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September 2020

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FROM THE EDITOR

AS I'M SURE we're all saying- this has been a very strange year. Some of us are still in hibernation, cutting ourselves off from everything and everybody outside the home and relying on phone or internet to communicate. Others have taken small steps back towards normality and ventured to the shops or visiting friends (in their gardens or socially distanced inside, of course) and yet others have gone back to work, having meals out and using public transport. Masks and face shields have become commonplace – in the time BC (Before Covid) going into a bank with a mask on would have started a whole heap of trouble. Several new words and meanings have entered the language. Bubbles are now not just made of soapsuds. Quarantine was something animals used to do when brought in from abroad – now we're all at it. And as a friend said – who would have thought that not touching anyone with a six foot barge pole would become national policy!

We will get through this – it might just take a while yet.

Lin

And a note from me

As you'll see from our front cover this month, all our three pubs and Mells Cafe are now open, albeit on a Covid restricted basis. They ALL need our support, they contribute immensely to village life and we'd all be worse off without them. DO SUPPORT THEM!

Peter

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

WELL, HERE WE ARE in September but how many of us in February would have imagined that such a changed way of life would still be ruling our daily routines? Most of us have adjusted so that the present conditions are becoming commonplace while a few, like myself, who have stayed in hibernation since our last local church service before lockdown, have become happily reclusive.

I cannot imagine ever getting on a bus again and even though a friend has offered to take me into town by car I have no wish to go. Most of us have internet facilities and revel in Zoom and Skype, words that have no meaning for me. I have pens and

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Deadline for October is Friday September 18th (but do check)

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 The Rectory, Gay Street, Mells, BA11 3PT 01373 673431
 cliveatmellsgroup@gmail.com, twitter @clivetherev
 Benefice administrator Tracy Hughes tracyhughes523@yahoo.com

| Church laymen and women Church wardens | Parish council chairs and clerks |
|---|--|
| Buckland Dinham Vacancy | John Reckless 461841 Pauline Short 472188 |
| Chantry Mrs D Blacker 836668 | See Whatley |
| Great Elm Judy Duffus 81321 | Edmund 812283 Thompson |
| Mells with Vobster Jenny Waller 813852 | Joy Book 300184 |
| Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175 | John Earl 812450 Joy Book 300184 Mrs J Butcher 837259 Joy Book 300184 |

Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am Frome: Sundays at 9.30am and 5.30pm

County Councillor Philip Ham 01373 812152

District Councillors Buckland Dinham, Great Elm and Mells
 (Ammerdown Ward) Alison Barkshire, 07432 003382,

Cllr.Barkshire@mendip.gov.uk

Chantry and Whatley (Cranmore, Doultling and Nunney Ward)
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paper, the postal service and a mainline telephone and I have discovered that almost everything I need can be done by phone by learning which options to press and having patience with any delays. I have kept in touch with friends by phone and later I have entertained in the garden during the spells of wonderful weather we have been blessed with. But I am very aware that this state of contentment can easily lead to self-absorption and a disregard to the state of others less fortunate – those with no gardens, no human or animal companion, or, even worse uncongenial or even aggressive fellow householders from whom there is no escape. So I do count my blessings daily and spare thought and prayer to those who do not have the benefit of my happy circumstances.

Has anyone noticed the great number and variety of bumble bees around this summer? From great black furry marble sized ones to tiny black and gold pea sized, but so very few of the neat little brown and gold honeybees so plentiful in years past. In the 70s, 80s and 90s when I worked at Rode Bird Gardens the lavender hedge there was so thickly attended by them that although the peacocks regularly paced the hedge snipping off bees with the air of duchesses arrogantly picking sweetmeats off a sideboard there were always hundreds more. Yes, I know

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peacocks are male, but aren't they always rather like haughty pantomime duchesses?

This time last year I mentioned a beautiful flowering plant growing between a clump of willow herb and a buddleia bush and resembling the best of both in colour and formation of flower. It has appeared again this year with more and larger flower stems holding huge spikes of delphinium-like rich purple spires even taller than myself. Some seed dropped by a bird? Or have I unwittingly produced a botanical wonder cross – a budlow or a widdlia? Or has everyone got one? Any suggestions please.

With so few people taking holidays this year I have had only one "holiday" dog – her owner has gone camping. If and when the holiday season is able to operate next year I shall be in my 90th year and may not feel willing to board dogs – even supposing anyone might trust the care of their dog to such an aged person.

