

The Timsbury Letter



Photo credit Stacey Pottinger

**PUBLISHED BY TIMSBURY
PARISH COUNCIL**

NO: 503 July 2021

timsbury.org.uk



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Welcome to the July Timsbury Letter

Features this Month

Speed Watch in Timsbury – page 6

Timsbury Parish Council Vacancy - page 7

Youth Work in Timsbury – page 8

Meet Ups for Adventure Seekers - page 20

August Letter Deadline: Thursday 15th July.

Please send articles and adverts EARLY to:

Madeleine Potts, newsletter@timsbury.org.uk 07834 859291

47 Southlands Drive. Images & adverts in JPG format.

Village News

Job Vacancy for Clerk to the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk, Chris Gittins is hanging up his hat and after five years in the role he is retiring from the post by the end of August. As a result, the Parish Council is recruiting his replacement and is looking for an able and organised person who enjoys working in a

community, and is ideally based in Timsbury. It is a very varied and interesting role. For details see page 7. There is still a vacancy to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. See the website for details to apply at least five days before a meeting.

Rubbery Safe Flooring in Play Area



Play equipment and the gateways into the Play Area have been laid with a rubberised safer flooring which prevents muddy puddles. This was as usual funded by the Parish Council and organised by the Conygre Trust which manages the area.

Planning Applications

Comments by the Parish Council can be seen on the B&NES planning website, in the Parish Council Minutes at: timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil/meetings and on noticeboards in the Conygre Hall and outside the Our Plaice chip shop.

Application decided by B&NES Council

21/01483/FUL Parcel 1120, Bungays Hill, High Littleton

Erection of a general-purpose farm building. WITHDRAWN

21/01025/FUL Stables & Exercise Yard, Old Lime Kiln Farm, Radford Hill, Timsbury. Siting of temporary mobile home for essential worker. WITHDRAWN

21/01786/FUL 21 St John's Road, Timsbury BA2 0HR.

Erection of a single storey side extension. PERMITTED

21/01978/FUL 23 Bloomfield Park Road, Timsbury BA2 0LR

Demolition of existing store, garage and single storey lean to extension.

Erection of two-storey side extension and rearrangement of parking to the front of the dwelling. PERMITTED

Applications to be Considered by Timsbury Parish Council

None

DISCLAIMER:

Views and opinions expressed in the Timsbury Letter are those of each individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 6th July 7.30pm
(Not Monday) in the
Conygre Hall

See timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil

Chris Gittins

*Clerk to Timsbury
Parish Council*



01761 470 516

timsbury.parish.clerk@gmail.com

[www.timsbury.org.uk/
parishcouncil](http://www.timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil)

Hello from your West of England Rural Network Village Agent

By Maria Edwards

WERN Village Agent for Timsbury



It's been lovely to meet some of you face to face over the last month.

As restrictions continue to ease, WERN is busy planning new events and activities to support you and your wellbeing. These include Driving Safety Seminars, Reminiscence Groups, Support Groups and Exercise Classes, Group walking events and Nordic Walking taster sessions.

Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

I am very keen to introduce myself in person in the coming months so if anyone is running coffee mornings, events or sessions in the community, please get in touch to arrange a time for me to come along to say Hello. Please note my usual work days are Mondays and Thursdays 10.00am - 3.00pm
Mobile: **07884 345 2988**

Office answerphone: **01275 333700**

maria@wern.org.uk

DEADLINE

August Issue Deadline:

Thursday 15th July

Please send articles and adverts **EARLY**
to: Madeleine Potts

newsletter@timsbury.org.uk

07834859291

47 Southland Drive

Please send images and
adverts in JPG format.

Community Speed Watch Update

By Stan Martin

Coordinator Timsbury CSW June 2021



Timsbury's Speed Watch Team, which was formed in March 2020, has now completed 55 sessions in-between several periods of national lockdown, when it was not allowed to operate.

However, during that time the team has logged almost 8000 vehicles passing through the village, and reported 1200 who were over the allowed threshold, that is 15%. This group will receive a warning letter from the Police, some of the excessive speeders will be prosecuted.

