

*The  
Montacute Village  
Magazine*



*Trial Online Edition*

*May 2020*

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## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Our thoughts are with you during this very difficult time.

You'll notice the new front page. Thank you, Terry, for hosting us. Please spread the word that the Magazine can now be seen at 'The Village of Montacue'.. We normally distribute 300 printed copies.

Going online raises a whole number of questions about the magazine. One of them is financial. The usual 30p per copy covers the cost of paper and ink and many of our readers have already paid for their year's copies in advance — £3.00 per year. It seems sensible to monitor how many months this situation lasts and then to make decisions about subscriptions, covering the present emergency period and the future.

In the meantime I have printed some copies of this edition which are in the Post Office and Garage. Would you take a copy for anybody you know who have subscribed already but are unable to get out, or who do not use the 'web' ?

And please pass on to many others that the Magazine lives—but housed elsewhere for the moment. As for the future, we shall see. Keep safe.

*Bernard Bevan-Davies* Ed.

The Monks House      01935 829744

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May I have any entries for the next edition by **MAY 25th. PLEASE**

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## ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

Life at All Saints is very different during the current climate. As a school we continue to stay open to support our key worker children, however the majority of our children are now home learning. I would like to extend my thanks to All Saints staff who continue to help keep our school open for our key worker children. Over the past few weeks I have watched the key worker children in our care show resilience and compassion for others. This has been replicated in the show of community spirit and support throughout all the wonderful learning and activities that have taken place within all our All Saints family homes. I have watched All Saints staff bring joy to the key worker children, in what can appear to be such unusual school days, surrounded by empty corridors and silenced classrooms. All Saints staff have risen to the challenge of teaching in a different way, with team spirit and comradery. It has been truly humbling to see and read about a strong sense of community continuing to blossom in so many ways.

Many of you will have seen rainbows dotted around the village which remind us of the wonderful work the NHS staff and other key workers are doing to support the country at this difficult time. Those that have walked along Ladies Walk recently may have spotted our rainbow of hearts in a classroom window.



As part of our Easter celebrations we annually 'dress the cross' with flowers. It is a beautiful and poignant event and something that we did not want to miss out on this year. Therefore, All Saints families sent in

images of flowers; the bright colours and new growth of spring coming together in the shape of the cross.

With social distancing meaning we can no longer go to the hairdressers. Charlie (Class 6) decided to have his head shaved for charity. By doing this he has raised an amazing £500 for Cancer Research UK. We are sure you will all agree – a thoughtful and positive act of kindness. We are all very proud of you, Charlie!



After

Before

Finally, we would like to share the following poem written by Jasmin from Class 6. This was not only poignant to staff at All Saints but also deeply thoughtful for the whole community. The poem evokes many emotions, reminding us to cherish and celebrate the world we live in.

With prayers and the warmest of best wishes to you and your families,

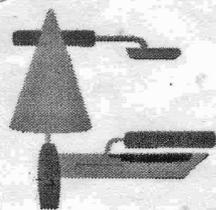
From all at All Saints School

## NOTES FROM ST CATHERINE'S

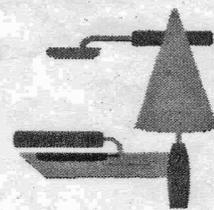
I'm delighted that the Montacute Magazine is able to continue distribution throughout this present crisis. People do need to be informed, and those of us who have computers may forward the information contained, or even print off hard copies for those without electronic capability.

I never, in my wildest dreams ever thought I would see a notice on a church door saying "Closed". Some churches are taking this literally and no one is entering the building. I'm afraid I'm using a more common sense approach. I walk around the church every day and once a week I go in to check that everything is OK. Suppose there was a leak in the roof or a blocked gutter and water was getting in. What sort of a mess might you have to put right if left for six months? We did have such an incident in 1967, between Rev. Richard Beechey retiring and Rev. Reg. Bevan taking over. I attach something that I wrote at the time.

*Gordon Rendell*



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## Archdeacon Thomas

We had a little problem once,  
That needed swift control,  
A storm had blown a roof tile off,  
In fact, there was a hole.

One Sunday morning, we found out  
The roof had sprung a leak,  
The transept floor was sopping wet,  
'cos it had rained all week.

Now, Reverend Beechey had retired,  
We had no priest at all,  
We were in sequestration mode,  
Did drive us up the wall.

A builder, on our PCC,  
Said I will fix it soon,  
I'll send the chaps round in the morn,  
They'll be here before noon.

So, Monday morning, "Ah" thinks I,  
I'd better ring up Wells,  
And tell them all about the leak,  
Or I might get hell's bells.

Archdeacon, he picks up the phone,  
I tells him who I am,  
And that we've found a little leak,  
But we're not in a jam.

Our builder chappie's on the job,  
He's going to put it right,  
And if it's any comfort, Sir,  
He'll do it 'fore tonight.

Archdeacon chappie's not too pleased.  
"Oh dear" he said, "No no,  
'fraid you must have a faculty  
Before you can say Go."

"But that's ridiculous," I say,  
"The DAC don't meet  
Until the fourteenth of the month,  
When next they take their seat.