I wonder if anyone else has felt that they have aged physically more quickly than normal during the months of isolation? I think that without someone else around to say "hold my hand while you climb up there" or "you take one end and we'll lift it together" when it comes to moving heavy items or climbing I have tended not to take risks when alone for fear of accidents.

Consequently I have found that the less I attempt the less I am able to do when I finally decide to get on with it regardless. It's the old rule of "use it or lose it" The trouble is, like the song says "you never know what you've got till it's gone".

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Anyway, all this has strayed far from the churchyard where very little human intervention has doubtless been appreciated by the local wildlife. I doubt that there will be many conkers this year from the beautiful but moth predated horse chestnut tree which graces the south eastern corner of the wall. Those of us who collect these shiny beauties every year as moth deterrents may have to search hard and be satisfied with smaller than usual conkers.

During the months of "no mowing" I commented in July about the wonderful waving, rippling spread of moon daisies/dog daisies/ox-eye daisies (depending where you come from). I do hope that in future summers whatever the prevailing circumstances, the "wilding" of areas of the churchyard continues, although as I have resigned as Churchwarden I shall not have any "say so" in the matter.

I do miss our local church service but for the time being I have said I will not attend the Mells communion. Instead I read the full service at home on Sunday mornings, thus joining the Mells congregation in spirit. I do send loving thoughts to all my "church family" friends hoping some may still remember me. (It seems so long since we all met! Shall we recognise each other?)

Well, my solitary "guest dog" is sitting up with my two cavaliers looking hopeful so I think it is time I was preparing doggies dinners. Keep safe. See you in October – "God willing" as my dear old Great Uncle Bill used to say every night. *Hazell*

**HAZELL'S HAVING ANOTHER GARAGE SALE AT BIRD SHADOWS,
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ROUND AND ABOUT

WALLED GARDEN TEAM LOOKING FOR 'MICROGROWERS'

Lockdown has definitely slowed down our work this year at the Mells Walled Garden community nursery. We have not been able to welcome back our more vulnerable groups yet but that doesn't mean we have stood still. An amazing group of volunteers comes every Wednesday to help propagate and look after the plants we sell to fund our community work. Slowly the weeds are being wrangled and we have an eye on a number of projects to be able to develop the nursery space and make it more welcoming.

In August we started up some socially distanced educational workshops which have been highly successful. We hope to develop that programme over the next year. If you have a gardening or nature-based expertise that you would like to share by running a workshop, please get in touch.

We now have a team on board which will help us make progress in leaps and bounds. Nicki is our volunteer coordinator, Emily our therapeutic horticulturist and Merryn our first workshop instructor.

This autumn we would like to engage more with our community outside of our ancient walls and make you part of this special project. Do you love growing plants and would like to volunteer with us but prefer to do it from the comfort of your home? We are looking for local microgrowers who would like to bring on some of our plants for us over the winter. Space is at a premium in the nursery and we sell more plants than we have the space to grow. We would supply the plants, pots and compost and you weave your gardening magic. Please Email Nicki to find out more at volunteer@thewalledgardenatmells.co.uk



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WALKING ON SATURDAYS

Back in December 2019, this was a précis of the entry I added to the magazine:-

“You must all have heard of our “Walking on Saturdays” group by now---- Organised in Buckland and open to all---The only essential is a pair of waterproof boots or shoes! ----- come and join us -----” etc etc

Well unfortunately, although we started really well with a great walk around Faulkland in January and Oakhill in February, Covid-19 came along to beat us and sadly we haven't been able to walk in a group since. If we did, one problem would definitely be social distancing as an awful lot of us enjoy the chatting as much as the walk!

So, every time there has been a change to the guidance for staying away from Covid, Sue and I have realised the walks would not be sensible for us. Too early and still too risky

Because of that I have decided now that, in spite of the situation improving, and especially for our ex-shielding members, this is not the time to restart. I don't want to be negative but so much could go wrong again and we don't want to be part of the situation that causes it. Therefore we have decided to close down walking on Saturdays and review it all again after Christmas.



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By then we can hope that things will be more stable and, in the mean time, I hope that lots of you will be getting out alone or in much smaller groups to enjoy our beautiful countryside.

The fresh air is incredibly good for you, and for avoiding the virus too!!

