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March 2025

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FROM THE EDITOR

I DID THE COVER of this issue before we had the awful wet and windy spell, so I hope that Spring has truly sprung! I took the photo in Chantry churchyard after I'd been to see Hazel (or Hazell as she signs off her Jottings). She had written those Jottings while she was confined to bed having spent her 93rd birthday in hospital which shows just how resilient she is. Sara and I join everyone who knows her (and those who don't but who love her contribution to the magazine) in wishing her a speedy and full recovery from her illness.

Peter

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

WELL, HERE WE ARE in March, and I hope that the weather is unlike as it is in mid-February as I write this, is really showing signs of spring. When I last walked round the churchyard the snowdrops I had bemoaned as late were at last appearing along the western edge and the purple crocuses along the south wall were growing in greater profusion than ever. Have they just magically increased or has some generous soul added a few?

And the brave little one which has crossed the path to the corner of the grass on the south side of the church. As our back path has become fully grassed over those using it tend to take a short cut across the grass, and I hope he doesn't get trampled on by anyone not expecting to see him. My snow drops are at last appearing - belatedly - in the garden and orchard but in close clumps rather than a scattered carpet. Is this underground movement by moles, quarry vibration or are they gathering close to protect themselves from some kind of threat? Do they know something we don't?

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett, 01373 466536, mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for APRIL 2025 is MARCH 22nd but do check!

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While we are around the churchyard, an item of news which might be of interest to someone, who like me, had no idea it existed. Apparently, a beautiful young tabby cat was found killed with no visible injuries near the church and was placed in the church doorway for someone to recognise. I was told that another kind neighbour had taken it to our local vet which sounds ridiculous but is actually sensible so it could have its microchip scanned and the owner identified. Unfortunately, although microchipping for cats has just become compulsory it was too late for this poor pussy who had not availed himself of it. And that's when I learned of the wonderful thoughtful service provided by Garston Group vets who voluntarily freeze for a month any unidentified casualty so that an owner might have the chance of claiming to recognise and retain it. I think that is really wonderful service which might well be a comfort to someone as unaware as I was. This may be rather briefer than my usual "jottings" (who's that at the back who said "hooray!?"?) because for my 93rd birthday last weekend the



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present which I least appreciated was severe pneumonia. However, with brilliant care at the RUH I am now home and recovering. Two things I have been sharply aware of during this week which I had previously only been just accepting or taking for granted.

First, the absolute dedication, professionalism and compassion of nursing staff. They come in all sizes, colours, religions and genders but are all equally wonderful. In the assessment wards the constant coming and going of new patients mean they treat different sets of patients every few hours. They work 12-hour shifts which one hour's break throughout and while visibly tilting like flowers by the 11th hour, they bounce up again with a smile to do whatever anyone needs. God bless them all at the RUH which runs like clockwork. I am now under a scheme called Hospital at Home for a few days.

The other thing that struck me forcibly was seeing the hundredweights - tonnes? - of plastic waste which all this care engenders. Aprons, gloves for every separate bed visit plus all medical waste. Bins filled and emptied every few hours. No doubt all this careful hygiene is saving our lives but, inevitably, what is it doing to the environment? What is the answer? Save the humans and kill of all the wildlife? I have plenty of time to ponder this question but so far have no answers.

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Anyway, away with the doom and gloom. Spring is here (I hope) and I am recovering.

See you in April – yes, I will!

Hazell

ROUND AND ABOUT

MENDIP COUNTRY PRACTICE is an accredited Veteran Friendly GP Practice. The Veteran scheme supports practices to deliver the best possible care and treatment for veterans who have served in the UK Armed Forces and their families. The scheme helps GP practices to support their veteran patients, which is important as the healthcare needs of veterans can be different from the general population.

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Church services in March

	2 nd March	5 th March	9 th March	16 th March	23 rd March	30 th March	6 th April
	Sunday next before Lent	Ash Wednesday	1 st Sunday of Lent	2 nd Sunday of Lent	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday	5 th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide begins
Chantry		Evening Service time 7.30 Barry Davies	11.00am Matins Hazel Tovey	11am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins	11.00am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	
Great Elm	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion Martin Weyman			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood		9.30am Informal Service: Richard King	
Mells			9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell		10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Gatliffe
Whitley			9.30am Morning Prayer Hazel Tovey		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		

If you want to keep an eye open for any changes to services, you can check the schedule on the Mells Group website, www.mellsgroup.church/whatson.

