

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE
JULY 2024



**A THRIVING VILLAGE COMMUNITY
IN THE HEART OF SOMERSET**

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

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Magazine Cover:

Photographs by
Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

Articles relating to all aspects of our village and community
are always welcome.

Final date for acceptance: Mid-day on 12th of the month.

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

**When reading your free online copy or one of the the hard copies
available in church please remember to support the few remaining
advertisers whenever possible**

*It is emphasised that the views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the magazine editorial team, unless attributed,
or those sent in by identifiable contributors.*

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS - photos by BOB WINN

Pectoral
Sandpiper



Cover - Red Admiral butterfly on a Buddleia



**AWARD WINNING
FAMILY RUN BUSINESS**

Shop and Post Office

Open Monday – Friday 6.45am – 6pm

Saturday 8am – 6pm

Sunday 8am – 12pm

Tel – 01823 279168

Butchers

Open Tuesday – Friday 8.00am – 3pm

Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tel – 01823 337497

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2024

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dougie-kerr

**DONATE TO SAVE
THE LAST BEVERLEY**

Sunday 7th JULY

Sunday 21st JULY

Sunday 11th AUGUST

Bank Holiday Monday 26th AUGUST

Sunday 8th SEPTEMBER

Sunday 22nd SEPTEMBER



**Start Time 7a.m. Bishop's Hull Playing Field
TA1 5EB ///rocket.force.monday**

Bank Holiday Sellers' Rates: Cars £6, Vans £8, Trailers £1

Sunday Sellers' Rates: Cars £5, Vans £6, Trailers £1

Buyer Parking £1 Large Vehicles by negotiation

Sellers responsible for removing their own rubbish

Toilets Available Dogs allowed on a lead

All events subject to cancellation without notice at organisers discretion. All net proceeds to the Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust, a non-profit making registered charity.

The Frank Bond Centre

84 Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull.

A place for the over 50s to meet new friends

Contact Carolyn 01823 283941 /Nadia 07958 246046

Come along to Frank's cafe on a Friday morning 10:00-12:00 and discover what activities could lie in store for you.

The cafe is open to members and non-members.

The centre is centrally heated and open 10:00-16:00 Monday-Friday

Weekly Activities:

Monday - The Painting Group 10:00-12:00, Whist Club 1:30-4:00
Bridge Club 2:00-4:00 (except first Monday in the month),

Tuesday – **Board Games 10:00-4:00**

Wednesday – **Flexercise 10:00-11:00**

Thursday- **Bridge club 10:00-12:00-beginners welcome,**
Croquet 2:00- 4:00

Friday **Pétanque 10:00-12:00,**

Friday - **Frank's Cafe 10:00-12:00**

Monthly Activities:

1st Monday in month Family History 2:00-4:00

Beginners Bridge 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

2nd Tuesday in month Parchment 10:00-3:30

1st & 3rd Tuesday in month Crafty Coffee 10:00-12:00

2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2:00-4:00

1st Wednesday in month Good companions 2:00-4:00

4th Wednesday in month Music appreciation 2:00-4:00

3rd Thursday in month Monthly lunch-please write name on list in foyer

Annual membership £25 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities... Table tennis, cards, books, puzzles A variety of social events take place throughout the year.

The centre is available to hire

For bookings please contact Nadia 01823 338242/07958 246046

Vicar:

Reverend Philip Hughes ,
The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill,
Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB
01823-336102

Tim Venn (Church Warden)

John Perry (Church Warden)



**‘Beware of what you wish for.’
An old adage.**

Readers will know that I believe everyone should use their vote but I cannot tell you who to vote for. However, here is some UKGOV advice.

The most important thing to remember is that your vote belongs only to you. It’s up to you to decide how you want to use it. No one should pressure, blackmail or bribe you to vote a certain way – this is against the law. For all elections, you should choose the candidate that you feel would be the best person to represent you. They might share your views or prioritise issues you think are important.

To help decide who to vote for, you should research your area’s candidates and pay extra attention to the information available to you. Voting is a serious business and you should be able to access all the information you need so you can make an informed decision about your vote.

In the run up to some elections, it can feel like information overload and it’s normal to feel a little overwhelmed when choosing who to vote for.

During this period, you’ll probably see a lot of adverts from political parties and their candidates, trying to get their messages out and encouraging you to vote for them. This is called *campaigning*. You should take note of campaigning, ask questions, and do your own research into candidates’ policies.

You shouldn’t be afraid to ask your candidates and their teams questions about issues that are important to you. Candidates might knock on your door, or may have a stand on your high street. This is called *canvassing*.

You’re welcome to approach them to ask questions so you can understand their views. It’s why they’re there – they want to tell you what they’re all about, and they’ll want to hear what’s important to people in your area so they know what to focus on if they get elected.

Candidates might also take part in public debates with other candidates in your area. These are called *hustings*. They usually take place in a local community building and you’re free to go along.

Depending on the type of election, political parties and candidates might have teams working for them who you can contact to ask your questions. You might want to email or call them, or message them on social media. Different candidates will have different options, but a quick online search should give you the details of how to get your questions to candidates and their teams.

If you don’t ask, you don’t get. The very best of luck. ED.

The Vicar writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How often do we enjoy real silence? This doesn't mean the outside world is silenced for us, it is more about us being silent. (Think: silent in us rather than outside of us).

Last year there was a TikTok trend of 'silent walking', just you and thirty minutes of gentle walking noticing your own feelings, your breathing and the natural world around you. This isn't a new idea as Zen Buddhist monks have been practising 'walking meditation' far longer.

We don't have to go far to enjoy these respites. We can build in a daily or weekly retreat time, from one minute to many more, whether silent walking or reflective sitting, just apply the two rules. Rule 1. No work. Rule 2. Silence.

Jesus taught that when praying we should go to our room to pray, away from distractions and not as a public display, simply to find a quiet place to just be, with yourself and with God. (The Bible, Matthew 6 verse 6). Silent walking, sitting reflection, a mental pilgrimage may all bring us valuable moments to be at peace with ourselves, with our surroundings, with God. Peace that is in, out and up.

A prayer which may help you today: "Heavenly God
Thank you for the peace that can come with being silent
Thank you for the purpose that being silent can hold
Thank you for the positives that a time of silence can provide
Help me to grow comfortable with silence
Help me, in that time of silence, get to know myself more deeply
Help me, in that time of silence, to grow closer to you
Help me, in that time of silence and beyond, to flourish
Amen"

This reflection is shamelessly adapted from a friend's email to me and shared with you for your blessing and encouragement. I hope it speaks with you as much as it does for me.

Blessings

Rev Phil Hughes

Vicar and Chaplain and someone who is growing in silence.



St Peter's & St Paul's Church **Bridge Coffee Mornings**

The Bridge is what we have called the New Welcome Area.

The Church has opened **the Bridge** for the return of the Monthly Coffee Mornings to be held on the last Saturday of each month and running now through the rest of 2024.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 27th July 2024**.

Please come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.



Wells Cathedral Parish Pass

You may have seen in the news last week, that Wells Cathedral has announced changes to its admission guidelines with free passes for parishioners in the Diocese of Bath and Wells and local people, and a new entry charge for tourists.

I would be grateful if you can make your parishioners, and readers, aware that it will remain free to enter for worship, prayer, and to light a candle and also that free passes are available for parishioners in the diocese. Information about the Parish Pass and how to apply for it is available from the **Wells passes section of the Wells Cathedral website**. You will note that the application form for a Parish Pass does require a signature from a churchwarden or incumbent.

Bell Ringing

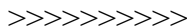
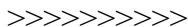
We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

Ringling happens for the main service on a Sunday (usually ringling starts at 09.15am and rings until the service starts at 10am). Practice night is a Wednesday at 7.30pm.