Hope to see you soon with your boots on.

Pauline

WILD MEMORIES NATURE GROUP FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Wild Memories are meeting for socially distanced, outdoor nature and wildlife activity sessions every week, and we are open for new members! We had our first session on July 14th, and it was a huge success. The sessions are for anyone living with dementia or symptoms of memory loss, along with any carers or family who wish to attend.



We have groups meeting on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 11.00am-1.00pm.

We do a variety of different activities from arts and crafts, wildlife gardening, gentle walks, and more, all depending on what the group wants to do!

The sessions are free to attend, currently taking place in Frome Welshmill area. We can assist with transport as needed.

If you are interested or you know someone who might like to join us, then please get in touch on 07949572849 or email zak.mathergratton@froglife.org. Our group size is currently limited to six people to follow guidelines, so booking is essential.

WILDLIFE TRUST APPEAL FOR COVID AID

Somerset Wildlife Trust has launched an Emergency Appeal in response to the devastating impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the charity's ability to fundraise for its work to reverse wildlife declines, restore biodiversity and reconnect people with nature. Already dealing with the financial challenges surrounding reductions in EU funding, and the immediate and enormous cost of the rapid onset of Ash Dieback disease on its nature reserves, now, as a result of Covid-19, the Trust is looking at a shortfall in its budgeted income for this year of at least £200,000.



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At a time when the Trust should be at the peak of its fundraising activities, with membership recruitment and events happening across the county, and delivering vital habitat management programmes with the help of hundreds of volunteers, many of its staff and recruiters have been furloughed, events cancelled, and work programmes are far behind where they should be. Reserve teams are also under additional pressure to repair the physical damage on sites from anti-social behaviour that took place whilst staff was at its bare minimum.

The Trust is appealing to members, supporters and those passionate about Somerset's nature to support the charity now, when it needs help the most. The funds raised by its emergency appeal will help bridge the significant gap in its finances this year so it can continue its work for wildlife, capitalise on the current drive towards a greener recovery, and ensure Somerset can continue to play its part in addressing the national and global ecological and climate crises.

Katie Arber, Director of Fundraising & Marketing comments: "Along with members, supporters and volunteers, we are desperately disappointed to have had to cancel our key fundraising activities this year, particularly at a time when the environment, climate change and loss of biodiversity were at the top of the political agenda and high in public consciousness. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge and immediate impact on our income and will for years to come.

"The fact that even more people have turned to nature to help them during lockdown however is brilliant news, and we hope local wildlife will continue to be part of their

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lives. We now need everyone's help to continue to do our work to support wildlife and habitats here in Somerset, and every donation will enable us to do this."

CEO Georgia Stokes adds: "The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. To reverse nature's decline we must restore and connect valuable habitats for wildlife and restore natural processes also providing essential carbon stores and helping to adapt to climate change.

Many of us have discovered during lockdown that we need nature to benefit our physical and mental health and recognised that nature really is the life support function for our lives, our communities and our businesses.

"Whilst Covid-19 has hit us at the worst possible time, we mustn't lose the momentum that existed before lockdown for building a more environmentally sustainable, wildlife-rich county, and urge everyone who turned to or connected with the natural world for the first time to continue their support and give if they can to help us continue the work we do during what will be difficult times ahead."

To donate to Somerset Wildlife Trust's Emergency Appeal, visit the website here: www.somersetwildlife.org/emergencyappeal or ring 01823 652429

CCS AGENTS NEWS, TALKING CAFÉ LIVE ON FACEBOOK:

Have you caught any of our sessions we stream live daily on Facebook? If not you can catch up on any of the Talking Café Lives here:

www.facebook.com/talkingcafesomerset/live.

A Village, Carers or Community Agent from CCS are LIVE weekdays at 11am to answer any questions or concerns you have – you can also ask privately via a message to the page. Each day agents cover a different topic, and they have been so varied and interesting. Below are just a few:

- Cooking on a budget, where Rev. Jess whipped up five dishes for less than £10!
- Art therapy
- Family activities and things to do on a budget
- Library service updates
- Hydration and UTI Advice
- Hospital discharge support
- Domestic abuse

- Exercise to do from home and for people with reduced mobility
- Mental health

All the Talking Cafes we have hosted on Facebook so far have had a combined total of 65,000 views!

