

Fivehead & Swell

Community Matters

Published every two months

By Fivehead Parish Council

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the publisher. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the information supplied for inclusion in the newsletter is accurate, responsibility cannot be accepted for any omissions or inaccurate information. We reserve the right to edit any contribution for the purpose of clarity, consistency and layout limitations.

By supplying material for publication in Community Matters, you are giving consent for its publication on the village website at www.fivehead-village.org.uk

Useful Information

EMERGENCY AND HELP SERVICES

Emergency No. (All Services)	999	
Non-Emergency Police No.	101	
Non-Emergency Medical No.	111	
Samaritans	116 123	
Age Concern	0800 00 99 66	www.ageuk.org.uk
Citizens' Advice	03444 889 623	
Somerset Community Connect—local care and services to help you choose the right care and support.		www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk

MEDICAL

Langport Surgery	01458 250464	www.langportsurgery.co.uk
North Curry Health Centre	01823 490505	www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk
Musgrove Park Hospital	01823 333444	www.tsft.nhs.uk
Yeovil District Hospital	01935 475122	www.yeovilhospital.co.uk

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councilor - Clare Aparicio-Paul	0300 123 2224	www.somerset.gov.uk
Highways and Travel	07879 313117	email: capaul@somerset.gov.uk www.travelsomerset.gov.uk
Rights of Way-Volunteer & Trails Officer	01823 358250	www.roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map
Somerset Waste Partnership	01823 625700	www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor - Malcolm Cavill	01935 462462	www.southsomerset.gov.uk
	01823 481335	malcolm.cavill@southsomerset.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Kate Beacham (Chair)	6 Ganges Close	01460 281414
Laura Howard (Vice Chair)	The Old Manse	01460 282911
Ken Male	Tanyard Farm	01460 281233
Nina Cameron	18 Ganges Close	01460 281358
Phillipa Brett	The Old Bakery B&B	01460 281115
Jack Westworth	The Conifers, Isle Abbots	01460 281071
Robert (Rob) Wynn	Meldon	01460 281288
Jill Wardle (Clerk)	Spindlewood	01460 281902
E-Mail contact for all matters		fiveheadpc@gmail.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

Crown Inn Steve & Jacqui	01460 281919	Email thecrown_inn@btconnect.com
Drama Group—Kevin Stevens	077940226149	kevinmstevens11@gmail.com
Harry Price	01460 281573	harryprice183@btinternet.com
Playing Fields — Frank Doggett	01460 281549	
Post Office — Curry Mallet	01823 480236	currymalletstores@gmail.com
Golf Society— Richard Hadfield	01460 281904	email: rkhadfield@btinternet.com
Short Mat Bowls— Heather Gorton	01460 281995	email: h.gorton74@gmail.com

Parish Council

As with all organisations, the Parish Council has adapted over the last few months to enable essential business to proceed safely. A 10-minute Extraordinary Meeting to agree Emergency Operating Procedures was held in March on the War Memorial Green with councillors maintaining a safe distance apart. Since then, Government Regulations have enabled local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video/telephone conferencing) if they wish until May 2021. Your Members have agreed to online meetings only when a key decision needs to be made (e.g. finances and major planning applications). All other matters will be covered by the Emergency Operating Procedures and correspondence.

The first Zoom meeting was held in May with two Members of the Public in attendance. For a first attempt, it went surprisingly well with few technical hiccups and, with a short agenda, it was completed in a record time of 50 minutes. Our District Councillor, Malcolm Cavill, reported that Fivehead was the first of his parish councils to meet online.

Many initiatives and events are, of course, sadly on hold but we have been able to make progress with the following which have proved to be invaluable in aiding communications:

- We now use digital mapping software (Parish Online) for various matters including planning applications and asset management. It has proved to be very useful during the crisis in developing a Parish Support Network (see www.parish-online.co.uk/news/). We are also using it to develop maps for our Parish Paths (see www.parish-online.co.uk/examples/). The Clerk was interviewed (YouTube video available) to discuss these innovative approaches.
- The new accessible Website is live and hopefully performing satisfactorily. We have plenty of ideas for new material (e.g. walks and environmental data) to post on there but we are always open to suggestions and, importantly, updates and corrections.
- Many of you have now signed-up to the Village Messaging Service (www.nextdoor.co.uk) which complements, rather than replaces, the existing village email group. These channels, together with the Fivehead Facebook page, have proved to be invaluable during the crisis.
- One key piece of work that has been completed is the mapping of the cemetery. Thanks to many hours of work by a volunteer plus a professional topographical survey, we now have an accurate plan showing the position of marked graves, purchased (but unused) plots and available plots, and the estimated position of unmarked graves. This will replace the existing map prepared in 1952. Interestingly, the improved positional accuracy has shown that the eastern end of the cemetery where there are a large number of unmarked graves dating back to 1895 is unsuitable for future interments. This means that there is less than half the space previously thought available. For this reason, Members agreed that new plots should generally only be available to parishioners.