Quarter peals (50 minutes) may be attempted up to twice a month at 11.30am, usually on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

Our Tower Captain is Giles Morley and he can be contacted on 01823 430710





Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM THE Avon & Somerset Police

Dear Sir,

12th June 2024

We have been made aware of recent cold callers in the Galmington and Comeytrove areas touting for business, and asking for some quite personal information. Please remember to use the key points below:

- Never open the door to an unexpected caller until you've checked their identification – use a door chain or viewer, intercom, or a 'smart' doorbell. Genuine callers expect it.
- If you're not sure, don't open the door.
- Never give away personal information to an unexpected caller.
- Never agree to have work done or part with money on your doorstep and ideally get written quotes from at least two traders for any work. Always agree a start and finish date and agree a price before any work starts on your home.
- If you are suspicious of a caller, tell us straight away – ring 999 if you feel threatened or intimidated, otherwise call 101.
- Store any high value items such as jewellery, passports, and cash in a properly secured and hidden safe or bank vault, away from doors, letterboxes & cat flaps.
- Keep windows and doors secured if you're not in the room and never keep large sums of money in the house.
- If you see someone calling door-to-door, but only on frail or elderly neighbours, call 999 straight away.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to help you deal with unexpected callers.
- Look out for vulnerable and elderly neighbours and make sure they know what to do when they receive an unexpected caller.

Respectfully yours

Parish Council news

At the meeting on the 2nd May the following resolutions were made:

- Mr Tony Taylor was elected as Chair and Mr Nick Fernandes was elected as Vice Chair for the coming year.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council would not take over ownership of the Village Play Park from the Playing Fields trust until the Insurance claim was resolved, a further ROSPA inspection was carried out and all repairs made
- A response was agreed to the Cricket Club licensing application, which Members supported in principle, but forwarded the concerns raised by residents requesting the bar only be used for confirmed training and match days to minimise disruption to residents.
- Following communication from Persimmon that they would only pay the commuted sum to the Parish Council and not the additional indexation (for the taking responsibility of the Kinglake area open spaces, attenuation ponds and play areas), it was agreed to pursue this matter through Somerset Council's legal department, to ensure the full funds were received prior to taking on this area.
- Advisory group Members were agreed
- The annual accounts, internal audit, Annual Governance statement and Accounting Statement were approved
- All Parish Council policies were reviewed and approved
- The proposal of a volunteering café was agreed, where all local groups can have a stall to share with the residents "what they do" and advertise any volunteering opportunities. This will be progressed hopefully at one of the regular HUB Cafes
- Residents request to permanently cement the pebbles into the Stonegallows Stone was approved and an update will be received at the June meeting.

Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 6th June, 7pm at The Bishop's Hull HUB — Everyone was welcome to attend.

Dates of Parish Council Meeting 2024

Meeting dates 2024

All Thursday evenings, 7.00 p.m. start at the HUB

4th July
August – No meeting
5th September
3rd October – Half Yearly
Statement & Meeting dates

7th November – Draft Budget
5th December – Finalise budget
/Precept 2025/26

Bishop's Hull HUB

JOIN THE TEAM! An opportunity has arisen to join our friendly team at the Hub! Due to the success of our wonderful community hall we are now looking for a new Booking Secretary. You will be at the heart of your community! Making new friends! Being happy. If you're interested in joining us get in touch by email: bishopshul|hub@gmail|.com

100 Club May winners:

£39.20 – Sheena Bown-Porter, £19.60 – Sam & Dilys Millard
& £9.80 – Barry Lucas

CYCLE RIDES FROM BISHOP'S HULL

The following are short cycle rides which take you out from Bishop's Hull into the surrounding countryside, mostly along quiet country lanes, to outlying villages and back again. They range from 9 to 18 miles in distance and are perfect for a summer's evening after work. The villages listed give you an indication of the general direction of the cycle ride.

Full details are provided for each.

See village web site.

**Halse,
Bishop's Lydeard,
Cotford St Luke
Nailsbourne
Goosenford
West Buckland,
Bradford on Tone
Creech St Michael
Milverton
Cothelstone**



School Flower Bed

The Hub gardening team has been asked by the village school to design and plant the flower bed by the entrance to the school.

After a lot of good work by Jane Emmott and Richard Holland the team has come up with a planting plan .

A coloured copy of the plan will be available on the village web site.

£115 towards the cost of the plants has been raised thanks to generous donations from the community and plants have been donated

(May) We are about half way to getting the bed completed by mid spring.

However, to complete the bed we are looking to raise a further £215 through grants and donations.

If you would like to make a contribution towards the fund please put it in an envelope marked 'Plants' and hand it in to the school or to any of the Hub gardening team at the Hub on a Saturday morning.

The gardening team will finalise the planting but we are looking for ongoing voluntary support to help maintain the bed.

I would anticipate this taking no more than a couple of hours per month to keep it free of weeds and we will support with any specialist pruning as required.

If you are interested in volunteering for this role please contact me for further details. **David.gurr@btinternet.com or mobile 07977 474873.**

Many thanks, David

Free disposal of DIY waste - please book ahead

You can now dispose of some DIY waste free of charge at recycling sites – but you need to book ahead.

Following a recent change of legislation, charges for disposing of construction and demolition materials including: asbestos, plasterboard, hardcore and rubble from household DIY projects have been removed (limits apply).



BISHOP'S HULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Bishop's Hull WI is a group of friendly women with meetings held normally on the **4th Thursday of the month** (except August) at 7.30pm at the Bishop's Hull HUB.



- These monthly meetings have a speaker or other activity together with business items.
- Topics for future meetings will be published here each month.
- Lunches and coffee/ brunches are organised monthly.
- Additionally there is a walking group arranged fortnightly(except mid winter and August) and a Scrabble group meets on a monthly basis.
- A day trip usually takes place in August.
- Why not come along to one of our meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4.00 (up to three meetings) deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information may be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary Tel: 01823 283884/07963834365.

ACTIVITY UPDATE

May heralded the start of our year, and at the AGM on 23rd a new committee was elected.

The programme of speakers for the year ahead has been arranged and a diverse range of topics will be covered.

The monthly lunches and coffee/ brunch mornings continue to be very enjoyable and much appreciated by those who attend. Whilst there is no monthly meeting in August plans are in hand to arrange a day trip.

Our June meeting on 27th will be a slightly different format with games and curling replacing the usual speaker.

New members are always welcome, just come along and see for yourselves what a friendly group of ladies we are!

Meetings are held normally on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Bishops Hull Hub.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED START TIME OF 7.30 pm..

Meetings are held normally on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Bishops Hull Hub starting at 7.30 p.m..

Guests are more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings which start at 7.30pm. Other activities taking place each month will be the walking group and Scrabble group together with the regular lunch and coffee/ brunch events.

Did you see the Northern Lights in the Skies over Bishop's Hull?

The sky over the UK was illuminated on Friday night, Saturday morning 10th /11th May, in what was a 'once in a lifetime' astral event. Unfortunately, I was unable to see it, however there were many photographs shared on social media from across Somerset, including spectacular images from many of you living here in Bishop's Hull.

The Northern Lights were visible with the naked eye due to a severe solar storm hitting our planet. Over the previous few days, the sun had launched massive clouds of charged particles toward the Earth, events known as Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs). When these hit Earth's magnetic field, they create the aurora borealis over the Northern Hemisphere.



The Met Office had said: "Multiple Earth-directed CMEs were observed leaving the Sun between 8th and 9th May. Due to the differing speed of the various CMEs, they are expected to combine into a single larger arrival towards the end of day on Friday 10th May or early on Saturday 11th". Where skies are clear and dark enough, sightings are expected to develop following the CME's arrival across the northern half of the UK, with a chance that aurora may become visible to all parts of the UK and similar geomagnetic latitudes." How right they were.

At the time of writing (Sunday 12th May) there was talk of Aurora activity remaining enhanced with the potential for further Earth directed CMEs in the coming days. The U.S. Government had issued a warning that the solar storm may knock out communications, the electric power grid and navigation.

America's official Space Weather Prediction Centre warned: "Geomagnetic storms can impact infrastructure in near-Earth orbit and on Earth's surface, potentially disrupting communications, the electric power grid, navigation, radio and satellite operations". Operators of these systems were warned so they could take protective measures. Fortunately, the solar storm produced many spectacular light displays across the globe without any reported incidents.

Hope you managed to get a glimpse, if you did, it'll be something you'll remember for a very long time.

