

The Villager

Minsterworth News



“Waiting patiently for breakfast”

by Arlette Lane

May 2019

Price 30p

Edition 199

Dear Readers,

The houses on Ellis Bank Lane had their official opening on Tuesday 9th April by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, Princess Royal. Roger Blowey takes up the story on p4.

There will be more on the visit from HRH in the 200th edition.

Paula

Closing copy date for the June 200th(!) edition is Wednesday 15th May 2019
but earlier is even better!

All items for consideration to:-
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Responsibility is not accepted for the accuracy of submitted items nor the content of advertisements.

<p style="text-align: center;">KERBSIDE</p> <p>BLUE bin & caddy (recycling) Wednesday 8 Tuesday 21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECYCLING - MAY</p> <p>GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy (landfill) (garden) Tuesday 14 Wednesday 29</p>
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<p>Mobile library</p>	<p>Friday 28th May</p>	<p>10.00 – 10.30 outside school</p>
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Liz & Gerald's
Pop-in Coffee Morning

At Rosedale House, Main Road, Minsterworth

on

Saturday 18th May 2019

10am – 12 Noon

Tea, Coffee, and Home-made Biscuits
Raffle & Cake stall

All proceeds for St Peter's Church.

The Princess in Minsterworth

Minsterworth was honoured to have been visited by HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, on Tuesday 9th April 2019, on the occasion of the Official Opening of the Ellis Bank housing.

As Patron of the Rural Housing Association the Princess Royal knows a surprising amount about these housing developments and has in fact put forward some of her own land for a similar project in her locality. The idea of inviting her to perform the official opening started in late 2017. There is a specific procedure to follow, overseen by the Lord Lieutenant's office, lots of application forms to fill in and we were informed of the date of the visit in February 2019. Unfortunately – for security reasons – we were asked not to publicise the visit, other than to those who were going to be specifically invited. Even then each person had to be named and the reason for their invitation given. It's such a shame that the risks within our society have led to such precautions being necessary.

On arrival at Ellis Bank Her Royal Highness was met by Jane Jenner-Fust, the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Charles Berkeley, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, Andrew Gravells, Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council, and representatives of Rooftop and The Parish Council. HRH visited two of the Ellis Bank houses and appeared genuinely interested in the residents, the layout of the houses and how the new housing will integrate into the village. Many thanks go to Maxine, Rob, Sam and Jacob who acted as hosts. On her way back to the reception in the Village Hall, Lorna Watkins was waiting on the pavement and presented HRH with a bouquet of wild flowers that she had picked when walking up to the village hall!

In the hall itself HRH spent 45 minutes being introduced to Felicity Karger, who provided the land for the development, to members of Minsterworth Parish Council, The Village Hall Trust, The British Legion, The Church, Rooftop, Knarsboro Homes and their support staff. Displays were presented of the history of the Viner Ellis family in Minsterworth, of the Villager and of Rooftop Housing. During her time in the Hall, HRH was shown the newly refurbished kitchen, as part of the costs originated from funds received from Rooftop, a good example of the benefits of the housing scheme for the community in general. Catering was provided by Jill Smith and was the first event in the new kitchen. Let's hope there will be lots more to follow!

The day was a lot of effort, but much enjoyed by those present, and certainly a nice way of rounding off the Affordable Housing scheme.

RB

Ellis Bank residents welcome the Princess Royal

On Tuesday 9th April we had the honour of opening our door to HRH The Princess Royal, and an honour it truly was.

A morning spent for us all full of nerves and running around but the moment she arrived all of that disappeared. She was so welcoming and a delight to meet; we still feel our feet haven't quite touched the ground. HRH loved the Ellis Bank homes and who couldn't love the views out the back - it's beautiful.

We chatted casually about many subjects but one of her questions to us was 'how have you found living in Minsterworth?' We have felt privileged from the moment we got the keys to our new home in Ellis Bank. We do not have a direct Minsterworth connection but we were in the Tewkesbury borough, so we were 'next in line' after all of the Minsterworth applicants had been allocated homes.



We were welcomed from the moment we moved in and that's thanks to all in the village that we have met so far, thank you.