It is estimated that about 80 to 90% of all vehicles are travelling at more than the 20 mph speed limit. Regardless of what one thinks of the 20 mph limit, it is what it is, and it is the legal limit.

It is disturbing to discover that many drivers are passing through in excess of

30 mph, some as high as 40 mph! This constitutes a real danger to other drivers and pedestrians alike.

The team has been grateful for the support and encouragement from residents who chat to them on the street many of which make us aware of their concerns and near misses they have experienced themselves.

There is no doubt that the presence of the team is having an effect, and it is noticeable that vehicles slow down when they catch sight of us. Hopefully this will lead to a much safer road environment in and around the village. If anyone is interested in helping with our successful team and can spare an hour or two a week, then please contact Chris Gittens, our Parish Clerk in the first instance by email on: timsbury.parish.clerk@gmail.com



Timsbury Parish Council Job Vacancy for Clerk to the Council

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a community-minded and motivated person for this interesting and varied post supporting the Timsbury Parish Council, administering its many services, and aiding with new ventures for the community.

The Clerk is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Council's affairs, and supporting the 13 Parish Councillors with advice and guidance. The role also includes supervision of 2 staff and managing contracts of services. Training is available.

The job is part-time **22.5 hours/week** with flexible hours and mainly home-based. The job does involve some evening work. If you don't live in Timsbury you must be prepared to visit regularly or use a base there.

Candidates could have experience from a range of work backgrounds but must be well organised with an eye for detail and be able to work alone. accounts management, have good IT and communication skills, be flexible, use your initiative and be able to develop ideas. You will also have an interest in community life with a friendly and positive outlook.

Salary will be from **£30,020 FTE / £18,012 p/a** on Local Government scales, depending on your experience.

For a job description, application form and background see
timsbury.org.uk/parishcouncil.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 6th July 9am.

Youth Work in Timsbury

By Jane Van-Haaps



Friday night at Conygre Park has had a relaxed, yet energetic vibe with the All Stars Cricketers and their families followed by our YMCA Youth Club.

Our sessions are run over by the tennis court from 7.00-8.00pm aimed at 11-14 year olds (school years 6-9). They are relaxed sessions with unihoc, football, cricket and tennis available as well as quieter activities and hot chocolate. There is no charge.

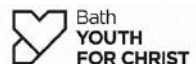
If you are around, do come over and see what we are doing. It tends to be a group of local Year 6s & 7s (age 11/12) involved in some sports, with the Year 8's on bike or scooters at a slightly greater distance and the Year 9+ having their own conversations at a greater distance but popping over to say 'hello'

and get a hot chocolate! We hope they feel safer knowing we are there.

We hope to restart indoor sessions at the YMCA in September and we will let you know about these in due course.

We are advertising for a paid Sessional Youth Worker to help run the Friday evenings. The closing date is 21st July. Look at the Bath YFC website if you would be interested in improving the lives of young people in this way. Equally we regularly look for volunteers, age 18+ to get involved in our team – it's a great job, for the right person, with never a dull moment.

**Jane van Haaps 07483156995,
jane@bathyfc.co.uk**



Timsbury Brownies

This Month at Brownies

We had a visit from the British Army this month. They led us in several challenges to win clues in a super-fun treasure hunt!

The following week we had movie night in which we watched the Mitchell's vs the Machines (the film and the popcorn was enjoyed by all).



Last week we met at Folly Farm for a nature walk, making a B for Brownies with sticks and keeping an eye out for wildlife.



At the end of the walk, we had a promise ceremony in which three girls made their Brownie Promise!



Timsbury Brownies offers lots of fun activities and learning experiences for girls aged 7-10. We meet every Tuesday evening; come along and make new friends! If you're interested and would like more information, please email arjlan1@gmail.com or text **07580191611**.

In addition, we are always looking for adult volunteers to join the team. These contact details can be used to enquire about this too.

Village Church Services

St Mary's Church, Timsbury

Sunday 4th July 11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th July 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th July 11.00am Morning Prayer

Sunday 25th July No Service. Annual Deanery Service at St John's Church, Midsomer Norton 10.30 am.