Take care,
John Hunt

Bishop's Hull Flower Show, Sunday 11th August



Schedules are available from the Post Office with classes ranging from vegetables, flowers and fruit to home-craft and handicrafts, art and photography, and the children's classes with different age ranges.

There are also free classes to enter - e.g. hanging baskets - please ensure they are visible from the road within Bishop's Hull.

The Scarecrow theme will be 'Sports'.

The first prize is £10 and second prize is £5.

The tallest sunflower grown in Bishop's Hull with prizes kindly donated by Avery's Garden Centre - first prize £5, second prize £3 and third prize £2.



Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.polic



Police Community Specialist
Officer
PCSO 3382
Steven PEARCE

Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

PCSO Lyndsay Smith - 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Tony Wearmouth 8413 - 07889 655312

tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

We are seeing an increase in doorstep callers. As such the following guidance is for your information.

- Never open the door to an unexpected caller until you've checked their identification – use a door chain or viewer, intercom, or a 'smart' doorbell. Genuine callers expect it.
- Lock sheds / garages and any outbuildings, securing ladders, bikes, and any other property.
- If you're not sure, don't open the door.
- Consider outdoor lighting / CCTV / Doorbell Cameras.
- If asked for water, consider turning off the supply to any outside taps.
- Never agree to have work done or part with money on your

doorstep and ideally get written quotes from at least two traders for any work. Always agree a start and finish date and agree a price before any work starts on your home.

- If you are suspicious of a caller, tell us straight away – ring 999 if you feel threatened or intimidated, otherwise call 101.
- Store any high value items such as jewellery, passports, and cash in a properly secured and hidden safe or bank vault, away from doors, letterboxes & cat flaps.
- Keep windows and doors secured if you're not in the room and never keep large sums of money in the house.
- If you see someone calling door-to-door, but only on frail or elderly neighbours, call 999 straight away.

- Ask a trusted neighbour to help you deal with unexpected callers.
- Look out for vulnerable and elderly neighbours and make sure they know what to do when they receive an unexpected caller.
- Join Neighbourhood Watch.

A property was burgled between 00:45 and 1:45am on the 17th at a rural setting in Dodhill Road, Staplegrove. The suspect gained entry initially via a side gate and onwards through the rear door, without force. Once inside an untidy search of office space was conducted with cash stolen from a handbag and wallet in the kitchen. The suspect then made off, most likely via the same method of entry.

Home Appliance Insurance Scams
Avon and Somerset Police have identified increased reports where the public have received misleading calls convincing them to take out insurance cover or warranty on their household appliances. This is despite most appliances being covered under the standard manufacturer's warranty.

Criminals may say that your existing cover is expiring and that you need to renew. They will purport to be well known, legitimate insurers, and it might even be an insurer you have an existing policy with, making it appear more genuine.

The elderly and vulnerable are a particular target, being coerced into handing over their bank details to pay for insurance policies which often do not exist, are overpriced, or contain clauses preventing a payout should the item become damaged. Payments are often set up as direct debits, totalling hundreds of pounds per month.

As a Fraud Protect Officer, I have visited people who have become victims of various types of fraud, and upon closer inspection of their bank statements, it has become apparent that they also have numerous direct debits going out for appliance cover, often for the same appliance.

Unfortunately, once someone has become a victim of fraud, they are likely to be heavily targeted by fraudsters. One man was paying a total of £440 per month to cover his 8-year-old washing machine. Sadly, relatives are often only finding out that this has happened to their loved ones after they have passed away, finding years' worth of direct debits totalling thousands of pounds for fraudulent policies, sometimes, for appliances they didn't even own. The National Fraud Strategy sets out to ban all cold calls selling financial products as part of the national crackdown on scams, and Avon and Somerset Police are keen to raise awareness.

A garden shed was broken into overnight on the 26th in Amberd Lane, Trull. The suspect forced entry to the shed, situated at the top of a driveway, where inside several items were stolen. These included a lawn mower, hedge trimmers, leaf blower, and a strimmer.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224135508 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST



100 years ago

A very successful Conservative whist drive was held at Bishop's Hull. The arrangements were made by the Committee, consisting of Mrs Watts, Miss Smerdon, Mr Watts, Mr Weaver, Mr GV Farrant, Mr JC Badcock, and Mrs C Leslie Fox, and Mr Farrant was a very hard-working MC. The refreshments were managed by Mrs Watts and her sister (two ladies who worked very hard for the Conservative cause in Bishop's Hull, ably assisted by other members of the Women's Conservative Association. The prizes were won by: - ladies equal 1, Miss Smoth and

Mrs Farrant; 3 Mrs Clarke; 4 Mrs Ford. Gents 1 Mr Payne; 2 Mr Manning; 3 Mrs Blenkinsop (playing as gentleman). Mrs Taylor's cake guessing competition was won by Mr Collard and Mr JC Badcock's lucky envelope competition by Mr Small. Over £10 was paid over as a result of the enjoyable evening. At the close, Mr GV Farrant thanked the donors of the prizes and the ladies and gentlemen who had carried out the arrangements and provided the refreshments. He also apologised for Colonel Gault, who was unable to be present.

The Rev WJ Gadsby, pastor of the Congregational Churches at Bishop's Hull and Norton Fitzwarren, accepted a call to the church at Puriton, after being at Bishop's Hull for over 6 years. One of his first efforts was to organise a bazaar by which £150 was raised to pay off a mortgage. Later he induced his people to pull down a vestry and put up a larger one. This they did by their own labour, so that the only money required was for the materials. Mr Gadsby took an active part in the life of the village – he was one of the managers of the Bishop's Hull Council School, one of the managing trustees of the Bishop's Hull Charities and also one of the trustees of the Galmington Education Foundation. He was also secretary of the Ministers' Fraternal and was president and financial secretary of the Free Church Council. Mr and Mrs Gadsby had greatly endeared themselves to the people of the neighbourhood, who viewed their departure with very great regret.

150 years ago

Messrs Edwin Wotton and Co offered for sale by auction, at the London Hotel in Taunton, Miligan Hall in Bishop's Hull. In the announcement, the property was described as a substantially-built family residence, with lawn, pleasure grounds, garden and pasture land comprising just over 11 acres. The house was spacious, having entrance hall, drawing, dining and breakfast rooms, 3 dressing rooms, bathroom, nursery, servants' hall, cellarage and ample domestic offices with gas to the principal rooms. It was surrounded by shrubberies, lawn croquet ground, flower and kitchen gardens stocked with fruit trees, with a modern conservatory and greenhouse, fitted with heating apparatus, and having Muscat and Hamburgh vines. The outbuildings comprised a loose box and stabling for 3 horses, loft harness room, two coach-houses, cow sheds, piggeries and yard. In a separate auction at the premises, Edwin Wotton and Co were instructed to sell an extensive and highly valuable collection of stuffed British birds in cases, containing upwards of 500 specimens, including many of great rarity.

A meeting was held in the schoolroom to discuss the advisability of extending the franchise to women ratepayers. The chair was occupied by the Rev WP Williams, who was supported on the platform by the Rev J Randall and Miss Beedy. Subsequently, the Women's Suffrage Journal published some correspondence which had taken place with Sir Henry James MP, in reference to a petition prepared by the ladies of Taunton in favour of Women's Suffrage. Mrs FEM Notley of Rosemount, Bishop's Hull, forwarded the petition to Sir Henry and reminded him of a promise, reported in the Telegraph in October 1873, to support female suffrage when one half of the ladies of Taunton appealed to him to do so. The following answer was received: - "Madam - I will present the petition you refer to as I should any other forwarded to me from the locality of Taunton. The Bill for the Removal of the Electoral Disabilities of Women, however, will receive my most strenuous opposition - as strenuous as the opposition the advocates of Women's Suffrage afforded to me at my election in October last. I do not recognise the words you quote as being those spoken by me; even if they were, one half of the ladies of Taunton have not appealed to me to support women's suffrage".

John Hamer

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING JULY

Bohemian Hashed Mutton.