FOCUS ON DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, of any age. We are seeing a particular rise in cases of abuse being reported by people over 71 years and with one in four women and one in six men experiencing some form of abuse in their lifetime the chances are we all know somebody who is experiencing domestic abuse behind closed doors.

It happens in all types of relationships, regardless of race, ethnic or religious group, class, disability, sexuality, lifestyle or nationality.

Tensions can escalate due to restrictions on socialising and 'normal life', but they are never an excuse for violence, manipulation, coercion and controlling a partner or family member. Even if you are self-isolating, government guidance allows you to leave your home to flee an abuser or seek help. It's rarely a one-off occurrence, but usually a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour.

The Government define domestic abuse as:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

Types of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can take many forms such as psychological, physical, sexual, economical and emotional.

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim."

Getting help if you are being abused

- Online at [http://www.sometsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somerset survivors.org.uk)
- Call the local helpline: 0800 69 49 999
- In an emergency always dial 999, even if you cannot speak for fear of being overheard, you can get help by pressing 55 when the operator answers
- Talk to any health professional or your local Village Agent – we can help!
- Somerset pharmacies allow their consulting rooms to be a safe place for people experiencing abuse to get help and advice

TOP TIPS TO AVOID SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

We have all been online and on social media more since lockdown began, and it's important to stay vigilant of new scams circulating. Get Safe Online safety experts have put together some simple tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of social media scams. www.getsafeonline.org

If you become a victim of a social media scam:

- Report it to the social media network via the reporting mechanism on the site or app.
- If you have lost money as a result of social media scams or via any other fraudulent activity, report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk. CCS Village, Community & Carers Agents are in your communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with. Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk and www.somersetcarers.org or call me to find out who can advise you.

Nic Edwards Village Agent, East Mendip. 07946 461468 nicolae@somersetccc.org.uk

BUCKLAND DINHAM

WI CRAFT DAYS UP AND RUNNING AGAIN

It gives me much pleasure to let you know we shall be having **Craft days in the village hall** on Saturdays September 19th, October 31st and November 28th from 10.00a.m. until 3.00p.m. The cost will be £5.00 for the day. This includes tea, coffee and biscuits but bring your own lunch.

We shall be making many different types of cards in September. We have quite a varied and large stock of various things for you to make. This includes quilling, iris folding, decoupage, embossing, and stamping. All you need to bring is a pair of scissors, Sellotape and craft glue or a glue stick. If you are not a crafter please feel free to pop in for a coffee and a chat. We are all multi-taskers who can create, craft and chat at the same time! Children are very welcome and are always amazed and delighted with their efforts. If you have never tried card making before why not come along. You never know you may have hidden talent.

At the October craft day there will be various things for jewellery making and November will be making things for Christmas. For any more information contact Sandy on 455046, Val on 467182 or Sue on 474604. We shall of course be

complying with the statutory requirements for social distancing.

Sandy

CHURCH NEWS

At present there is no date yet for St. Michael's to be open for worship. We are very grateful that PCC member Ros Bradbury and her husband Michael have continued to visit the church and check all is well inside. This has included turning on taps and flushing the toilet, I for one didn't realize that if this was not done there could be an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease which would surely be the last thing we want.

They also have had to deal with the mess that the bats make; whilst I am sure that they do have their place in the world I wish it was not in St. Michael's.

A Sunday Service at St. Andrew's Mells at 10.00 a.m. is open for all members of the 5 Alive Group. If you are unable to attend you can join in the service via Zoom which I do, and it certainly is yet another occasion when I am grateful that we have the technology these days. Thank you to Rob Waller for setting this up.

I cannot imagine how we would all have managed without a telephone or email during these last nine months and Buckland Dinham residents have made good use of these facilities. It is really essential to keep in touch with your friends but also with neighbours who perhaps you didn't really know last year.

So as things, hopefully, get better you will have increased your circle of friends and we can all look forward to a happy healthier time ahead.

Jill Wright

BUCKLAND VILLAGE WEBSITE

As many of you will have noticed, the village website (bucklanddinham.com) is very far from being the active source of information it should be. That is entirely my fault and I'd be very grateful, as indeed would be the rest of the village, if someone who knows about these things would step forward to take it on. I don't think it would be all that onerous, it just needs someone who's much more tekkie aware than I am. If anyone is interested, do get in touch, by phone, 01373 466536 or by email (yes I do use this a lot) petercorbett999@gmail.com and come round for a cuppa and a chat (and a warm welcome from the dogs!).