Return of the Great Timsbury Scarecrow Trail! Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July. See page 12 for details!

Two of last Years Entries!



During the continuing Covid 19 pandemic, the church is open for Sunday worship at the above times. Seating is socially distanced at 2 metres and hand sanitising is provided. There is no singing as part of the worship. All above dates and times are subject to possible change in the light of Government restrictions.

Every Wednesday, weekly 9.30 am Holy Communion Service. The Church is available for funerals, under the above conditions and limited numbers.

Revd Martin Blewett

Benefice of Timsbury with Priston, Camerton & Dunkerton

The Rectory, South Road, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0EJ

Tel: (01761) 472448. Mobile: 07854 273489

Email: martinblewett@gmail.com

Benefice Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Elaine Martin. (01761) 479506

Tabor Free Methodist Church

In July Tabor will continue to hold fortnightly services . The two services beginning at 11.00am will be held on 4th and 18th July. Preachers will be announced on the church noticeboard and on the website

Tabor will continue to operate the two large monitors fitted at the front of the church to enhance worship. It will stream hymns direct into the building via the internet projecting them on the monitors.

Pastoral Matters- Eric Barge 01761 420234

Secretary- Geoff Shute 01761 568524

www.taborfreemethodist.org

Methodist Church South Road

Sunday 4th July 10.30am Mrs Cathy Edge

Sunday 11th July 10.30am Rev David Winstanley

Sunday 18th July 10.30am Dr Edmund Marshall

Sunday 25th July 10.30am Mr Mike Jakins

We are pleased to say we are now open for services. All Covid-19 practices have been put in place to ensure we worship in a safe and happy church. All are welcome

Revd David Winstanley

40 North Medows, Peasedown St John, Bath , BA2 8PS

01761 439934

dwin64@hotmail.com

Secretary Frances Nicholson 01761 470841

Congregational Church North Road (with full wheelchair access)

Secretary: Maureen Cox 01761 479656

The Great Timsbury Scarecrow Trail

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July.



For more details and to Register a Scarecrow contact
martinblewett@gmail.com or ring 01761 472448

Organised by St Mary's Church, Timsbury

Prize for Best Overall Scarecrow

Prize for Best Family Scarecrow (with children's input!)

Prize for Best 'Made Me Laugh' Scarecrow

Trail Maps available St Mary's Church, Timsbury

on Saturday & Sunday 3rd & 4th July

Bibles for Children

By Ted Hudson BEM

Chairman, Bibles for Children



As with most charities, the work of Bibles for Children, Timsbury's own National Children's Charity, has been markedly affected by the pandemic.

Since March 2020, with schools being closed or partially closed, there have not been the usual opportunities for presenting Bibles to children in Primary Schools. Reduced support from Churches and financial help from other organisations has also had a detrimental effect on the charity's resources.

As the charity nears the end of its 24th year of activity, and despite the problems due to Covid 19, it is pleasing to report that the work of presenting children in the Primary Schools of the United Kingdom with a personal Bible still goes on.

Since September 2020, over 28,000

children received a Bible in 360 schools throughout the country. The Bibles are used in schools for Religious Education lessons and the children can take their Bibles with them when they leave. Many schools present all their school leavers with a Bible when they leave school in July to take with them into further education and adult life.

Local Primary Schools recently helped include four in Bath and those in Peasedown St John, Keynsham, Paulton, Farmborough, Marksbury, Chew Stoke and Radstock.

As schools return to normal working, the Trustees anticipate many more schools will seek a Bible Presentation and the charity will need to have more Bibles printed to meet the demand. Urgent financial support is needed to cover the cost of printing. Anyone wishing to support the work can do so by sending a gift to the charity's Treasurer - Mrs Elaine Martin, Redwood House. The Mead, Timsbury, Bath BA2 0NS.

Full details of the charity's activities can be found on the website at www.biblesforchildren.org.uk

Timsbury Gardening Club

We welcomed our President, Graham Nicholls, to our June Zoom meeting when he gave a talk on 'Gold Medals, Superb Plants and Running an Alpine Plant Nursery in Timsbury'.