Although many events have sadly been cancelled including the 75th VE Day celebrations, the Annual Parish Meeting, and the Open Gardens at Cathanger, it was wonderful to see and hear the village still managing to commemorate VE Day with bunting and appropriate social distancing. Michael Brett also dipped the Branch Standard for the Curry Rivel, Drayton and Fivehead Branch of the Royal British Legion. The weekly display of appreciation for our carers and key workers has also been memorable (check out the video on the village website).

From the outset of this terrible situation, our community has pulled together and supported one another in so many ways. There was a wonderful reaction to the call for volunteers for the Support Network and we know of many continuing acts of kindness including the 23 ladies of Fivehead Scrubbers making scrubs and PPE for our carers. Thanks go to Steve and Jacqui at the Crown Inn and to Sue Atwell in the shop who have provided much needed food and supplies during the lockdown. Beyond the parish boundary, thanks also go to the many local small businesses who continue to support our community.

We wish you all continuing good health.

Jill Wardle Parish Clerk Contact Details: Email fiveheadpc@gmail.com Telephone 01460 281902

Parish Council (cont)

Parish of Fivehead and Swell – Annual Report - April 2019 to March 2020

During the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, we have been unable to hold the Annual Parish Meeting. Instead, here is a summary of the past year from all our groups and organisations.

Fivehead Parish Council (report by Kate Beacham - Chair)

Life as we know it is now on hold, as are our ongoing projects for the near future. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with shopping, picking-up prescriptions and any other tasks deemed necessary, also our Cluster Leads, and Jill our clerk who has worked tirelessly to organise our cluster system and keep everyone informed of developments.

The PC updates all information and decisions from our monthly meetings via the village email list, noticeboard, website and our Community Matters Newsletter published bi-monthly. All of the PC contact details are listed in the newsletter and on the website.

As all of our activities are in the public domain, I will make my report succinct.

Our new commercial website is up and running, thanks to everyone involved for their efforts in making this a very professional site. We also have a new messaging service called 'Nextdoor' which you can sign up to and post messages to neighbours in Fivehead, Swell and some neighbouring villages such as North Curry and Curry Rivel. Contact lead is Pip Brett.

There has also been a surge of planning applications over the year, and probably more to come. Some of these have been very contentious; ongoing details are well documented in minutes, on the village and SSDC planning website.

The first village Xmas Tree Event – we had a tree with lights erected in the churchyard next to the village green and war memorial, with a carol service in St Martins Church, switch-on of the lights, then refreshments at the Baptist Church. It was very well attended by the village who have asked if it could be a regular event. Grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event.



We were successful in obtaining a 'Fivehead Paths to Fitness' grant from Somerset County Council, to pay for a noticeboard with a new Parish Map, drawn by a local budding artist, and a series of maps/routes for walkers devised by Margaret Knox and our clerk. Hopefully these will be in place soon when current restrictions are lifted.

Langford Corner has been turfed and replanted. Thanks to everyone who helped, it looks splendid in the centre of the village. PC are also in the process of having it registered for the village. St Catherine's Well in Swell has also had a make-over courtesy of Keir and local residents.

A welcome pack for new residents has been created, with an information sheet and vouchers kindly donated by the Crown Inn and the Stable Cafe.

We now have 3 co-ordinators for Neighbourhood Watch, in the village, the latest being the rest of Ganges Close and most of Ganges Hill so we now have coverage of Ganges Close, Ganges Hill, Millers Orchard and The Glebe. If anyone wants to be involved in any capacity, please contact Kate Beacham.

The Pound refurbishment is on hold, due to lockdown, with no building work taking place at present. The telephone box has been refurbished thanks to Jon Rose, who has done a splendid job. We are waiting for an electrical check then decisions need to be made as to whether this will become a book exchange or house a defibrillator. Thanks also go to Adam Ogilvy for his work on mapping the cemetery which has provided some interesting information about the position of some of the older graves and the space available.

Annual Parish reports

Fivehead Parish Council

As we have not been able to have a physical meeting this year, I have been unable to thank all the organisations in the village, for their hard work in keeping our surroundings looking marvellous and maintaining our assets, so this is a big 'Thank You' to everyone involved for all your efforts.

Finally, if anyone has not yet signed up to village email list, please use the link on the website or contact the clerk at fiveheadpc@gmail.com, any correspondence comes BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) and your details remain private. You may also wish to visit the website and sign up to the notification system which sends an email every time a new article is placed on the site.



