

The Villager

Minsterworth News



Spring in our garden

by Betty Jayne

March 2018

Price 30p

Edition 185

Dear Readers,

More pictures like the ones on February & March's covers please!
We'll have another reader's home pic in May but I've got nothing for April yet, unless I get some Minsterworth Photographic Club winners...

This month we've got a poem from a real **Live Local** poet, a woman too! See p6.

Paula

Closing copy date for the April edition is Thursday 15th March 2018
but earlier is even better!

All items for consideration to:-
Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager
Tel: 01452 751226.

E-mail: thevillager@minsterworth.org

Responsibility is not accepted for the accuracy of submitted items nor the content of advertisements.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING March

BLUE bin & caddy
(recycling)

Tuesday 13

Tuesday 27

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy
(landfill) (garden)

Tuesday 6

Tuesday 20

Mobile library

Friday 9th March

10.00 – 10.30
outside school

Weekend Severn Bores March 2018

Date	Day	Time	Tide(m)	Prospect
3	Fri	08.10	9.7	***
4	Sat	08.53	10.0	****
5	Sun	09.33	10.0	****

Another weekend of Severn Bores and the Church and Village Hall will be open for refreshments and parking. Come & have a look at this natural phenomenon. Find your spot nice & early.

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."
Winston Churchill

www.brainyquote.com

"A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

www.brainyquote.com

Are you inadvertently guilty of fly tipping...?

Two more cases of fly tipping have resulted in substantial fines after two individuals were found guilty of illegally disposing of waste in Tewkesbury borough.

Tewkesbury Borough Council's environmental health officers took both cases to Cheltenham Magistrates Court on Monday 8 January. The court found Mr Charlie Stephens, of Top Notch Carpentry, guilty of fly tipping material at Aggs Hill in January 2017. Mr Stephens received a £1,200 fine and was ordered to pay costs of £1,325 as well as a £60 victim surcharge.

The court also found Michelle Wilkins, from Innsworth, guilty of failing to comply with her duty of care to dispose of domestic waste responsibly. Ms Wilkins' waste was found in a fly tip off Frogfurlong Lane in June 2017. She was fined £40 and ordered to pay £548 costs as well as a £30 victim surcharge.

Councillor Jim Mason, Tewkesbury Borough Council's lead member for clean and green environment, said: "I'd like to thank our environmental health team for pursuing these cases and bringing them to court. We hope this will deter others from doing the same. Fly tipping not only substantially harms the environment, but it also upsets and distresses local residents and it then falls on council tax payers to pay for the clear-up. Please do make sure that any 'man with a van' is licenced to take your waste - it's very important that you know where your waste will end up as you can be fined for their negligence."

For waste that cannot be disposed of in weekly bin collections, the Borough council offers the following advice:

- * Find out if the local household recycling centre can accept the waste. This is usually free of charge and details of the nearest recycling centre can be found at <http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/household-recycling-centres-hrcs/>
- * Check whether the council can offer a bulky or special collection service by calling 01684 2595010.
- * Use a licensed commercial waste collector. Details of registered collectors can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information>

Minsterworth Holiday Let

Do you have friends and/or family visiting (or that you want to visit), but not enough space? If so please consider "Pershbrook", a warm & cosy cottage with great views by the Severn. It sleeps 7 with 2 King and 3 single beds in 4 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms, large Kitchen/Diner and even larger living room.

Self catering.

Contact Mike Preston 01452 751065, 07770 484223



"Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions."
- Dalai Lama

www.brainyquote.com

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Church Ladies With Typewriters

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.
With thanks to Pat Jenkins

For Spring

Mother Nature is rejoicing
In every shade of green
Each time she dons her new dress
It's the best I've ever seen

The countryside anticipates,
The beasts, the fish, the fowl,
And Mother Nature is rejoicing
Now She's shed Winter's cowl.

Though wintertime is lovely,
Nature's sleeping, She's at rest,
Yet best of all life loves the Spring
From north to south, east and west.