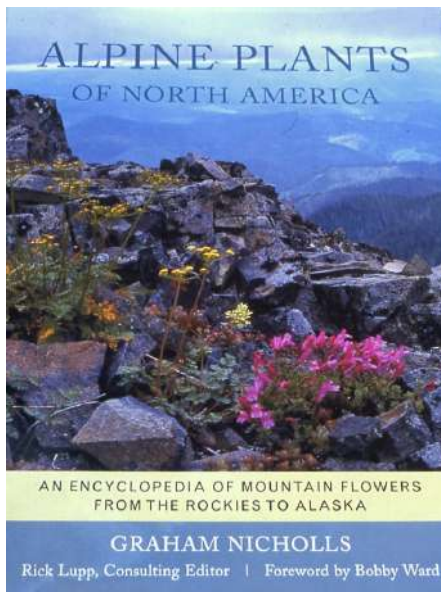
How did that happen and why?

A letter out of the blue in 1978 from a woman, Ev Whittemore, in the USA asking for seed resulted in an exchange of letters and an invitation to visit her in Westfield, Massachusetts. In 1980 he and his wife flew to the States via Freddy Laker's Sky Train. Whilst there they attended a National Conference on plants and heard that in 1982 the conference would be in Boulder, Colorado and included visits to the mountains.

After attending this conference and amazed by all the wild flowers seen on these trips he took up Ev's suggestion to start a nursery which also coincided with a chance to take early retirement. But first they had to move to a house with a bigger garden so in 1983 they moved to Timsbury.

More visits to the USA followed and attending National Conferences in the west there led to him specialising in western North American alpine plants. His increased knowledge of growing them resulted in giving talks to gardening clubs. It wasn't long before

he was invited to give talks at conferences including in the USA. Eventually with all his knowledge a book on these plants was in the offing and in 2002 the publication 'Alpine Plants of North America' became a best seller. From this a book signing and speaking tour in 2005 took him from California to Alaska with 10 talks in 28 days.



Through all this, his nursery named 'Graham's Hardy Plants' became well known for propagating the rare alpine plants from the western USA and he showed us slides of plants like *Lewisia rediviva*, rare *aquilegias*, *penstemons* and the rare and difficult 'Cottonball'. He told us how advertising was essential and by

exhibiting these plants at Alpine Garden Society shows the word got around.

In spite of saying he would never take on mail order when the orders did come in including exporting to European customers it had to be done. Packing plants late into a Sunday night for him and his wife became the norm. Also travelling to the shows the length and breadth of the UK also became time consuming but a necessity.

Three greenhouses were in use to keep his show plants and sales plants going but after nearly 10 years with the nursery the trays of plants he was carrying around were becoming heavier and early mornings with long distances to travel in front of him were becoming a bit of a bind. Heavy snow one night during the winter 2009/10 finally made the decision for him.



He found the large greenhouse housing his rare show plants and many newly propagated plants were under a mixture of aluminium, glass and snow. The greenhouse had collapsed under the weight of snow. So despite the

insurance company paying for a new greenhouse and electricians he realised it was time to retire from the nursery and stick to plain old gardening, although still growing his rare North American plants for his own pleasure.

He finally showed us a collage of people he had met, stayed with overnight or hiked with in the USA and spoke how his life had been enriched by meeting all of them.

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By Amanda

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Christian Aid Collection Timsbury 2021



Thanks to the considerable generosity of Timsbury residents we can report that a figure of £1,080 has been collected and sent off to Christian Aid where the money will go to help families facing poverty and injustice around the world.

Particular thanks must also go to all the envelope distributors and the collection

points, Health and More, The Timsbury Cooperative, our Rector and Geoff Smith (Christian Aid Treasurer) who all made this year's collection possible.

Thank you everyone,

Rosemary Tranter and Geoff Smith

Free Dance Class!

As part of my Groove Facilitator Training Qualification, I need as many people as possible to come and dance with me over a period of six weeks.

No Dance Experience Required.