Peter

CHANTRY

DOOM AND GLOOM GIVE WAY TO WEDDED BLISS!

After all the doom, gloom and despondency of the last few months we finally had some good news. WE HAD A WEDDING.

In spite of a few setbacks Jack Smiles and Megan Jones were determined to get married in Chantry Church, they achieved this on Saturday July 25th. The weather was not good but at least it stopped raining long enough for the bride to come to church and when they went outside again. The bride looked beautiful in traditional white and the groom looked very smart and handsome but the thing that stood out was their happiness. The reduced congregation were socially separated according to

the rules but everyone agreed that it was an occasion to remember. We wish them all the happiness possible in the future.

The church is still closed but we are hoping that things will change; we are still looking into the alterations and hope to have some news soon.

WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBOURS

We would like to welcome some new families to the village, we have Sam and Hayley with their children Brandon, Tia and Harvey who are living in Bullen Mead, Kyle and Michael who live in The Lodge and a new family have just moved into Black Lane. We hope that you all feel welcome and settled here with us. Hopefully we can all get together again one day.

Whatley and Chantry WACCA event Sunday 6th September see under Whatley

Walking on Saturdays –please see the general section of the magazine

GREAT ELM

A new sign for the church has been erected by the PCC. That this was beautifully mounted is due to the craftsmanship of Roger Willshers for which much thanks.

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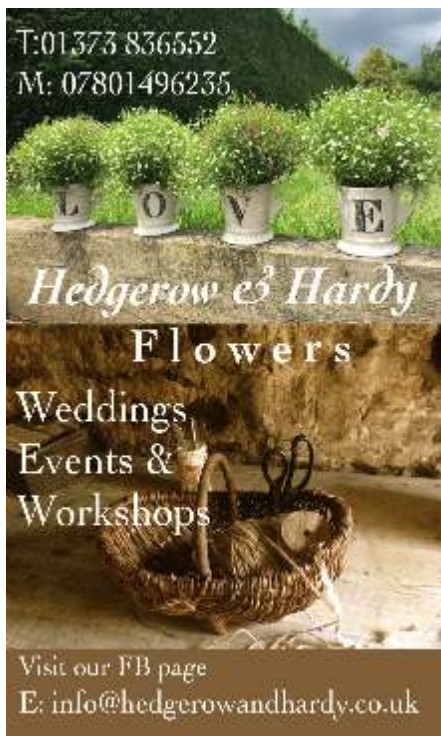
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Walking on Saturdays –please see the general section of the magazine

MELLS WITH VOBSTER



LIVING CHURCHYARDS IN MELLS AND VOBSTER WHERE BIODIVERSITY BECOMES THE VARIETY OF LIFE ON EARTH

At the start of lockdown, the Church of England's policy prevented the mowing of C of E graveyards across the country. This has enabled the wild flowers to flourish amidst the long grass, encouraging pollinators such as butterflies and bees in our churchyards. Orchids appeared in Vobster, and in both churchyards there was birdsfoot trefoil, lady's bedstraw and many other wild flower varieties. The Parochial Church Council have had many positive comments on this development, and now the C of E,

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having lifted the ban on mowing churchyards, has encouraged us to explore the Ecochurch programme and create a Living Churchyard – a great name for a place where ‘biodiversity becomes the variety of life on Earth’ as the C of E calls it. This is also one of the C of E’s five marks of mission which is to care for God’s creation. There is an ecumenical video called **Nature in his Name** which helps us to understand our part in creation. The link to it is on our website as outlined below. To bring us up to date, now the wildflowers have gone to seed, everything is being cut back and, over the winter, the PCC will be planning our approach to this, consulting with experts in the field as well as the local community.

It is appreciated that there needs to be a balance of mowing around the church and the graves which will continue.

Many graves are beautifully tended by families and, as long as objects such as flowers are kept to the graves themselves, moving will continue to complement this. In addition, we will be mowing pathways to allow folk to walk through and around the churchyard.