We would like to personally thank Roger Blowey for all his hard work and time that he dedicated to the Ellis Bank project. If it wasn't for his support and help we wouldn't be in the beautiful home we are today and have the incredible neighbours and families that live alongside us.

The Amors

Another happy resident of Ellis Bank

I was born in Minsterworth in 1969 in a house called Wellsprings and attended Minsterworth Infants and Junior school, and Newent Comprehensive school. I left the village after 15 years, and never thought I would be able to afford to move back here.

I moved to the new house in October 2018, the house is lovely, everything laid out really well, with a lovely garden and the privacy is really good. The neighbours who I have met so far are all lovely. Everybody involved in the move were all really helpful.



Little did I know that 6 months later I would be asked if I would be one of the host houses for a visit from HRH The Princess Royal to come and officially open the Ellis Bank Lane site and unveil a plaque, and of course I said yes.

What an amazing day and an honour to have HRH The Princess Royal not only in the village, but to welcome her inside my home. I was so nervous and overwhelmed, I don't know why because she was so easy to talk to and made me feel quite at ease. It was a wonderful moment, one that I will not forget in a hurry. Still can't quite believe that happened but honoured that it did. Well done to all concerned for making it a very memorable day. Totally love being back in the village.

Maxine Beazer-Pennell



ST PETER'S P.C.C.

The Whist Drive

Thank you to all who supported the April whist drive and helped to organise the event. Special thanks to Bev and Betty who coped with serving refreshments from the Legion room (due to the kitchen refurbishment). £67 was the result for the church funds.

The next whist drive falls on the Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May. Please do come along and enjoy a friendly evening.

200 Club

The result of the April draw was as follows:-

£50 No. 168 Liz Perry
£20 No. 149 Victoria Barnett
£10 No. 165 Anthony Reeve

The month is the end of another 200 club year and the annual subscriptions are now due. Should you like to become a member, please contact Liz Savage on 750401. There is an annual subscription of £12 and an annual prize of £100 plus the monthly prizes as shown above.

Lent lunches

The proceeds from the Lent lunches amounted to £700 which has been sent to the Great Western Air Ambulance. Thank you to all who helped and supported these lunches.

Church Service times & Flower rota

Date	Time	Service	Flowers
5 May	11am	Family Service	Liz Duff
5 May	5pm	Evensong	Liz Duff
12 May	11am	Holy Communion	Liz Duff
19 May	5pm	Evening Prayer	Cathy Thomas
26 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Cathy Thomas
30 May	11am	Holy Communion	

Please note the Ascension Day service on 30th May will be at Northwood Green.

Forthcoming

Liz & Gerald's Pop-in Coffee Morning see p3.

Historical snippets around Minsterworth

Back in late 2016 I wrote in these pages about the exciting discovery of archaeological remains of Roman period agricultural activity and of a building, possibly a small Roman villa or farmstead. This was in the paddock just west of the former Apple Tree pub and was evidence of permanent settlement there lasting for several centuries during the Roman period.

I have now seen the archaeological report produced following new excavations, this time in the land behind the house Green Acres, to the east of Watery Lane, immediately opposite The Apple Tree site. This work was done last year, in advance of proposed development of that site for new housing. And surprise, surprise, yet more evidence of Roman farming activity was discovered – although this time no remains of a building were found. The excavations uncovered evidence of quarrying (no doubt exploiting the deposits of sand and gravel in that area) and also remains of a Roman field system. There was also much pottery and some glassware, all dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Among the pottery finds were a fragment of an amphora, imported from Spain, and some quite high status Samian pottery from France.

Although no building was found the finds are all consistent with what was discovered to the west of the Apple Tree in 2016. This indicates the fuller extent of farming activity in that particular part of Minsterworth during Roman times.

TMS



Minsterworth Reading Group



In April we reviewed the book 'Cheri' by Colette. This book was chosen because of the film 'Colette' coming out and we didn't know a great deal about her writing. Her descriptive prose is beautifully drawn, giving us an insight into the way of life of the upper classes in France almost 100 years ago.