Cut some cold mutton in thin slices, sprinkle slightly with tabasco; put a little butter in a stew-pan, and as soon as it boils, add two shallots (minced), 2 pickled onions, and 4 pickled walnuts (also minced). Fry all together for five minutes, add 1 gill of gravy, 1 tablespoonful of liquor from pickled walnuts, and 1 dessertspoonful of ketchup ; make very hot and thicken with a little flour or roux ; then add the slices of mutton. Let all get hot together, and serve with fried bread.

L. T., Bracebridge, nr. Lincoln.

Braised Calf's Liver.



TAKE a small calf's liver, soak it in cold water for about twenty minutes, then drain and wipe. Prepare a vegetable mixture of onions, carrots, turnips, bacon and herbs; put these into a pan with 1½

ozs. of butter, and fry the vegetables a light colour; put these into the casserole, place the liver on top, add ½ pint of good brown sauce and stock, season with pepper and salt, and stew gently about an hour; then add the juice of half a lemon and a teaspoonful of chopped parsley.

A. H., Hyde Park Square, W.2.

Savoury Mould.



Take a small tinned tongue, ¼ lb. cooked ham, ½ oz. gelatine, a hard-boiled egg, 1 pint stock, a little parsley.

Boil the egg for twenty minutes, then cut it in slices ; cut ham and tongue in thin slices ; dissolve gelatine in warm water ; pour a little of this liquid into the mould, then a slice or two of egg, then slices of ham, tongue and egg alternately, adding a little liquid at the same time until the mould is full.

Place a plate on the top, together with a weight, and leave for about six hours ; stand the mould in a soup plate to catch any liquid which overflows and jellies ; chop this jelly and use as a decoration, together with the parsley, when the mould is turned out.

Tomato, beetroot, or water-cress may be used to decorate.

A. W., Gainsborough, Lincs.

Cottage Cake.



ONE lb. flour, 2 teaspoonfuls baking powder, a pinch of salt, two tablespoonfuls ground rice, 1 teaspoonful cornflour.

Mix all these in a dry state, add $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of butter or lard, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar, a little grated nutmeg, and sliced lemon peel. Mix with 2 eggs and a little milk. Bake in a hot, but steady oven for one and a half hours.

J. C., Peterborough.

Hot Apple Cake.



Ingredients: 8 ozs. self-raising flour, 4 ozs. granulated sugar, 4ozs. margarine, 1 egg, 3 or 4 medium sized cooking apples.

Beat margarine and sugar to a cream, add the egg, well beaten, stir in flour gradually ; roll out the size of baking tin, divide pastry into halves; put one layer at bottom of tin (greased), then a layer of thinly-sliced apples, sprinkle with a little sugar; wet edges of bottom layer of pastry, put second layer on apples, and bake in a moderate oven for half an hour.

Cut in fingers and serve hot.

C. J. R., Windsor.

Shrimps and Spaghetti.

THIS dish will be found enough for four persons, and everyone says it is delicious.

Boil 3 or 4 ozs. of spaghetti in salted water for twenty minutes; drain, and then let dry. Grease a pie-dish, and place spaghetti over the bottom ; next get 1 pint of shrimps and skin them, placing them over the top of the spaghetti. Make a thick, white sauce, adding, while cooking, 2 ozs. of grated cheese; pour over the contents of the dish and grate some more cheese all over, also some white bread-crumbs; put little dabs of margarine here and there, and brown in a hot oven for twenty minutes.

I. C., Folkestone, Kent

Swiss Eggs.

PUT 1 oz. margarine in a pan and make quite hot.

Whisk 3 eggs, and fry for about two minutes. Place on a hot dish, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and pour over and round the dish tomato sauce, made as follows:

Cut 2 ozs. of fat bacon into small pieces and fry it in 1 oz. of margarine; add 1 small onion (chopped), and fry gently for three minutes.

Cut 1 lb. of fresh tomatoes into small pieces, add them with $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of water, and simmer till tender ; rub through a fine wire sieve, boil up again ; mix $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. corn flour with a little water to a smooth cream, and stir in a teaspoonful salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoonful pepper ; boil for five minutes, stirring all the time; serve hot.

L. F., Blakeney, Glos.



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ARE YOU AN OLDER DRIVER?

[Part two]

Coping strategies

Having looked at the issues affecting many drivers as they age, it is important that we look at ways to manage and adjust to changes in health, ability and needs. Research suggests that in the UK drivers tend to voluntarily retire from driving when they self- diagnose physical and cognitive declines.

The "Route 60 Plus" Scheme aims to raise awareness of changes BEFORE the stage is reached where physical and cognitive decline adversely affects driving.

In many cases awareness and adjustment may lead to a longer, safer driving career than anticipated. For those who decide to stop driving we aim to offer advice, support and alternatives to driving, which can make the transition more acceptable.

When considering coping strategies we can break them down into three main categories:

- The driver;
- The vehicle;
- The journey.

THE DRIVER

The first and most important thing is to have an open mind. Are we willing to accept that we may not have the abilities we once had, and address any issues that come to light?

For most of us, driving is something we take for granted. We don't view it as the demanding and highly skilled task it is and most of us wouldn't even consider further training.

Yet human error is a contributory factor in around 93% of all collisions.

We should all consider refreshing our knowledge by reading the most up to date Highway Code and taking a refresher lesson with a driving instructor.

THE VEHICLE

To assist with control, comfort and safety, many modern vehicles have useful aids fitted as standard, including:

- Power assisted steering;
- Power assisted brakes
- Cruise control
- Traction control
- Electric mirrors and windows

Consideration could be given to 'small and tall' cars as they offer easy transfer in and out and good fuel economy.

Some drivers make the change from manual to automatic gearbox as it gives the driver one less task to focus on.

There is a wide range of driving aids available. Additional mirrors, steering balls, swivel and wedge cushions are all reasonably priced, easy to install and can make an extremely positive difference to drivers with reduced mobility.

THE JOURNEY

In today's complex and demanding driving conditions, some of the stress can be reduced by making a few adjustments.

We should consider the time of day. Could rush hour and commuter routes be avoided?

For longer journeys, routes should be planned in advance and someone informed which route will be taken and the estimated time of arrival.

Checks can be made before any journey to reduce stress and increase confidence, including:

- Petrol — check there is enough fuel and plan where stops can be made to re-fuel;
- Oil - check the level (refer to the manufacturers' handbook);
- Water — check the coolant and windscreen wash levels;
- Damage — walk around the vehicle and check for damage to lights and bodywork;
- Electrics — check lights and demisters are all working;
- Rubber — tyres need to be correctly inflated with sufficient tread and in good condition. There MUST be at LEAST 1.6mm of tread depth over 75% of the surface of the tyre (refer to the manufacturers' handbook for correct pressures);
- YOU — the most important component. Ensure you are fit, well rested and focussed on the drive ahead.
- I.C.E. — In Case of Emergency — a phone number added to your mobile phone contacts list.
- If are unsure how to, or unable to, check levels due to limited mobility, regular checks with a garage will ensure the car is in roadworthy condition.
- It is important that all cars are serviced regularly as per the manufacturers' guidelines.

Alternatives to driving

For many people, especially in rural communities, bus services do not meet their transport needs. This could be because services don't run often enough or aren't available

to all. Community transport services attempt to meet these needs by offering a door-to-door service or a chance to link with bus and rail services.

Community transport offers a variety of solutions to improve access to other services for the people of Somerset. These transport services are not operated to make a profit and rely heavily on volunteers.

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN SOMERSET

There are various community transport services depending on the area and further information can be found by phoning 0845 3459155 or go online and type this into your web browser:

Somerset County Council Community Transport

Useful contacts

Somerset Road Safety Partnership
Tel: 0844 980 0028
Email: roadsafety@somerset.gov.uk
www.roadsafetysomerset.org.uk

Avon & Somerset Constabulary
Tel: 0845 4567000
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue
Tel: 01392 872200
www.dsfire.gov.uk

For all licensing information contact the **Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency** at
www.direct.gov.uk/motoring
Tel: 0870 240 0009
Email: drivers.dvla@gov.uk

HANDS
by May Lawley

Tender and loving hands
Hands to lead and guide us,
Hard hands and clumsy hands
Idle hands - and woe betide us,
If the hands that we possess
Spend too much time in idleness.

