, a local park or green space, somewhere visited on a day out or even the artist's own garden.

PRIZES: £100 for the winning entry in each age category and £25 runner-up prizes.

Closing date: Saturday 30 September 2023

PLUS some of the best entries will be on display in Okehampton at The Museum of Dartmoor Life.



Museum of Dartmoor Life

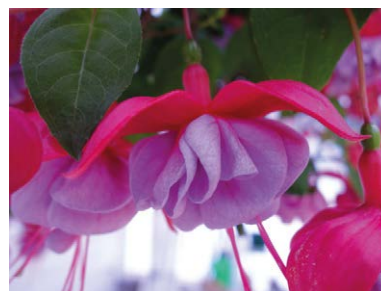
DEVON CPRE
The Voice for Devon's Countryside
www.cpredevon.org.uk

To enter, simply post us your artwork which must be A3 or A4 size, clearly marking your name, full contact details and age to: Devon CPRE, PO Box 26, Beaworthy, EX21 5XN.

For full details visit cpredevon.org.uk



Flower of the Month



Fuchsia

Stuart's Sweeping Service

Your local chimney sweep



07432 118318 or
01404 831288

Evening and weekend appointments available.

Rev Julie Lomas
St Giles' Church
Kilmington
01297 35004 or 07488 278 483
revjulielomas@gmail.com

Letter from the Churches



Pastor Mike Hudson
KBC Church Office
Kilmington
07957 738 211
pastor@baptistchurchkilmington.org

Every year when we reach the month of September, I get that “new year” feeling, which I am sure stems back to the many years when I have been involved with education – either as a child, or as the mother of children, (and now grandmother – eek!). September reminds me more than any other month, that the seasons change whether we like it or not, and this month marks the most noticeable change as we enter it at the tail-end of summer and leave it well into autumn.

A casual look at the internet shows that September also has a number of “international” days such as International Literacy Day on the 8th; World Suicide Prevention Day on the 10th; International Day of Peace on the 21st. All these are very important, but I have to confess my favourite one is on the 19th and is known as International Talk Like a Pirate Day – shiver me timbers! Sadly, the Google search failed to bring up our local patron saint, St Giles, whose feast day falls on the 1st September.

However, all is not lost! This year you are invited to “Come and See” St Giles at work in the church on Sunday 3rd from 2 – 4pm. We are running this day not just for the building, but also to demonstrate that the spirit of St Giles lives on by way of hospitality, care for the community and the natural

environment, and through prayer and the practice of the Christian faith. You will be able to have a guided tour of the church with local historian, Mike Tyler, look at the original window depicting St Giles and then have a go at designing one of your own. We have arranged for tours up the tower, and you may even get chance to ring one of the six church bells under the careful tuition and supervision of Tower Captain, Celia Dunsford. As you may know, St Giles' Church members are very keen makers of tea and cake so there will be plenty on hand to refresh you, and for the little ones, a trail around the churchyard celebrating all things “small and mighty.” There will also be the opportunity to make a financial donation to the ongoing life and ministry of your village church, should you so wish.

“Come and see” is one of the first invitations that Jesus made in the Bible (John ch 1), and it is our joy to issue that invitation to you again this September, whether on the 3rd or any other day. Watch out for this and other events taking place at both your village churches (St Giles' and The Baptist Church) over the coming weeks and months.

Praying for our village,

Rev Julie Lomas (St Giles' Church)

Big Bells, Little Bells

The recently formed Kilmington Handbell group was invited to take part in Songs of Praise in the vicarage garden on Sunday, July 30th. Two new members who hadn't tried handbells before joined in, and we met on four Saturday mornings to learn a few appropriate hymns – lots of fun and laughter got us through those practices, and on a rather dull Sunday afternoon the music sang out – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, Come let us join, Morning has broken, Joy to the World, How great Thou art and, To God be the Glory – the audience was complimentary, and the sound carried quite a distance apparently! The group will meet again in early November to learn some festive music – if you would like to join us, please get in touch for more information.

‘It must be hard work ringing such big bells’ ‘You must have strong muscles!’ Some of the comments people often say to bellringers. If these thoughts have occurred to you why not come along on Sunday September 3rd between 2 and 4pm, when members of the (big bell) band will be giving a demonstration as part of the St Giles' Church open afternoon. All ages are welcome to learn about the bells in our village and watch us ring.

Are you a former ringer itching to get your hands on the ropes again?! Why not come along you to meet the band and join us for a practice session.

Celia Dunsford 01297 33563/ 07985 268656

Sudoku Challenge

To solve this puzzle, each 3 x 3 square, row and column must contain all of the numbers 1 to 9.

Level: Hard

Solution on Page 21

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

Celebrate Together

Moses and the Burning Bush

The Celebrate team came together once again on Saturday, 12th of August, for a wonderful time. The theme was “Moses and the Burning Bush”. For the drama, we had an amazing star-studded cast, including Greta Lidster as our leading man “Moses” (she even brought a beard to get into character), Chris Thorne as the voice of God, Christine Thorne as the narrator, and a brilliant snake who was played by John Thorne, he said he was the ‘Snake Wiggler’ as we giggled and laughed at the snake being turned into a stick. We also brought a real branch of a willow tree and projected a flame onto the screen. We were low on numbers, but that didn’t stop God from blessing us with the few people that we met.

Each time I thank the people who work so hard to make these services possible, the tea ladies who provide the wonderful food, and my mother Christine Thorne for always keeping me in check and helping me along the way, even though I can be challenging at times – believe it or not! Margaret Hurford always seems to know the right songs for the right theme, we are so blessed with her wonderful talent. A huge thank-you also goes to Gill Heighway who this time so kindly led the service and who took everything in her stride. We are very grateful to Christine Mills for leading us all in prayer. Yet again we took a microphone to the congregation and I helped a young lady with the Lord’s Prayer. It blessed me so much this Saturday.

Our next Celebrate Together is on Saturday, 14th of October. The theme will be Inspirational Women. Come along and meet new faces as well as familiar ones, all are welcome, especially those with additional needs and their carers, friends and families.

For more information, please contact Christine Thorne on 07814 041059.

Elana-May Blackmore

Mission Community Service

On Sunday 6th of August there was a Mission Community service in St Giles’ Church led by Rev. Julie Lomas with representatives from most of the five churches. The music was led by a combined choir from Dalwood and St Giles’. Matt Smith from the Waffle House in Axminster gave an entertaining, informative and thought-provoking talk during the service. Matt is one of the three directors of the Waffle House. Apart from running an excellent waffle cafe, they run many community events and provide lots of opportunity for waffling. There is also tech support and expert advice from Luke Lawson and his team. Other activities include Lego club, art club, board games club, knitting club and live music. The Waffle house mission is “to fight loneliness through adventurous conversations, and we believe that by bringing together individuals from all walks of life, we can create stronger, more connected communities”. Everyone enjoyed Matt’s talk and if you have not already visited the Waffle House, I would recommend you visit.