Hardington Vale Church Services – MARCH 2025

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Sunday 2 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Monday 3 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Tuesday 4 March	11.00 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Communion
Wednesday 5 March ASH WEDNESDAY	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	7.30 pm	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion & ashing
Thursday 6 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 9 March LENT	9.00 am	Rode , Informal breakfast
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Iona Service
Monday 10 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 12 March	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 13 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 16 March	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Worship
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Monday 17 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 19 March	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 20 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 23 March	9.00 am	Rode , Contemplation & Coffee
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	6.00 pm	Buckland Dinham , Evening Service
Monday 24 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 26 March	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford Evening Prayer
Thursday 27 March	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 30 March MOTHERING SUNDAY	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , United Holy Communion
Monday 31 March	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer

Inspired by our much-loved online weekly song club, this weekend offers the opportunity to come and do lots of singing with a pianist on hand, and to share your music with a group of supportive, like-minded individuals. There will be no formal tuition, but there will be two pianists available, one to work with individually in a practice room and one in the main studio space where you can perform pieces that are anywhere from performance ready to works in progress, to the group.

There will be a facilitator on hand managing the timetable and leading some group warm ups at the beginning of the day. And, of course, our usual delicious refreshments and meals will be provided.

You should expect at least 4 individual sessions with a pianist and multiple opportunities to sing in the group sessions. To that end bring a good amount of repertoire. If you want to sing something multiple times to enjoy the progression, then that is also welcomed.

Maybe you are getting ready for a concert or exam or perhaps singing is something that just makes you feel good, and you love exploring repertoire. Whatever your reasons, singers of all styles and abilities are welcome to just come and sing at Jackdaws over this weekend.

Course fee £195; includes all meals and refreshments.

jackdaws.org.uk Jackdaws Music Education Trust, Great Elm BA11 3NY, music@jackdaws.org 01373 812383

DOROTHY HOUSE LAUNCHES ‘TOGETHER IN ADVERSITY’ CAMPAIGN AND ...

Dorothy House is facing a critical financial shortfall which, without remedy, threatens the specialist end of life care it currently provides to patients and families across its 800 square mile patch.

Rising costs, National Insurance and minimum wage hikes, alongside stagnant government funding at 20% of total costs, has had a major impact on the financial sustainability of the Hospice.

Dorothy House is now appealing to its loyal community to stand together to highlight the gravity of the situation.

Wayne de Leeuw, Chief Executive of Dorothy House Hospice Care, said: “We urgently need the support of our community and the government to ensure we continue offering the specialist care and support that our patients and their families deserve.

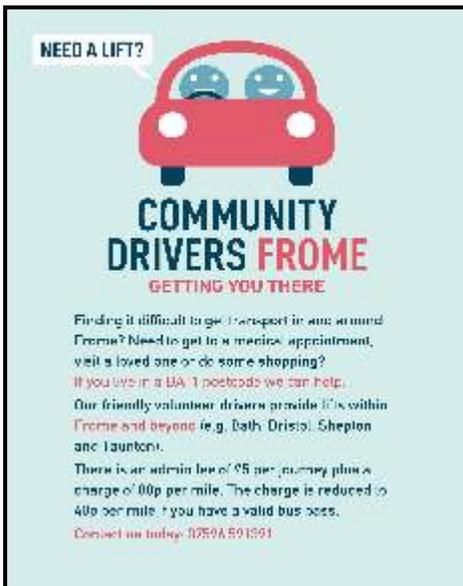
“No one should face death alone and yet this financial gap places huge pressure on our workforce to make difficult decisions about who can receive our care, at a time when we want everyone to have equal access to our specialist support.”

Dorothy House is asking supporters to place their poster in the windows of homes and cars to help reach as many people as possible with their urgent message.

Visit dorothyhouse.org.uk/support-us/donate/ to support the Hospice.