Groove is very simple to do, it's a lot of fun and you can't get it wrong because your way is the right way. And aside from its obvious health benefits, Groove is a valuable tool for boosting your self-confidence.

Sessions will be held Every Week at Balance, The Countryside Gym in Timsbury starting Tuesday July 13th at 7.30pm

(Over 18's only)

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Timsbury Theatre Group

By Peter Buchanan

Time to audition for Aladdin!



or both of the readings to meet the Group and get a feel for the piece – new members of any age will be very welcome indeed!

For more information about this production, please contact Jo Whittock on **01761 472745**. Anyone who's interested in joining our backstage team (lighting, sound, costume, props etc) should contact Peter Crooke on **01761 434479**.

There's more information about the group on our website www.thettg.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

July marks the start of our run-up to pantomime season. In December, we will be staging "Aladdin" (or "A Lad In Trouble") by Sam Allen, an excellent script with all the traditional panto situations and lots of jokes! Scenery painting is already well under way and it promises to be a very spectacular show, with lots of pyrotechnics and a magic carpet!

Script readthroughs will be held on 13th and 15th July, with auditions on the 20th and 22nd July, all at 7.45pm in the Conygre Hall. Rehearsals will start on 2nd September, and will continue every Tuesday and most Thursdays until production week of 13th - 18th December. Please come along to one

*Smiley
John*



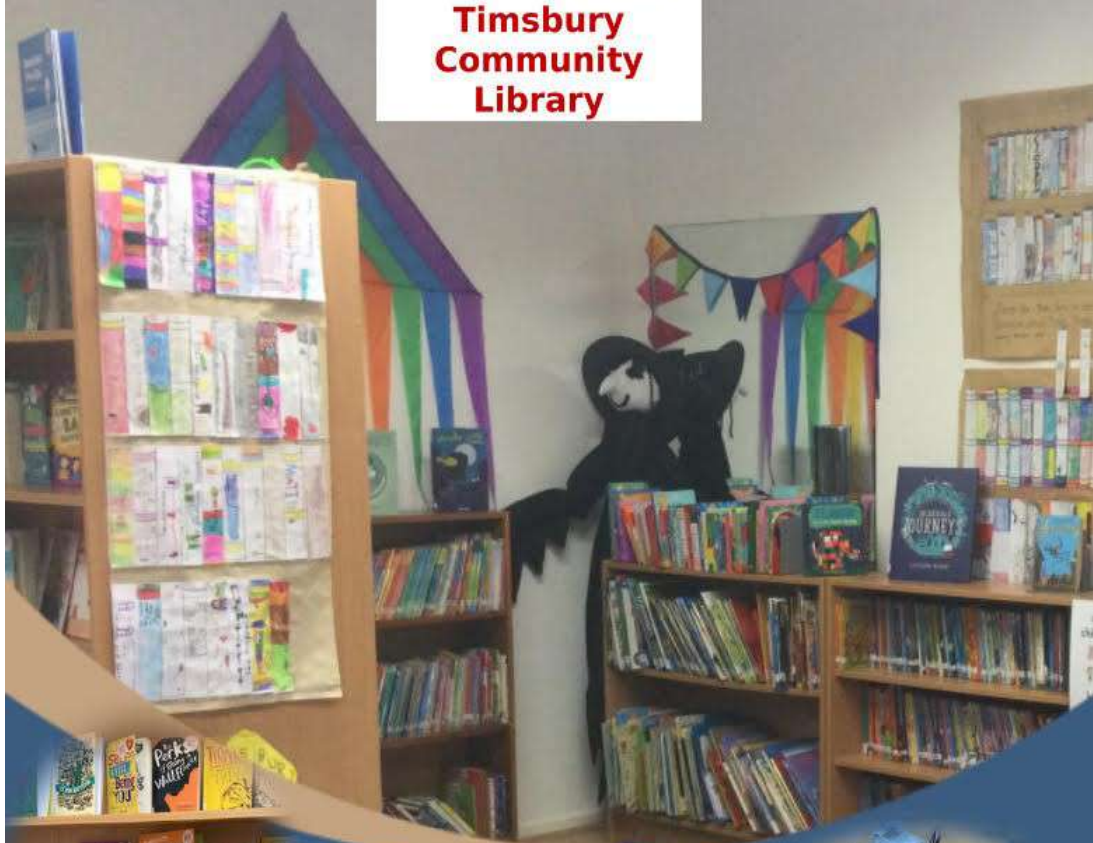
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Timsbury Community Library



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Thursdays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10-12
noon.