Fivehead Village Hall (report by Margaret Knox – Secretary)

Fund raising has gone well starting with the Summer Fete run in conjunction with the Playing Field Management Committee, ably overseen by Richard and Frank and their team of helpers. Cream Teas at beautiful Langford Manor followed and in November a quiz, contributing to the 25th birthday celebrations of the Big Lottery which has over the years provided much funding to Fivehead as a whole. This spring we reverted to our "normal" quiz which was well supported and received plaudits.

Earlier this year our website pages were overhauled, expanded and now there are pictures of the hall's uses to view in a gallery. The main hall's floor has been sanded, treated and sealed paid for by a grant from Somerset Community Foundation and again the Big Lottery. Security has been of concern, so a new front door lock has been fitted with hirers again being made fully aware of the need to totally close up the hall when they leave. Due to complaints and malfunctions the main hall lighting has been simplified, paid for with a grant from the Parish Council. A new marquee has been purchased, the cost supported by the Parish Council, Playing Field and Village Hall Committees who will manage the asset.

Projects may have to be put on hold due to the fallout from the Covid-19 virus but there were plans to purchase a sign for the hall and obtain costings for repair or replacement of the car park surface. There is an awareness of the need, in due course, to replace the fridge and more long term, improve external lighting.

The committee is very grateful to the Parish Council for its grant which supported the interest paid on our loan and the replacement lighting system. The exact costs of these expenses have been supplied to the Parish Council by our treasurer, Mr Hadfield. The financial situation, prior to the Corona virus lockdown, was sound. There was a desire to pay off the residue of our loan at the end of 2020 but that will now not be done as our income stream has dried up for the foreseeable future. The need to apply for grants will be kept under review.

In early 2020 we welcomed Michael Way to the committee and during the year were sad to say goodbye to Melanie Rose and Rob Wynn who had both contributed greatly to the work of the committee. Rob had invested hours into the creation and then implementation of the hall's essential Legionella Risk Assessment and overseen the supply of electricity. Thanks as ever go to all the hard-working committee members who between them cover all the jobs which need doing to keep your hall functioning. Special thanks go to Paul Narey who although no longer a committee member ably runs our 100 Club thus raising essential funds.

Annual Parish Reports

Fivehead Playing Field Management Committee (report by Frank Doggett – Chair)

Coronavirus Precautions - accepting government health advice, we closed for the time being the children's playground, multi-use games area and adult exercise equipment, although the playing field itself remains open. We also had to cancel our Easter bingo and the annual fete, the profit from which, we wanted to use towards our new storage facility project.

New Storage Project - following a break-in last August when our equipment was stolen, Matravers Engineering kindly carried out emergency repairs free of charge. We have since purchased a really strong secure shipping container and we thank the Parish Council and the stable coffee shop for their generous donations to help cover the cost. We have also installed a security post at the playing field entrance to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.

New Marquee - in partnership with the Parish Council and the Village Hall we have purchased a new modular marquee which can be varied in size according to the capacity needed. We look forward to seeing it in regular use when the present crisis is over.

New Fences - we have installed a new fence at the pedestrian entrance to the left side of the Village Hall. We are also looking to replace the fence around the children's play area, and we will make this our next project.

New Football Team - we have been in discussion with a local high-flying league team about playing at Fivehead in the coming season, assuming things have returned to normal by then.

More Trees - thanks to Pip Brett, Leslie Hoover and Barry Knox, we have acquired a selection of saplings – oak, horse chestnut, walnut and hornbeam – two of which have been planted, the remainder being kept by Barry in his nursery to put on more growth before planting at the playing field in the autumn.

Thanks Everyone - I would like to thank committee members for their efforts, Michael Troutt for cutting our hedges, Parsons Engineering for cutting the grass even during the current lockdown, the Parish Council for their support, and the many individuals who have helped us during the past twelve months.

Fivehead Drama Group (report by Harry Price – Treasurer)

The Drama Group had an excellent year concluding with the Pantomime *The Pied Piper off of Hambridge* in January 2020 with sustained numbers in the audience and a continued interest.

In July 2019 a full house were entertained at our Summer revue when the audience seated at round tables are treated to an evening of Music Drama and comedy with a ploughman's supper served during the interval.



Notable points of year were encouraging increase in younger members; audiences up for the revue and pantomime with a 60% increase since 2017; being financially sound enabling us to donate £250 each to the Playing Field and Village Hall.

The aims for 2020 are to retain and increase members both young and old; to invest in new sound equipment or lighting; and to continue to donate to local causes.

Parish Paths (report by Jacquie Mahoney – Liaison Officer)

Our Parish Paths continue to be enjoyed by many local and visiting users on foot, cycle and horseback. Our team of volunteers is once more thanked for their work in keeping the well-used paths clear of overgrown vegetation. It is pleasing to see the wider use of the Somerset County Council website <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map> by users to report issues with paths. A series of 7 circular walks around the village have been devised and these are currently being documented by volunteers so that they can be included on the website and printed as leaflets.

