

*The  
Montacute Village  
Magazine*

*(Trial Online Version .2.0)*



*Can you identify this bird,  
discovered in Woodhouse Lane?*

*(See page 4)*

*June 2020*

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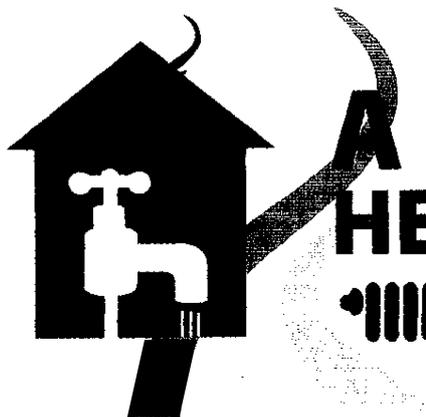
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## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

I hope you are keeping safe. My thoughts, and probably like yours, I'm sure, are with those who do not have the fortune to be locked down in such a beautiful environment as ours, those who have lost loved ones and those families that cannot meet.

And probably like you I am getting hairier! Should I ask Christine to come at me with a very sharp instrument? Could she resist the temptation? Is "I slipped" a convincing legal defence ?

Our discussions on the format of the Magazine will continue . Both styles seem popular—the number of online views was heartening and all of the printed copies were snatched up from our 'outlets'.

As last month there are copies available in the P.O and the Garage. Please collect them for our regular subscribers who cannot do so themselves. Thank you.

That beautiful bird on the front page is a Song Thrush—now a rare sight here. She has taken up residence in Woodhouse Lane and is rearing four young ones. Thank you for the photograph, Derek and Sally Bloomfield.

*Bernard Bevan-Davies* Ed.

The Monks House      01935 829744

bcbevandavies@gmail.com

May I have any entries for the next edition by

***JUNE 25th. PLEASE***

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**A word from the Vicar**  
www.hamhillchurches.org



***Cast all your anxiety on Him because  
He cares for you. 1 Peter 5 v 7***

I'm so glad that **the church** building stands central to Montacute and so many of you choose to walk nearby or through the churchyard . The building represents centuries of Christian believers choosing to worship God here faithfully. I am very sad that the church building has been closed in recent weeks, by government order, just when so many could have been comforted by visiting and praying there. From June we *may* be permitted to conduct certain rites in Church for limited numbers (this is likely to be funerals and/or weddings), but as yet we don't have details) and from 5th July we *may* be permitted to have some limited public worship IF we can comply with all the hygiene and medical safety provisions – or perhaps outside. Justin Welby accompanied this announcement with the following: *'We don't depend on the buildings, wonderful as they are, and they are treasures. What we depend on is the presence of God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit, who leads us into his love, into his mission, into following him.'*

Meanwhile **the church itself is alive** and well and I am available for you via email or telephone for any enquiries (the parish office is closed at present so I am working from home). **Sunday worship is offered online** every week – see our website, and a simple family service is circulated to about 30 families: do contact me or Fizz Lord if you'd also like to receive that. A filmed school assembly is being circulated each week, and we continue to hold a virtual prayer meeting every Monday morning for the village– do email me if you'd like to be included or have prayer requests. On Tuesday evenings our house group has gone online [via Zoom] and on June 2nd we start a new course: **How to pray**. Everyone is welcome to join in. The pastoral care team is also active in offering phone and postal support for the bereaved and ill and we look forward to when we can resume visiting

people in their homes. In recent weeks, perhaps unsurprisingly, we have seen a **growth in church worship** attendance, albeit online, as more and more people seek fellowship and encouragement through Christian worship. Last week well over 120 households joined us. Of course we are able to include music and songs from all over the world as well as a virtual Ham Hill Villages band (!) and next week for Pentecost, Bishop Peter will be our guest preacher too. In addition to local offerings, can I commend to you midweek 'communion' and Sunday reflections from our Bishops via <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk> and for those not on the internet, the Church is providing **Daily Hope** on 0800 804 8044, a free 'phonenumber of hymns, reflections and prayers. Also, of course, the radio and television provide a rich variety of Sunday worship at 08.10 (R4), 11.45 (BBC1), 13.15 (BBC1) .