Lin Hart
©1990

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MINSTERWORTH AND DISTRICT

The March meeting of the Minsterworth R.B.L. will revert to the normal second Wednesday in the month which is 14th March. Come and join us at the meeting and help support our branch.

Military History

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| March 1 st – 1942 | Battle of the Java Sea |
| March 20 th – 2003 | Assault on the Al-Faw Peninsula |
| March 28 th – 1941 | Victory over the Italians at Cape Matapan |

Terry Bourne, Chairman
Minsterworth & District R.B.L.

Thoughts gleaned from the story of Noah at our family service at Minsterworth

! remember we are all in the same boat.

Stay fit. When you are very old someone may ask you to do something really big.

For safety's sake travel in pairs.

When you are stressed..... float a while.

Speed isn't everything, the snails were on board as well as the cheetahs.

Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job.

Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Remember, no matter how big the storm, when you are with God there is always a rainbow waiting.

Most important.....don't miss the boat.

Money can't buy happiness - but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than in a Ford Escort.

Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind... and the ones that mind don't matter.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

www.punchline-gloucester.com



Community Safety Update



Bogus Grants

Individuals and businesses are being warned to watch out for cold calls and online contact from fraudsters who are offering victims the opportunity to apply for Government grants for an advance fee. To make the grants look legitimate fraudsters have set up bogus companies and convincing looking websites that claim to be operating on behalf of the UK Government.

Fraudsters cold call businesses and individuals offering the grant and if they're interested direct them to fill out an online application form with their personal information. Once the fraudsters have that information they'll contact victims and congratulate them on being accepted onto the grant programme.

Pre-paid credit cards

Applicants are then asked to provide identification and are instructed to get a pre-paid credit card to deposit their own contribution to the fake Government grant scheme. Fraudsters will then contact victims on the phone or are emailed and asked for the details of their pre-paid credit card and copies of statements to in order for them to add the grant funds.

Of course, the grant funds are never given by the fraudsters and the money that's been loaded by the victim onto the card is stolen.

If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately and report it to us. We've already taken down one website fraudsters have been using to commit this fraud and are working with Companies House to combat this issue.

How to protect yourself:

Be wary of unsolicited callers implying that you can apply for grants. You should never have to pay to receive a government grant, and they definitely won't instruct you to obtain a pre-paid credit card. The government should have all the information they need if a genuine grant application was submitted, therefore any requests for personal or banking information either over the phone or online should be refused.

What to do if you're a victim:

O If you think your bank or personal details have been compromised or if you believe you have been defrauded contact your bank immediately.

O Stop all communication with the 'agency' but make a note of their details and report it to Action Fraud.

O If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

The information contained within this alert is based on information gathered by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). The purpose of this alert is to increase awareness of this type of fraud. The alert is aimed at members of the public, local police forces, businesses and governmental agencies

Fraser Gunn

On behalf of West Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Watch Association



St Peter's P.C.C.

The Whist Drive

Thank you as always to all who supported and helped with the whist drive. It was quite a cold evening outside but there was a warm and friendly feeling inside. £62.50 was the amount raised for church funds.

The next whist drive will be on March 5th at Minsterworth Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

200 Club

The 200 Club draw for February resulted in the following:-

£50	No. 032	Pat Haisell-Neves
£20	No. 084	Harry Gwilliam
£10	No. 076	George Parker

Church Service times & Flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
4 March	11am	Family Service	none
4 March	5pm	Evensong	Kate Oxley
11 March	11am	Holy Communion	Kate Oxley
18 March	5pm	Evening Prayer	No flowers
25 March	9.30am	Holy Communion	No flowers

On Good Friday, 30th March, there is a service at Minsterworth church starting at 7pm

There is also a short service of Compline during Lent – every Friday up to and including 23rd March, starting 6.30pm at Northwood Green Church.

Lent Lunches

Lent lunches continue on the Saturdays 10th, 17th & 24th March, between 12.30pm and 2pm. All will be held at Northwood Green Social Hall and the proceeds from the lunches will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Dates for the Diary

21st April is the date this year of Liz & Gerald's Pop-in Coffee Day, 10am – 12 noon: and 3pm – 4.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet up with friends and a chance to get to know other people within our community. If you are new to the area then please do come along and get to know us all. We are at Rosedale House, Main Road, Minsterworth.