And then, citation we must post  
On view for next three weeks,  
Perchance that someone might object  
That we repair the leaks.

The water's coming in old chap,  
It is an awful bind."  
"I can't help that," the AD said.  
"You do, and you'll be fined."

"O bother that" was my reply,  
"Just fine us if you must,  
We'll knock it off our quota, then,  
We'll see who bites the dust."

"You can't do that," he then replies,  
"That will be most unfair,  
Because that means that someone else  
Will have to pay your share."

"Which means we'll have to knock it off  
The stipend of your priest."  
"Then I suggest that you do that,  
'twill bother us the least.

'cos we're in sequestration, now  
And haven't got a vic'."  
Before he could reply to that,  
I put the phone down quick.

On Tuesday morning, postman comes,  
Shoves letter through the door,  
It's postmarked Wells, 'what's this' I thought,  
And also 'what's it for ?'

Would you believe, certificate  
For to repair the leak ?  
And it is signed Archdeacon, Wells,  
With blessings, rather meek.

So, leak repaired, all nice and dry,  
There was no need for fuss.  
G. Rendell one, Archdeacon, nil,  
That was one up for us.

# Ben Smith

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## A WORD FROM THE VICAR ABOUT HOPE

I am sending you Easter-tide greetings from my home, where like you, I am staying in. We are very fortunate to have a big garden here, and I am a keen, if not distinguished, gardener.

Last year for Christmas I brought a tree for my husband Roger, a little conference Pear. It is now full of blossom and may very well fruit this Summer.

On the day the prime minister announced the lockdown, I went online and ordered another young tree. It has now arrived, been planted lovingly and is full of young growth. A young shapely tree, full of promise for the future. It lifts my heart. It's a native red Hawthorne and we hope it will go on to support wildlife and even help offset carbon. But for now it's a symbol of **Hope**.

**Hope** that better days will come and once again we can spend time together, friends and family. **Hope** that soon we can open our church buildings and worship God together again, baptise our children, marry our young couples and comfort the grieving with memorial services.



Trees have always been a symbol of **hope**. In the bible Abraham planted a tamarisk tree when his family was made welcome and made a new home in a foreign land. Jeremiah planted an almond tree to remind people that their time of exile would soon be over, to give them **hope** for the future. Jesus died on a tree, out of love, to give us **Hope**

Our thoughts at present are often sombre and with good reason. But I, like you, have been overwhelmed by the community spirit; the offers of help, the care for strangers, the small acts of love. An elderly lady told me on the telephone this week: 'Annie, I believe we will all be changed by this, I believe people are learning to be kinder,

more interdependent, more focused on what really matters.' I believe she is right.

Can I join in the chorus of gratitude to all the goodhearted people of Montacute – those visible and those invisible – the shopping volunteers, the carers, the delivery people and the postman, the school teachers looking after key workers children, the local businesses and the good neighbours, for all you are doing. Thank you.

Let us remember to keep in our prayers the NHS and community service folk and the emergency services, and all those who are struggling with coronavirus, -and those who are losing the battle. All who are anxious, lonely or fearful. Be assured that I and all the church family here are keeping you all in our prayers.

But **hope** is the central message of Easter, that although it's Friday, Sunday's coming. Although it may feel like Friday, Sunday's coming.

We have a God who keeps his promises; who has said the that he would never leave us or forsake us; who loved us so much that he sent his son to die on a cross and rise again, so that all who believe would not die but have everlasting life. A love that casts out fear. Now that's something to bring us **Hope!**

During May we will be celebrating this Easter season up to and including Ascension Day (21<sup>st</sup>) and Pentecost (31<sup>st</sup>) - the latter being the birth of the church worldwide. At present our services are all available online, either from our church secretary, Sonja Rogers by email or accessible from our website ([www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org)), so you can all join in from your homes. We prepare and film a main service and also provide a simple family service each week, the former with local and guest preachers. Also every Monday there are prayers for the village – never more important. There is currently a virtual housegroup meeting via Zoom – new people always welcome.

Do feel free to contact me if you would like to request a prayer or simply have a chat. I am available every day for you. Every Blessing

Annie

*Revd Annie Gurner*

Associate Vicar,

Ham Hill Villages Benefice

01935 824 167 or revgurner@btinternet.com

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*Lord God, carer of all people, creator, sustainer and healer;*

*We pray for all who have contracted Covid-19. Be with them and their loved ones and bring healing to their bodies.*

*We pray for all medical staff, carers and emergency services as they look after the physical health, worries and concerns of their patients, especially the vulnerable and particularly those who have reduced contact with the outside world. Let us be good neighbours, looking out and after each other. We remember the work of scientists, discovering and testing vaccines for this disease, and we pray for all of us, caught up in our everyday lives with the effects of these outbreaks.*

*Bless your world Lord, and help us to be blessings to one another, in J esus name. Amen*

## **Church Services for May**

All our **Sunday services** are available each week from the Church website and via email. Please ask me if you would like them emailed or posted to you.

They are filmed and recorded together with readings, a talk, prayers and songs/hymns.

