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St Peter's Church

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Our village church of St Peter has had a terrible year (so has everyone else I know).

In March the roof of the North aisle was stripped of its lead leaving a large slice of the building open to the weather. The thieves have been caught and are now in gaol having cost the churches from whom they stole their lead a total of two million pounds. Owing to covid and mistakes by authorities we had to wait for eight months for permission to repair the roof. Our insurance paid for the new roof which is zinc and steel.

In spite of all this gloom we have been awarded a substantial grant from Historic England to clean up all the damage caused by endless rain and wind. This will help to pay for the repair work.

Builders (George Baker) plan to start work soon, so then the church will be locked until the work is finished.

The saving grace of all this distress has been the concern of this wonderful village. Everyone has been so generous with their help and care to others during these lockdowns and so generous with money for our church. Thank you ALL.

PS: There will not be a printed copy of the parish magazine owing to Covid but an electronic version will be available if you send Kate your email address.

Merryfield Hall 100 Club

The 100 Club is a monthly draw with a chance to win £20, £15, £10 or £5. Its subscriptions of £12 yearly are due in March and these go towards funds and events (when not Covid restricted) for Merryfield Hall. This year's 100 Club draws will begin in April.

If you would like to continue or join the group you can either pay by cheque, cash or Standing Order. For further details telephone Marie 55601 or Jemma 55294.

We look forward to hearing from you.

November prize winners:

- 1st Wendy Chipping
- 2nd Joan Blasdale
- 3rd Jeanette Bere
- 4th Marie Morley

December prizes go to:

- 1st Nigel Bere
- 2nd Serena Lonton
- 3rd Rosina Lawrence
- 4th Hilary Miller

and for January:

- 1st Pat Major - 24 Spurwells
- 2nd Jan Wrightman - 9 Spurwells
- 3rd) Serena & Peter Lonton -
- 4th) - Mashala, Main St.

If you are not already a 100 Club member please dig deep and join; it really does make a difference. Ed.



Merryfield Messenger

No. 8 Winter 2020/21

The Hall Trustees are: Emma Adams; Louise Atyeo; Jackie Bridges; Peter Bourdon; Mark Cook; Jemma Harris; Pat Matravers; Marie Stratton-Baldwin; Lisa Taylor.

Dog Walking

We would urge residents who walk their dog on the Field to please respect the enjoyment and safety of everyone. Some people are not comfortable around dogs and are scared if they come too close.

Please ensure your dog remains on a lead at all times and please **PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG** and deposit the waste in the bins provided or take it home if you are not near a bin. **DOG FAECES IS DANGEROUS AND A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK, ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN.** The District Council are able to issue warnings and fines to anyone not picking up after their dog if they know the name of the person responsible.

Check Your Outbuildings

Unfortunately, Ilton has experienced some thefts from sheds and outbuildings in the last week or so – especially after dark. Please be extra vigilant at the moment and if you see anything please report it to the police.

Deadline for next Messenger is 20 May.

Hiring the Hall

..... this is still premature, I guess, but the next 'Messenger' is not due until May, so who knows where we will be then? But when you need the Hall please contact the Bookings Secretary, **Jemma Harris** Telephone 55294, or email: jemma25harris@talktalk.net

Hourly Hiring rates (except where shown)

| Hirer \ Facility | Main Hall | Kitchen |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Ilton-based clubs and residents | £6 | £1/hr extra* |
| Hirers from outside Ilton | £7 | £1/hr extra* |
| All-day hire | As arranged | |

Charges based on minimum 2hrs hire.

***Kitchen - max charge £5**

A deposit will sometimes be payable

See Hall leaflet for Hiring Conditions

Parish Council Update

Parish Council meetings continue to be on Zoom due to the current restrictions. Residents are welcome to attend and should contact the Clerk if they want to be sent the invitation to join the on-line meeting. Residents can also join by telephone if they do not have internet connection or do not wish to download Zoom.

The perimeter path at the Playing Field could not be finished before the onset of winter due to the very wet weather in October. The path has been marked out and gravel laid but the top coat has not been done. As a result it is rather wet and boots are probably necessary at the moment. It will be finished as soon as the weather, and the current restrictions, allow.

Two flowering cherry trees were planted by the gate in the Cemetery to replace the large overgrown cypress trees. Hundreds of bulbs were planted on the Field and should soon be flowering, which will be a beautiful beginning to spring.

We are still looking at plans for a skate park on the Field and a consultation will be carried out in the near future to gauge the support for such a facility.