Libraries**West**

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Road Timsbury.

READING
WELL

www.timsbury.org.uk/hub/
emailhub@timsbury.org.uk

Meet Ups for Adventure Seekers

By Richard Potts

Fireside Brew Co



The last year has brought a great many challenges, but at least one positive has emerged: the growth in interest in walking and time spent in nature. In March this year, the BBC reported that London has seen a six-fold increase in people spending time outdoors walking, running and cycling – a trend reflected across all regions of the UK. Surrounded by countryside and intersecting with many rights of way, Timsbury is a perfect base to explore on foot and with travel restrictions starting to ease it's a great location to access some of the

most stunning countryside around.

I recently launched a free Meetup group for adventure seekers ([meetup.com/fireside-meetups](https://www.meetup.com/fireside-meetups) or our website www.firesidebrew.co) and we'll be organising walks, foraging and wild camps around Timsbury and further afield.

Our first meetup was a one-day hike along the Four Falls Trail at Ystradfellte in the Brecon Beacons. Despite weeks of drought the waterfalls didn't disappoint, and we were able to pick a



more adventurous route off the main tracks along which we found a great many wild plants and spring greens to forage.

We followed this with second meetup in May: a wild camp, with landowner's permission, at a secluded woodland in Cheddar Gorge.

We were incredibly lucky with the weather once again despite the days before and after being torrential rainstorms! Once we made the hike up a very steep side of the Gorge to the woodland, made camp and of course had a coffee, we were perfectly placed to head up onto the cliff path and enjoy panoramic views taking in the Mendips, Somerset Levels and Glastonbury Tor. Late night campfires, moonlit walks and falling asleep to the sounds of nature all around finished off an excellent

adventure!

We'll be continuing to run meetups – our next one is a wild coastal camp in North Devon on the 26th June – and we'll run some foraging walks around Timsbury later in the year as foraging is best in the changing seasons of Spring and Autumn. It's free to join the group and the one-day walks will be free to attend, so I hope to see you on a wild adventure soon!

Find out more at www.firesidebrew.co or [meetup.com/fireside-meetups](https://www.meetup.com/fireside-meetups).





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newsletter@timsbury.org.uk

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Timsbury and surrounds

RNLI Chew Valley Fundraising Branch

By Adrian Dodd

Notes for Summer Safety at the Seaside

For certain, we are all looking forward to our summer holidays after the most challenging lockdown during the past fifteen months. This summer our coastal areas will be an even more popular playground for the many who will get involved in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities, based on or around the water.

Unfortunately many people will get into difficulties and need help but, in many instances, problems can be avoided simply by 'wising-up' before indulging in one's favourite water sport.

Of course the RNLI is ready to assist anyone who gets into difficulty (at no cost to themselves), but there is a wealth of safety information available on the RNLI web site. Simply go to **rnli.org** and look for 'Safety'. There you will find some very useful briefings to help keep you safe, whether angling, bodyboarding, coastal walking, kite surfing and numerous other popular coastal activities.

The key to safety around the sea is being aware of your surroundings, such as state of the tide, weather conditions and forecasts. All these and more are covered by the RNLI activity safety briefings on the web site, which those venturing near the water are strongly

recommended to consult, ahead of their holiday. It may save your life!

Chew Valley Lake fundraising event

Fundraising Branches have had a frustrating year and now that lockdown is easing, and we are very keen to renew face-to-face contact with our loyal supporters and hopefully encourage others to join us. We are equally anxious to resume gathering the financial support desperately needed for the RNLI.