MINSTERWORTH READING GROUP



On Wednesday 7th March we will review 'Two Brothers' by Ben Elton in Minsterworth Village Hall at 7.30pm.

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated."
- Confucius

www.Brainyquote.com

Fundraiser thanks

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent joint fundraiser 'Puddings evening and sheep drive', for the donations of puddings, raffle prizes, help with serving and for washing up!

We had over 20 delicious puddings donated, which was much appreciated by all who attended. I think it is fair to say that it was a different and sociable evening, by the end of the evening everyone knew each other! and all went home with a smile!

A fantastic £135 each has been passed to Minsterworth Villager Hall and to St Peters Church.

Thank you.

CT

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HISTORICAL SNIPPETS AROUND MINSTERWORTH

And so, it has finally happened. Because of dwindling pupil levels, a joint decision between the Gloucestershire County Council and the Gloucester Diocese has resulted in the closure of Minsterworth's Church of England school. There will be many, especially past pupils, parents, teaching staff and former governors who will feel very sad at the school's demise. For well over 200 years Minsterworth school provided innumerable generations of village children with a comprehensive, balanced and purposeful Christian education.

The school's origins date back to 1763 when local benefactress Susannah Crump endowed money towards the employment of a 'discreet school mistress' to teach 10 poor children to read. In 1784, a further bequest of £100 came from local landowner Daniel Ellis (Susannah's son) towards the building of a school and, by 1808, a small schoolhouse had been built on land donated by another Minsterworth landowner Jeremiah Hawkins. In 1835, the same Jeremiah willed the income of £200 of stock towards maintaining this school specifically to teach 20 poor children to 'read, sew and knit'. The school house (which still stands near the top of School Alley) comprised a single school room and accommodation for a school mistress. Soon additional accommodation became necessary and in 1857, using funds raised through local subscription, a new school was built on land adjacent to the old schoolhouse. At first the new school building had just one classroom but a second larger classroom was added in 1869. This essentially is the building we see today but with modern additions.

For most of its existence, average attendance at the school remained at around 50 to 60. In the 1830s 50 children attended (24 boys and 26 girls), their education being partly funded by public subscription, partly by parents. In 1894 attendance was 54. In 1922 it was as low as 35 but by 1932 had picked up to 48. In times past, levels of attendance depended much more on factors such as weather, flooding and harvesting (when children were required to work on the land). Not so well known today is that for much of the school's history the parish of Minsterworth also took in Elmore Back on the opposite side of the river and, to attend school each day, a number of the school's pupils had to cross the river by ferry.

In more recent years, improvements to the building have included: in 1994, an additional extension providing a new infant classroom, provision of a playing field adjoining the playground and, in 2004, a school hall and computer room.

What happens to the school building is still to be resolved. All the contents properly belonging to the Local Education Authority have now been removed but a few items of the old school having a more sentimental nature, such as the school bell, the school banner and an old wall clock, have passed to the church for safe keeping.

TMS

An Evening with Dame Janet Trotter

We had an excellent evening with Dame Janet at the Village Hall on Saturday 17th February 2018.

Janet was one of the founding members of the University of Gloucestershire in 2001, and became its first Vice-Chancellor. In 2010 she was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

In her talk Dame Janet, who was accompanied by her sister Ann from Canada, outlined her four main official duties as Lord-Lieutenant.

These were firstly 'Celebrating Excellence', namely presenting the Queens Award for Industry to businesses that had performed well. The nature of some of the businesses was quite surprising! Her second duty is to arrange and to be present at Royal visits to the County. Royal visits arise either because they are requested by the community, for example for an opening ceremony, or because 'the Royal' is patron of a particular enterprise and they wish to visit that enterprise to see how it is progressing. Her third official duty is to be the representative of the Queen for the armed forces. This was a frequent part of her work and included involvement with recovery from PTSD. Her fourth duty is a responsibility for helping to build and maintain civic society, for example care for foster children and other disadvantaged groups.