As I write, we are in Mental Health Awareness week, and I commend to you a new 24 hr helpline from Somerset MIND, a local charity. **01823 276892** Do consider a friend or neighbour who might value this support.

We have had some enquiries about the Rectors post, which is encouraging, and we hope to be able to schedule interviews at the end of the Summer. Our youth minister, Abbi comes to the end of her 2 year training contract in July. We are so grateful for the wonderful work she has done at the Hamdon Youth Group and also Stanchester school. We are actively seeking an experienced Christian youth worker to offer sessional support for our teenagers from September. In addition, we are developing plans for a Benefice Families and Children's worker, again to be employed part-time, for our commitment to growing ministry amongst children and young families. We will be applying for an external grant for that post. Watch this space!

May I add my voice to the many wishing to **thank neighbours and local residents for the great effort** made to support the practical and emotional needs of our more vulnerable residents in recent weeks. I am also very mindful of the local businesses, employees and families really struggling financially at this time.

Meanwhile, this comes with my prayers for you all. Do be in touch if you know of any pastoral needs in the village or have any concerns yourselves, questions about faith or to schedule a special service. We are inviting anyone who has had a restricted funeral at the crem or graveside in these weeks, to have a **Thanksgiving or Memorial service** for their loved one in the church – hopefully this Autumn. I come to the village most weeks to deliver things or conduct funerals etc and very much look forward to the time I can see you all more often.

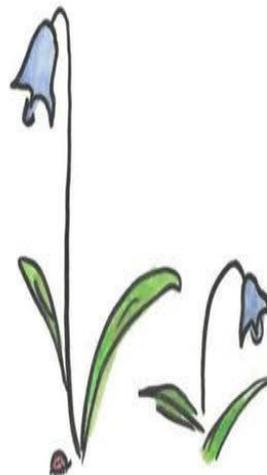
Every Blessing,

Annie

(Revd Annie Gurner, Ham Hill Villages Benefice) 01935 824167 or [revgurner@btinternet.com](mailto:revgurner@btinternet.com)

# Green Earth Gardens

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🌱 07908 309940

🌱 07500 893340

🌱 [Reclaimed807@gmail.com](mailto:Reclaimed807@gmail.com)



## NATIONAL TRUST

I seem to have lost count of the number of weeks, months even, we've been closed now and I'm still not sure when we will be able to reopen. When National Trust properties do reopen it will gardens first with perhaps a take away catering service. Then after this we'll hopefully be able to open in stages. Like all businesses in our sector (though the National Trust is a national charity) we've has been severely hit financially, with all our properties remaining closed. Some of our larger areas are now slowly reopening and of course our parkland here and other land around the village have remained open throughout this period. If you have been taking walks around the village the thing I'm always amazed to see is how often Montacute house majestically stands tall in any views, and from almost any direction. A 17<sup>th</sup> century photo bomber if you like!



Whilst Chris, our only remaining unfurloughed gardener, has been driving his mower up and down a myriad times to keep the main lawns cut close, some other areas have gained a distinct hay meadow feel about them. This has had the benefit of letting the buttercups,

violets and forget-me-nots flourish. I've added a few more pictures below.



Finally, as you can imagine (though the few staff still working here are keeping busy) the pace of life has slowed down with no visitors turning up each day. This certainly has suited some of our residents!! ☐



Best wishes to you all.

Grahame Meaden -

Senior visitor Experience Officer. Montacute House.

## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The start of Community Speedwatch (CSW) team activity has been held up due to the Covid-19 requirement for social distancing .

So, whilst traffic levels through Montacute dropped in the early days of lockdown to about 1950's levels, recent relaxation in travel and meeting rules, as well as some people returning to work, has seen an uptick in numbers. Wasn't the peace lovely while it lasted!

It has been obvious that with less traffic on open roads, it has been too tempting for some to demonstrate acceleration and braking skills along Bishopston through to Yeovil Road. These are just the points where CSW monitoring will take place with the aim of discouraging excessive speeding.

While there are enough volunteers to perform this widely supported and important community/village role, more help would make the hour or so a week required more effective.

If you're able to contribute time – never at night, or in the rain, please drop me a line to [1georgestephens@gmail.com](mailto:1georgestephens@gmail.com).

Thank you!