This project will take some time to develop, but the PCC will post news about our plans on the church website, together with links to Church of England and other resources, including videos of how other churches around the country have created Living Churchyards: mellsgroup.church/churches/mells/living-churchyard.php

Fr Clive Fairclough, Chair, Mells with Vobster PCC

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MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Precis of the remote meetings held via Zoom in July and August

Unitary Authority: Current government policy is to dissolve district councils and have unitary councils. Somerset CC would like a 'One Somerset' approach although it is probably more realistic to split the area into east/west to form two smaller unitary councils. Somerset is being used as a test case so it is likely that the formation of a unitary council will go ahead. Some form of consultation will be taking place between September and November with a decision being made in December.

Superfast broadband: Various options have been looked into and a few have now been discounted. CDS: (Connecting Devon and Somerset) – Due to the collapse of Carillion, they have had to re-tender. Completion date is by the end of 2023 but there is no guarantee this will include Mells or Vobster. Voneus.

Buckland Dinham is supplied by Voneus but there are no plans at present to come to Mells although they are "preparing a major plan for the area"... Truespeed: Not enough interest had been raised with the household sign ups. Their basic price for broadband is expensive at around £50/month (they have been asked for



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more flexible pricing). Truespeed is currently supplying Leigh and part of Coleford but have so far failed to live up to promises to bring a service to Chantry.

Openreach: Could bring fibre to all of Mells but would make a charge of £140K to do so.

Fibreway: Is a small Midsomer Norton based firm which supplies a hybrid service - ie wireless and/or fibre. They are currently preparing a plan based on a fixed wireless supply from Whatley over the Quarry to southern Mells.

It is hoped a proposal will be put forward very soon (weeks rather than months) which could be followed by rapid first stage implementation. They would consider Vobster once Mells is supplied.

Defibrillator: This has now been fixed to the shop wall and has been insured against theft and damage.

Condition of grass triangle – Bottom Lane: Matting and other options to protect the area are being looked into.

Litter by pond: The Clerk has made contact with the contractor to request more frequent emptying but no action has been taken yet. To be chased. Larger bin options will also be assessed.

Parking: Parking by the shop and on the bend at the start of the walk to the old iron works continues to be a problem this year. Bus drivers have reported their concerns to the police.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday September 22nd 2020 at 7.15pm in Mells Barn unless COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

Alternatively the meeting will be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm. Information on how to join the meeting will be posted on the agenda on the parish council website.

Joy Book, Clerk to Mells Parish Council, Tel: 07704 584953

Email: Parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com

Walking on Saturdays –please see the general section of the magazine

WHATLEY

WHATLEY AND CHANTRY WACCA EVENT

Sunday September 6th 11.00am onwards , bring your own food and drinks, BBQ at Chantry church yard .

As a thank you to all our wonderful volunteers throughout the pandemic and a summer get together, we'd like to invite you all to Chantry churchyard/community space for 'A bring your own picnic/ BBQ.' Some burners will be available but please contact Jan if you can bring one, 07938983409. There are also disposable ones in the petrol stations. Social distancing rules apply. Set up 11.00 am to go on all afternoon. If you have spare picnic tables please bring them to share - they can be cleaned before and after use, rather like the pub gardens are doing. Music will be provided

but I'd like help with the following:-bunting? Some child friendly activities - a treasure hunt? Tug of war? - only one family against another or in your bubble - not individuals. These are just suggestions I'd love it if a mum could take this on? Even just some chalks for a pavement picture?

There is space for around 40-50 people to easily socially distance in the churchyard so I'm not expecting any issues but if you think you may come do let me, janicebramston@hotmail.com or Chris White 07977 532428, know so that in the event of too many we can stagger times. Best just to pop by and see if there are spaces. Do Come!! If you are a volunteer or would just like to say hello we would love to see you. We have newcomers and this is your opportunity to meet and greet your neighbours and continue our special community friendship and support. Looking forward to seeing you.

Jan and Chris

Walking on Saturdays –please see the general section of the magazine

DAVID RAWLINS CONTINUES HIS HISTORY OF CHANTRY – INCLUDING OTHER VILLAGES ON THE WAY

Domesday The most famous document from William the Conqueror's time is the Domesday Book completed in one year in 1086.

The Commissioners took evidence on oath, from the Sheriff, from all the Baron and French men and from the whole hundred (subdivision of the shire based on groups of estates adding up to 100 hides, a hide being the land necessary to sustain a peasant household) – the priests, the Reeves and six villagers from each village.

In 1066 William proposed that the English and French should be equally represented, by land holdings and influence at Court.