Annual Village Reports

Fivehead Baptist Church (report by the Rev Laurie Burn)

Fivehead Baptist Church is a community of Christian people who gather weekly in our building in Fivehead to worship God and proclaim the good news of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Although many of our members come from the surrounding villages and towns, about 25% of attenders now live in Fivehead. Being situated right next to St Martin's Church, we try to work together as far as possible to provide a united Christian witness and to serve the village. Of note is our annual Remembrance Day service. In 2019 this started at the Baptist Church, moved to the War Memorial for 11.00am, then concluded in St Martins. The annual Christmas Carols in the Crown was another jointly run event, well supported.

The main service we provide to the village is The Stable Community Café which provides a welcome meeting place for the community and for visitors. On Thursday evenings we run a Youth Café - an informal drop-in for local young people aged 11-19, which is well attended. The Stable is managed and maintained by the Baptist Church but is run by a large team of volunteers including people from St Martin's Church and the wider community. Recently (before Lockdown!) we have welcomed a couple of new volunteers to staff the café and to make cakes! We open every week from 2.00pm Wednesday to Saturday 1.00pm. Just before "Lockdown" a new ramp was installed to provide easier access, but unfortunately, this has yet to be used as the Café and Church buildings have since been closed. The handrails are yet to be fitted.

The Stable is not-for-profit and any surplus funds above our agreed reserve level are periodically donated to local and international causes. During the past year, the bench by the war memorial has been installed through a £500 donation from The Stable, and a further £500 was donated in 2019 to provide secure storage for the Village Hall & Playing Field. Since we opened over 7 years ago, more than £2000 has been given from the tips to various causes. £200 was sent to Dreamland Hospital in Kenya to provide a wheelchair, and in September 2019 Laurie & Karen Burn and Glynis Boucher travelled to Kenya to see the wheelchair in action. Last June a donation was sent to Somerton charity Friends of MBA to support work in Zambia.

The Stable and the Baptist Church buildings have both been host to a number of village meetings, including the new Environment Strategy Group, and several public Parish Council Planning Meetings.

During the year, a "Green Group" has also been set up at church to look at ways in which we can improve our environmental footprint. We have begun to implement changes and are looking to become an Eco Church.

Other regular meetings, in addition to our 10.30am Sunday Services, include:

Stepping Stones on Monday mornings – a group for babies, toddlers and carers, with free play, crafts, music, "messy worship", Bible story and snacks. Monthly, on the second Monday, an Informal Songs of Praise Service for residents of St Martins Close. We enjoy a cup of coffee and cake, then sing well-known hymns, with a thought for the day and prayers. The monthly Contact Lunch for local people who live alone has gone from strength to strength. On the third Tuesday of each month over 20 people enjoy a two-course meal and good conversation. One of our regular guests is 103, though quite a few are much younger, but still living alone. Women on Wednesday (WOW) and Men on Thursday (MOT) meet at The Stable. The men also enjoy a monthly Men's Breakfast cooked by Steve Cutts. Children's Film Nights are now held about 5 times a year, with a snack meal followed by the viewing of a popular recent film on the big screen at Church.

Also, in October, we had a very enjoyable Church Weekend at Lee Abbey in North Devon, attended by about 30 adults and 7 children. Laurie, Karen and Glynis put on a Kenya Evening in November with an audio-visual presentation of their 3-week mission trip to visit IcFEM in Western Kenya. The evening was so popular that we organised a repeat afternoon presentation for those who missed it! Perhaps the Kenyan staple food – Ugali, made of crushed corn – was less popular! In November we held another TEAR Fund Big Quiz Night which was very successful and raised several hundred pounds for TEAR Fund. We also collect food items for the Taunton Food Bank and several of our members are volunteers at the Langport branch, which opens every Wednesday afternoon.

Annual Village Reports

Fivehead Baptist Church (Continued)

At the time of writing, all meetings have been cancelled due to Government Guidelines, but we have managed to hold very successful online services and other meetings using Zoom Software. We counted 57 people participating in one service! In fact, "church attendance" has increased, including people from overseas taking part!

Following the great success of the 2019 Wildlife Photography Exhibition in The Stable and Church Hall, several local church leaders who are keen wildlife photographers were planning to stage a repeat exhibition at Martock Christian Fellowship after Easter. However, this is another victim of Covid 19. We had also booked the Oddments Theatre Company to come back to perform Pilgrim's Progress, at Hambridge School, but this will also most likely be cancelled.



Finally, having served at Fivehead Baptist Church since May 2017 I am due to retire on July 1st. At present, all such future plans are "on hold", but I would like to say how much Karen and I have enjoyed living and working in Fivehead. We are only moving to Ilminster, so you will no doubt still see us about. The church will be actively seeking future ministry as soon as the situation allows but be assured that we will not be deserting whilst the Covid-19 crisis persists.