**[www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org)**

Prayer for the Village now happens in our own homes (as we previously met in church), so we are all encouraged to pray for Montacute village and people on Monday mornings, and also around 8pm Thursdays as we prepare or following the general applause for our wonderful NHS workers, carers and emergency services.

## BAPTIST CHURCH

Greetings from the Baptist Church in the village, during a lockdown that has made us all think. To adapt to new ways of living for a while. To value those who help us in so many ways. To miss those most precious people that we can't hug. It has also maybe given us gifts, maybe extra time, extra attention to the garden, a deeper appreciation of the blossom on the apple trees, the birds that come close as they sing. Maybe, as we hear of a frightening death toll, and the unremitting demands on the NHS personnel, we think more deeply about questions of life and death. Maybe questions of faith raise their voices as our minds are still.

I am writing from the perspective of someone who hasn't stepped out of our house and garden for a month. I do what I can, pastorally, by letter and phone, and in one or two cases, by e-mail. We reach 30 households. If you would like to be part of that please let me know. Some days I'm relaxed and happy, sometimes I sink into the kind of apathy that wants to do nothing at all. If I had to do my work by video conference or zoom at the kitchen table, keep the house sorted, home-school the children, hassle for a Tesco slot, and organise rewarding activities and daily walks that stimulated the imagination, I am sure I would be exhausted every day. Every family coping with everyone at close quarters has my admiration, my sympathy, my respect and my prayers.

Some of the Bible's most ancient words can perhaps give us pause for thought. Each line of the **23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, The Lord's my Shepherd**, indicates something of God's help in times of trouble: If you can take time for reflection, take it a line at a time and pause to think of what gift this can bring. The words in capital letters are God's gifts to us, spiritually or practically through one another.

## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd

I shall not be in want

He makes me lie down in green pastures

He leads me beside quiet waters

He restores my soul

He guides me in paths of righteousness

For His name's sake

Even though I walk through the valley

of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil

For You are with me

NESS

Your rod and staff they comfort me

You prepare a table before me in the

presence of my enemies

You anoint my head with oil

My cup overflows

Surely goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

For ever

Although we are 'shielded' we can continue to pray for all who are 'out and about' in community, in hospitals, care homes, our shops and our schools. And in Christian hope, Easter hope, look to the risen Christ who brings new life and hope to the world.

RELATIONSHIP

SUPPLY

REST

REFRESHMENT

HEALING

GUIDANCE

PURPOSE

TESTING

PROTECTION

FAITHFUL-

DISCIPLINE

HOPE

CONSECRATION

ABUNDANCE

BLESSING

SECURITY

ETERNITY

Heather Andrews

Pastor

## 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 .

Ann Gihon

01935 822359

## CARNIVAL

We are very sorry to announce that we have made the decision to cancel this year's carnival. We apologise for any disappointment this may cause but we are sure you will all understand.

It is difficult to know what the next few months will bring, but we are hoping that we might be able to work with the other organisations in the village to arrange an event for later in the year. We are not sure when that will be, or if it will even be possible this year, but we will keep you updated. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see, or if you would be prepared to help on the day, please let us know (contact details below).

It has been fantastic to see so many neighbours outside clapping and cheering for our heroes on a Thursday evening. We, like all of you, are so grateful to those people who are supporting our country in these challenging times.

There are also many kind and generous people in the village who are offering support to those who need it. How lovely it is to live in such a wonderful community at a time like this. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help.

Please stay safe, stay well and do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to support you or your families.

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## WINDMILL FARM

Early March stocks of winter cattle forage were very low, so we sold 15 store cattle between the ages of 18-19 months at Frome Livestock Market. Also 39 finished cattle were sold at Frome Market or directly to the abattoir. 'Store cattle' means cattle that need more fattening up before becoming finished cattle at around 21 months, ready for slaughter.

At the beginning of April the cattle were turned out to grass and have fun skipping around, play fighting and more recently sunbathing. When I walk around the field to check them for any problems, they will follow me to the gate. It's like a game of granny's footsteps, if I turn around they all stop walking. So far only one group of 10 have escaped us twice!

The Oxford Sandy & Black pigs have been very happy in the sunshine, they have given joy to everyone who walks past them during their daily exercise and to us. On 16<sup>th</sup> March we took two pigs to the abattoir so we got a restock of plain sausages and other popular products. Then on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Dad and I collected two boar weaners at 9 weeks old from Wiliton, Bridgwater. These are lovely pigs called Jaffa and Cake, but Cake is smaller so needs guarding during meal times from his brother, Jaffa. We have invested in two commercial freezers and a fridge to accommodate our stocks of pork and beef meat (lamb coming soon). You may have seen us doing deliveries in the village, wearing our green Windmill Agri caps, which I hate wearing. We have received photos from customers of the meals made with our meat; you can check them out on our Facebook page, and this is where we let you know when fresh stock becomes available. Furthermore, we have bought a meat slicer and vacuum packer, and have been experimenting with cooked meat slices for sandwiches.

The cropped fields at the beginning of the year were very wet and therefore it stunted plant growth. To improve this, we used the Cambridge roller on the fields affected which will increase tillers on each plant, making a larger and more productive plant. Cambridge

rolling is done with a tractor pulling three heavy weighted rollers with spikes and rings that crush the ground as it is pulled along.