It's clearly not an easy job, and as it's entirely voluntary, it's not a job for the faint hearted! Dame Janet is assisted by 30 deputies who are also appointed by the Queen, but she has no permanent secretarial staff. Her recent award of CVO (Companion of the Victorian Order) is a personal award from the Queen, and was presented at a ceremony at Windsor Castle the day before Dame Janet spoke to us at Minsterworth.

Proceeds were split evenly between the Church and the Village Hall. Thanks to all those who supported the evening.

RB

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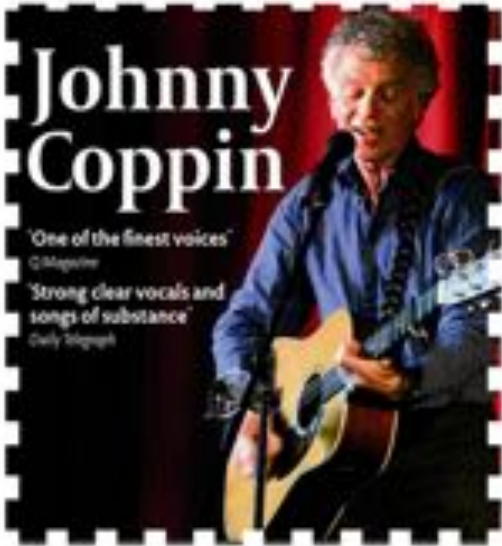
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18th May 2018

SAVE THIS DATE

for the next appearance in Minsterworth
of the
Legendary Gloucestershire Folk Singer



Full details to follow later



A joint Church & Village Hall event

The Magic of Yoga

There is no mysticism in yoga – for me it is all about reconnecting with yourself and others, and so the magic is you and us.

I have practiced yoga on and off for years and the reason that I am now a teacher is that I love love love the physical asanas/poses and the strength (physical and mental) that I now have both on and off of the mat. I may be able to do headstands, crow pose, and get my legs around my head but most importantly I am also able to be calm (mostly) no matter what life throws my way.

Yoga is for everybody, every 'body'. Each element provides us with a little 'toolbox' for life. Breath work reconnects us to us, and how we can energise or calm ourselves. The asanas can be adapted to work and challenge all people from a gentle seated twist, to finding balance in tree pose to piking into a handstand (I am determined to be able to handstand one day!).

I love seeing how people support each other in class, either actually with a hand or with encouragement. It reinforces a sense of community, of connectedness. What makes me feel warm and fuzzy is seeing others in their own greatness, a seated warrior, the first time that someone is in crow pose for just a second, the smiles and laughter, the stillness and peace on someone's face during savasana (the most important and delicious asana) and as they leave readjusted, reconnected, rejuvenated at the end of class.

You can tap into all of this, or just have a strong flexible, body – what is not to like?

Emily Burgess

www.facebook.com/EmilyBurgessYoga

Emily holds Yoga classes every Thursday morning at 10am in the Village Hall. Many thanks to Sarah McHale for introducing Emily. Just turn up if you fancy a go. Bring a mat to lie on. First session is free.

Notes from PC Meeting 12th February 2018

All present, save apologies from Cllr. S. King. Chaired by Cllr. R. Blowey.