However by 1086 things had dramatically changed. William had fought foreign wars to safeguard his possessions in Normandy. For this he had to have money so he taxed the English very heavily. The old English Kings used to raise money by a land tax or Geld. William imposed Gelds in 1066, 1067 and 1083 and one other in the middle of his reign. The English resented the heavy taxation and rose in revolt. Many times William suppressed these revolts and gradually gave the land and manors to his supporters, Normans, Bretons and French. The last major revolt was in Yorkshire, and the land was wasted. Corn was burnt and buildings burnt down and peasants dispossessed. Many died.

Elm The name Telvve. It is almost certainly a mistake. It was known as The Elme, 'the' was shortened to a 'T' and the 'M' was replaced by two 'V's. Domesday was

very hurried (it was completed in a year and copied out as well), so someone with poor writing could make an 'M' look like two 'V's.

Domesday is full of abbreviations and is very difficult to render into modern English. Indeed in the final copy, the villages are scored through with a red line. as indeed are most manors.

In 1066 William the Conqueror said that Normans and Anglo Saxons would be equal, sharing the landholders and manors. However, by 1086 – Domesday – because of various revolts, including one or more in Somerset, the Normans had taken over most of the country.

Dunn, prior to the Conquest was a major landowner. He held 30 manors, mainly in Somerset, Gloucester and Devon. Up to 1066 Dunn held the Manor of Buckland Dinham and Elm.

In 1088 – Domesday

He held: Buckland Dinham

Bitton, Gloucester As Kings Thane

Devon Newton & Nutwell

Devon Spridlescomb from Court of Manor

Thus he was reduced to five manors from the king and one from Court of Manor. He could not sell them or dispose of them.

He held the manors from the king as the king's Thegn. Many landowners were reduced to servants of the King as Thegns. They were administrators: the English state was well organised and the Conqueror needed men with knowledge of the districts. Dunn was allowed to hold Buckland Dinham, but not Elm.

The Conqueror gave Elm to Osbern Giffard. He was given three Somerset manors. He was given about 19 other manors and houses (messuages) in various towns, most of which had belonged to Dunn. Brimpsfield in Gloucestershire became his seat.

Elm paid tax for five hides and had land for four ploughs. There were two slaves, three villagers and four small holders. These would have been working men – the children and women would have not been counted. He would probably have a resident agent. This would add up to ten men; therefore the total population would be 40-60 people. There were two mills in the village which would have been on the river. There were 14 acres of meadow, 14 acres of pasture and 16 acres of underwood. Also listed are one cob, 15 cattle, 16 pigs, 250 sheep and 50 goats. It was valued at £4.00. This would possibly have been the annual tax.

Whatley

It is not known when Glastonbury Abbey was given Whatley. Mells was given in 942AD, but neither Whatley nor Downhead were not mentioned in the Charter.

Wulfgar the Monk held them before 1086. The translations of Domesday state that he could not be separated from the church – the Latin is ‘separari’. However, consulting my Latin dictionary I discovered that ‘separo’ could also mean ‘act for themselves’ (used by Caesar). This make a lot more sense. Downhead was passed form King Aethelwulf to Glastonbury in 854.

Glastonbury Abbey held Whatleigh. The subtenancy was held by Wulfgar the Monk. Glastonbury Abbey still held it in 1086, but the subtenant was Walter Hussey and John the Usher who held nine other manors, mainly in Somerset. Walter Hussey held four other manors and two parts of the Borough of Malmesbury. John the Usher held Egford, later a manor in its own right.

“Walter Hussey holds 4 hides in Whatley from the Abbot. Wulfgar, a monk, held them before 1066; he could not be separated from the church. Land for 4 ploughs, of which 2 ½ hides are in lordship; 2 ploughs there; 4 slaves;

8 villagers and 5 smallholders with 2 ploughs and 1 ½ hides.

A mill which pays 5s; meadow, 6 acres; pasture, 50 acres; woodland, 14 acres. 8 cattle; 100 sheep.

Value 70s; when he acquired it, 30s.

John the Usher holds 1 hide of villagers’ land in this manor from the Abbot. Land for 1 plough, which is there, with 2 villagers.

Value 15s; when John acquired it, as much.”

Only the working men were counted, women and children were not counted. If he had an agent, this is 20 men. The population would have been 80-120 people. Ernisheld Downhead from the Abbot. The entry mentions Asham Wood – woodland half a league long and as wide. – *to be continued*

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