You may recall last spring we planted some elderflower bushes for Dad's future stocks of elderflower cordial. Unfortunately only a few plants survived the dry summer. Therefore, we have put in more plants this April and I'll water them this time until established.

Young Farmers Clubs went to Newquay for the annual South West Area weekend from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March and we all had an amazing time by the seaside, day drinking and partying! We are all very grateful that the event took place before the coronavirus got more serious. Yeovil Young Farmers have stayed connected by using video chats that accommodate many people for a quiz, home scavenger hunt, charades and so much more. Furthermore, virtual challenges are being set by Somerset County Young Farmers Federation, for members to video themselves catching/throwing/trick shooting a toilet roll, that is then made into a video compilation and put on social media. I did my challenges in the pig pen of my oldest pigs Gold and Frankincense, who often beat me to the fallen toilet roll.

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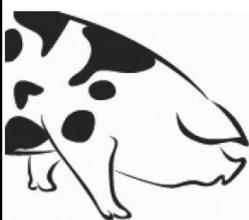
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## GARDENING CLUB

I am sure that we have all realised in the last weeks how fortunate we are to be having to experience this lockdown in such a beautiful place. In particular our gardens have for many of us become the safe havens that the Persian word for gardens a “paradise” implies. If you have a large garden then you will have had plenty to occupy you in the last weeks spent largely at home. However, even if you only garden in a window box you will have been able to see as the spring has come that life carries on and can still be beautiful. The birds and insects may even be enjoying less human activity and the air is cleaner and sweeter smelling with fewer cars.



On a practical level if you need help there is plenty available both on line and by contacting a gardening friend via phone or social media. In the last few days I have been sent a picture of a flower and asked to identify it by a relative. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has lots of good advice on its website. Some of our local garden centres although not open for us to visit will deliver if you ring them up with an order. Just ring and see if they are open for sales.

In the garden this month you can prune any early flowering shrubs that have finished flowering. Plants in pots will benefit from new compost and fertilizer. If they are small you can pot them on into a bigger pot but if they are already in the biggest pot you can manage then take out the top couple of inches, approximately five centimetres, of soil and replace it with new. Watch out for late frosts if you are planting out salad crops and if your potatoes have come through. Some horticultural fleece draped over them for the night will protect

them, or use old lace curtains or peg some bubble wrap down over them.

Above all take time to stop and look. Enjoy the colours of the new leaves, run your hands over your herbs to smell their fragrance and watch the flower buds opening day by day. Take that cup of tea or glass of something stronger out into the garden and sit and watch the afternoon drifting into evening and just enjoy the beauty of spring in a Montacute garden.

### SNIPPETS FROM THE PHELIPS – May 1789

Edward Phelips seems to have had a busy month, with no sign of social distancing. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April he celebrated his birthday with a large number of guests and fireworks but the next day he reports a “riot at my door by Jonathon Hann and others”. On 25 April he records: “Stoke Fair. Storms and Rain all day.”

Between 1 and 20 May 1789 he and his wife with friends went to plays, presumably in Yeovil, on five different occasions. They were probably performed by a group of travelling actors but were obviously popular as he reports a full house on every occasion. Titles included: Richard III, High Life below Stairs, Busy Body in the Paddock – so they were a varied diet.

Two other events of note: he reports “putting the trees out of the hall onto the terrace”. They might have been lemon trees which had wintered indoors. And, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May – a hunting day for him – he records that “Lady Chatwood drowned in the Parrett”

*Robert Fisher*

  
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## VE DAY REMEMBRANCE

\*\*\*\*\*

It has been suggested that on

**FRIDAY 8th MAY, 4.30pm**

People of Montacute might like to  
create a commemoration by  
holding a picnic tea in their front  
gardens.

A wonderful idea in these Covid  
times.

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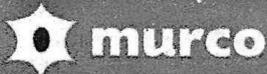
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## POST OFFICE

Well here we are in a state of total limbo, confusion, or whatever one would like to call it !!! Life here hasn't changed much apart from the parents turning into hedgehogs & hibernating & we have changed our opening hours slightly to 9-1 2-4.30 Mon/Wed/Thur/ Fri 9-1 Tue & 9-12 Sat... we only have one of us working at a time so IF (!! ) we are busy please bear with us, but the chaos of the toilet roll fights & such like seem to be behind us now but we still seem to be suffering from a distinct lack of flour at times !! Although as I write this we do have some ... !! We have eggs too which we find weird as why there is a short supply is very odd as chickens don't stop laying and Andy is a lorry driver who transports food (mainly refrigerated) but they haven't stopped working so this is a mystery yet to be resolved!!! So life in my house has been as normal really, both working, zoo is fine all just eating, pooping, sunbathing blah blah blah. I had the most marvellous birthday... it was lockdown day!! I won't forget that one in a hurry ... I think all of us have to learn from this, I have had to learn to multitask & do two lots of shopping at the same time, talk endlessly to the animals about anything & everything, ignore anything about holidays, try & forget all the plans we had & have had cancelled for the year like many of you & be grateful that we live where we do & have the walks we do, the endless birdsong ( they really are enjoying this lack of car thing!!!), the trees coming out in the most beautiful blossom, ( setting off lots of sneezing from us & neighbours!! ) & not think about the fact that 2020 is a film made from a book written by Steven King!!!