George Stephens

# Greensleeves

## THIS WEEK'S OPENING HOURS

As we transition to permanent opening (we hope) here are our hours for the next week and beyond:

SATURDAY 23rd May - 10-4pm

SUNDAY 24th May - CLOSED

MONDAY 25th May (Bank holiday) - 10-4pm

TUESDAY 26th - SATURDAY 30th May - 10-5pm

SUNDAY 31st MAY - 10-4pm

FROM THEN ON:

MONDAYS CLOSED

TUESDAYS-SATURDAYS 10-5PM

SUNDAYS 10-4PM

Please bring your empty 60L compost bags in for us to re-use (not the 40L please).

Remember we now deliver - anything from our stock.

We are still selling mixed, fruit & salad boxes + extras for those isolating or not!

Thank you for popping over, emailing or ringing us to place orders. We have had a lovely week and it is so nice to see customers in the nursery once more.



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## FARELL AND ADIEU

Farewell and adieu to National Trust Gardens  
Farewell and adieu to trips down to Spain  
For we're under orders to stay in our houses  
Oh when will we see friends and fam'ly again?  
We'll rant and we'll roar but we'll do as we're bidden  
We'll plant lots of veg and we'll pray for some rain  
We'll catch up on jobs we have put off for ages  
But covid-19 is becoming a pain

No trips to the pub, no ice-creams at the seaside  
But sewing and crafting and reading at home  
We queue for our shopping, search vainly for flour  
This lockdown makes mock of so-called "Right to Roam"  
We'll rant and we'll roar but we'll do as we're bidden  
We'll work for our future – fair treatment for all  
We'll count all our blessings as we lock down together  
But covid-19 is becoming a bore.

(With thanks to Fizz Lord)

# GARDENING CLUB



Plant pots, window boxes, hanging baskets  
and front gardens

Many of us spend a lot more time and energy on our back gardens than we do on the front. It is natural as they may be bigger and are probably the place where we sit, our private havens. However I wonder if you like me have been increasingly aware of the beauty of these, often tiny, front of house spaces as you have walked around our village in these last weeks and months.

A few days ago the firethorns (*Pyracanthas*) came into flower becoming almost covered with white blossom and there are some truly beautiful roses about. Have you noticed how small a piece of earth a climbing rose needs to be happy provided its roots can go deep? And then there are the wisterias that burst into bloom a few weeks ago. The one at the entrance to Montacute House was particularly spectacular but there were many other beautiful specimens to admire. But the smaller plants are of just as much value, and a choisya in a pot, a row of lavender just now coming into flower in a small front garden or the ever present and very easy *Erigeron karvinskianus*, the daisy like plant that will grow almost anywhere, can bring a smile to our faces and lift our hearts at times like these.

Just as with our larger gardens these small spaces reflect the people who garden them. Some have carefully trimmed topiary or colour schemed borders, others are just a riot on a small scale of someone's favourite annuals and a few look sad and perhaps speak of someone who maybe too busy or no longer able to tend them.

What should we be doing in our gardens in June, besides sitting and enjoying them? Those pots and window boxes and particularly the hanging baskets will need regular watering. This means at least once a day in hot, dry weather. Don't neglect to feed these small gardens, a small amount of soil will have its nutrients used up very quickly and a liquid feed is an easy way to replenish them. Weeds are still growing and need dealing with but don't be tempted to put weed and feed on a large lawn unless you are sure it will rain soon.

Above all take pleasure in our gardens, both your own and the ones around us that we see about our village as we walk by.

Susan Laycock

## MONTACUTE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS

How about growing your own "5 A DAY". What a better way to give you flavour and taste from your own garden and getting your daily exercise at the same time?

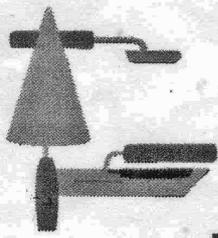
There's nothing quite like it !

We have several plots that have just been made available. Something for all the family to get involved in. Get stuck in. DONT DELAY.

Phone today and get that COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE .

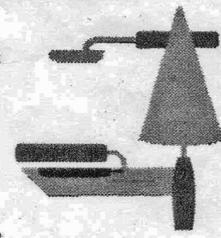
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### Snippets from the Phelps Diaries— June 1789

- 4 June. *“The King’s Birthday”. (George III’s 51<sup>st</sup> birthday)*
- 9 June. *“A fine day. Aired the Flag and all my clothes. Washed the sheep. No sleep all night.”*
- 17 June. *“Marked my sheep (after shearing). 58 in number. Cut the clover.”*
- 27 June. *“Morning died My Poor Old Faithful companionable Dog Fox which I had for 17 years. She was supposed to be 19 years old, was out of a Fox and Pomeranian dog. Died of old age having been deaf some time.”*

From Edward Phelps to Monty Don, plus ca change.....

Robert Fisher



The Phelips Arms The Borough  
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[info@phelipsarms.co.uk](mailto:info@phelipsarms.co.uk)

Good news! We are offering a Take Away service on Friday and Saturday evenings – something to look forward to at the end of the week!

We will be offering pub classics such as our famous steak and ale pie, beer battered cod, beef burger as well as kids meals and vegetarian options.

Meal selections will change weekly so please check our Facebook page @PhelipsArmsMontacute or phone on 01935 822557 and leave a message with your name and number and we will phone you back!

In order for us to comply with social distancing, we will allocate you a time to come collect your order starting from 5pm and will have a table set up in our porch at the front door with your order ready for collection. We are offering a free delivery to those people in the village (within walking distance of the pub) who are over 70 and not able to come and collect their order.

Please either email [info@phelipsarms.co.uk](mailto:info@phelipsarms.co.uk) or phone 01935 822557 and leave a message at least 24 hours before with your name and phone number and we will phone you back to get your order, take payment and allocate you a time to come and collect your order. We will take cash payments if anyone struggles to pay with their card over the phone. We look forward to hearing from you soon! Stay safe and healthy everyone – we'll get through this together!

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## VILLAGE AGENTS

So far at CCS, we Agents have handled an incredible 42,000+ requests for support since lockdown began - have you seen the short film about our work? You can view it here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybu8d8bf>

It has been wonderful to be part of the brilliant community support that has been carried out by local parishes, churches and volunteers to keep our most vulnerable fed and in receipt of their prescriptions. We should remember them in our regular Thursday evening applause.

**Exciting news from CCS Village Agents this month is that Talking Cafes are going to be live on Facebook - the first is 14<sup>th</sup> May at 11am and then daily at 11am from the 18<sup>th</sup> May!**

Now that we have adapted to dealing with 'the new normal', the time felt right to reopen the Talking Cafes – albeit in a virtual sense. We have really missed seeing our clients at our Talking Cafés so hopefully in the short term this will help & support you from the comfort of your own home! [www.facebook.com/TalkingCafeSomerset/Live](http://www.facebook.com/TalkingCafeSomerset/Live) - you can ask questions during the Live video in the comments section and have your answer there and then – hope we see you there! (see *attached image*)

Keep up to date with our news on Twitter and Facebook - @RuralSomerset

**Scams:** Sadly, there are some unscrupulous people out there who are using the crisis for criminal purposes and many new scams have appeared. There is some comfort in that Avon and Somerset force, so far are not aware of any victims and have not received any complaints or reports of people being duped by fraudsters. They are keen to keep this trend going and want to help safeguard our local communities. Their main advice is here <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news/2020/03/beware-fraud-and->

scams-during-covid-19-pandemic-stay-at-home-stay-safe-online/ with the main headlines being:

- **Watch out for scam texts and emails** – don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious message and never respond to unsolicited messages or telephone calls that ask for your personal or financial details. As Village Agents we have been made aware of phone calls asking for your bank details for free school meal payments. These come as e-vouchers or printed if required so please do not share bank details for this.
- **Reporting Fraud** if you have been a victim to Action Fraud [www.actionfraud.org.uk](http://www.actionfraud.org.uk) or the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133. Tell your friends, family and us so that we can share and allow everyone to be prepared for the next potential scam. If you are feeling upset by a call, contact us on 01823 331 222 for a bit of reassurance and advice.
- **Shopping online** – be wary of deals on websites or links to external sites from social media. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases. Look for the padlock mark on the web address bar to the left of the www. to show your credit card details are safe.
- **Doorstep selling:** Don't give money to people you don't know to do your shopping, and when receiving goods, people should knock on your door, step back & will not ask for a signature. We can check who your village volunteers are for you, so you know who to expect or who to contact.
- **Protect your devices** from the latest threats – always install the latest anti-malware software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats
- A full list of identified scams can be viewed on the National Trading Standards website - [www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/](http://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/)
- Age UK Somerset have a really clear list potential scams here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/our-services/scams-advice/>

**07968521746**      **cath@somersetccc.org.uk** CCS Village,  
Community & Carers Agents are in your communities across  
Somerset. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and  
activities available in your community and help you with any queries  
you

may have or situations that you need advice and support with. Please visit [www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk) and [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or call me to find out who can advise you.