St Martins Parish Church (report by Meg Tyler – Church Warden)

2019 was another busy year for St Martins, with Scott our Vicar and our Lay Reader Margaret Smith. Margaret has now retired after many years of devoted service as Lay Reader but of course is still very much part of St Martins.

There are 4 or 5 services a month. Starting with our Family and Friends Service for the young at heart as well as children, which is held on the first Sunday of the month, second Sunday Evening Prayer, third Sunday Morning Prayer and Parish Holy Communion on the fourth. If there is a fifth Sunday this will be held as a joint Service at one of the three churches - St Catherines, Swell or St Andrews, Curry Rivel or St Martins. We also share two services with the Baptist Chapel over the year and these have now become regular events.

As always, all our fund-raising events are well supported from the village. Without this support we would be unable to keep the church in reasonable repair - a big thank you to all. A huge thank you for our current Fund-Raising event which is happening even now in the midst of the current world situation. The support for the online Plant Sale has been astonishing! We shall be letting everyone know in due course the final amount raised.

Everyone can be assured of a warm welcome at all of our services from relaxed to more traditional, come along and see for yourselves once all our churches can be opened once again.

Crown Fivehead Golf Society (report by Harry Price - Chair)

In 2019 the Crown Fivehead Golf Society had a full and successful year, a wonderful weekend away in September at Puckrup Hall and passing the £50,000 mark in our Charity contributions.

Notable points of year were :

- A full programme of events from March to October.
- Passing £50,000 raised for our Charities;
- £1500 raised on our Charity Day.

In 2020, our aims are to continue to recruit new members; to have a successful Charity Day; and to seek new venues for our outings to add interest and encourage more attendees.

We thank Jacqui and Steve at the Crown as host of the Society and housing our Trophy cabinet and all the members, villagers and friends who support our fund raising.



Annual Village Reports

Tree Warden (report by Barry Knox)

There is nothing to report on liaison with the RSPB. We have been consulted on local tree and hedge management - advice and informal opinion given. Following a donation by SSDC, saplings were distributed to parishioners on request and Barry Knox hosted baby trees for the Playing Field.

The Tree Wardens are aware of much felling and public consternation on the Glendale site; however, we refer to the previous survey done by the Tree Officer which concluded there was 'nothing of TPO value' on the site. Without that statutory protection the developers effectively have a free hand.

At the suggestion of the Parish Council, Barry Knox has continued liaison with the Tree Council, the 'Reimagining the Levels' Group and the SSDC Planning Inspectorate. No concrete proposals on re-forming a South Somerset TW Group have emerged so far. Volunteers continue to survey and report on the plot the National Plant Monitoring Survey has allocated to us.

Finally it has been brought to our notice that hedges have been removed in Fivehead. We are aware that enforcement action has been taken by the District Council in the past and it is unclear whether these rumours relate to that, or to legal or illegal activity. If anyone is aware of details of this ecologically devastating practice it is important to report it either directly to SSDC or through the Clerk or a Tree Warden.

Fivehead Fellowship & Leisure Club (report by Chris Jackson - Chair)

Coach Trips. The June trip was to West Bay where we had enough time to not only have a coffee but also the chance to wander around the town and visit the sea front. We then went onto the sub-tropical gardens at Abbotsbury for a very nice lunch in their cafe before having time to wander around the gardens. We then returned to Fivehead by a different route to the one we took. Altogether a very pleasant days outing. The September Mystery Trip was a coach ride around parts of East Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset before stopping at The Windwhistle Inn for a very nice evening meal. A trip that kept everyone guessing as to where we were going.

Our Christmas lunch was well attended again with everyone enjoying a four-course meal. This year we decided not to have the spring lunch but instead had an afternoon of games with a cream tea which was enjoyed by everyone.

During the year we had six talks with a wide range of topics. We had a singing meeting in February led by Catherine Mowat, then in April we had a talk on hidden Somerset by Mike Bolton. The May meeting was reminiscences by Ray Budd of his time with the Black & White Minstrels while the July meeting was by Laurie Burn about how he makes guitars and he also played and sang for us. The October meeting was a talk by Lottie Dale about her experiences of sky diving and the final talk in November was by James Feaver on foraging for free food in the countryside. There was something for just about everybody.

We were going to have six varied talks during 2020, all of which would have been in the village hall. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 we have had to cancel meetings from April until at least September and maybe even more meetings will have to be cancelled. The only two meetings that have taken place are the February and March meetings. The first talk was by Sue Applegate about how our food is grown and harvested and the second was about the Glenda Spooner Organisation which looks after horses at its farm near Long Sutton. Our summer outing which was to have been to Adam Henson's farm in the Cotswolds has had to be cancelled as well.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work and support during the past year and hope we will soon be back in operation.