... WALK TO SUPPORT GRIEVING MEN

Dorothy House is back with its incredible Men’s Walk to Support that creates a space for men to speak about their experiences of grief and bereavement as well as keeping active and staying outdoors. Men from all over the Dorothy House patch are signing up to get involved in this event and raise vital funds for end-of-life care in their area. Join Dorothy House on Saturday March 8th, 2025, for the ‘Men’s Walk to Support’. This eight-mile walk is an opportunity for men aged 8+ to join together in solidarity, share their life journeys together, and raise vital funds to help Dorothy House provide crucial end-of-life care for our local community.



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The walk starts at 11.00am and 12noon from Dorothy House, Winsley, and participants will set off on the route that follows along the canal and finishes at Bath Pavilion, in time to watch the day's Six Nations matches. Whether someone you knew has died, you're dealing with a life-limiting illness yourself, or just want to come together to celebrate a man in your life, Dorothy House would love you to join in this special walk for a great time and a great cause. Best of all, you get to celebrate your epic achievement with a well-earned free pint and food in the Pavilion at the end!

Team up with your brother, your son, your dad, your best mates – or take on the walk solo – it's up to you.

Whether you come as a group or on your own this event is a great chance to chat and share experiences with fellow participants, all while supporting our vital work at Dorothy House

Entry is £28 and all participants receive a free event t-shirt along with their free pint and food at the end.

To help raise vital funds for the Hospice, participants are encouraged to raise as much as they can to help Dorothy House continue to provide free

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end-of-life care. Last year's event raised an incredible £105,000 and we're hoping to raise even more in 2025!

So, whether you're walking to show your support for Dorothy House, in memory of a loved one or because you're in our care today - dust off your walking boots and sign up today by visiting dorothyhouse.org.uk or search for 'Men's Walk To Support'!

BUCKLAND DINHAM

CHURCH NEWS

The Sunday Services in St. Michael's as per rota. Lent begins on March 9th and during the weeks leading to Easter there will be no flowers in church. This seems an appropriate time to again thank Peggy, Ros and Debbie for the lovely arrangements they have put in the church since Christmas.

Services at Buckland Dinham

You're very welcome to join us for some special services in March and April.

Mothering Sunday, March 30th

All the churches in the Hardington Vale parish are joining together for the Mothering Sunday service, which will be held at Norton St Phillip at 10:30.

Easter Sunday, April 20th

6:00 am Sunrise service in the Memorial Gardens

11:00 am Easter Sunday service. This is the Reverend Pauline Reid's First Easter service with us. Look out for more details in next month's magazine!

COFFEE MORNING These have continued to be enjoyed by many and are always held on the third Saturday each month. The next is on March 15th so please come for a coffee or tea with a choice of homemade cake and a chance to relax and chat, to perhaps someone new!

Buckland Dinham's Annual Village Gathering



Thursday 6th March 2025
7.20 for 7.30-9.30pm, Village Hall



wine and nibbles provided

What's been happening in the village?
What's being planned... website? hoedown? festival?

What is the Annual Village Gathering?** The whole village comes together once each year to review how things are going. It's our Village event where we're all welcome to raise issues, make suggestions and put forward our ideas.

Programme: Last September three new Community Groups arose from the Parish Plan process. They're now ready to share their initial plans and progress with the village!

* also known as the Annual Parish Meeting

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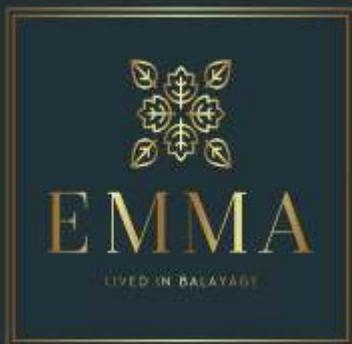
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VILLAGE NEWS

So many things take place in our village hall, here are just a reminder of some and a new one. First Tuesday, this month March 4th, Buckland Buddies meet at 7.15 for 7.30. Every Wednesday Short Mat Bowls 2.30 to 4.30. Second Tuesday each month Lunch Club. Last Saturday (most months) Craft Day 10.00 to 2.00 and the new one which started on February 18th is Chair Yoga from 10.00 to 11.00. (At the time of writing I have been to this first one and definitely felt the benefit). I will be very happy to give you further information on any of the above if you would like to call me on 01373 813641. *Jill Wright*

POPPY APPEAL 2024

Belatedly (my fault as I forgot to include this in the February issue – Peter) thank you to all those in Buckland Dinham who contributed to the Poppy Appeal door to door collection. £292.74 was collected in total. We think this may be a record! *Adrian McCabe and Susie Hicks*

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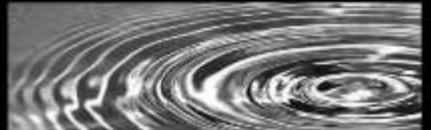


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CHANTRY

CHURCH NEWS

A service for Ash Wednesday will be held in Chantry Church at 6.00pm on Wednesday March 5th. All welcome! Don't forget Mothering Sunday Service March 30th at 11.00am.