Cath Holloway

Community Agent

Tel: 01823 331222

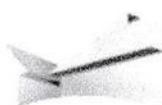
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## NOTES FROM St CATHERINE'S

Due to the church being permanently locked at present, there is not much fabric wise to report. Except the Architect's inspection due in April has been postponed for an indefinite period.

The builders who were going to clear the gutters informed me that the Federation of Master Builders, to which they belong, stipulated that they only dealt with emergencies until further notice. As an alternative, if space allows, I can provide various of my odes concerning the church. On two occasions over the years have I had requests from residents at the King's Arms to stop the clock from striking during the hours of darkness.

On the second occurrence I wrote one for the King's Arms to reply to Trip Advisor.

Gordon Rendell

## **Montacute TV Radio Toy Museum**

**'Teens through the Time warp'** – A new exhibition about growing up in Weston-Super-Mare from the 1950's onwards.

Developed by North Somerset Museum and North Somerset Youth Service put together by young people who conducted over 50 interviews exploring individuals' experiences of being a teenager. It covers various areas of life including entertainment & technology that is enhanced by the nostalgic collection of Montacute Museum. Walk back in time from the birth of TV and radio to the modern day, the museum is like a Tardis, opening up inside to reveal an unexpectedly immense number of displays, probably the largest collection of toys, books, annuals, jigsaws and games related to TV and radio programmes. Large Sci-fi & Super-Hero sections.

## **Tearooms -Garden & bright conservatory**

### **Light lunches, Afternoon & Cream teas**

Museum & tearooms open: 10th April-6th May, 25th May- 2nd June, mid-July-Sept, & Oct half-term. See website for actual days & times.

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## WINDMILL FARM

I have not felt this relaxed in a while, although it is a frustrating time for everyone, I am lucky that I can escape it all at home with the company of animals. I have finished my three year college course in agriculture at Hartpury which is great! At the beginning of May, Grandad and I took ten cattle to the field behind the garage to graze and they seem content in the sunshine. We have felt grateful for our local businesses like the garage, post office and the co-op as it has reduced travel and risk to ourselves during these times.

Many farmers have been silaging, filling their clamps up or making silage bales ready to store for winter feed when the animals are inside. Dad has helped a neighbouring farmer with compacting the clamp and pushing the silage in to it due to a few vulnerable farm workers self-isolating. Furthermore, nitrogen fertiliser has been spread on the wheat as well as grassland for grazing to keep growth. Elderflower cordial production has been in full swing, it has not been a real success just yet but batch no.3 has been soaking so hopefully that one may have a stronger flavour.

Since April there have been six new weaner pigs arrive to the farm. We are purchasing three pigs at a time recently to expand our herd a bit to keep up with demand. At the beginning of May we collected Gordon, Gino & Fred from Milton Abbas and on 18th May we collected another three weaners from Misterton which we named Gavin, Smithy and Bryn. It has been great fun having crazy little groups of three! So now we are at 12 pigs in residence and they are enjoying the sunshine, relaxing and wallowing in muddy puddles we make for them with the hose pipe!

The NFU (National Farmers Union) are doing a 'Back British Farming' campaign and the vets we use, Synergy, asked if they could have photos of me with the pigs/cattle to use in an article they are writing in their monthly newsletter to support the campaign, which will use Windmill Agri as a business they will be supporting. This has been a great opportunity to show other farmers what we are doing and the reasons that we began the business, as well as potentially having more customer interest.