Village Hall Management Committee

The View from the Village Hall

For reasons apparent to every one of you the Village Hall has been closed since the end of March and this will continue until the committee receives advice from the Government and our advisory body, The Community Council for Somerset, CCS, that it is appropriate to put in place measures to enable safe hall use. CCS send advisory emails, have a website and Facebook page so there will be clear guidelines to follow which will be specific to village and community halls.



During this enforced lockdown we have kept on our cleaner, Julia who has been able to do some deep cleaning rather than her usual cleaning up after the hall has been in use. The committee has kept in touch holding a virtual meeting in May with comments circulated from those unable to participate. Certain tasks have to be done whether the hall is use or not. Many of them fall to our treasurer Richard Hadfield and we thank him for all he does, much of it behind the scenes.

Sadly by mid May there had been fly tipping in the carpark on two occasions. Both times South Somerset District Council promptly and efficiently removed the rubbish but one could understand if they were less than helpful should this happen again. Please keep your eyes and ears open if you are in the region of the hall. Do not take any risks but if you could get a vehicle number plate it would be helpful. The quantity of stuff dumped indicates that each time some sort of vehicle must have been used.

We have no funding events planned as the July Fete has been cancelled. When the hall is able to reopen we will look forward to welcoming you back to social events and classes with whatever restrictions may have to be in place. Meanwhile take care and keep safe, whilst enjoying the good weather and the greater freedoms which we were granted around May 11th. By the time you read this the situation will probably be different hopefully for the better.

Contacts: Chairperson Kevin Stevens 07794226149,

Treasurer and Booking Clerk Richard Hadfield 281904,

Secretary Margaret Knox 281341

100 Club Winners

March 2020			April 2020			May 2020		
No 97	D&D Mason	£50	No 34	P Narey	£50	No 62	N.Shah	£50
No 81	J&S Morling	£25	No 102	M.Way	£25	No 48	D.Potter	£25
No 32	D Powell	£15	No 83	J&F Planchon	£15	No 46	D Narey	£15
No 27	B&S Westworth	£10	No 16	A Josolyne	£10	No 39	D&D Mason	£10



WILLOWAY

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EMAIL INFO@WILLOWAYLS.CO.UK

WWW.WILLOWAYLS.CO.UK

Forsey and Son

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MEMORIAL MASONS • PAYMENT PLANS

Newly opened, uplifting premises at:

Willowfields, Lowerside Lane, Glastonbury, BA6 9GY
01458 831020

Also:

28 High Street, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 8SY
01458 850654 or Street 01458 443677

Pound Pool, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6LZ
01458 272297 or Langport 01458 250509



Anna Rees

With her *Echium Pininana*

Bought at the St Martins Plant sale in 2019 and
a new addition from this years plant sale



Where local people **recommend**
good quality and **trustworthy** businesses

“**Local
BUSINESSES
RECOMMENDED
By You!**”

Get your job done right, first time.
Avoid cowboys and rogue traders

OUR LOCAL Expert.co.uk

Not online?

Call Nick: 01823 218222

For your free printed guide

St Martins Plant Sale

This year St Martins Church plant sale took on a new format. Orders were taken by email & delivered when ready. The format proved so successful that it was not long before orders exceeded stock. I am sorry if any of you ended up disappointed, but there is only so much you can fit in a domestic greenhouse.

Last year the plant stall had some very special plants grown for a bit of fun *Echium Pininana*. Hailing from The Canary Isles it grows extensively in Cornwall, so why not in Somerset. The plant is biennial, so it can take up to two years or more to flower.

Thank you to every one who purchased plants, we exceeded all expectations by raising over £550 in aid of church funds.

Support your local businesses

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Tel: 01458 251375

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Margaret Smith
Tel: 01460 281555

St Catherine's Swell



Churchwarden

Anna Rees Tel: 01458 253067

Scott's Spot – June 2020

Ascension Day - the complete picture

Perhaps you've had the experience of reading a second hand book only to discover that near the end there are pages missing. Few of us would even start a book if we knew it would be incomplete, yet, with Jesus, we sometimes do something similar. As I write, it's nearly Ascension Day. On this day, 40 days after Easter, the church especially remembers Jesus' return to heaven following his earthly ministry. This moment marks the end of six weeks of post-resurrection appearances. Unfortunately though, this day can be something of a 'poor relation' compared to other *seemingly* more significant days. We rightly celebrate Christ's bodily resurrection on Easter Day and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but virtually overlook his Ascension. And that's understandable. Perhaps we struggle a bit with the language used and the images we're faced with in the Bible account (see Acts 1:1-6). It seems to be stuck in a bit of a 'time-warp' with Jesus vanishing 'up' into heaven and the disciples staring stunned into the sky as Jesus vanishes through the clouds.