Anna Crabbe

St Giles’ Annual Appeal

St Giles’ Day is on Monday 4th September, so, we are planning on holding the St Giles’ Church Annual Appeal on Sunday 3rd September. The Church will be open during the afternoon. Refreshments will be available. It is great to meet and greet people and we look forward to more of the same. Plans are afoot for Mike Tyler to be present so that he can provide some short history tours. Celia and bell ringers will be there to ring the bells and to show you the ropes. There should be tours so that the bells can be viewed at the top of the tower. The lovely Steve may even be able to take you around the churchyard on the search for evidence of wildlife. We would be delighted to see anyone who is interested in St Giles’ and any donations would be very welcome.

Christopher Thorne

Five Alive Songs of Praise

On a blustery afternoon on Sunday 30th July, many from the Five Alive gathered in the vicarage garden to enjoy a cream tea followed by a service of Songs of Praise. The weather was relatively kind to us, but because of the poor forecast, Steve and an army of helpers beavered away beforehand to erect some marquees and gazebos to ward off any inclement weather!

Whilst relishing a cream tea and/or cake – thank you to everyone involved in baking and setting up the goodies – we were treated to some music from a newly formed handbell group led by Celia Dunsford. This was their first public performance and thankfully they were under cover and had their music pinned down, otherwise it might well have blown away! Celia did a marvellous job in keeping the ringers under control – thank you Celia.

Julie then adeptly led us in our Songs of Praise – all the hymns had been chosen by church members within our Five Alive. It was really moving to hear the reasoning behind their choices.

These were the hymns chosen:

- Praise My Soul the King of Heaven – *chosen by Philip and Jenny Donne-Davis*
- Abide With Me – *chosen by Rozanne Bulmer*
- Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer – *chosen by John Mellows*
- Joy to the World – *chosen by Celia Dunsford*
- Dear Lord and Father of Mankind – *chosen by Barbara Woodsford*
- I Danced in the Morning – *chosen by Aleks Whitmore*
- Bless This House – *chosen by John Thorne*

John Thorne’s choice of hymn was interesting and took many of us back to our childhood and memories of singing it in Sunday School.

It was a very enjoyable occasion, and I for one can’t wait for the next Songs of Praise. Thank you to everyone who came and took part.

Gill Heighway



Big Family BBQ (a major Kilmington event!) Kilmington War Memorial – Trafalgar Night Dinner

After missing August, it always seems so long ago that we highlighted our actions and events! Looking back, the turnout for the 'Big Family BBQ' was incredible and we thank you all for your support. Post-Covid this was our best-supported BBQ, with over 130 (including children) attending. Thanks to your generosity over £1400 was raised which will go to helping veterans/families in need in Devon. It would be very remiss of me if I did not thank your RBL committee and so many of their spouses and friends for supplying an extraordinary selection of sweets/raffle prizes, which were enjoyed by all. 'Thank You'.



The War Memorial. Having received several positive responses to the proposal of erecting another memorial in the Village Hall Car Park (final positioning yet to be decided), I raised this at our last Parish Council Meeting. I have now contacted a company to provide us with a quote to include cleaning and re-painting the wording on the current memorial, which will be maintained in its current position. In addition, I have also asked for a quote and some ideas for a new monument. Our aim is to have something new in place for 2025, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Kilmington RBL Branch.

Our next major event will be the 'Black Tie Trafalgar Night Dinner' on 21st October in the village hall. We hope it will be as well supported as the first, which was in 2005! (Where does the time go?) Please watch out for the posters and further information on where to buy your tickets; because of the limited space available, numbers will be restricted!

We are still looking to introduce a Branch Community Support Officer, who will coordinate our shepherds and report quarterly to the County providing an overview of what we have achieved. If you would like to volunteer and help highlight everything that we do as a branch, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other committee member.

As always, we continue to look for new members, so if you would like to join us, please get in touch, and remember, *you do not have to be a member or veteran of the armed forces* to become a member! In the meantime, thank you again for supporting the Royal British Legion, but more importantly the veterans and their families.

Please take great care and stay safe.

Cdr Staff Seward OBE RN Rtd
Chairman RBL Kilmington Branch
07799 612557 – e-mail t60sas@hotmail.co.uk

RBL Big Family BBQ



Photos: Marie Gardner



Kilminster Cricket Club



OK, I started the previous Postscript article with the news that the 1st XI were, entirely unexpectedly, in 2nd place in the A Division. So, this update starts with the news that after 15 games, the 1st XI are in 2nd place in the A Division, with 3 games to play. This is all the more remarkable given that we have been operating on very stretched resources all season. I cannot speak highly enough of the players' efforts, working under Matt Rockett's leadership.

So far this season, the 1st XI have beaten Clyst St George (x2), Abbotskerswell (x2), Budleigh Salterton (x2), Hatherleigh, Tavistock, Plymouth and Torquay, only losing to Exeter, Torquay and Thorverton. That means Kilminster 1st XI (population 925) have beaten Plymouth 1st XI (population 264,727), Torquay (population 52,037) and were within one hit (or possibly a Duckworth Lewis calculation) of beating Exeter 1st XI (population 130,700)! Maybe just take a minute to let that sink in. To illustrate the standard of this league, our most recent game vs Torquay, featured the leading run scorer in the whole of the Devon League, South African Ruan Terblanche, who has scored two first class hundreds for Boland and starred for South Africa u19s. The two Matts, Reed and Pile, were a match for him.

All of the players have made at least one significant contribution; 50s for Tom Gooding, Brett Garner and Matt Rockett, the cool head of Tom Olive, wicket taking spells from fast bowlers Matt Pile and Ollie Reed or off spinner Matt Reed and Ian Gooding leading the fielding effort from behind the stumps. It has been a real team effort, but Australian Sam Cuconits (478 runs and 20 wickets), Joel Seward (334 runs and 18 wickets) and Rob Crabb, described by a number of opposition players as the 'best spinner in the league' (24 wickets) have really stepped up. Perhaps the key discovery has been that Josh Cann (13 wickets) is a bowler, as well as demonstrating his well-known batting traits in scoring 306 runs with two 50s.

It has been tougher for the 2nd XI under Ashley Cook's captaincy, missing several of last year's team, as well as losing players to the 1st XI who they might have expected to be playing in the 2nd XI. They are facing a relegation battle, but they will give it their best shot in the final few games.