Never mind... we wobble on, we try & keep stocked up with the essentials for those who can escape to Costa del Post Office & lets hope we can all stay safe & well.

Louise xxx ( & the Hedgehogs!!)



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## Waste services - impact summary

- **Crews are collecting 300 tonnes extra recycling a week when staffing is down by nearly 60 people due to Coronavirus.**
- **Working closely with contractor SUEZ, we are maintaining core collections of recycling, clinical waste and rubbish.**
- **Easter weekend usually sees a spike in waste, so we are urging residents to avoid traditional Bank Holiday spring cleaning, DIY and gardening.**
- **As we offer guidance on how people can best manage their waste at this time, we need your help to share this as widely as possible.**

The crisis has affected both waste amounts and staffing levels to collect it.

Across Somerset, crews collected 300 extra tonnes of recycling and food waste last week, compared to the same week last year. This 20% rise is most likely due to people buying more online, eating in and tidying homes, garages and sheds.

At the same time, nearly 60 staff are not working, self isolated by symptoms in their families, and all recycling sites are temporarily closed until government travel restrictions are relaxed.

Together, these put a serious additional strain on services. We are working very hard with partners and contractors every day to refocus resources and switch staff to maintain the priority collections of recycling, clinical waste and rubbish.

Given the usual spike in waste after Easter weekend, we are encouraging people to think first before gardening, spring cleaning or DIY unless they can store waste until recycling sites reopen.

## **Service draw-backs implemented:**

- Garden waste – suspended. Subscriptions will be extended 12 months when collections restart.
- Bulky waste collections – suspended.
- Waste container delivery - suspended.
- Recycling collections – as usual but if rounds are missed, recycling will not be collected until the following week.
- Recycling sites – closed.
- Staff from suspended services have been redeployed to core tasks.

Rubbish and clinical waste collections continue as usual. If either of these are missed, use the My Waste Services menu at [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) to report this or district customer services: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/contact-us/](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/contact-us/)

For the latest updates on disruption and the steps to deal with waste, please visit [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus) and follow @somersetwaste on Twitter and Facebook.

**Parishes, councillors: Please share the following information widely.**

## **Advice and guidance**

Personal waste – if you have COVID-19 symptoms or someone in your household has symptoms, double bag all tissues, gloves and disposable cleaning cloths, keep separate for at least 72 hours, then put in the rubbish. No tissues, cleaning cloths or gloves in recycling. More detail here: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If your recycling collection is missed, take it in – we will prioritise you and be back next week. If for any reason, we miss that second week, report it and we will do our best to get back ASAP.

Put your boxes and food waste bin out by 7am and leave out late, so crews can complete delayed rounds. Park carefully so waste trucks can reach your home.

Store items you would otherwise drop off at recycling sites – do not add them to your rubbish. In particular, do not take risks with electrical items, batteries and gas canisters as these can cause a fire risk in your bin or the rubbish trucks.

Garden waste – leave it in the garden, home compost if it is practical and cut back on lawn mowing and trimming until garden waste collections restart.

Do not burn waste – this affects people's health, causes pollution, annoys neighbours, and risks wasting fire crews' time. Do not fly tip – it is a crime and will be prosecuted. This includes leaving waste outside closed recycling sites.

Sort recycling properly – putting the right things in the right boxes helps crews collect faster and collect more. If safe, crush, squash and flatten all waste – except glass and aerosols – to get more in recycling boxes or store.

Reduce your waste – reconsider cardboard-heavy online shopping, think of creative ways to use up leftovers, compost suitable foods if you can, reuse

recycling materials for child activities or reuse plastic containers to store food.

If you have no recycling box or need more space, use alternative boxes of a similar size or smaller. Do not use larger containers that will be difficult to lift.

Carrier bags can be used, with each material in a separate box or bag, except that glass bottles and jars must be in a recycling box or similar, not in a bag, and food and drink cans, aerosols, foil and plastic bottles can go in together.

Do not use cardboard boxes for recyclable materials. If the box gets wet, a lot more materials will get dropped, broken or end up as litter.



The Phelips Arms  
The Borough  
Montacute TA15 6XB  
01935 822557  
[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!



## A note from Keeley Rudd, CEO of Community Council for Somerset (Village Agents)

First and foremost I hope you are well, keeping safe and managing to access the support and essential supplies you need in these difficult times.

CCS Village, Community and Carers Agents have been providing support for individuals and communities in Somerset since 2012. Agents help by providing practical, community based solutions to meet peoples basic needs and beyond. This is a unique service across the county and CCS works extremely closely with both the health services and social care to broker a range of support in a person-centred way to enable someone to be nurtured in their own local community wherever possible. Village, Community and Carers Agents are **designated key-workers** during the COVID-19 pandemic and have individual letters of authority from the County Council to verify this.

During this unprecedented time the calls to our services and out to members of the community to provide help, support and advice run into thousands on a weekly basis and the demand is increasing. All Agents (and other staff within CCS) are working extremely hard and despite the volume are managing to provide the same professional and personalised help and support and are receiving some fantastic feedback from those they have supported. If you have any feedback you would like to share please send it to: [info@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetccc.org.uk).