The Christmas tree this year was another success and brightened the Village Green

during the dark days of December. Santa's Sleigh, made by Councillors Grahame Mackenzie-Green, Danny Mico and Guy Danvers, using wood kindly donated by Mr Andy Leary of Bespoke Kitchen and Shop Fitting at Ilton Business Park, toured the village on Christmas Eve bringing families to their doors to wish each other a Happy Christmas. It is hoped that the sleigh will be used each Christmas for many years to come.

Brook Green has seen a number of incidents of 4 x 4 vehicles tearing up the river banks causing a lot of unsightly damage. The Police have visited the area several times but cannot do anything unless they have a registration number of the vehicles responsible. Residents are urged to please keep their eyes open and record the registration numbers of any vehicles seen driving into or around Brook Green. The Police are willing to contact the perpetrators if they know who they are.

If you wish to report something please contact the Parish Clerk - suemorley@talktalk.net / telephone 01460 53378. Parish Council minutes, agendas and accounts are published on our website at:

<http://iltontalking.btck.co.uk/>

The Parish Plan

The last **Parish Plan** (a document outlining what residents would like to see in the village) was carried out in 2006 and we are hoping to carry out a similar questionnaire soon.

In order to help you answer some of the questions the following is a flavour of how community groups operate within our village:

Merryfield Hall – run by a dedicated committee of unpaid volunteers and answerable

to the Charity Commission. Committee members are voted on at an AGM and there is an opportunity for the groups who hire the hall to have a representative on the committee so that they too can have an input on how the hall is run. The annual AGM is April/May time where every villager is welcome to attend and is free of charge. All other committee meetings are held in private. The committee members, who meet six times a year on average, are there

to oversee the maintenance of the hall, take bookings and to ensure, through hirings and fundraising, that there is enough money to carry out those jobs.

St Peter's Church – St Peter's Church is run by a committee of unpaid volunteers called the Ilton Parochial Church Council, (PCC). Our Church is part of the Church of England, in the Bath & Wells Diocese and our Rector conducts marriages, christenings and burial services. Church services are held every Sunday. The public can donate money either at Church services, through a monthly giving scheme or fundraising. When money is donated to our Church it is used for the running costs but if you would like the money to go towards something specific within the building then that is kept under restricted funds, but you must state your wishes when giving. All parishes in the Diocese contribute to the Parish Share. The Church Council produces the Parish Magazine. The Churchyard is closed, which means no more bodies can be buried there. (Hence the cemetery at the bottom of Copse Lane, run by the Parish Council.)

St Marys & St. Peter's Church School is a primary school for children aged 5 to 11 years old, located in Copse Lane, Ilton. The school is a Church of England academy - part of the Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust family of schools. We maintain a good relationship with St Peter's Church and attend special services throughout the year. The school shares a Headteacher, Mr Ian Rumbelow, with Shepton Beauchamp Church School, has three teachers and enjoys the support of an active Parents and Friends Association.

Parish Council – made up of nine unpaid volunteers answerable to local government. Elections are held every four years for the Parish Council, although if nine or less residents offer to stand for election, Councillors will be 'elected' unopposed. Anyone who lives in Ilton and is on the electoral roll can stand for election as a Parish Councillor. They are an enthusiastic group of villagers who are there

to maintain all open space areas, consider any planning applications within the village, run the cemetery and support parish organisations where they can. They are NOT responsible for the roads, pavements, hedgerows or footpaths though we can report any issues with them. In our village the Parish Council maintain the recreation field (behind the village hall), the toddlers play area (accessed by a path opposite the village hall), Brook Green (on the outskirts of the village), the Churchyard, the Cemetery, the Village Green (opposite the pub) and they own the piece of land, used as a car park, in Copse Lane.

Ilton Cricket Club - run by a dedicated committee of unpaid volunteers. The committee is made up of players, ex-players and members, answerable to the Club membership and trustees. Committee members are voted on at an AGM and stand for 1 year. There is no limit to the number of times a person can stand for re-election and membership of the committee is open to all full members of the club. The AGM is typically held in March prior to the start of the Cricket season and is open to all members. Although the monthly committee meetings are generally held in private, there is no restriction on members attending if they wish to raise any issues with the committee. The committee meets at least 10 times a year, to discuss maintenance of the Clubhouse and facilities, capital projects to improve the club's facilities, review the club's finances, and review the season in progress. Ilton Cricket Club is a not-for-profit members' club providing access to Cricket for all ages and abilities, within Ilton and the surrounding area. The facilities are also open to the wider community for those interested in taking up cricket, or those wishing to hire our clubhouse for social events.

Each of these organisations is run by unpaid volunteers, (except the school), who work extremely hard for our village. Sometimes things go wrong and sometimes things go very well, but whatever these volunteers do it is always with the best intentions to make this village the best it can be.