The hands of a father
And a mother
The hands of a sister
And a brother
The hands of a child
Being led to school
Where learning is
The daily rule.

We used our hands
To till the fields
When the war was on for bigger
yields
The women worked beside the men.
It was double summer-time then!

Long days, short nights
Whatever the weather
'all hands to the plough'
And pull together.

The hands of a musician
Whose music we sing
Praises to our God and King
The hands of Jesus
That toiled on wood
Healing and cleansing and doing
good.

The hands of Jesus
Outstretched on the Cross
He who bore all pain and loss.
As we lift our hands in prayer,
We think of people everywhere
With hands, that pray to God above -
Healing hands and hands of Love.

*Historical note - May was a Land
Army girl from 1941 to 1950 - milking
cows!*





Bishop's letter – A richness of ministry

If we're all alike we tend to think the same. This can be comfortable and reassuring - 'Everyone around here sees things just like I do'. But it doesn't help us think out of the box or worse, spot risks and dangers of which we're unaware - 'Crumbs we never saw that one coming!'. For this reason, companies and all kinds of organisations are seeking to become more diverse. Having differing viewpoints, skills and abilities is increasingly recognised to grow ability to think not only more widely but more effectively too.

Recognising diversity has been very much part of our life here in our Diocese of Bath & Wells during recent weeks. Back in May we acclaimed the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. It's almost impossible now to imagine what our Church would be like without the contribution of women throughout the ordained ministry. At the end of June the 'Celebration of Lay Ministries' held at St Paul's Weston-super-Mare saw us affirm, thank and bless the many different roles and responsibilities that lay people are undertaking across our churches and in local communities – from leading worship to pastoral care, ministry with children and young people to preaching and teaching the faith. Again, it's almost impossible to imagine what our churches would be like without such richness.

Our hope is that the diversity we've been honouring will only flourish and grow. For it's essential if we're to bring the light of the Gospel to everyone in our communities – and especially those we find hard to connect with. For none of us alone, either individually or as a group, has the ability to reach everyone. All of us are needed. It's for this reason that one of the priorities we're commending across our diocese is 'shared local ministry'. This recognizes that everyone, everywhere, has a contribution to make. Now surely that's something to celebrate!

Bishop Michael

**A further extract from E W Hendy's book (1943)
Somerset Birds and some other folk.**

MOORLAND PEACE

(Continued)

Snow brings enchantment also to the wooded coombes which seam the Smoor. In their moist atmosphere every branch is in winter limned with grey lichen. Snow settles on these lichen-covered boughs: if it thaws and then freezes its weight may tear them from the trunks, leaving raw scars. But a light fall scarcely bends the twigs, and so transforms a grey fairyland into a white one. There are grottoes and labyrinths of shining filigree, through which, if frost has cleared the air, your eye travels to skies whose blue holds not the unfathomable hues of summer but that mild brilliance which belongs to winter. This snowy silence breathes peace.

But in winter it is after rain that moorland colouring is most subtle: then the hills mourn

In flowing purple for their lord forlorn,

but there are embroideries on their robes, of russet, of yellow, both pale and tawny, and of meagre brown, with here and there an inlay of vivid green from moss or bog-grass. Or there are the days when the moor is swathed in a dense, white vapour which pearls every heather twig, impenetrable to sight and full of strange unrecognisable sounds. Or again, sea-mist may come creeping in like a live creature, crouching in the valleys While slopes above are basking in sunshine. Even when gales are raging you can find quiet and shelter behind ten-foot beech-hedges, topping a bank, for throughout winter their withered leaves cling until in spring eager buds detach them. The moorland stretches before you league on league. Here, too, is winter peace.

Yet there is one moorland scene which, though peaceful, brings to me a sense of discomfort that is sometimes acute. Looking down from some slight eminence—a bank or tumulus—over a waste of heather and rough grass, your eye lights upon some distant and solitary pool of stagnant Water. Such a prospect brings to me instantaneously a sense of melancholy. Though I have often probed my mind for the reason, it escapes me. The feeling indeed appears quite unreasonable. Probably it is due to some ancient association, buried deep and long forgotten. But others have told me that they experience the same sensation.

Dr. Vaughan Cornish, in the book I have already mentioned, remarks that our receptivity to the silent speech of Nature depends upon our moods, or even upon our physical condition—a true but humiliating fact. As Emerson very truly wrote, 'the difference between landscape and landscape is small, but there is a great difference in the beholders.'

Why is it that moorland peace is the deepest? I think it is because on the moors we are nearest to Earth's face. In typical moorland country there are few trees, except perhaps a stunted thorn or blasted rowan. Only heather or ling, and the

peat which their decay has formed through immemorial generations, separates us from primeval rocks, the very bones of Earth, our Mother. But for this thin covering the hills lie as they did when the waters receded. Also, there is silence save for the scrannel pipe of wind in the heath; curlew's skirl or raven's croak only intensify the succeeding stillness. Lie prone upon moorland heather and you can hear Earth's heart beating.

SOMERSET BIRDS AND SOME OTHER FOLK

RETURN

*When I am dead, if aught survives of me
'Twill be a core of spirit, purged of sin,
A tiny, flickering tongue of flame within
The throbbing pulses of eternity;
No more confined in irksome flesh, but free
To follow Beauty's star, perchance to win
Her Holy of Holies, there to enter in—
Enough were this Immortality.*

*And if, so purged, the spirit be still aware,
—Drawn by compulsive urge of memory—
Of earthly scenes once hallowed by its love,
I shall return, like a small wayward air,
O'er heath and ling and brownéd fern to rove,
And home in some deep goyal on Dunkery.*



Editor's note: Extracts from E W Hendy's book have been published in our Parish Magazine monthly for some years. Above is the last entry, a poem, which touches upon the very soul and love of all Nature.

I too am a country lad, although born many miles away in Kent. I have lived in Somerset for many, many years and would like this poem to be read at my passing.

RNC

Dunkery Beacon at the summit of Dunkery Hill is the highest point on Exmoor and in Somerset, England. It is also the highest point in southern England outside of Dartmoor.

Editorial Note: Having finally completed the monthly 'extracts' from **E W Hendy's book (1943) 'Somerset Birds and some other folk'**, I thought readers would be interested in a subject which has changed all of our lives and one in particular, especially if you are researching your family tree.

G M TREVELYAN's - English Social History
A SURVEY OF SIX CENTURIES
Chaucer to Queen Victoria,

Social history might be defined negatively as the history of a people with the politics left out. It is perhaps difficult to leave out the politics from the history of any people, particularly the English people. But as so many history books have consisted of political annals with little reference to their social environment, a reversal of that method may have its uses to redress the balance. During my own lifetime a third very flourishing sort of history has come into existence, the economic, which greatly assists the serious study of social history. For the social scene grows out of economic conditions, to much the same extent that political events in their turn grow out of social conditions. Without social history, economic history is barren and political history is unintelligible. But social history does not merely provide the required link between economic and political history. It has also its own positive value and peculiar concern. Its scope may be defined as the daily life of the inhabitants of the land in past ages: this includes the human as well as the economic relation of different classes to one another, the character of family and household life, the conditions of labour and of leisure, the attitude of man to nature, the culture of each age as it arose out of these general conditions of life, and took ever-changing forms in religion, literature and music, architecture, learning and thought. How far can we know the real life of men in each successive age of the past? Historians and antiquarians have amassed by patient scholarship a great sum of information, and have edited innumerable records, letters, and journals, enough to provide reading for whole lifetimes; yet even this mass of knowledge is small indeed compared to the sum total of social history, which could only be mastered if we knew the biographies of all the millions of men, women, and children who have lived in England. The generalizations which are the stock-in-trade of the social historian, must necessarily be based on a small number of particular instances, which are assumed to be typical, but which cannot be the whole of the complicated truth. And small as is the mass of accumulated knowledge in proportion to the vastness of the theme, how pitifully small is the selection from that mass which I have been able to set down in 200,000 words dealing with six whole centuries of the variegated and wonderful life of England. Yet even a millionth part of a loaf may be better than no bread. It may at least whet the appetite. If it makes a few people more eager to study the literature and records of the past, this book will have served its turn.