Back row left to right: Joel Seward, Josh Cann, Tom Gooding, Brett Garner, Matt Pile, Ben Webb

Front row left to right: Matt Reed, Ian Gooding, Matt Rockett (captain), Tom Olive, Sam Cuconits

50s for Rob Meakings and Tom Olive, a promising 43 not out from Matt Reed jnr, Sam Olive's all round efforts, the wickets of Ashley and Mike Summers, and the return of James Lambert have been season highlights.

Regular touring matches against Wye Rustics, Tiffin Invitational Touring Society (nearly 600 runs in the afternoon), Four Counties Nondescripts, Southall and Uganda Kobs have been enjoyed and old friendships renewed over a couple of pints, with Matt Rockett's 100 vs the

Tiffin, Josh Short's 93 vs the Rustics and guest appearances by Short, Jonathan Triner, Harvey Evans, Matt Matravers and Connor Trott being the highlights.

Some words of thanks. Eddie Clarke and Luke Reed have been straining every sinew to attract the next generation of players to the club. The ground has been a hive of activity on Thursday nights throughout the summer for this youth coaching, in parallel to Dan Murnane's 1-1 coaching sessions.

All our sponsors, both businesses, whose banners surround the ground, or individuals, who sponsor players or cricket balls, have helped us so much and we are extremely grateful for their continued support. The weather was not brilliant for our Sponsor's Day, to such an extent that we had to use the squeegee for the first time in at least two years, but many volunteers and players provided teas and refreshments for our supporters and friends. Much gratitude passed on to everyone involved.

Thanks to all of those who volunteer their time and efforts in support of the club, in whatever way. It would be impossible for the club to operate without the time and support you give us.

A few key games to finish the season. Hopefully positive outcomes for both teams. The standard of cricket being played by what is, undoubtedly, the best overall team to ever represent our club, is at the elite end of club cricket. If you have any interest in the game, I recommend you pop in and have a look.

Martin Huscroft

Upcoming Cricket Fixtures

Sept	1st XI – A Division			Sept	2nd XI – F Division East		
Sat 2 nd	Plymouth 1st XI	12:30 pm	H	Sat 2 nd	North Devon 3rd XI	1:00 pm	A
Sat 9 th	Simon Church XI – Friendly	CANCELLED	H				



Kilmingtong Gardening Club – Talk



Fuchsias My Way – Derek Dexter

www.kilmingtonggardeningclub.co.uk

On Friday, 14th July, we welcomed Derek Dexter as our speaker. His talk was all about Fuchsias which have become a passion for him. Derek has a full-time job but started growing and showing these beautiful plants in 1999. Since then, he has won many trophies pursuing his ‘hobby’, as he describes it.

He demonstrated how easy it is to take cuttings at this time of year. Choose a non-flowering stem, cut down by half, then strip off the leaves. Place in a pot in a frost-free greenhouse until the first of January, give a little water and cover with horticultural fleece, tucked under the pot. He tips it out of the pot: if the roots are white, it is healthy and is repotted. If vine weevil is present, he saws off the bottom third of the root ball, and repots. Using warm water, he starts spraying once a day; leaves will develop. He showed us how to make very small cuttings below a joint, with tweezers and a cocktail stick, using a small two-inch pot (up to 24 cuttings!) which he covers with a sandwich bag held in place with an elastic band and puts on a window sill. The cuttings can be placed in a tray rather than pots (cupcake trays are ideal). He pinches out every second pair of leaves, to thicken up the cuttings and keep them the same height.

Hardwood cuttings are made below a leaf joint at eight inches; he removes the leaves and places the cuttings in a five-inch pot, five around the edge of the pot and places it underneath a shelf in the greenhouse. Throughout the winter the roots will be growing and will be visible by the spring. He places the cuttings in trays and leaves for six to seven weeks before planting out. Derek makes the stems trail, if he chooses, by attaching pegs to a leaf (not the stem) at their tips – ingenious!

Hardy fuchsias can be left where they are in the garden, with two inches of leaf mould around the base of the stems. Do not cut back in February, as there can still be night frosts. Check them in the second week of April; do not cut back until then and only if they are ready. Keep checking all for pests and diseases, rust, red spider and thrips. Use SB Invigorator for healthy growth, and treating pests, whitefly in particular.

Derek told us there are thirty thousand varieties of fuchsia(!), with new varieties coming along all the time, and showed us slides depicting some stunning examples. Some names he mentioned were – Sophie Louise, Gillian Althea (his favourite), Koralle, Tom West, Anita, Susan Green, Lillian Anelle, President George Bartell, Celia Smedly, Garden New Delta Star, Hawkshead Genii and Alfie.

Fuchsia cuttings take 18–21 days to develop roots (rooting powder unnecessary) and from the beginning of March they take 4–5 weeks to be ready to pot up. From pricking out to flowering takes 60 days. When planting in the garden, they like dappled shade during the day. Dead head regularly. There are various pests and diseases that can affect them, but the Fuchsia gall mite is a notifiable pest and should be disposed of in your household waste landfill collection.

Among his many tips and hints was the fascinating fact that Derek uses tomato ketchup to clean his scissors, secateurs and hedge trimmer! As far as Derek is concerned, he shows Fuchsias to promote them, but stresses that it is important to remember that showing is for fun!

Fuchsias are clearly a topic of endless fascination and, judging by the number of plants that members bought at the end of the talk, it is a passion shared by many.

Jean Falconer

Kilmingtong Horticultural Weekend

The Kilmingtong Flower Show on Saturday 22nd July was held in the village hall. Despite the heavy rain throughout the afternoon of the show, many competitors and local residents turned out to see the beautiful flowers, fruit, and vegetables on display. With Pimm’s and cream teas being served, a raffle, and a cake stall, it was a very sociable gathering.

Congratulations to the winners:

- The Breach Cup for Flowers to Judith Chapman and BJ Lewis
- The Douglas C J Constable Cup for Sweet peas to Rev. Julie Lomas
- The Farrants Cup for Flower Arranging to Sarah Way
- The Wayside Cup for One Rose Bloom to Jennie Seaton
- The Bywood Challenge Cup for Vegetables, The Clubs Silver Challenge Bowl for Veg, Fruit and Flowers and The RHS Banksian medal to Tom Cook
- The Parish Council award for the Best Allotment to David Simpson

On Sunday, the sun shone, which was a great relief as nine residents opened their gardens to visitors. They ranged in size and style offering inspiration to the many who visited them. Tea/coffee and lots of delicious cake was served in one of the beautiful gardens.

Thanks to all the helpers, cake makers, all those who opened their lovely gardens, and to the Garden Club committee for organising a great horticultural weekend.