Yeovil Young Farmers have been doing weekly video calls since the beginning of lockdown, even though it may only be a few of us, it has still been nice to keep Wednesday evenings as young farmers meetings, and we do many quizzes. My sister and I also managed to organise twelve members to do a lip sync video to the song '9 to 5' by Dolly Parton to boost morale amongst the club and to anyone else the video reaches. You can find our lip sync video by searching on Youtube "Yeovil Young Farmers "9 To 5"

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Windmill Agri

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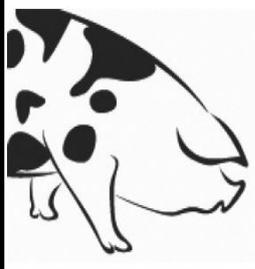
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Windmill Farm, Montacute, Somerset 01935 826688

Faggots, Chops, Gammon Steak, Leg of Pork

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Beef Burgers, Minced Beef, Rump & Sirloin Steak, Beef Topside & Joints



## **News from Montacute Baptists.**

We very much miss being able to meet for worship in our Chapel, the organ is silent, the pews are empty and the air inside is still. Yet the Church is not closed – sunshine still beams through our lovely rose window, and the birds are still cheeping! The people, our Members and friends, are in touch with one another and although almost all in the age-related lockdown, there is sharing, caring, praying...

Many people are turning to prayer in troubled times. The Montacute churches are all celebrating *Thy Kingdom Come* – the international wave of prayer. The title comes from The Lord's Prayer, and while the original is I'm sure familiar, and beloved by many, I thought I would share this version, which is from The New Zealand Prayer Book, and repays a moment of reflection in a new way. (I hope Rev Annie will forgive 'the steal' - it's Anglican!)

When you have a quiet moment...:

*Eternal spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:*

*The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the  
world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
Sustain our hope and come on earth.*

*With the bread we need for today, feed us.*

*In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.*

*In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.*

*From trials too great to endure, spare us.*

*From the grip of all that is evil, free us.*

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.*



If you have a concern and would like us to pray for you, please contact us through our website: [www.montacutebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.montacutebaptistchurch.org.uk) or post the prayer in our letterbox behind the gatepost. God cares about you. We promise to pray.

*Heather Andrews* Pastor

1<sup>5 7</sup> 3<sup>8</sup> 8<sup>3 2</sup> 5<sup>6</sup> 7<sup>1 5</sup> 9<sup>8</sup> 2<sup>7</sup> 1<sup>1</sup>  
6 2 4 1 9 6 5 3

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**My name is Tanya Cross and I have been a qualified teacher for 14 years and tutoring for 20 years. I have experience with all ages and abilities from KS1 to A-level. I also have experience with a range of SEN support.**

## POST OFFICE

Well isn't all this exciting!!!! NOT...Life at the Funny Farm, oops sorry Post Office carries on, we eat, drink & sleep sanitizer I think, my poor hands don't like it but they like disposable gloves even less !!! We are proud to have been able to have carried on for you nevertheless, & by keeping more or less normal hours have managed to keep the ship afloat as they say! The banking side has been busy for personal banking but sadly most of the businesses are closed... but parcel wise we have been steady, keep them coming !!

We have been selling much more wild bird food than ever, of which people might not have been aware we sold, and chicken food, & people food (strange breed that !! ) & we still have a good selection of birthday, anniversary & other cards, boxes, bags, bubble wrap, tape, envelopes of all different varieties, the list goes on, and we still have some lovely plants, both bedding & some veg.

The zoo is enjoying the sunshine... we have some new babies, some baby quail who WERE meant to be here ( who can eat their body weight in chick crumb in an hour I think !!!) and some baby ducks who WERE NOT !!! Mother duck managed to hide herself the baggage ( stronger words were used ) and appeared extremely proudly with 5 little ducklings on 17th May !!! ( more rude words !!)

They are now safely in a run making a lot of mess with a large bowl of water that can vanish in minutes ( more rude words) .... never mind.... more for numpty to do ... we also bought, delivered socially distanced 10 new ex battery hens who looked like road kill but I think they are either those nasty small dinosaurs, raptors or vultures... not sure yet but they lay eggs so we don't mind... but Rosie does when you give her her bread & they just jump up & take it out of her mouth !! Eeeekkkk !! Oscar is loving his evenings chasing Daddy Hedgehog ( Mum & Dad still being hedgehogs)

when he is watering the plants with the hose !! He likes water !!!  
Bestest fun ... Daddy hedgehog gets cross so Oscar gets football  
instead !! All very entertaining!! Ponies on a diet looking like  
Hippos, sheep & alpacas all been sheared so all good there, all too  
fat too so been told they have to go on a diet too !! Andy looked at  
me and said don't even think about it so guess he doesn't want to  
go on a diet !!