If you need Agent support please use the Agent Call Back form on our website [www.ccslovesomerset.org](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org) The current crisis has shown the compassion, kindness and community spirit of people in Somerset. CCS Agents can help you to get in touch with your local support group.

In addition, we have experienced and knowledgeable staff who can support you if you are part of a Parish or Town Council, a Village Hall Committee, social or community enterprise or community group or charity. Advice is available on our website or you can call the main CCS number on **01823 331222** for help.

- Contact your local Parish Council for doorstep support.
- Contact your GP, NHS 111, and pharmacy or wellbeing advisors if you have any medical concerns.

If you are a carer and look after a family member or dependent in an unpaid capacity you may need additional support so please call our Freephone number on **0800 31 68 600** or visit the website <https://somerseccarers.org> where we offer a web chat facility. If you are concerned about a neighbour or someone you know in your local area who is a carer and they do not have access to the internet then please give them the advice line number.

I hope you will join me in thanking the dedicated and professional staff at CCS and in recognising and thanking CCS Agents as frontline key-workers who are helping to ensure that essential supplies and support get through to the people who need it most. Include them in your “Clap for Carers” each week to show your support.

### **WHO TO CONTACT THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS LOCK-DOWN FOR SUPPORT:**

- Contact CCS via the usual website and our COVID-19 response form [www.ccslovesomerset.org](http://www.ccslovesomerset.org). An Agent will contact you with relevant information about local volunteers, as well as shops and restaurants that are able to deliver to you in your area. Agents can also provide any other support regarding benefits and housing.
- Contact Somerset Direct if you have safeguarding concerns or care plan issues **0300 123 2224**
- Somerset County Council has a created a dedicated COVID-19 helpline: **0300 790 6275**
- Contact your local Parish Council for doorstep support.
- Contact your GP, NHS 111, and pharmacy or wellbeing advisors if you have any medical concerns.

## PARISH COUNCIL

A huge thank you to Janine Kelly for setting up the 'Community Help' and all the volunteers assisting her and working so hard to help those who are self-isolating and vulnerable in our community with their shopping, prescriptions and so much more. A special thank you to Daryl Gaylard for delivering the 'Community Help' leaflets and 'Stay at Home' guidance to everyone in the village on behalf of the Parish Council. Without his help, it would have been difficult to get these around to everyone. It is wonderful that we have such selfless people who are willing to assist others during this dreadful time.

We would also like to express our appreciation to everyone who is continuing to work especially nurses, doctors, and carers. Not forgetting everyone working in our supermarkets, postmen/women, delivery drivers and our waste collection services. Thank you for everything you do! Also, a shout out too for all those of you in the village who are quietly lending a hand to your neighbours in need. You are all stars. This is such a great village to live in.

It is wonderful to hear and see everyone out Clapping for Carers on Thursday evenings at 8pm. Let us make as much noise as we can every single week to show our appreciation!

**A Somerset Support Helpline** by the County and District Councils has been launched on **0300 790 6275** if you need transport to medical appointments, waste collection and disposal, emotional support if you are feeling worried or anxious, financial support. Callers will be asked to describe the support they require.

**SSDC Wellbeing Hub** - You can also call the District Council on **01935 462462** between 8am and 4pm seven days a week if you need support during the Coronavirus crisis.

The Council can provide information regarding: -

- **Business grants** during the Coronavirus crisis
- Access to **free food boxes** if you are facing financial hardship
- Access to the **food boxes** being provided to the vulnerable from the Wellbeing Hub

It is so important that all of us continue to obey the social distancing rules and stay at home. 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!

### **Hamdon Medical Centre**

The Hamdon Medical Centre recently posted the following on Facebook:  
- All the staff at Hamdon Medical Centre would like to thank our patients for their understanding during the COVID-19 outbreak. We are grateful for the messages of support and thanks that we have received (and the biscuits and chocolate!). We appreciate that these are challenging and worrying times for you. We would also like to send a HUGE Thank You to the local Community Help Project that has been set up, you are doing an amazing job at supporting our local community. You will have heard messages in the media about letters for high risk and very high-risk patients being sent out by the government. There are also different terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and shielding being used– we get confused too! We are still waiting for computer searches to use that will look at our computer system and identify those of you that fall into the very high risk category – this is a national issue and not restricted to Hamdon Medical Centre. As soon as we have those searches please be assured that we will action them. Some of you will have been contacted directly by your hospital teams already.

### **VE Day 75 – 8<sup>th</sup> May**

As we are unable to have the celebration on VE Day, it would be lovely to mark the occasion with residents standing on their doorsteps at 7pm on 8<sup>th</sup> May and singing a rendition of ‘We’ll Meet Again’ followed by ‘Rule Britannia’. Come on everyone let’s make it an evening to remember!