Lesley Rew



KGC – Greenway House

On a wet August morning twenty three intrepid travellers boarded a coach bound for Greenway near Brixham, Devon. The rain stopped as we arrived at our destination, the beautiful former home of the famous author Agatha Christie, and now owned by the National Trust.



The relaxed, atmospheric house is set in the 1950's and as the family were great collectors, is brimming with books, archaeology, Tunbridgeware, silver, and porcelain. The large informal woodland garden drifts down the hillside to the Dart estuary and the boathouse, scene of the crime in *Dead Man's Folly*. The estuary is a busy but tranquil waterway and in Agatha Christie's words *'Greenway: the loveliest place in the world'*

The day enjoyed by members of Kilmington Gardening Club and friends had been kindly arranged by Christine Mills.

Greta Lidster

KGC – Potato Competition

For all of those who took up our challenge to grow potatoes in a bag, it's almost time to reveal your crop and find the winners.

The weigh-in will be held at The Kilmington Village Show on Saturday 9th September. It would be a good idea not to water your bag the week of the show, as it will be lighter for you to carry and easier for us to sieve, also if you still have stems, please cut them off. On the day, your bag will be emptied, soil sieved, and the potatoes weighed. There will be an adult and a child prize for the heaviest crop.



Lesley Rew

KGC – Upcoming Talk

Hedgehogs in Your Garden, by Alison Foxcroft

We have a change of speaker for our talk on Friday 15th Sept. We are delighted that Alison will be joining us, she set up and runs The Hedgehog Hut in Colyford, treating injured and sick hogs in this area and she is partly responsible for our large hedgehog community in the village!

The talk starts at 7:30pm in the village hall. Non-members £3. Refreshments and bar. We look forward to seeing you.

Lesley Rew

Peter and Jane in the Garden



How can it be the start of Autumn already? All my excess soft fruit is in the freezer (apart from the last few raspberries), ready for winter crumbles and stewed fruit puddings. Once my blackberries are over, I cut this year's fruited branches down hard and tie in the new, ready for next year.

At the month's end, I harvest my earliest apple variety, Tom Putt. Better known as a cider apple, it makes sweet and quick-pulping stewed apple as well as cider! The chillis and tomatoes in the greenhouse are still being harvested and surplus gets frozen. The tomatoes especially, are used for sauces.

My Box parterre gets its once yearly trim this month. This allows any regrowth to harden before winter and keeps the shape and growth in check. Traditionally, the word 'Parterre' comes from the French 'over the ground'. The border plants were normally permanent and the interior planted with annuals or vegetables. One of my four compartments is planted up with herbs. Another of my pruning activities now, is on my lavender. I try and cut them as hard as I can, without getting back to bare wood, to keep the shape and stop them from getting too leggy.

You may have noticed the wild flowers along the wall outside Combe in George Lane this summer? The seed was scattered on bare soil last Autumn and I will try again this year. I hope I get the same colourful display again next year.

In my July piece, I droned on about how incredibly dry it had been, with great cracks appearing in the veg patch. Well, that was then and things have changed. Over 6" of rain fell at Combe in July and at the beginning of August (at the time of writing), it is still raining!

Despite the wet, the vegetable patch (bit of bragging here) has done pretty well. Plenty of French and Borlotti beans, Sugarsnap peas and Calabrese. Excess is now in the freezer and a hundred onions hang in the garage, although they didn't have as much drying sun on them as I would have liked for safe storage. Fingers crossed. All the winter veg looks promising under micromesh net, where the pesky cabbage white butterfly cannot enter.

Have you ever wondered about Trace Elements? They are elements in the soil which plants only need a trace of to perform, but without which they can suffer severe deficiencies. They include Boron, Copper, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum and Zinc. High pH levels (i.e. alkalinity well above pH 7) can lock up these elements in the soil and render them unobtainable to the plant. Fear not though! If you practise good crop rotation, and use plenty of compost and manure, you should never have to worry about them. Plus, Devon soils generally don't have a high pH.

When you read this, I hope the sun is beating down and the awful weather forgotten, but until then, I will continue pulling up the weeds and go fishing!

Jane Chalk and Peter Guy

Kilmington Summer Events



Brook House

"The Butler Did It"

Brook House nestles snug and unassuming in the heart of Kilmington where it has been a family home for more than two and a half centuries. Its broad frontage looks over the village green, the stream from which it must surely have taken its name, and towards the old village stores.

Although its precise origins do not seem to have been recorded, Historic England lists the house as 18th Century. We have no reason to suspect this to be incorrect and the cottage appears on the famous 1809 'Mudge Map'.



Brook House 1973

George Southcott Esquire

The earliest written evidence – that I have discovered – records that the 'Cottage and Garden' once belonged to GEORGE SOUTHCOTT Esq and his heirs. The Southcott family were once, alongside perhaps the locally better-known Tucker family of Coryton Park, important and well-known landowners of the area.

The local Southcott family seat was at Dulshayes (Dulcis). George was the son of Thomas Southcott Esq who is buried and memorialised at St Giles' church by way of a large ornate marble monument fixed to the wall of the north aisle. George died in 1765, and so this may go some way to provide a date for the beginnings of Brook House.

Tithe Map

The famous Tithe Apportionment of 1840 records that the cottage was then owned by JAMES WHITE, a common family name in Kilmington at the time, and occupied by THOMAS DYMOND. The homes on either side were also owned by James or probably also by members of his extended family. Census records of the same time suggest that those houses were tenanted by families whose occupations were thatchers and butchers.

An Unfaithful Servant – and the Beginnings of Kilmington's Brewery

In 1858 the cottage was sold to JOSEPH PARSONS but the story I wish to tell here began three years earlier. Joseph started his working life in the employment of William Tucker Esq of Coryton Park, Kilmington. By 1855, and after seventeen years of loyal service, he found himself in the position of 'butler and valet' and acted as bailiff and personal steward, not to mention brewer for the estate.

Parsons held an enviable position for those in service; he had the ear and total trust of his employer, who was described in the newspapers as being 'peculiar' and 'familiar' with his servants. At thirty-five Parsons was obviously ambitious, multi-talented and in a position of responsibility; all traits or opportunities which would eventually lead to public downfall and notoriety in the village.

Upon Tucker's untimely death in 1855, Parsons instructed workmen to transport ten recently felled ash trees from the estate to his own barn before the trustees could take an inventory for probate; but it didn't stop there, Parsons went on to steal a large 'marble chimney piece'. He needed no encouragement and with his master consigned to history he must have felt like a child in a sweet shop. Later investigations discovered more than two hundred articles, all belonging to the Tucker family, spirited away to his Kilmington home. These included numerous items of silverware, rifles, pistols, swords, 600lb of lead and various items from the brewhouse. Parsons was no Mr Carson!