[I am hoping to start with an extract next month]

July Vegetable Gardening in the UK

The Ideal Vegetable Seeds to Sow Indoors and Outdoors

July is upon us, and while many of our fellow gardeners are revelling in the bounty of early summer harvests, the expert gardener knows that the sowing season is far from over. As the sun drenches our gardens and the temperatures rise, certain crops are perfectly primed for planting, ensuring fresh produce late into the autumn and even winter. Let us delve into the varieties ideally suited for sowing this month.

Indoor Sowing in July

Chicory: Cultivars like 'Rossa di Treviso' and 'Palla Rossa' offer a bitter yet delightful flavour, perfect for salads and grilling.

Sowing: Plant seeds 1cm deep in trays filled with good-quality compost.

Care: Water gently but regularly. When seedlings have grown large enough to handle, transplant to bigger pots before moving outdoors in late summer.



Winter Lettuce: Varieties such as 'Winter Gem' and 'Arctic King' thrive when sown now, providing fresh leaves throughout the colder months.

Sowing: Disperse seeds thinly in trays or pots.

Care: Once the seedlings have two true leaves, thin out to avoid overcrowding. When sturdy enough, transplant to their final growing position outdoors.



Spring Onions: The likes of 'White Lisbon' and 'Performer' can be sown indoors to transplant later, offering a mild, crisp addition to your dishes.

Sowing: Scatter seeds thinly in pots or trays.

Care: Keep the soil consistently moist. Once they're about 15cm tall, they can be transplanted outside to a sunlit spot.



Outdoor Sowing in July

Carrots: While many think of carrots as an early spring sowing vegetable, varieties like 'Autumn King' can be sown now for a late autumn harvest.

Sowing: Directly sow seeds 1cm deep, in rows 15cm apart.

Care: Ensure well-drained, stone-free soil for straight roots.

Thin out seedlings when they're finger-sized to avoid overcrowding.



Turnips: Perfect for both their tops and roots, 'Snowball' and 'Purple Top Milan' thrive when sown in July.

Sowing: Sow seeds 1.5cm deep, spacing rows 30cm apart.

Care: Water regularly. Thin seedlings to 15cm apart once they're growing.



Radishes: Quick to grow, 'French Breakfast' and 'Cherry Belle' offer a spicy crunch and can be ready in just a month.

Sowing: Plant seeds 1cm deep, spacing them about 2.5cm apart.

Care: Keep soil consistently moist and weed-free.

Radishes grow rapidly; thin out if they seem too crowded.



Beetroot: Go for 'Boltardy' or 'Golden Globe'. Their sweet, earthy flavours will be ready to complement your autumn meals.

Sowing: Place seeds 2cm deep, with rows about 20cm apart.

Care: Once seedlings are 2cm tall, thin them out to leave the strongest ones. Water well in dry spells.



Pak Choi: This versatile green, particularly the 'Rubi' or 'Canton White', enjoys a late summer sowing, yielding tender leaves and stems.

Sowing: Directly sow seeds 1cm deep and 30cm apart.

Care: Keep soil moist. Use a fleece or netting to protect against birds and pests.



Spinach: 'Perpetual' or 'Winter Giant' are ideal choices. Their iron-rich leaves are perfect for salads and cooking alike.

Sowing: Sow seeds 2.5cm deep, spacing rows 30cm apart.

Care: Spinach prefers cooler conditions, so water regularly, especially during dry spells. Harvest leaves regularly to prevent bolting.



Kale: Hardy and rich in nutrients, 'Nero di Toscana' and 'Winterbor' will stand tall, providing a continuous supply of green throughout the colder months.

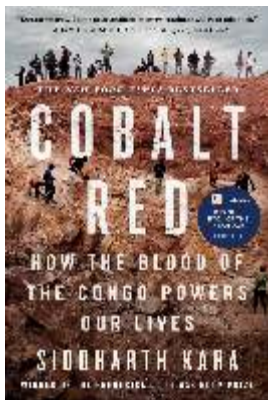
Sowing: Sow seeds 1cm deep, with 15cm between each seed.

Care: When seedlings are around 15cm tall, thin them

out, leaving around 45cm between each plant. Protect against caterpillars and pigeons using netting.



BOOK REVIEWS



Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives

by Siddharth Kara

Electric is the enlightened alternative to

climate-killing oil ... right? Moving away from fossil fuels remains necessary, but Siddharth Kara captures a painful truth in *Cobalt Red: The electric revolution has an underbelly, too. Rechargeable batteries, including those within phones and electric vehicles, are usually manufactured with cobalt, a metal plentiful in the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

Cobalt Red is a grim investigation into the conditions workers experience within “artisanal” cobalt mines; child labor is rampant, and death on the job is commonplace. It’s a call to arms to push companies using these batteries to clean up their supply chains, and for those of us who buy consumer devices to interrogate how they’re made and how we treat those who make them.

Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World

by John Vaillant

The day John Vaillant’s book about Canadian wildfires came out in the US last summer, Canadian wildfires became a temporary

American obsession. Skies in the northeastern United States turned orange, hazy, and hazardous as the result of more than 400 infernos in Canada’s vast boreal

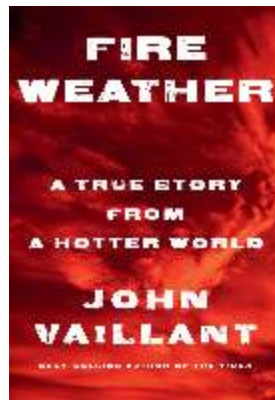
forests in early June. New York City’s air quality became the worst in the world, choked with smoke blown down from Quebec. Philadelphia urged residents to stay indoors. Fire weather, indeed. Great publicity, but so bleak—like releasing a history of terrorist attacks in September 2001.

Upon its release, I recommended Vaillant’s gripping account of the 2016 Fort McMurray fire as the best thing to read to understand this particular crisis, and that recommendation stands. It’s vital context for how our forests got so flammable.

Your Face Belongs to Us: A Secretive Startup’s Quest to End Privacy as We Know It

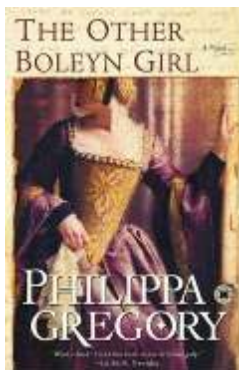
by Kashmir Hill

Idare you to read this



alternately amusing and horrifying account of the rise of an oddball startup selling the world's most powerful facial recognition tools without, at least one time, putting it down to google how to move to a remote location without Wi-Fi.

Shortly after starting a new job at The New York Times, longtime privacy reporter Kashmir Hill got a tip about Clearview AI, a tiny company that had quietly scraped photos from the internet to become a Shazam for people. In addition to providing the fullest account of how this company's tech is used to undermine our privacy, *Your Face Belongs to Us* is also a finely-drawn portrait of the type of people who would sell this type of product, especially founder Hoan Ton-That, an intelligent misfit who seems driven more by personal insecurities than any genuine ideological commitments.



The Other Boleyn Girl
by Philippa Gregory

Two sisters competing for the greatest prize: The love of a king

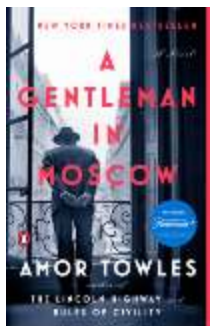
When Mary Boleyn comes to

court as an innocent girl of fourteen, she catches the eye of Henry VIII. Dazzled, Mary falls in love with both her golden prince and her growing role as unofficial queen. However, she soon realises just how much she is a pawn in her family's ambitious plots

as the king's interest begins to wane and she is forced to step aside for her best friend and rival: her sister, Anne. Then Mary knows that she must defy her family and her king and take fate into her own hands.

A rich and compelling novel of love, sex, ambition, and intrigue, *The Other Boleyn Girl* introduces a woman of extraordinary determination and desire who lived at the heart of the most exciting and glamorous court in Europe and survived by following her heart.