Other than that we are all keeping safe, Andy is working hard  
delivering our food, and we have good weather to keep spirits up...  
until next month.

Louise xxx

## VILLAGE HALL

Dear Villagers, Firstly I hope you are all keeping well and safe  
and are making use of all the free time on your hands, I imagine  
the gardens are all looking neat and tidy and will be full of bloom  
this year, its a pity about the open gardens, Carnival and Fete in  
June but we must try to follow the current guide lines. The Village  
hall still remains closed at the moment until further notice, hence I  
have decided to postpone the AGM for 3 months until the 7th Sep-  
tember. Which I think is permitted in the constitution. It is hoped by  
then that we will be in a better position to carry out our various  
activities and hopefully start obtaining some revenue funds to  
maintain the running costs of the hall.

I thank you for your patience and understanding, and hope very  
soon we will be able to return to normal life and use our hall for  
the activities shared by many.

Keep healthy and safe, and lastly we have a fabulous village and  
an enormous number of kind people who look out for one another.

Roy Littlefield. Chair



## **BED AND BREAKFAST**

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# Montacute Charity Quiz

More brain teasers to help relieve lock-down monotony.

## General knowledge

1. Where is Mr Plod the local policeman?
2. What is the term in Britain for a horse whose coat is black and white?
3. Which liqueur is added to whisky to make a Rusty Nail cocktail?
4. How many U.S. Presidents make up the monument of Mount Rushmore?
5. Which comedian plays 'Uncle Bryn' in the TV show Gavin & Stacey?

## Anagrams

All of the following are anagrams of stations on the West Somerset Railway Can you identify the stations?

6. Chew tat
7. Red nuts
8. Abhor uncle
9. Robust Gem
10. Hid old passerby

We very much hope to be able to start running quizzes again in the not too distant future. Until such time – keep safe & keep well.

Andy & Fizz and Steve & Jane  
aka The Quizmasters

Answers (no peeking)

1) Totyown (Noddy books) 2) Piebald 3) Drambuie 4) Four 5) Rob Brydon 6.) Watchet 7) Dunster 8) Blue Anchor  
9) Stogumber 10) Bishops Lydeard

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# **New online portal available for coronavirus testing**

Coronavirus is still circulating in Somerset so it is vital that people stay alert and self-isolate – with their household – if they develop symptoms. The Government recently added a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste as a symptom. Therefore, the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are now

High temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back

New, continuous cough – you're coughing a lot for more than an hour, (or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – you've noticed that you can't smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal

Most people with coronavirus (COVID-19) have at least one of these symptoms.

For advice about what to do if you have any of these symptoms, ring 111, or use the 111 online coronavirus (COVID-19) service.

If you have the symptoms and you want to get tested, use the new NHS portal to arrange a test

Cath Holloway  
Community Agent

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## PARISH COUNCIL

What a wonderful day it was for the VE Day celebrations! It wasn't exactly how we would have liked it but the weather was glorious and we all seemed to have a good time with our 'Stay at Home' garden parties and some of us may have had a chance to chat up with our neighbours and friends for a chat (socially distanced of course!)

### **20/00991/OUT - Outline Planning Application on Land Adjacent to Mason Lane**

The parish council have submitted a formal objection to SSDC on the application for a major development of 30 houses next to the link road to the A3088 in Stoke sub Hamdon which is adjacent to Mason Lane. Unfortunately, there seems to be some confusion as the application indicates that the land is in Montacute, but it is not! It is on the parish boundary in Stoke sub Hamdon.

Councillors felt that a development of this size would not only join the parishes of Montacute and Stoke sub Hamdon which is something that neither parish wants, it would increase the volume of traffic through the village on already congested roads. Also, with the speed of the traffic using the link road and the natural curve of the road it would make accessing/exiting the site extremely dangerous. Councillors considered that for a development of this size it is undemocratic to push through an application when we are all in 'lockdown' due to the current pandemic. The parish council were unable to hold a formal public meeting for residents to view the plans so we circulated a flyer to every household asking you to give your opinions to SSDC and we thank all of you who have responded. We would also like to thank Daryl Gaylard for delivering the leaflets.