Joseph Parsons	Serv	U	to	Brother & Valet
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Witnesses of the trial reported that Tucker shared great 'intimacy and friendship' with Parsons and that they were both freemasons at the Coryton Park brotherhood. Parsons frequently dined at Tucker's table and attended his shooting parties. It seems that Tucker's attachment to his butler must have been significant, for he had also made a handsome bequest of £1,100 in his favour. This was a huge amount of money for the time.

When confronted with his crimes, Parsons stated that he was taking only what his master would have wanted him to have, claiming that he had been told to 'take anything that might have been useful to him' – an open chequebook. Mr Tucker's widow didn't see it the same way and neither did the judge! Parsons was convicted in July 1857 and sentenced to six month's hard labour.

In March 1858, and shortly after his release, Parsons purchased Brook House for £40, only a small part of the legacy that his trusting employer had left for him. Records confirm that Parsons lived there with his new wife, fifteen years his junior, and several boarders and servants. Fortunes had changed and he described himself as a 'brewer and farmer' and quite probably he made plans for his next venture in front of the inglenook fireplace in the parlour of the quirky cottage, no doubt washed down with ale brewed on the premises. A new and prosperous chapter in his life had begun and he would not remain long at Brook House.

Parsons began operating the newly founded 'Kilminster Brewery' at Hillside Close (now Appletree Cottage and Broad Halfpenny) soon afterwards. It was said that Charles Tucker, the new incumbent of Coryton Park, subsequently planted trees at Gapemouth Corner to obscure his view of the new brewery and the constant reminder of the sorry affair. In 1865, Parsons once again found himself in front of the judge, this time because of an unpaid debt of £40.

In 1862, Joseph Parsons sold the cottage to farmer HENRY WHITE, of Blackborough, for £75, quickly turning a substantial profit. Brook House was then owned and managed by the White family as an investment property for the next fifty-seven years.

An Award-Winning Postman

The 1891 census records confirm that GEORGE HENRY HAYMAN made Brook House his home. George was the son of Gideon Hayman who, with his family, ran the nearby post office also on the village green. George would later go on to win the Imperial Service Medal for a lifetime of good service delivering the Royal Mail as postman and 'postmaster general'.

Passive Resister, Sunday School Teacher, Coach Builder and Undertaker

Henry White died in 1875 and ownership passed through his family until 1919 when his granddaughters sold it to the long-standing sitting tenant, JAMES LOCKYER SYMONDS for £450. By then Brook House included a carpenter's shop and the house next door had been demolished.

Symonds was a well-known figure in the village, occupying the house with his family for more than fifty years. Apprenticed as a carpenter, he employed his skills to run a business as a coachbuilder, master builder and an undertaker from the premises.

James was also an important part of the local Baptist Church where he taught at the Sunday School. Notably, he was also part of Kilminster's locally famous 'passive resistance' movement and had regularly appeared before the magistrates for non-payment of the poor rates in a collective stand against teachings of religious education. Readers of Postscript may recall the article about this in the February 2023 edition.

James died at Brook House in 1941, leaving an estate including several other local properties. Tenant became landlord.

Recent Custodians

It is highly likely that some readers will remember some of the more recent residents of Brook House. WALTER HUXFORD purchased Brook House the same year for £850. Ownership also brought with it the right to draw water from the well at nearby Westbrook House. Mains water had yet to be installed in Kilminster and it would take until after World War II, after much lobbying, until the village was connected. Walter built the adjacent Willow Tree Cottage (then known as 'Brook Bungalow') on the vacant patch of land next door and promptly sold it to Isobel Ray in 1959.

In 1960, CHARLES JAMES PARSONS, another sitting tenant, bought the house for £1,200 and sold it thirteen years later to STANLEY and DOROTHY CHALLIS for £24,000. They lived there from 1973 to 1982.

The next custodians, HELEN INGALL and PETER and MONIQUE GREATHEAD developed the southern part of the house (formerly a workshop) in the early 1980's to create a 'granny flat', which was more recently used as a holiday let.

'Buy-to-let' isn't a modern phenomenon. Brook House seems to have been, throughout most of its early life at least, an investment property for wealthy landlords to lease to the hard-working trade families of Kilminster. Its occupants have included freemasons, butchers, (ex)butlers, brewers, boarders, farmers, coachbuilders, house builders, postmen and coffin makers. All sorts of people.

Newspapers are full of details of their fascinating exploits, court appearances, squabbles, plaudits and deaths. Sadly, they are too many to describe here without detracting from the core objective of presenting a brief history of an ordinary but important family home in Kilminster.

Today, Brook House is the home of CLAIRE and MARK DANTON who have lived there since 2005. My thanks to them for the loan of their archive material and encouragement to delve into its past.

If anyone knows of errors or omissions relating to the history of Brook House, then I would be delighted to hear from you.

Alan Clarkson

Village Hall '100+' Club



The winners of the draw held on 30th June 2023 are:

8	Mr. B. Horwood	£30
169	Mrs. B. Lines	£15
160	Mrs. C. Thorne	£15
158	Mrs. M. Rogers	£5
112	Mr. J. West	£5
90	Mrs. S. Plant	£5

The winners of the draw held on 31st July 2023 are:

198	Mrs. A. Playford	£30
152	Mrs. H. Kirkcaldie	£15
207	Mr. P. Wood	£15
123	Mrs. Y. Hodges	£5
36	Mr. K. Tucker	£5
125	Mrs. J. Newbery	£5

For further details, please contact Jean Falconer – 01297 33708

This month's recipes have two things in common, firstly they have been sent in for Cookery Corner and secondly, they both include seasonal vegetables which may still be in plentiful supply this month. I hadn't intended including a soup recipe, but this one is so good for using up courgettes, and it freezes really well. As far as the cake recipe goes, there are many out there which combine chocolate and beetroot to make a moist, brownie-like cake, but I like this one because it isn't complicated, and it always works. The original recipe topped the cake with chocolate ganache, which you can do, but I think it tastes good simply dusted with icing sugar.

Bryony's Late Summer Soup

Serves 6

- 25g/1oz butter or 2 tbsp olive oil
- 800g/32oz sliced courgettes
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 red peppers, deseeded and chopped
- 150g/6oz cherry tomatoes, skinned
- 1 litre/2 pts chicken or vegetable stock
- Salt and pepper

Method

1. Melt the butter/heat the oil in a large saucepan and add all the prepared vegetables, stir to coat with the butter/oil and cook on a low heat for 15–20 mins.
2. Add the stock and simmer for 20–25 mins until all the vegetables are soft.
3. Liquidise the soup and serve with some fresh sourdough bread. I tend to liquidise the soup to a semi-smooth puree leaving a bit of texture, but it's purely a matter of preference.