Yet, if we can see past the details and their mystery, this *page* at the end of Jesus' physical earthly presence is of great significance. For those disciples, and for the Christian today, this can be a watershed moment, a moment to realise the full magnitude of who Jesus is. On the earth they'd followed him as Messiah/teacher/miracle-worker/friend; they'd known the crushing pain of witnessing his crucifixion followed by stunned joy at his resurrection, greeting him as the risen Lord. But now, at his ascension, the final piece of the jigsaw fell into place. The one they knew as master and friend was (is) also the Son of God, the King of kings and Lord of all. To see him return to heaven in this way was a huge 'identity marker', pointing to Jesus as greater than words can begin to express. It was the jigsaw piece that gives us the complete picture, without which our faith is infinitely poorer.

But in a coronavirus, tentatively un-locking, fearful world, so what? How can this help us today? Well...because recognising Jesus' identity matters enormously. In his letter to Christians living in Rome (Romans 8:31) the Apostle Paul writes: **'If God is for us, who is against us?'** The question is not simply *'who can be against us?'* because we can answer that one ourselves. Who is against you? The work-place bully, the family member who won't forgive, sadness perhaps, loneliness, illness, fearfulness, cooped-up-ness, and all the other 'ness-es' that can make life so tough. But that's not Paul's whole question. The whole question is: **'If God is for us, who is against us?'** And the Bible is clear, God **is** for us. **'The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made'** (Psalm 149 verse 9). Knowing this can make all the difference in the (coronavirus) world.

Ascension Day reminds us of the majesty of Jesus Christ. It reminds us that the one within earshot of our prayers is the one who made us, who died for us, is enthroned in heavenly splendour, and who is **for us**. His love was revealed through his earthly actions, and his sovereign rule in his heavenly ascension. This means that amongst our unsettling 'new normal' the ascended Jesus continues to offer strength, courage, guidance, peace, healing, comfort, forgiveness and new beginnings, to all.

As we wobble and reel together, will you reach out and ask the ascended Lord Jesus for his **'grace to help in time of need'** (Hebrews 4:16)? With prayer for you and those you love in this most challenging of times,

With prayer for you and those you love this Easter time, and beyond.

Rev. Scott Patterson

Baptist Church

www.fiveheadbaptist.co.uk



Letter from The Manse

Since Lockdown we have had to close all our physical meetings, but we have been able to keep “meeting virtually” using a wonderful invention called Zoom, where everyone can watch, listen and take part from their own homes. We have, however, also been able to keep in touch by phone, and have helped various village folk with shopping, prescriptions etc. Karen even delivered two “Non-Contact Afternoon Teas” in lieu of the monthly Contact Lunch!

Over the past couple of months we have begun to get used to a different way of living, working and meeting, but two things are certain:

1. Constant change is the new normality
2. We will never go back to exactly how things were before "The Lockdown"

At the Deacons meeting on June 1st we will be considering how and when we might be able to meet in our building again. One change we are already planning is to install a web camera so that anyone who can't attend church for any reason can still see and hear the service from the safety of their home. This will even benefit housebound people who couldn't get to church before Lockdown!

But this is not the only change that Fivehead Baptist Church is facing at the moment: on July 1st the church will enter a time of pastoral vacancy when I officially retire. The shape of the church to come will then depend on the members of the church and the leaders whom the members elect to lead the church. According to our Baptist Principles we are all a *Priesthood of Believers* (1 Peter 2:9) not just "the Minister". Karen and I have greatly enjoyed living in Fivehead and will still be around and about – though not officially as the Minister – as we will just be a few miles away in Ilminster.

Rev Laurie Burn Tel. 01460 281033

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Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group are developing a Citizens' Panel

Citizens' Panel members will be contacted throughout the year to provide their input and views on health and care services in Somerset. You'll be invited to take part in a range of surveys which you can fill in online or through the post, and you can also opt to attend focus groups, working groups or committees in person to talk about health and care in more detail.

What's in it for me?

- You will be helping to ensure we provide better quality care in a way that matters the most to local residents.
- You will have the opportunity to have your views heard by local health and care decision makers.
- You will find out about new plans and ideas for Somerset.

To join the panel, click the link below. If you have any questions please email somccg.engagement@nhs.net or call 01935 384022. <https://surveys.qaresearch.co.uk/somersetpanel.asp>

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Hi all By order of the government the PUB is now closed until further notice but

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During this time basic food stuffs and newspapers will still be available, prescription collection Tuesday and Friday and mobile top ups

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FOOD TAKEAWAY SERVICE.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime and evening please give a minimum of 20mins notice

PLEASE SEE LEAFLET FOR MENU (please pick a menu from the pub if you don't have one or village website.