### **Bonfires**

Whilst many of us are in ‘lockdown’ and it is gloriously sunny and warm, we now have time to tidy our gardens and allotments. However, with the recycling centres closed and Somerset Waste Partnership not collecting the garden waste some of us are clearing this waste with a bonfire. Although there is no law against having a bonfire it is only courteous to consider your neighbours. Please check whether your neighbours windows are open or whether there is washing on the line. Also, consider what

time of day you decide to have your bonfire. Ideally, at this time of year it is better to light a bonfire after 7pm.

Never leave your bonfire unattended and make sure it's not too big. Do not burn rubber or plastics as all of these factors are considered a nuisance and you could be reported.

### **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)*

*Telephone: 01935 822455*

*Website: [www.montacuteparishcouncil.com](http://www.montacuteparishcouncil.com)*

## **THURSDAY CLAPPING**

Gina and I would like to include all at the Post Office and Garage in Montacute for their wonderful efforts to keep us and others going throughout the present lockdown.

*Rob and Gina Fisher*

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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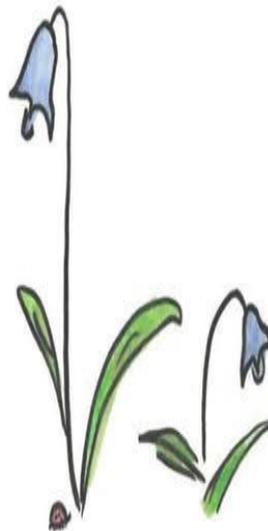
07707 696446

tkctutoring2@gmail.com

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.

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## MONTACUTE HOUSE

I have been working at Montacute for over 20 years now and I'd never even dreamed that over Easter I would be the only person standing in the gardens!! Though I felt very privileged, it brought home to me that without our visitors enjoying our beautiful buildings and gardens, in the care of the National Trust, what a hollow exercise it would be in their preservation.

On a more flippant note I am now enjoying working in T shirt and shorts with my NT cap occasionally worn back to front to keep the sun off my neck. Who said middle aged rapper!

Our parkland is now brimming with new lambs so if you do want to walk and exercise there with your dogs please keep them on a lead. If you are looking for a walk where you can let dogs off their leads, try Ladies Walk. Oh, the bluebells are spectacular. Wild garlic more your thing... the base of St Michael's Hill and Mill Cops is thick with it, but hey there are no vampires within miles.

After the nice pretty pictures I thought you might enjoy there is a short piece about our parterre from our head gardener.

Best wishes to you all and I hope it won't be too long before we can welcome you all back to our most special House and Garden.

Stay safe

Grahame Meaden □ Senior Visitor Services Manager







Whatever happens over the next few weeks, the parterre is the one area I'm making sure to keep mowing at Montacute House, though it takes about four hours!

My aim is to keep things ticking over though it won't look as we had planned— outlying areas (family picnic area, Farmer's Piece and the orchard) will be left unmown, and I've decided not to try and keep up all the edging by myself.

I'm watering the greenhouses twice a day at the moment— the Melon House reached 30°C on a couple of days. With no seed sowing there won't be pot displays this year, but the pelargoniums will still be looking good for the Orangery.

It's not too late for you to sow annuals, which will get going really well in this warm weather. Just watch out for those early morning frosts though.

*Chris Gaskin, Head Gardener,*

# NEW- Salad box £12

With the warmer weather we've decided to introduce a salad box option alongside our mixed veg and fruit boxes. The new box contains such items as cucumber, tomatoes, avocado, leaves, lettuce, pepper/s, red onion, spring onion, beetroot and celery and more as the season progresses.

We have tried to stay away from plastic bags to package our loose leaves but after listening to customers have decided for freshness and longevity to move across to small plastic bags for mixed leaves, rocket, spinach, etc. We encourage you to re-use these where possible for your own salad and veg at home.

Please let us know what you think and how we can continue to improve.



Due to heavy demand it will take a few days to deal with your email.

Be aware we are booking deliveries & collections in a week from now so thank you for your patience.

For Farm Shop only orders (i.e Food items) please contact us by telephone - 01935 864166

For Nursery Orders please email us - [orders@greensleevesnurseries.co.uk](mailto:orders@greensleevesnurseries.co.uk)

The website now lists most items for sale with prices so please check that first to assist with the ordering process.

Subscribe to the website to be kept up to date.

If emailing please give us as much information as possible - full names, contact numbers and addresses (for delivery).

**Greensleeves Nurseries, Lower Odcombe, BA22 8TW**

**01935 864166**

Share Via:



# MONTACUTE CHARITY QUIZ

For obvious reasons the quiz is currently suspended – however, here are a few questions to help relieve lock-down monotony.

1. What is the highest mountain in France?
2. How many pips are there in the Greenwich Time Signal?
3. Which comedian co-wrote the TV shows "The Office" and "Extras" with Stephen Merchant?
4. `Orcinus Orca` is the Latin name for which sea creature?
5. Barwick Green is the name of the title music to which show?
6. In which London cemetery is Karl Marx buried?
7. Whose garden does Peter Rabbit sneak into to eat cabbages?
8. In Japan, which trees are used for raising silkworms?
9. According to the proverb what is the road to hell paved with?
10. Humboldt, Yellow Eyed and Fairy are all species of which bird?
11. Under what pen-name did Agatha Christie write romance novels?
12. What was the name of the dog in the film, The Wizard of Oz?