We are considering holding the Service of Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, further details will be given in April Magazine.

Your prayers are asked for Hazel. She has been very ill, in fact she spent her 93rd birthday being taken to hospital. Thankfully she is slowly recovering and is now home again, being cared for by friends and medical staff. Hopefully she will soon be back to good health and able to join us again for our services and other events.

Maintenance

Date

01-03-25

08-03-25

15-03-25

22-03-25

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GREAT ELM

CHURCH NEWS

Richard King's usual service on the fourth Sunday of the month will be replaced by a celebration for Mothering Sunday on Sunday March 30th at 9.30am. We will have posies to distribute and a simnel cake at the coffee after the service. Please do come along.

In March and April a new advertisement will be on the Diocesan website for the House for Duty role of vicar for the Mellis Benefice. We have been in vacancy since May 2022. Unfortunately, last year's advertisement did not result in a suitable candidate being selected. We hope to find the right person to lead the Benefice.

CHURCH CEILING REPAIR - The lathes and first layer of plaster has gone on so the gaping dark space in the ceiling has disappeared. The second layer of plastering will be done in early March which will in due course be followed by a third layer.

ADMINISTRATION: Preparation for the New Electoral Church Roll will start in March with a notice on the church notice board March 12th - 27th. Judy and Sally will be contacting those currently on the roll and if you would



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like to be on the new electoral roll, please let us know. The deadline for inclusion is April 14th.

DIARY DATE

Saturday April 12th – 10.00-12noon. Spring tidy of the church yard.

MELLS WITH VOBSTER

LADY SIDMOUTH 1928 – 2025

On February 5th, Marie-Therese Sidmouth was buried in the churchyard of St Andrew's Church, Mells, where she joined her beloved first husband, the Catholic architect Francis Pollen, who died just before they first moved to Mells, in 1987. She was aged 97.

Therese lived in Selwood House for 14 years before moving to Bath with her second husband, John Sidmouth.

She always longed to return to Mells, which she loved, and where Francis stayed as a boy during the war, and in the last few months of her life she lived there next door to her family in the Manor House, before moving to Midford Manor Care Home in Bath after a fall.



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All who knew Therese will recall her humour, charm, and warm engagement with everyone she met. The packed funeral, officiated by Canon Christopher Whitehead, Father Jeremy Rigden and Dom Mark Barrett, Abbot of Worth, was held on February 5th in St John the Evangelist's Catholic Church in Bath. Father Richard Dwyer, parish priest of Frome, conducted the burial and sang the Salve Regina, as she had requested, at the committal.

PATRICIA SHIRLEY OSBORNE, DIED 12.11.2024 AGED 91

Rev. Robin Isherwood conducted formal prayers at the graveside at St. Andrew's churchyard, for Patricia Shirley Osborne, who died on November 12th. Mrs. Osborne's ashes were interred in the grave of her late husband, Peter Redford Osborne. Their daughter, Philippa, read A. A. Milne poems which her mother read to her in childhood, and Rev. Isherwood sang the Nunc Dimittis and read 'Even such is time' by Walter Raleigh.

Both Patricia and husband Peter were born in the parish in the 1930's and lived here until they were married. Patricia's maiden name was Richardson, and her father, Harry Richardson, is buried in the churchyard along with other members of the Richardson family. Peter Osborne's father, Percy Osborne, previously lived at Branch Farm.

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www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. May you rest in peace, Patricia, and rise in glory.

MELLS COMMUNITY SHOP AND CAFE

Mells Shop and Cafe have recently celebrated the 15th year of being a community venture. This milestone has been marked by a visit from the Plunketts Organisation. This is a charity that specialises in supporting community run endeavours. They were impressed by the range of products in the shop, the Cafe, by all of our fabulous volunteers, and the range of fund-raising events put on by the village to support the Shop and Cafe.