Orders and payments can be made over the phone. If you are unable to collect yourselves please contact your village coordinator

We are sure that everyone is looking forward to when this crisis ends so in the meantime Stay alert and stay safe and well everyone

Steve & Jacqui Chastell

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Editor's Note

The Editor is always pleased to receive articles of interest, particularly local or relating to the area to include in the magazine, subject to space available.

In this issue, because of the lack of activity due to lockdown the Parish Council has included all the annual reports from the various organisations which would have been presented at the AGM which was cancelled. Nature photographs included by courtesy of Jill Wardle

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Thursday Nights are Youth Café - open to any young people aged 11-19. Cheap drinks and snacks

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Obituary

Margaret Curtis, who has sadly died during lockdown after a long, brave fight against cancer, moved with her husband Philip to Orchard Rise, Fivehead in 1980. Lockdown prevents a funeral such as would have been held in "normal" times so it seems appropriate to record in our Village Newsletter the huge part Margaret played in village life before age and illness prevented her from taking the central roles undertaken with such enthusiasm and effectiveness over a long period.

On arrival Margaret quickly joined the Women's Institute, was soon on the committee, later becoming secretary and then President, roles alternated with her friend Wendy Swinburn. She was a regular local ladies' choir member and those skills were used to enhance WI meetings and their drama productions. She helped organise the WI's Flower and Produce Show which has morphed into our current Flower Show. Her cakes, particularly her lemon drizzle, have been described as "legendary". Margaret, a talented needle woman, together with her friends started a craft group which ran for many years, meeting weekly in people's homes and sometimes in the village hall. Those skills led her to become costume mistress to the Drama Club, guiding friends to make many of the costumes some of which may still be in the wardrobe today. Again her needlecraft was used as she made many beautiful story bags for children in the local primary school where she also helped run a Cookery Club. Her connection to the primary school leading on from her involvement with our own village Playgroup.

Margaret played an active, supportive role on the committee of village hall when it was in the old school, being the Chairman for a period. Any fund raising events held in the village would always find her lending her full and considerable support. She was even a regular voice on local radio giving up to date news and items of interest from Fivehead.

Many of her friends have contributed to this short resume of the village life of a much loved lady. One contributor said "she was a giver not a taker". The village has benefited greatly from her life.



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Food & Drink

Scaloppine alla Romana (Saltimbocca)

Ingredients	4 Servings
4 Veal escalopes, pounded thin	2 tsp Fresh sage chopped or 1 Tsp dried sage
2 Tbs Lemon juice	4 Slices Prosciutto
1 Tsp Salt	2 oz Butter
1Tsp Black pepper	2 fl. oz. Dry white wine

Method

In a large shallow dish, marinate the escalopes in the 2 tablespoons of lemon juice for 30 minutes, basting occasionally.

Remove the escalopes from the dish and pat them dry with kitchen towels.

Lay them out on a flat working surface and rub them all over with the salt, pepper and half the sage.

Place 1 slice of ham over each escalope and, using a sharp knife, trim the ham until it is the same size as the escalope, secure them together with cocktail sticks & set aside

In a large frying pan, melt the butter over a moderate heat, when the foam subsides, add the remaining sage & cook, stirring constantly for 1 minute. Place the escalopes in the pan and fry for 3 to 4 minutes on each side, or until they are lightly and evenly browned. Pour over the wine and cook for a further 2 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove the pan from the heat and transfer the escalopes & pan juices to a warmed serving dish, remove the cocktail sticks and serve at once.

Delicious if accompanied (in true Italian style) with sautéed potatoes & buttered spinach.

Wine pairing for this month's recipe. Wine selection by Paddy Magill Vine Wine

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Details of all events of which the Editor is aware are available on the Village Website

<http://fivehead-village.org.uk/calendar/>

The only date to record on this page is the next newsletter deadline, it is:

Thursday 23rd July

To close this magazine a time for reflection courtesy of Caroline Lumley-Frank

Take Time

Take time – so oft we say there is no time...
Stand before the window; close your eyes...
See the early mist lift to reveal
Meadows silvered in the dew.

Take time – so oft we say there is no time...
Walk through green fields, marvel at nature's intricacy of
Gossamer webs and dewdrops sparkling in the rising sun...
A silence broken by rich melody of birdsong.

Take time – so oft we say there is no time...
Climb the stile into a copse, pause to watch the babbling brook;
See sunbeams filter through unfurling leaves
To dance on bluebell, primrose and aconite.

Take time – so oft we say there is no time...
Leaving cool shade via the kissing gate,
Turn for home and feel warm sun upon your back...
Revel in beauty of cowslip, dandelion and buttercup...
Remember too the flitting butterfly and drone of bumblebee
Ere you close the field gate softly,
Then slowly open your eyes.
Take time when given to you for there is so little time.

c.l.f. 8 April 2020 for those in isolation everywhere

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