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 peaking)

1) Mont Blanc 2) Six 3) Ricky Gervaise 4) Killer Whale 5) The Archers 6) Highgate 7) Mr MacGregor's 8) Mulberry Trees 9) Good intentions 10) Penguins 11) Mary Westmacott 12) Toto

## A FIELD IN SOMERSET

(Now called Planning Application 20/00991/OUT)

Mason Lane is a narrow lane of just 6 bungalows on the western edge of Montacute village. The Planning Application is to pack up to 30 dwellings onto the small field. Dwellings that will overlook the bungalows of Mason Lane. This, a small field off Mason Lane is a natural greenfield boundary between the villages of Montacute and Stoke-Sub-Hamdon. It is agricultural land that each year provides a harvest crop of hay that is cut and baled at the end of summer to be taken away for winter feed for livestock

During the growing the flowers attract bees and butterflies and other insects that the summer swallows swoop low over the field to catch.

Occasionally very very early on a summer's morning just as the morning mist is rising, roe deer can be seen in the field and on one occasion a young roe deer was seen with its mother, its head just rising above the growing hay.

Buzzards and kestrels hover high over the field to swoop down onto field mice.

Badgers, foxes and rabbits use the field and small birds take grass seeds from the ripening hay. After the hay harvest, pigeons strut the field finding fallen hay seed.

On a quiet Sunday morning with a prevailing westerly wind, Stoke-Sub-Hamdon church bells can be faintly heard across the quiet fields.

At night, Mason Lane on the fringe of Montacute has minimum light pollution. On clear nights the silver stars and moon are very bright, (although the pollution is still much more than during the wartime blackout).

The green fields of Somerset are being eroded and lost forever to satisfy a current building quota for new houses. Villages will merge and lose their individuality.

It is Somerset's loss.

A Mills

Somerset

# NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPLICATION



The Owner and/or Occupier  
● Lower Hyde Road  
Montacute  
Somerset  
TA15 6UR

Date: 24 April 2020  
Our Ref: 20/00991/OUT/Colin Arnold

**What is proposed?** Outline application with all matters reserved save for access for the residential development of land for up to 30 No. dwellings

**Where is it proposed?** Land At Mason Lane Montacute Somerset

## How do I see the plans and make comments to be considered by the Council?

- 1 Go online to: [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk)
- 2 Scroll down the homepage to 'Search for a Planning Application'
- 3 Insert the Application Reference: **20/00991/OUT**
- 4 Click on the 'Documents' tab to view plans and supporting documents and the 'Comments' tab to make representations, and to track the application thereon

We will not be able to answer questions posed within representations. For QR enabled smartphones you can use the code at the foot of this letter to shortcut to the webpage now. Your comments are checked and registered prior to being uploaded to the website which will delay them being seen online instantly.

More information about what happens next can be found at:  
<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/services/planning/planning-process-explained/>

### **We require comments by: 17 May 2020.**

General Data Protection Regulations - Prior to submitting please be aware that your comments (including your name and address) will be made public and will be published on our website. This is because, in order for the Council to comply with planning law, we must have a register of applications that have been made to us. We must make information available about who has made the application, what the application is, and what people think about it. Where email addresses and contact telephone numbers have been submitted, we will redact before publication. Before progressing please refer to our online Privacy Notice at [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk) which explains how we will use your personal information and how we protect your privacy. If you need to speak to someone about your privacy please email [DPO@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@southsomerset.gov.uk).

If you need any assistance please call our Customer Connect Team on 01935 462462.



DCNCONFO.v7

This has been received by just a very few Montacute villagers.  
There may be an issue connecting using the scanned code.  
Please keep us all informed. *Ed.*

**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

**My name is**

*Janine*

**I live locally at**

*Fig Tree Cottage, Wash Lane*

**My phone number is**

*01935 822678*

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping   | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

**Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.**

**#ViralKindness**

## THANK YOU

Roy and Janet Littlefield would like to thank the Covid 19 group for their help and support, Octavia and Grace for the deliveries and last but definitely not least Susie and Richard who have given us such valuable help in many ways including a weekly delivery of groceries. It is such a treat to see Susie turn up with the wheel barrow full of our goodies.

All their help is so appreciated.

Keep safe one and all.

*Roy and Janet*



Some of the hundreds of daffodils planted by the Gardening Club at All Saints School. Now blooming.

## HELP—GARAGE NEEDED

Mike and Becky, in the Borough, have suddenly acquired a modern classic car, and there's a good story attached ! However they are in desperate need of a locking garage for it for a couple of months.

If you can help, or know of somebody who might have , would you contact Mike on 07599513654

*Ed.*

# *The Kings Arms Inn*



*Kings Arms Inn,*

*Montacute,*

*Yeovil,*

*TA15 6UU*

*[www.thekingsarmsinn.co.uk](http://www.thekingsarmsinn.co.uk)*

*Tel. 01935 822255*

*Curry*  
*Every*  
*Thursday*  
*and Friday*  
*Please contact*  
*us in advance*

*Roast Lunch*  
*Every Sunday*  
*Please con-*  
*tact us in*  
*advance*