As a result of the inspection new product lines are planned, and new menus being created. You can show your support by giving us your suggestions, by treating yourself to coffee and cake or lunch, by becoming a volunteer, by attending one of our evening talks, or even by buying more of what we have for sale when you pop into the Post Office. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Guy Worsdall, chairperson of Mells Community Shop and Cafe

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (Full minutes available on website - Mells-pc.gov.uk). Notes of Mells Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday February 11th

SOMERSET COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

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Boundary Commission Review: The deadline for phase 2 of the consultation has been extended to March 4th 2025. More information can be found here lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset

Online sessions to help people understand complexities of care planning: Somerset Council is holding a series of free, online webinars to help individuals plan care and support needs for themselves or those they care for. You can register for the free events at somerset.gov.uk/news/online-sessions-to-help-people-understand-complexities-of-care-planning/

Guidance for reporting safety issues on Somerset's roads: A quick and simple online reporting service is available 24/7. It can be used to report non-urgent incidents both during hours and out of hours at the weekend somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/. You can also report a hazard on the road such as rubbish, tyres or blown/displaced traffic cones. somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/hazards-on-the-road/ To report an urgent out-of-hours highways issue that's a risk to public safety, please call Somerset Lifeline 0300 123 2224. Gritting/salt spreading map – somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/gritting-map/

MATTERS ARISING

Barn and paddock lease: The paddock lease has been signed and is ready for submission to Land Registry which the Clerk will action. The Barn lease is continuing on a rolling basis.



Quarry noise: A meeting has been arranged with the Quarry Manager on February 28th.

Bus shelter graffiti – Vobster: Cllr Brady has quoted £110 to remove the graffiti and paint the whole shelter with masonry paint. Work to be carried out when the weather is better.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Grass triangle – Bottom Lane: The memorial tree will be planted week commencing February 17th. Topsoil to level the area should be in place by the end of March.

Area in front of Vobster Inn: A small old truck on rails has been sourced which requires the approval of the inn owners before installation.

Speeding vehicles in Vobster: No response from Highways. Clerk to chase.

Damaged bridge – Vobster Cross: Works on the bridge have begun and will last approximately three weeks. Cllr Brady will speak to the Works Manager to see if a no through road sign can be placed on the junction to stop drivers continuing straight across and having to turn around.



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Speeding traffic and mud on road - Lime Kiln Hill: The mud situation has improved significantly and the sweeper is out frequently. Cllr Brady has received a letter from the local MP who acknowledges there is a speeding problem around the parish and will contact the Police and respond back in due course.

Erosion of verge: Owner has assured that this will be re-instated and commented that this was due to the works taking longer than expected and the recent weather conditions.

Water seeping through tarmac – Little Green: Clerk to report that water is continuing to bubble through the tarmac. The source is assumed to be a spring. The road is just a patchwork of filled pot holes with Highways coming out several times a year to fill them again. A more permanent solution is required.

PLANNING

New applications: All for notification purposes only – no action required.

2025/0094/PAF: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to a distillery – Claveys Farm, Somers Hill to Mells Green

2025/0174/TCA: Thin ash tree – Mells Park House, Berry Hill

2025/0236/TCA: Fell sycamore tree – Rossendale, Top Lane

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday March 11th at 7.15pm in the Barn

Joy Book, Clerk. Tel 07704 584953 Email: clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY – NOTICE OF CO-OPTION

**Mells Parish Council has a vacancy for two councillors to be filled by
Co-option**

The above Parish Council will consider filling by co-option two casual vacancies for a Councillor at its meeting to be held
on Tuesday 8th April at 7.15pm in The Barn, Mells

Anyone interested in serving the community in this way and want to become a candidate for co-option should obtain an application form for candidacy from the Clerk (also available on the parish council website www.mellsparishcouncil.org.uk). Completed application forms should be returned to the clerk by: **Friday 4th April.**

Application form and information on eligibility for the role may be obtained from the parish council **website: mells-pc.gov.uk** or the **Clerk: Joy Book** – Cloud End, 22 Audley Avenue, Torquay TQ2 7PD
Tel: 07704 584953 Email: Clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED – just an interest in parish matters

ROTARY DONATION TO MELLS SCOUTS

Midsomer Norton & Radstock Rotary Club has made a contribution of £250.00 to Mells 1st St Andrews Scout Group towards the cost of new tents at their meeting in The Barn, Mells. Richard Kitley, the Scout Master, says the Group is growing with four new members since Christmas. Members comes from all the villages around and they are doing a fine job.