Chocolate Beetroot Cake

Makes one 23 cm cake

- 250g/10oz plain chocolate, broken into pieces
- 3 large eggs
- 200g/8oz light muscovado sugar
- 100ml/4 fl oz sunflower oil
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 100g/4oz self-raising flour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 50g/2oz ground almonds
- 250g/10oz raw beetroot, peeled and grated and excess liquid squeezed out. Sounds messy, but very simple to do.
- Icing sugar

Method

1. Grease and base line a 23 cm loose bottom cake tin (a spring form tin is ideal).
2. Put the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water to melt, allow to cool.
3. Place the sugar, eggs and sunflower oil in a large bowl and whisk for 3 mins.
4. Stir in the vanilla essence, flour and ground almonds. Fold in the cooled chocolate and the grated beetroot and mix well.
5. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and bake at 160C fan for 1 hour, or until a skewer when inserted in the middle of the cake, comes out clean.
6. Allow to cool before removing from the tin and dust with icing sugar.



Diane Overton



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Tel: 07512 279663



Email: info@axminsterandlymecancersupport.co.uk

Mailing address: Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support, Heathermoor, Yawl Hill Lane, Yawl, DT7 3RW

Newsletter no 59

In their newsletter, issued at the end of July, ALCS thank last year's mayor of Lyme Regis for the £1500 she raised for them during her year of office, which they will use for the individual needs of clients. They go on to introduce a new therapist who has joined them, Guy Sweetman, who is a sports therapist and specialises in movement and running. He incorporates modern technology into healthcare, alongside traditional and well-established techniques. He has introduced the Novothor process, which is especially beneficial to cancer patients.

The newsletter also contains a request from Southampton University's researchers at their Centre for Research in Cancer who are looking for people who can assist with a website they are developing to help with managing emotional and psychological well-being. Attention is drawn to the ALCS website, featuring the 'Parenting with Cancer project' funded by Macmillan and the National Lottery, which provides parents with a place to go for support in the format of

coaching programmes, workshops, parenting tools, coping strategies, peer to peer support, family activities and many other resources. Everything developed has been co-designed by a team of CNSs, clinical psychologists, family therapists, cancer charity partners, parenting experts and coaches, and of course parents who have experienced a cancer diagnosis.

The ALCS creative hub offers various artistic activities in the Autumn months and the men's Pie and a Pint with a visiting speaker is usually at a local pub. There are a regular acupuncture clinics and support groups in the Scott-Rowe room at Axminster Hospital and they especially encourage the monthly drop-in sessions for those who are about to start, are undergoing, or have just finished active treatment.

If you wish to receive the full newsletter with more information and detail, or to register your interest, or have any queries for ALCS, please use one of the addresses above to contact them.

Celebrating the Harvest

'Harvest' coming from the Old English word *hærfest*, meaning 'autumn'

According to the lunar calendar the full moon that occurs nearest the start of autumn is known as the Harvest Moon. This year it falls on Michaelmas (September 29th) and at this time of year it is natural for our thoughts to turn towards Harvest Festival, though our farmers have been safely gathering in their crops for many months, with perhaps the earliest and most visible example being the 'hay bales' that intermittently decorate the fields around the village. These days you are more likely to see plastic wrapped rolls than square bales, and while these may make for more efficient haylage, to my mind they have a look of something that has been deposited by a (friendly) alien spaceship.

With the advent of mechanisation you would have to be very lucky indeed to see a traditional corn stack. Stems of 'corn' (which could be any cereal such as oats, wheat, rye or barley) are cut and bound together into sheaves, which are then 'stooked' six or ten at a time according to local custom, to allow the grains to dry before going into storage. Tradition has it that the 'Spirit of the Corn' resides in the last sheaf to be cut, and would often be plaited into a harvest trophy to be kept warm and dry through winter and the following spring to ensure a good harvest in the next season. It wasn't until the 20th Century that these 'trophies' began to be known generically as 'Corn Dollies', and previously they seem to have had a wide variety of regional names. When I was young, many moons ago, and living so far across Devon that I could see into Cornwall, it was still traditional to 'Cry The Neck', whereby the last sheaf cut would be held aloft by the reaper who would cry out "I 'ave 'un! I 'ave 'un! I 'ave 'un!" to which his encircling peers would shout "What 'ave 'ee? What 'ave 'ee? What 'ave 'ee?" and the reply would be: "A neck! A neck! A neck!"

Yes, this is what passed for entertainment in the time before YouTube. I recall that the corn dollies produced in those parts were referred to as 'Kern Babies'. Does anyone in Kilminster still make a corn doll or corn maiden?*

Historically most, if not all agrarian cultures gather to give thanks for successful harvests, and why not? Any excuse for a party! Typically the celebration would require a gift of food to placate the appropriate local deity, of which, globally, there were any number including Demeter, Parvati, and Ceres (from whom we get the word cereal). In Britain it was common to mark the start of the harvest on the first of August, this being Lughnasa, a Celtic Festival, and also the Wiccan Sabbat of Lammas (meaning 'loaf Mass'), by baking loaves of bread from the first of the new wheat crop. The local community would appoint a 'Lord of the Harvest' to oversee the organisation of the harvest and, most importantly, the negotiation of the fieldworkers' wages which might be partly paid in cider or other produce. He would sit at the head of the table for the Harvest Supper, which would be held at Michaelmas to celebrate the end of the harvest. Sometimes there would be a grand procession led by the last wagon of corn, and it was felt to be a harbinger of bad luck if the Spirit of the Corn got wet. These harvest suppers would typically feature a seasonal meal of goose stuffed with apple (which is why the Colyford Goose Fayre takes place in September) and they could be disorderly affairs: the rector of Foxearth in Essex described one event disapprovingly, as "unrestrained riot and excess". One imagines he was not invited to the feast.

Ann Dorey

**Exeter Phoenix are running a workshop on Sept 30th see: <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/corn-dolly-workshop/>*

Kilmington Common

There has been a lot happening on the Common during these summer months. We have continued to have a work party roughly once a month. At this time of year one of the main tasks is to keep the paths through the Common usable by everyone who wants to. This summer another path has been cut in from Shute Road close to the inside treeline down the edge of the central grassland area, this allows those walking it to see the beautiful display of betony, meadowsweet and heather in the grassland.

One of the volunteers Jan Uden, a botanist, is carrying out a monthly plant survey. The information from this, alongside plant lists that we have from 2006, will allow us to monitor how the grassland has changed, and how the management will hopefully enhance and increase the plant species.