The **Wyndham Arms** - and the village - has changed a wee bit since this photograph was taken but they are now providing take-away Sunday Roasts or Nut Roast.

Prices are:

Children's main roast - £4.95

Children's roast and ice cream - £6.50

Adult's roast - £9.95

Adult's roast with dessert - £12.95



Pensioner's Roast - £7.95

Pensioner's Roast with Dessert - £9.95

Menus for the next three Sundays are:

Sunday 31st January:

Beef, Pork, chicken breast or Nut roast.

Dessert: Apple and cinnamon slice with custard or cream or homemade trifle with fruit.

Sunday 5th February:
Beef, Gammon Lamb or Nut roast

Desserts: Homemade apple crumble or Fresh fruit waffle with sauce and ice cream.

Sunday 12th February:

Beef, Pork, Stuffed turkey or Nut Roast.

Desserts: Fruit pavlova or treacle roly-poly with custard cream.

Booking: Sunday Roast must be pre-ordered by Friday. We are open Tuesday to Friday 12 - 8.30pm.

If you have any queries please ring Wendy on 01460 57186

Communication

As you all know village communication is very difficult at this time and will probably remain so for the best part of this year. Producing and delivering 440 hard copies of news takes time and money so for 2021 this is how we will do our best to communicate all the news;

This *Messenger* will be sent out to all 440 households but future news will be given in three ways:

By Facebook - please keep your eye on the Ilton Community News and Events page or join the 'Ilton' page.

By Email - to help with costs, time and delivery - particularly in the first half of this year we would appreciate as many of you as possible to receive all news by email and you will receive this as it happens. I will include email details I have for you on a separate

piece of paper with this *Messenger* - if they are correct you need do nothing and I will send news, plus the next three Messengers, when we have it. If you would like to receive email up-dates in 2021 and there is no piece of paper with this *Messenger*, it means I do not have your details so please send your email address and first line of your street address to jak.bennett@btinternet.com and I will add you to my list. Many thanks.

By hard copy - we realise that not everyone has social media in the village so two or three more *Messengers* will be produced and delivered for those without Facebook or email.

Hard copy *Messengers* will return for everyone in 2022!

Thanks go to the Parish Council & Macs Printing for making communication happen during these unusual times.

A piece of our history - The Birth of Spurwells



From at least the 1600s to the mid to late 1800s the land that makes up the Spurwells estate was owned by the Wadham & Wyndham families. They tenanted most of their land and Spurwells was tenanted by the farmer of Woodhouse Farm. By 1900 John Bradley had bought what is now the frontage - a wealthy and generous businessman who set up Bradleys Charity in the late 1800s to give tea to the poor at Christmas time!

Spurwells probably takes its name from one of the original fields that make up the site - you can see the same field on two maps - one from 1840 (No.49) and one in 1900 (No.112) - and on both maps the field was 'Spurwells Mead'.

In 1915 William Wyndham sold most of his land off and in 1920 Fred Hayman is one of four owners. In 1942 the land is commandeered by the war office and becomes known as site No.5, housing Officers' Mess, Airmen's dining rooms and showers, but most memorable to villagers - a cinema! After the war, land is returned to most owners and in 1959 the land has been passed down to Fred's son, Les, who co-owns it with Jeffery Duke of the solicitors

firm Baker & Duke, in Ilminster. They sell it to 'Merryfield Farms' and permission is sought for development as a broiler farm. Merryfield Farms becomes Wilco Grass Products who keep pigs and manufacture animal feeds. They use the 'Officers' Mess' as piggeries! From 1961-1971 they seek permission to develop the site but are refused. In 1972 a petition was signed by 200 residents because of the smell and Wilco had suffered many break-ins so they were relieved when, after requesting permission again in 1973, it was approved. The land was sold to Daniforth/Rainforth builders in 1974 and after several applications, which included houses, bungalows and flats, full application and full approval for the current estate was given. The site was constructed between 1974 and 1978.

Rainforth built Spurwells and the Summerlands estate in Ilminster. Just after Summerlands was completed the company went bust and the owner left the country! If you look at the two estates, they have been well thought out and both contain covenants to keep them as open plan as possible.

Trade Directory

We have a lot of skilled trades people in the village and a lot of residents needing work done, so I am putting a directory together. If you are a tradesperson and would like your free 'advert,' which can be the size of a quarter of an A4, must be black & white text only then please email me at jak.bennett@btinternet.com or ring me on 01460 54164. So, whether you are a carpenter, cleaner, painter, builder, IT repairer, plumber, electrician, white goods repairer, babysitter, book-keeper, gardener - in fact, any service you have to offer please get in touch and let's help each other out.