The book provoked a great deal of discussion about the morality of the era, and how strange it was that national events appeared to have little influence on the lives of the wealthy. We were also quite shocked at the premise that the female lead, Lea, described as a magnificent and ageing courtesan, was considered to be approaching the end of her career at the age of 49!

May's Reading Group is on Wednesday 7th.

Help needed, please, at Highnam Woods Nature Reserve

As you may be aware, the RSPB is unable to leave the car park at Highnam Woods open at all times because of unsavoury activity by a small minority of people. They do try to open it up to cars at weekends between Easter and Autumn.

Would you be able to help them with unlocking and locking the car park? This needs to be before 10.00am and around 4.00 – 4.30pm and only takes a few minutes. You would only be expected to do this a maximum of once a weekend and only when it suits you. Rotas are made up about 2 weeks in advance. Why not have a lovely walk in the woods at the same time!

If you are able to help in any way, please contact Hannah at highnam.woods@rspb.org.uk

Any help would be much appreciated



Visit to the Black Country Living Museum Sunday September 8th 2019

Join in 300 years of history across the 26 acre open-air museum and experience the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Black Country's past.

Take the tram down to the canal side village where you'll be in good company with the costumed characters. They will share fascinating real life stories about living, working and shopping in the Black Country from the 1890's to the 1930's.

Further details with price and time of departure from Minsterworth Village Hall will follow in the June edition of The Villager.

Military History

1945	May 8 th	VE Day
1941	May 9 th	German Enigma machine captured
1941	May 20 th	Invasion of Crete
1982	May 21 st	Landings in San Carlos
1982	May 22 nd	Landings at Ajax Bay
1943	May 24 th	Germans call off Battle of the Atlantic
1941	May 27 th	Bismarck sunk
1916	May 31 st	Battle of Jutland

Terry Bourne Vice Chairman Minsterworth R.B.L.

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much."

- Oscar Wilde

We were not alone...

Turns out Homo Sapiens may not have been the only creature “like us”. Scientists have found fossil teeth and bones in Callao Cave on the island of Luzon in northern Philippines.

The small-bodied hominin, named Homo luzonensis, lived on the island of Luzon at least 50,000 to 67,000 years ago. The hominin — identified from a total of seven teeth and six small bones — hosts a patchwork of ancient and more advanced features. The landmark discovery, announced in the journal Nature, makes Luzon the third Southeast Asian island in the last 15 years to bear signs of unexpectedly ancient human activity.

A new human species, no less. But how did they get to Luzon at a time when there were apparently no developed seafaring skills?

Ed.

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A little light relief

- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is too tired.
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but he broke it off.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.
- With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back for seconds.
- The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- He had a photograph memory that was never developed.
- Earlier I was wondering if I might be a vampire but, on reflection, realised I'm not.
- A plateau is a high form of flattery.
- A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
- Once you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

— Rob Siltanen

Minsterworth Village Hall

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Can you hear me...?

An old man went to the Doctor complaining that his wife could barely hear. The Doctor suggested a test to find out the extent of the problem. "Stand far behind her and ask her a question, and then slowly move up and see how far away you are when she first responds." The old man, excited to finally be working on a solution for the problem, runs home and sees his wife preparing supper. "Honey" the man asks standing around 20 feet away "what's for supper?" After receiving no response he tried it again 15 feet away, and again no response. Then again at 10 feet away and again no response. Finally he was 5 feet away "honey what's for supper?" She replies "For the fourth time it's lasagna!"

The forgetful actor

An actor had been out of work for 15 years because he always forgot his lines. Then one day he got a phone call from a director who wanted him for a big part in a play. All he had to say was "Hark! I hear the cannon roar!" After much worry the actor decided to take the role. Opening night arrived, and while he waited in the wings, the actor muttered to himself "Hark! I hear the cannon roar! Hark! I hear the cannon roar!" The time for the entrance finally came and as the actor made his appearance, he heard a loud broooooom! He turned around and said, "what the hell was that?"

FOR YOUR DIARY

May 2019

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Why you should stop drinking bottles of wine for <£5

The average £5 bottle sold in the UK only contains about 37p worth of wine.

The rest goes on marketing, duty, shipping and packaging... leaving diddly-squat for actual wine.

Keep those bargain bin deals in the bin where they belong!