The Heath Lobelia have flowered well and Alison and Cliff Scrase from Shute, also volunteers, have had great success at growing more than 200 plants from seed. Some of these will be planted onto the Common in the Autumn whilst others will be planted at other sites in Devon. The heather that had previously been overgrown by trees and gorse is also more prolific this year, adding to the mosaic of colour that is there for us all to enjoy.

There have been sightings of a good number of butterflies including Holly Blue, Common Blue, Small Copper. Walkers on and around the Common have also reported seeing frogs, toads and a fast moving lizard crossing the Shute Road and disappearing into the safety of the grassland.

The main event over the past few months has been for the Common to host one of the events on the East Devon AONB 60th Anniversary calendar. On Saturday 24th June more than 40 people came along to 'Go Wild on the Common'.

It was a wonderful success and there were excited children and adults of all ages enjoying the range of activities on offer. The event was only made possible by volunteers giving their time, energies and enthusiasm.



Axminster Hospital League of Friends

Axminster Hospital League of Friends held their Annual Open Meeting on 25th July 2023 at the Heritage Centre, Axminster. The meeting was very well attended and enjoyed an interesting and informative talk by Dr Rachel Wachsmuth, Consultant Dermatologist.

We had an update from the Chair of the League of Friends, Steve Holt, explaining our 'Big Goal' to raise enough money to fund an end-of-life nursing service for the residents of Axminster and the surrounding villages. Helen Arnold spoke about raising awareness of the work of the League of Friends including a new website, www.axmlf.com. Teresa Denning, Locality Business Manager, followed with an update about the services provided at Axminster Hospital.



Helen Arnold
admin@axmlf.com

There was an entertaining guided plant walk, by Jan Uden. Richard Lane brought along a stereo microscope, sweep nets and bug pots so that the excited children, and some enthusiastic adults too, could examine in very close detail the beautiful intricacies of the flies, micro moths, hoverflies and important pollinators that occur on the Common.

Jan Baker, Marjorie Waters and David Simpson had all put out moth traps the night before and brought along the moths safely caught for us all to see before setting them free. The moths were caught in 3 different gardens around the village, one close to the Common. (Siting a moth trap on the Common will be something we're hoping to do at some point in the future).

Rosie Stilling also came along with her family and set up a printing workshop which proved to be great fun and was very popular, again with adults and children alike. How great that an example of this work appears on the front cover of this edition of Postscript. Fortunately a few heath Lobelia were in flower and these too were used as inspiration for yet more creative printing.

The event was well attended, mostly by villagers, and some others just passing by this lovely place who also joined in. There was a great community atmosphere, something definitely to build on.

More good news is that there is now a management plan for the Common drawn up with the Kilmington Parish Council and the volunteers. One of its aims is to ensure that this nationally rare remnant of Lowland Grassland Heath is well looked after and enjoyed by all.

If you want to come along to any of the work parties and help, or want any more information then please get in touch.

Judith Simpson
simpsonjudith71@gmail.com
01297 32694

Sudoku Solution

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



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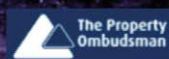
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Moths, Merlins, and Faster Snails

First of all, I would like to say thank you to Marie Gardner for the wonderful picture of the female Bee-Fly on the July/August issue of Postscript. Both sexes look the same actually, except that the male has larger eyes which are very close together. A sure sign, my late grandmother would say, of an untrustworthy suitor.

I thought I had finished with mothtrapping over 3 years ago. For some unknown reason, I found myself agreeing to do a Moth Trap for the Go Wild on the Common Day on the 24th June. Judith and David Simpson are such nice people. How could I refuse? I also somehow felt I owed it to David Wilsden to carry on. When he re-ignited my interest last year I knew I would be a pushover once the detective instincts were coming to the fore. I hoped the expertise I once had would come back. Studying the beauty of moths is for me a relaxing hobby. My own career could not have been more different. I was a bit reluctant to get back in to it at first, but knowing I had two other experienced trappers with me – David Simpson and Marjorie Waters – I thought it would be fun, and it was. It was lovely to see so many villagers taking an interest, particularly the children. Watching their delight at having a large pink and green Elephant Hawk moth or Poplar Hawk moth, happily clinging to their hand was a joy to see. Moths and butterflies have hooks on their feet to help them cling on – the hawk moths, particularly, are happy to sit on a hand or clothing. It's important to me, and most trappers, to treat moths with respect. After all, they are pollinators and play a vital role in the food chain. Some trappers will go to the extent of checking a moth's identification by investigating its private bits – the only way to be sure on some species. But as I have no way of politely asking a moth whether I might be so bold as to look at its nether regions, it just won't happen... Anyway – who could hurt such beautiful creatures?

Colyton Artisan Quarter

Celebrates Devon Open Studios

Colyton, home to many ancient crafts, has a thriving art scene, with its heart at Umborne Bridge and Finn Studios down by the banks of the River Coly. As part of Devon Open Studios this year some local creatives, whose work is strongly inspired by nature and the local landscape, are coming together under the banner of 'Colyton Artisan Quarter' between 9th and 24th September, to exhibit a wide range of work for visitors to enjoy, as well as workshops and free demos. One of them, Alex Boon, the son of Kilmington residents, has won the prestigious Open Studios Bursary and a prize for his nature journaling work. He teaches across East Devon and West Dorset and is currently working on a project focusing on the Undercliffs reserve. They are confident there will be something there for everyone, including a coffee shop!

Open 9th – 24th September, 10 – 4 pm
(CLOSED on Mon & Tues)

Venue address: Units 1&5 Dolphin Street, Colyton,
East Devon. EX24 6LU

Contact details: team@umbornebridgestudio.co.uk
or 07828 859755

Website (demos and workshop details):
umbornebridgestudio.co.uk



Merlins are my favourite birds. These robust falcons whizz around, sharply changing direction at right angles, like dragonflies. Looking out of the window, late April, I noticed (annoyingly) a wood pigeon sitting on the roof of my car. We both saw it. I looked again a few minutes later and the wood pigeon had been replaced by a merlin. Clearly showing were the dark tail bands of a male merlin. The quite small head is also a giveaway. They also like to perch low down. In medieval times they were known as the Lady's hawk. In America they are known as Pigeon Hawks – but are a bit stockier. I find it hard to believe that this fairly small but fierce falcon, who usually preys on nothing larger than a quail, was hoping for a pigeon meal. But then who knows? – Merlins are magical.