A Gentleman in Moscow
by Amor Towles



In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the

Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Brimming with humour, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavour to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

Demand for foodbanks increases

The demand for emergency food parcels distributed by the Trussell Trust's foodbank network has nearly doubled in five years, with a record amount being handed out over the past 12 months alone.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 3.1 million food parcels were given out; 65 per cent of which went to families with children.

Now the chief executive of the Trussell Trust, Emma Revie, has called on political leaders to set out policies that ensure that foodbank use will become obsolete in the UK.

She urges: "We must not let foodbanks become the new norm. A supportive social-security system is the bedrock on which we end hunger for good. Building on this, we need much more effective employment and financial support for parents, carers and disabled people. And action to ensure everyone can have the security we all need to access opportunities and have hope for the future."

Families with children and working-age adults are among the most frequent users of foodbanks, but there has been a 27-per cent increase in the number of pensioners needing emergency food in the past year.

Rules for Using a Food Bank in UK

A network of food banks help to ensure the most needful are not left hungry or destitute. After all, losing a job or suffering a family breakdown can happen to anyone. Using a food bank may be the only option for people locked in poverty to get access to emergency food. So, how do food banks work in the United Kingdom?

First of all, it is important to note that the services provided by food banks may vary from area to another.

Food banks react to the needs of the community to best offer help and support to local people who are in crisis.

So, the questions is: What are some general rules and regulations for using a food bank in England?

You can go to some food banks even without a referral. So, you might find an independent, local food bank advertising their services online in your area.

If not, as a rule you will need someone to refer you (e.g. a charity, GP, or a social worker). In fact, contacting the nearest Citizens Advice office is one of the easiest ways to ask for a referral.

Tell the Citizens Advice staff that you need a food bank. They will try to make you an appointment so you can discuss your situation with one of their advisers.

During the interview you will get asked some questions about your income and your needs. They will ask whether you need the food for yourself or for all of your family. If you qualify for a food bank, they will inform you how to get the food products.

Ask the adviser about any other local help that you might get. They can help you check what benefits you should be getting if you are not currently claiming them.

Note: Another place to get a referral to a food bank is the local council authority. Be sure to ask them if there is a local welfare assistance scheme in your area when you contact the council. You may get vouchers for clothes or petrol. ##

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the coming General Election....

Going to the Country

When will you go to bed on 4th July?

This month we have a chance to vote for our Members of Parliament, and the leader of the party that can command a majority will form the government. There is a concern that ‘voter engagement’ is low, meaning that we are not very interested any more. The turnout at the 2019 General Election was 67.3% which was slightly up from 2015. The lowest turnout in a General Election was recorded in 1918 at 57.2%, due to the end of the First World War.

Between 1922 and 1997 turnout remained above 71%. At the 2001 General Election the turnout was 59.4%. For people under the age of forty it is much less.

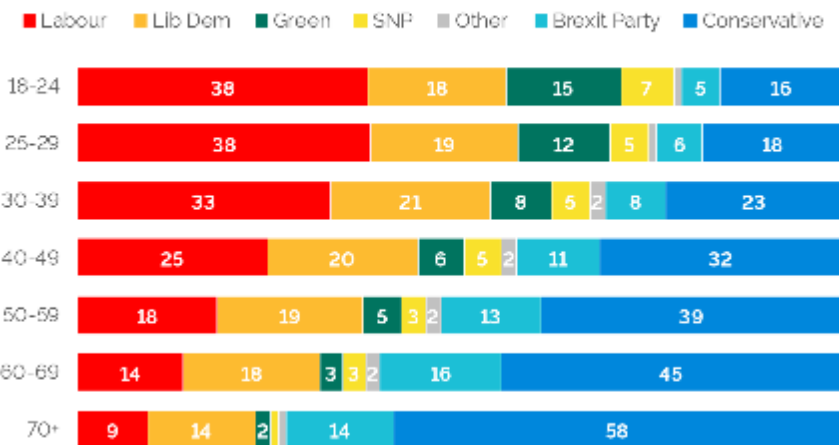
Should we be concerned? Voting turnout has been fairly stable since 1918 at between 60% and 70%. The numbers that vote in this country are similar to most other countries.

For the first time at a UK general election, those voting at a polling station will need to show photo ID. Voters should check now if they have an accepted form of ID, and if not to apply for free ID, called the Voter Authority Certificate .

To answer my own question, I am not sure when I go to bed on election night. I do not always stay up all night. Election excitement begins to wane in the early hours! Politics seems to be a spectator sport for most of us. We enjoy the shocks and surprises and the live results when the spotlight is a constituency.

Voting intention by age

% of 11,590 British adults





Mouse Makes



What was carried
along behind the priests?

The _____
Joshua 6:4

How many days did the Lord
tell Joshua to march around
the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3

What did the priests
carry that were made
from rams' horns?

Joshua 6:4

On the seventh day
how many times did
they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6

Who was saved from
Jerico along with
her family?

Joshua 6:17



DAY S A W A L K
A J O S H U A R K E
S E V E N I O F L A T W
Y N T R F X U E L B O I
I P R I E S T S O U N D
A A U C L I S W R R C A
R I M O L K I B D N E W
O S P S C A M P H O R N
U R E C G U A R D B K
N A T I F I R E X L I
D E S T R U C T I O N
E L R Y R A H A B W G

READ
the story
in Joshua
5:13-6:27

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!

July 24 © Deborah Noble • parishpump.co.uk

HUMOUR

A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another, but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Septical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the

old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream." Then the old lady said she wants a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top." So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"

Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say, "Jesús is watching you." He looked around and saw nothing. He kept on creeping and again heard, "Jesús is watching you." In a dark corner, he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said Jesús is watching me?" The parrot replied, "Yes." Relieved, the burglar asked, "What is your name?" The parrot said, "Clarence." The burglar said, "That's a stupid name for a parrot. What idiot named you Clarence?" The parrot answered, "The same idiot that named the rottweiler Jesús."

So two Irishmen are travelling to Australia. Before they leave home, one of their dads gives them both a bit of advice: "You watch them Aussie cab drivers. They'll rob you blind. Don't you go paying them what they ask. You haggle." At the Sydney airport, the Irishmen catch a cab to their hotel. When they reach their destination, the cabbie says, "That'll be twenty dollars, lads." "Oh no you don't! My dad warned me about you. You'll only be getting fifteen dollars from me," says one of the men. "And you'll only be getting fifteen from me too," adds the other.

A man walks out on his front porch one day and sees a gorilla in the tree on his front lawn. He calls animal control and about an hour later a man shows up with a ladder, a pit bull, and a shotgun. The animal control employee tells the man, "I'm here to get the gorilla out of your tree. I'm going to use this ladder to climb up the tree and shake the branch the gorilla is on to knock him to the ground. The pit bull is trained to go after anything that falls from the tree and bites their balls which calms the animal down so I can put him in the truck." The man says "Okay, I see what the ladder and the pit bull are for but what is the shotgun for?" The animal control employee says, "Oh, that's for you. In case I fall out of the tree instead of the gorilla."

A man was driving and saw a truck stalled on the side of the highway that had ten penguins standing next to it. The man pulled over and asked the truck driver if he needed any help. The truck driver replied, "If you can

take these penguins to the zoo while I wait for AAA that will be great!" The man agreed and the penguins hopped into the back of his car. Two hours later, the trucker was back on the road again and decided to check on the penguins. He showed up at the zoo and they weren't there! He headed back into his truck and started driving around the town, looking for any sign of the penguins, the man, or his car. While driving past a movie theatre, the truck driver spotted the guy walking out with the ten penguins. The truck driver yelled, "What are you doing? You were supposed to take them to the zoo!" The man replied, "I did and then I had some extra money so I took them to go see a movie."

A man walks into a bar and sits down. He asks the bartender, "Can I have a cigarette?" The bartender replies, "Sure, the cigarette machine is over there." So he walks over to the machine and as he is about to order a cigarette, the machine suddenly says, "Oi, you bloody idiot." The man says with surprise in his voice, "That's not very nice." He returns to his bar stool without a cigarette and asks the bartender for some peanuts. The bartender passes the man a bowl of peanuts and the man hears one of the peanuts speak, "Ooh, I like your hair." The man says to the bartender, "Hey, what's going on here? Your cigarette machine is insulting me and this peanut is coming on to me. Why's this?" The bartender replies, "Oh, that's because the machine is out of order and the peanuts are complementary."