1. County Cllr. P Awford reported that Ofsted see a small improvement in safeguarding 'looked after' (aka 'in care') children. A new director with a reputation for getting things done has been appointed. Proper resurfacing of the A48 will need to be in the new budget. The Environment Agency (EA) need to highlight the difference between flood warnings and alerts to help people understand. Where previously the EA have maintained rather than raised flood defences they may be more conscious of anticipated flood threats. The traffic lights to Highnam on the A40 is a real problem that needs to be resolved. It seems to be a complex issue and the lights have gone down 5 times.
2. Public Comment
There is a wish for the play area near the former school to be retained, with a seating area and a sign. A new play area planned near the Village Hall would be years away. A Health & Safety inspection would only cost a couple of hundred pounds and the Parish Council should see this as a need for the village. The play area is on land currently owned by the LEA. It is not designated as a play area at present. The Parish Council will look at the costs of looking after the play area, including the lease of land from the LEA. There is no question of moving the park up to the Village Hall. Grass mowing might be added on to the Village Hall's grass cutting. TBC will require weekly inspections, which could be done by parents. Public Liability insurance could be covered by the Parish Council. A license could be applied for to turn it into a park. A resident has been putting 'no parking' signs on cars parked on the verge in front of their house on the A48. The verge in front of a property is not owned by the property but is public land.
3. Planning:
17/00831/ADV Orchard End, Church End display of two freestanding signs. No objection.
18/00038/FUL Street End Cottage, The Street erection of greenhouse. Support.
18/00045/FUL Part Parcel 1228 right turning onto A48 is a Field access & may become muddy. Not supporting as need more information.
18/00107/FUL Hill Farm, Main Road. Single storey extension no objection
Decision Holborn Ho granted
4. Future growth of Minsterworth will be discussed at a future meeting.
5. The Accounts were signed
6. Speeding continues on the lower road. Investigate obtaining a speed gun to provide evidence.
7. The next meeting of Minsterworth Parish Council is on Monday 12th March at 7.30pm in Minsterworth Village Hall.

This report doesn't necessarily reflect the minuted discussions and decisions of the Parish Council; anyone wanting further information, or to inspect the agreed minutes, should consult the Clerk Fiona Wallbank on 01452 849178.

Celebrate the coming of Spring

In the northern hemisphere Spring starts this year on 20th March.

On the spring and autumn equinox it is light for 12 hours and dark for 12 hours. On 20th March 2018 the sun will be directly over the equator and then will shift into the northern hemisphere for the next six months. And the days are getting longer – AND warmer (honestly).

Upcoming dates for Minsterworth Village Hall

Saturday 28th April

Saturday 28th July

Saturday 27th October

Please put these dates in your diary. The Village Hall will open for Minsterworth people and their friends to get together after the success of the Saturday in January. As promised we will also have a

Fete Saturday 16th June

More information nearer the time. Suggestions to any committee member

Thank you to our sponsors for your support in 2017/18

If you would like to sponsor The Villager please send a cheque payable to **Minsterworth Parish Council** to the editor Paula Ruffley at:
The Firs, Church Lane, Minsterworth GL2 8JJ

Where have all the Mad March Hares gone?

When disturbed, Brown Hares can be seen bounding across fields using their powerful hind legs to propel them forwards, often in a zigzag pattern. They can travel very fast, but can't resist stopping to have a look back to check for their follower – the reason for the 'Hare and Tortoise' comparison & often their demise.

The once common Brown Hare has seen a dramatic decline in numbers due to changing agricultural practices affecting its favoured grassland habitats. Shooting and coursing have also had an impact on it.

I remember seeing them as a child, careering across flat grassland at full tilt, then just stopping dead to look round. When was the last time you saw one?

Are you sitting down? You might want to be sitting down for this. OK, ready? Cats tend to prefer the company of people over nearly anything else.

Unbelievable, right? Well, there's scientific evidence to back up that claim. Researchers exposed 38 cats to a wide variety of stimuli including food, toys, interesting smells and humans to see which they preferred. And humans won out, even against food — though food was a close second.

The researchers say the information might be useful in helping reinforce good behaviour in cats through conditioning, but they leave it to future studies to see if that's true.

Very small sample size so I remain unconvinced (Paula)

Thank you for adding 25% to your donation to the VILLAGE HALL thro' Gift Aid

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If you would like to Gift Aid your donation please complete the back page, tear it off and send it with a cheque payable to **MINSTERWORTH VILLAGE HALL** to Paula Ruffley at:
The Firs, Church Lane, Minsterworth GL2 8JJ.

FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Page</u>
5	St Peter's PCC Whist Drive	11
7	Minsterworth Reading Group	12
12	Minsterworth Parish Council Meeting	20
14	Minsterworth RBL meeting	8
	Recycling Collection dates	2
	Mobile Library dates	2

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