I have a love/hate relationship with snails. They are a bit cute. In the previous garden I gave up picking them off the potted hostas every late evening. Knowing a move was imminent I decided on an experiment. Was it the same snails eating my hostas that edged the front of the pond? How far did I need to move them to deter them? One evening I marked each large snail with a blue or red marker pen using symbols such as asterisks, dots, wavy lines and stripes. I then removed them all to one side of the pond. In the morning, there were fewer than normal. I made a note of which ones had arrived. Each day I moved them a bit further back until only one or two arrived. In the end, I moved them to the back of the pond. None arrived for two days. Then the next day one did arrive. Go faster stripes obviously worked on this one. I was so pleased I actually gave it a hosta leaf to eat. How sad is that?

Jan Baker

The Moon

Across the world through nations and time
The Moon's been regarded a heavenly sign
It's been worshipped by some and loved by all
As it dictates the oceans rise and fall

To gaze at its wonder is all that's required
For artists and poets to become inspired
Moon beams paint nature with a silver glow
Bringing magic alive wherever you go

The Moon's face smiles from heaven above
And the Moon beams shine for couples in love
It also casts shadows which give you a fright
Like a ghostly presence on a bleak windy night

The Moon during harvest lets farmers work
The crops need collecting, no time to shirk
The Hunters Moon warns of the winter to come
And larders need stocking to feed everyone

The Moon's changing faces throughout the year
Bring different emotions and a good deal of cheer
But the Blue Moon brings sorrow and loneliness too
So the old and isolated need me and you

John Thorne

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Dates for September 2023

Events That Happen the Same Time Every Week

Sunday	10:30 am	The Beacon	Service
Monday	Early	Your house	Recycling and Food Waste Collections
	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Village Hall	Country Dancing
Tuesday	10:00 – noon	The Beacon	The Post Office and Community Cafe with free refreshments
	10:00 – noon	Village Hall	Table Tennis
Wednesday	09:30 am	The Beacon	Tummies, Toddlers & Tinies (Term time only)
	10:00 – noon	St Giles' Church	Mums and Babies Support Group
	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Village Hall	Short Mat Bowls
	2:00 pm	The Beacon	The Beacon Home Group
Thursday	7:00 pm	The Beacon	Alpha Course
	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Village Hall	Table Tennis
Friday	10:00 – noon	St Giles' Church	Coffee and a Warm Welcome

Calendar Events

Fri 01 Sep	6:00 pm	The New Inn	RBL 'Get-Together'
Sun 03 Sep	10:30 am	Dalwood	Mission Community Holy Communion
	afternoon	St Giles' Church	St Giles' Church Annual Appeal 2023
Tue 05 Sep	10:30 am	The Beacon	Messy Sparklers
Wed 06 Sep	09:30 am	The Beacon	Men's Home Group (for prayer and Bible Study)
Sat 09 Sep	1:00 pm	Village Hall & Field	Kilminster Village Show
Sun 10 Sep	11:00 am	St Giles' Church	Morning Worship
Mon 11 Sep	Early	Your House	Landfill plus Recycling and Food Waste Collections
	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Village Hall	Country Dancing resumes
Tue 12 Sep	Early	Your House	Garden Waste Collection
	09:30 am	St Giles' Church	Midweek Said Communion
	10:00 am	The Beacon	Create Craft Group
Wed 13 Sep	7:15 pm	Village Hall	KCC – "What's Love Got To Do With It?"
Thu 14 Sep	2:00 pm	Village Hall	KCC – "What's Love Got To Do With It?" – Matinee
Fri 15 Sep	7:30 pm	Village Hall	KGC Talk – Hedgehogs in Your Garden, By Alison Foxcroft
Sat 16 Sep	08:00 am	The Beacon	Men's Breakfast
Sun 17 Sep	09:30 am	St Giles' Church	Holy Communion
Tue 19 Sep	11:15 – 11:45 am	The Street	Mobile Library
	12:30 pm	The Beacon	Community Contact Lunch
	All Day	Everywhere	International Talk Like a Pirate Day
Sat 23 Sep	08:30 am	The Beacon	Women's Breakfast
Sun 24 Sep	09:30 am	St Giles' Church	Morning Prayer
Tue 26 Sep	Early	Your House	Garden Waste Collection
	09:30 am	St Giles' Church	Midweek Said Communion

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Useful Telephone Numbers

Village Contacts

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Stafford Seward – Chairman					01297 33909
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Gill Bullock	01297 647768	John Watts	01297 639758		
Country Dancing – Gill Perkins	01297 32888			Table Tennis – Jenny Nickolls	01297 639758
Marie Thorne	01297 631194				
Cricket – David Lavender	01297 631868	Kilminster Primary School (incl. Kilminster Pre-School)	01297 32762	Telephone Box Library	
				Karen Hodder	01297 35162
Footpath co-ordinator, Tom Cook		Millers Farm Shop	01297 35290	Tennis – Bev Bailey	07577 488656
footpaths@kilminstervillage.com	07974 001197			Sue Wells	07912 272102
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Peter Huscroft				Louise Quincey	
		The Old Inn	01297 639779	Village Hall 100+ Club	01297 33708
				Jean Falconer	
Kilminster Service Station	01297 300459	Ring and Ride	07510 255965	www.kilminstervillage.com	
				Luke & Maxine Lawson	07719 909532

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St Thomas Court Surgery	01297 32126	Dentist Helpline	03330 063300		

Services and Facilities

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Water – Leaks	0800 2300561			E. Devon District Councillor	07932 459595
Electricity – Emergency	0800 365900	Ring & Ride	07510 255965	for Newbridges	
				Devon County Councillor	
				for Whimple & Blackdown	
Axminster Care Service	01297 35550	Police: Crime stoppers – 0800 555111: Emergency – 999: General – 101			

Churches

St Giles' Church		Baptist Church Office		Axminster Catholic Church	
Rev Julie Lomas	01297 35004	Pastor: Mike Hudson	01297 631638	Parish Priest:	01297 32135
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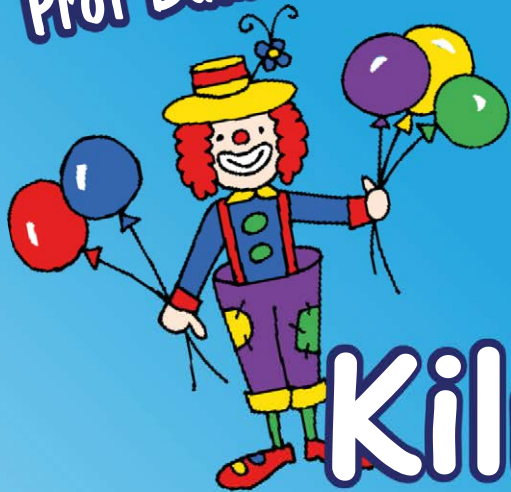
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