If you would like to read the comments relating to this application go to:

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/planning/search-for-a-planning-application/>

and type in the application number 20/00991/OUT under 'Keywords'. As at time of writing there have been 50 objections.

## **Play Area**

Good news and Bad News.

The bad news - Even though we are all allowed to go outdoors as much as we want, the play area will remain **CLOSED** until further notice.

The good news - The supply of the new equipment was delayed as the equipment companies had to close. However, we have just been notified that they are reopening with phased return to work and a couple of the new pieces of equipment will be delivered to our installation contractor very shortly. We are hopeful that these will get installed very soon and the children will have something new to play on when the play area is reopened.

## **Ground Maintenance**

We welcome our new contractor, Evis Ground Maintenance, who will be taking care of the ground maintenance of the recreation ground and the allotment site for the next three years. They started at the beginning of May and are doing a fantastic job.

## **Allotments**

You may have seen that our allotment site is much improved. A huge effort has been made by a couple of councillors, Ann Gihon and Kay Harper and we would like to thank them for everything they do. We are also grateful to Terry Harper and David Fox for tidying up the site and ploughing the vacant plots and to Roy Littlefield for making our allotment sign and notice board. All of this and the wonderful views of the surrounding area makes our allotments such an inviting place to be.



## **SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP – RECYCLING CENTRES**

**Recycling sites reopen from Monday 11 May for essential visits only**

**Bridgwater, Chard, Dulverton, Frome, Highbridge, Street, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Williton and Yeovil. (Other sites due to reopen from Tuesday 26 May.)**

**All will be open six days a week: 9am-6pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9am-4pm Saturdays and Sundays; all closed Thursdays.**

Access is "one in, one out", a number plate system will be used:

**Odd numbers only Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays.  
Even numbers only Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays**

To ensure social distancing, protect public and staff and limit numbers, there will be a range of temporary restrictions; queues and delays are likely. Government guidance states visits should only take place if waste cannot be stored safely at home without risking harm or ill-health, or harm to public health and amenity. If not an essential journey, please wait until sites are back to normal. Delays are likely.

**Other restrictions include:**

- Maximum two people per household
- No people with COVID-19 symptoms, or who have been asked to shield
- No large vans (3.5 tonne or heavier)
- No trailers
- Gloves to be worn outside vehicles

**Only these materials will be taken:**

- Refuse usually put in your rubbish bin, and bulky items, such as furniture
- Garden waste
- Large electrical items, such as cookers, fridges, TVs etc
- Hazardous chemicals, such as those from garden sheds or garages

**Not taken until further notice:**

- Anything involving payment, such as charged-for hardcore, soil, tyres, gas bottles or vehicle parts (compost will not be available to buy)
- Commercial waste
- Asbestos or plasterboard

**Please do not take unless essential (as it will be landfilled):**

- Anything usually recycled kerbside – food, cardboard, paper, cans, glass etc
- Wood, metals, small electrical items
- Plastic pots, tubs, trays, Tetra Paks

**Key Contact Numbers:**

**Somerset Support Helpline - 0300 790 6275.** Transport to medical appointments, emotional support, advice, and financial hardship.

**SSDC Wellbeing Hub - 01935 462462** between 8am and 4pm seven days a week. Business grants, free food boxes advice and support.

It is so important that all of us continue to obey the social distancing rules and stay alert. It will save lives. Guidelines are changing all the time about what we can and cannot do outside, and so you can find the most up-to-date information at

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>**

Keep looking out for one another. Remember to be kind and we will get through it somehow - together. Keep washing those hands and practicing social distancing!

**Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

**For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime, then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.**

**Parish Council Meetings**

During this 'lockdown' period, a resolution was passed at our last meeting to follow Government guidelines and suspend all parish council meetings until further notice.

The Parish Council's day-to-day business will carry on as usual where possible. If you have any issues/questions, please contact the Parish Clerk on the contact details below.

*Contact details: Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk  
24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS*

*Email: [clerk\\_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk)*

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