So, looking ahead, the Chew Valley Lake Sailing Club have kindly allowed us to hold an afternoon tea and cakes party on Friday 3rd September 2021, to which all members of the public are cordially invited. We will be serving tea in the superb surroundings of the lake from 3.00pm onwards until 6.00pm and we will also have a cash bar.

Tickets will be £5 each and must be purchased ahead of the event. Please contact our Secretary Tim Gracey on **01275 854623** or e-mail **tandbgracey@gmail.com**. We will be most grateful for your support in the knowledge that the demand for 'Saving Lives at Sea' is likely to be more of a challenge than usual this year. Thank you.





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Please visit Best Before Bargains on **Facebook**

At the moment our opening hours are:

Thurs, Fri, Sat 10.00am till 5.00pm

Sundays 10.00am till 4.00pm

Ruminations of Radford Mill

By Richard Fox

“Summer time, and the livin’ is easy”. The sun is shining, and lo and behold, the pubs are open and we can enjoy having a drink with our friends.



Struggles with alcoholism

I doubt that I am the only one in this village who has come across the problem. Why is it so hard to talk about? Aren't we all grown-ups now, and able to address these uncomfortable aspects of our society in an effort to improve all our lives?

Addiction is an illness, and some people get it. Most of us do not, we can have a drink or two, and then stop. I remember two significant moments a few years ago when listening to Radio 4. On New Year's Day about 11.00am John Humphries held forth with his favourite “hair of the dog” recipe, and asked listeners to think about their favourite cure for a hangover. It seemed to me the BBC flagship programme was encouraging a jokey attitude about a

health crisis that wrecks the lives of thousands and thousands of people.

The second moment was a financial analysis (again on Radio 4, that fountain of all truth) of the cost of alcoholism to the NHS; there's a growing number of liver transplants needed for 30-year-olds not to mention all the older people. And alcohol exacerbates lots of other health problems; and the total cost was thought to be around four billion pounds per year.

Lets be optimistic!



But overall I'm in an optimistic mood right now: the turkey pullets are getting bigger every day, the potatoes will be ready to harvest in a few weeks, the pumpkins and squashes are growing like triffids, and we're beginning to sell our mutton which will pay for all the work we've put into the sheep this last year. So let's celebrate summertime, even without the fish jumping and the cotton being waist-high. Let's hoist a glass of ... orange juice, freshly squeezed, with all the juicy bits in.

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Gadget Busters

Organised by Chew Valley Gadget Busters - still looking for volunteers

By Sarah Diacono



Gadget Busters - phone sessions during the pandemic

On-line 1.30pm - 3.30pm 2nd July and 16th July

Do you have difficulty using your laptop, iPad, tablet, phone or digital camera? Or do you want to communicate visually or play games on-line with your friends and family during the pandemic, but don't know how? Perhaps you're worried about how to order supermarket deliveries on-line?

Email cvgadgetbusters@gmail.com, who are here to help. We will be holding phone sessions on the first and third Fridays of each month until it is safe to resume face to face sessions.

We make no charge, but suggest you make a £3 donation to the charity of your choice.

To contact us, simply email your query and your phone number by midday on Friday 2nd July and Friday 16th July, and one of our friendly volunteers will get back to you during the 2 hour on-line session. Even if you have no specific query, send us your email address and we will keep you up to date with what extra support we are offering during this period.

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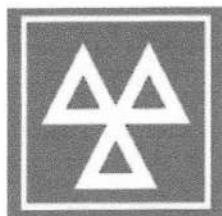
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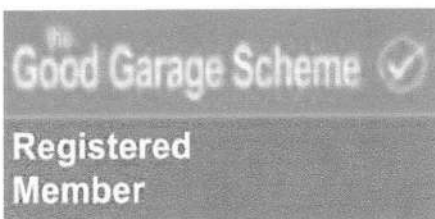


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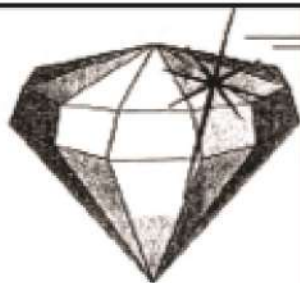


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