St James the Least of All

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

On the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever you do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to compliment the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be nothing of the sort. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short. So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

BISHOPS HULL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:

Cllr Tony Taylor
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Tony.tlr1@gmail.com

Vice Chairman

Cllr John Hunt
john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council:

Mrs Helen McGladdery
Tel: 07518 144614
bishopshullparishclerk@gmail.com

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Bevfernandes03@gmail.com

Cllr Matt Jollands
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TWO VACANCIES

Somerset County Councillors

Councillor John Hunt
john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk
Tel: 07880 794554

Councillor Caroline Ellis
caroline.ellis@somerset.gov.uk
Tel: 07473 119425

Village Website:

<http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/>

Parish Council Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BishopsHullParishCouncil>

**Weekly Church attendance up five per cent
in third year of consecutive growth**

Average weekly attendance at Church of England services rose by almost five per cent in 2023 - the third year of consecutive growth, preliminary figures show.

Meanwhile weekly attendance by children was up by almost six per cent last year, according to an early snapshot of the annual Statistics for Mission findings.

While total attendance is still below 2019 levels, the analysis suggests in-person attendance is drawing closer to the pre-pandemic trend.

In 2021 all-age Sunday attendance was 22.3 per cent below the projected pre-pandemic trend, but the new figures reveal that the gap had narrowed to 6.7 per cent last year.

All-age weekly attendance rose to within 8.3 per cent of the trend last year, compared with 24.1 per cent in 2021.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said "This is very welcome news and I hope it encourages churches across the country."

Regular Weekly Events

MONDAYS

10-11am Nia BH HUB
 10-12noon Painting Group FBC
 11.15-12.45 Sweaty Mama HUB
 1.30-4.00pm Whist Club FBC
 2.00-4.00 Bridge Not 1st Mon FBC
6.15--7.30pm Zumba
07939 580327. BH HUB
 7.30pm Tone Big Band
 (1st & 3rd Mon) BH HUB

TUESDAYS

12.30-1.30 Postnatal Yoga BH HUB
 6.15-7.00am Group Fitness BH HUB

 1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi & QI BH HUB
 10.00-4.00pm Games FBC
 7-8pm Yoga BH HUB

WEDNESDAYS

10.00-11.00 Mum&Baby Pilates
 HUB
 2.00-4.30 Short Mat Bowls BH HUB

10.00-11.00 Flexercise FBC
 11.00-12.00 Pilates 4 Everyone HUB
 6.00-7.00 Tae Kwon Do BH HUB
 7.15-8.45 Tone Guitar Group
 BH HUB

THURSDAYS

6.15-7.00Group Fitness TrainingHUB
 10.00-12.00 Baby Badgers BH HUB
 10.00-12noon Bridge Club FBC
 12.30 Prenatal/Little Ones Yoga HUB
 2.00-4.00pm Croquet FBC

FRIDAYS

8.30am -1pm Star Bubs BH HUB
 10.00-12.00 Petanque FBC
 10.00-12noon Frank's Café FBC
 4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts BH HUB

SATURDAYS

6.30-7.15 Group Fitness Training
 BH HUB
 9.30-11.30 Hub Gardening Club
 BH HUB

Defibrillators

Hopefully, you will never need to use one, but did you know in Bishop's Hull there are four defibrillators!

The locations are: outside the HUB, outside the Frank Bond Centre, outside the Robin Close meeting room and inside Bishop's Hull Primary School.

In addition, to familiarise yourself with where there are defibrillators, please follow the link below: <https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

Wells Cathedral Parish Pass

You may have seen in the news last week, that Wells Cathedral has announced changes to its admission guidelines with free passes for parishioners in the Diocese of Bath and Wells and local people, and a new entry charge for tourists.

I would be grateful if you can make your parishioners, and readers, aware that it will remain free to enter for worship, prayer, and to light a candle and also that free passes are available for parishioners in the diocese. Information about the Parish Pass and how to apply for it is available from the **Wells passes section of the Wells Cathedral website**. You will note that the application form for a Parish Pass does require a signature from a churchwarden or incumbent.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Your Somerset County Councillor
John Hunt (Independent) 07880
794554 john@johnhunt.me.uk

**Your Somerset West & Taunton
Councillors**

Cl Caroline Ellis Associate Lead
Member - Education
07473119425
cjellis1968@googlemail.com

John Hunt (Independent)
07880 794554
john@johnhunt.me.uk

Your Member of Parliament

Rebecca Pow MP
443062 office@rebeccapow.org.uk

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council
Helen McGladdery 07518
bishopshullparishclerk@gmail.com
BH Pre School 07928 950230
BH Primary School 331624
Castle School 274073
Community Room & School Hall
Rick Moon 354908
Frank Bond Centre
Nadia 07958 246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

PCSO Lyndsay Smith
lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk or call 101
PCSO Marshall Bernhardt
marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk or call 101
PCSO Simon Parry

Robin Close Hall 356389
deanehelplineadmin@tauntondeane.gov

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church
Rev. Phil Hughes 336102

BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

Access Group (Fledgling Centre)
Kelly Enfield 333363
BH Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show
Amanda Gallacher 337720
Bishops Hull HUB

07500 748 609, booking:
bhshubbookings@gmail.com

General enquiries and events:
bishopshullhub@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls
Alan Chapman 710938
bhsmbc@yahoo.com

BH VH & PF Trust
Paul Bulbeck 283941
BH WI

TBA

Brownies Sheena Grinter 331184
Community Woodland Volunteer
David 272415
FBC Activities Carolyn 283941
Golden Group Keep Fit Session
Karie at Castle Sports Centre 322934
orkcrane@1610.org.uk Jon 07736
714370 jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates Liz Grant 338409
Slimming World
Judy 256010 / 07939 431264
Sheena 07517 441766

Somerset Hills Chorus
Brenda Palfrey 07857 244272
Tae Kwon Do
Sebastian Morey-Weale 07900 517767
Wed Art Group
Rose Humphreys 277633

Zumba / Zumba Gold
Felicity Ovando 07939 580327

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL JULY 2024

Wednesday 3 July	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 7 July 6 after Trinity	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13	Paul Curry
Wednesday 10 July	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 14 July 7 after Trinity	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Ephesians 1:1- 23; Mark 6:14-29	Sally Adams
Wednesday 17 July	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 21 July 8 after Trinity	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Ephesians 2:1- 22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	David Ager
Wednesday 24 July	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 28 July 9 after Trinity	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Ephesians 3:1- 21; John 6:1-21	Rosemary Lockley
Wednesday 31 July	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		



GRASS CUTTING

14 July Peter Willis

28 July Stuart English

TAUNTON POLICE STATION

Opening Times

Monday: 08:30—16:30

Tuesday: 08:30—16:30

Wednesday: 08:30—16:30

Thursday: 08:30—16:30

Friday: 08:30—16:30

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: CLOSED

CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

Vicar:

Rev. Philip Hughes

336102

(Usual day off - Friday)

phil2overflowing@gmail.com



Rev Philip Hughes

Church Wardens: Tim Venn John Perry

Treasurer Rachel Horder

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Sally Adams (co-opted PCC member)

Other PCC Members - Mark Dakin Sue Martin
Shirley Stapleton

Tower Secretary: Giles Morley 430710

St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2024-2025

1. Rev Phil Hughes (Vicar)
2. Tim Venn (Church Warden)
3. John Perry (Church Warden)
4. Rachel Horder (PCC Treasurer)
5. Sally Adams (Parish Safeguarding Officer, co-opted PCC member)
6. Mark Dakin
7. Sue Martin
8. Shirley Stapleton



9. And you? The PCC is a great team to belong to and is there to assist the Vicar in the Mission and function of the church. If you think God may be calling you to serve in this way there are lots of opportunities, so do have a chat with one of the fab team!