MELLS OPEN GARDENS - SAVE THE DATE!

A wonderful selection of Mells Gardens will be open this year on Sunday 8th June. As well as some of the usual beautiful gardens, including the Manor, we would love to include a few new ones. If anyone else would like to open their garden, large or small, beautifully in bloom or a work in progress, do please email me. mellsopengarden2022@gmail.com (NB no 's' after garden). As usual, money raised will go towards supporting our community shop and cafe. *Rosemary Worsdall.*



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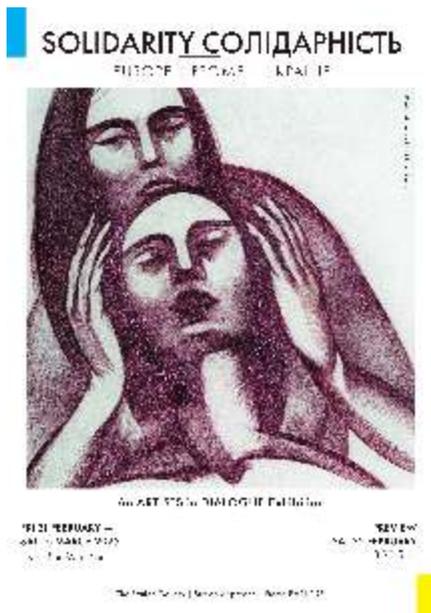
WHATLEY

All those in Whatley who know Hazel send her their very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SOME EVENT NEWS:

One of the several artists in Whatley and Chantry is part of a group 'Artists in Dialogue'. Five Somerset artists share a virtual platform online conversation in artwork. Themes are chosen to enable them to show us the impact of the Ukrainian war on their lives. This is led by the desire to keep their war in the public eye, along with offering our constant interest in their wellbeing.

Artists in Dialogue are commemorating the third anniversary of the Russian invasion with an exhibition in Station Gallery (near the train station) February 22nd-March 15th.





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- Buckland Dinham Village Hall
- Mells Recreation Ground, near Longfield, Mells BA11 3PZ
- Post office, Woodlands End, Mells BA11 3PF
- Telephone Box, Mells Green
- Vobster Inn, Lower Vobster, Radstock BA3 5RJ

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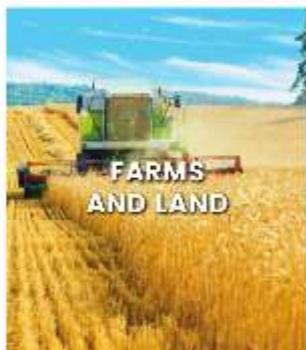
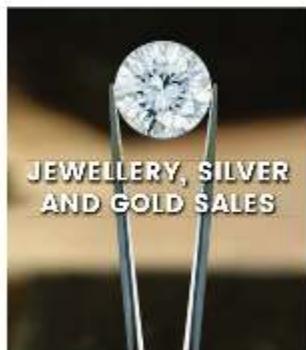
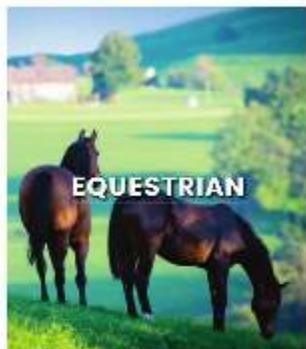
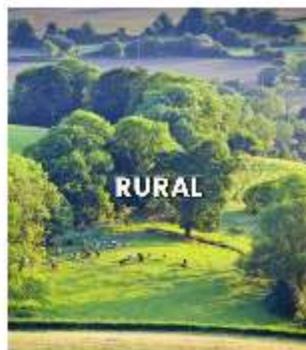
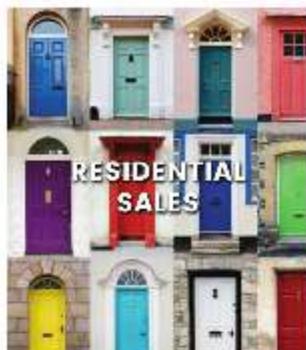
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