

KILMERSDON PARISH NEWS



MARCH/APRIL 2021



FILLERUP TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET!

A new venture in nearby Writhlington is on a mission to help save the planet via small lifestyle changes.

With sustainability at its heart “Fillerup” was pioneered last October by sisters Hannah Bartholomew and Emily Denning as a zero waste style shop where customers are invited to bring their own containers to be filled up with kitchen cupboard staples, milk, eggs, bread, herbs, spices, and eco-conscious cleaning and beauty products.

As well as sustainable essentials for the home, there is also a gifts and plantable seed greeting card section. The accent is on local sourcing and new products are being added all the time.

“I got the idea of the shop because I was becoming increasingly aware of how much plastic we as a family of four were throwing away,” explained Hannah. To do my bit for the planet and my children’s future, I drove to either Bristol or Frome for my weekly zero waste shop, and then decided to make the resource possible for my local community by opening a shop

close to home.

The Dennings, Hannah and Emily’s family, have served and been involved in the local Writhlington community for seven generations since 1851, and Fillerup is in the former butcher’s shop run by their father John Denning. Next door is the Fromeway public house of which Emily is now in charge and which has ample parking for Fillerup customers.

“We are passionate about helping as many people as possible on their waste reduction journey,” Hannah continued. “By bringing their own containers, they need only fill up with the quantity of product they need, so there is no waste. It’s not about perfection; it’s about small changes here and there that make a more positive impact on our planet.”

Hannah and Emily welcome browsers and talking about what they are trying to achieve and they can also be followed on Facebook @fillerupuk and Instagram @fillerup_uk.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

As we go to print, there’s a real sense of change in the air, with anticipation of warmer days, uplifting birdsong and spring flowers bursting into bloom, creating colourful gardens and hedgerows and a recharging of our batteries! The lockdown is being eased and millions of people have received their first Covid vaccine, with some having had their second! Excited children are returning to school; soon we may all be able meet up with family and friends and, although we will still have to adhere to social distancing and Government guidelines, life is looking more positive.

We would like to thank all those who have made contributions to this issue. We hope that by the next issue more groups will have news, but we are equally pleased to hear from our readers. So, if you have something to share, like a good walking route, an interesting book, a hobby or historical tales of local life, we would be delighted to hear from you by our May/June deadline of 20th April. Please try to limit your articles to 350 words and email them to us at: kilmersdonnews@gmail.com.

Warmest wishes from
Sue & Penny
suedmeadows@gmail.com
pennyhutton.ph@gmail.com



Please keep an eye out for our re-opening dates!
We really hope to be able to welcome you back to services soon.

Hello Everyone,

I hope that this edition of the Parish Magazine finds you in good health and not too downhearted in the current lockdown. In the church we have just entered the season of Lent, so I hope that you were able to lighten the mood by cooking up a few pancakes and enjoying your favourite fillings on Shrove Tuesday (pancake day)! For Christians, Lent is a special time, often including fasting and prayer as we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and beyond and remember the last few weeks of his life and Ministry as a Rabbi (Jewish teacher).

Traditionally, Christians give up something that they enjoy doing during Lent, which ends on Easter Day, to try and identify with Jesus and partake, in some small way, of his suffering and anguish as he heads towards the cross. Many will once again stop eating chocolate or biscuits, drinking alcohol, or give up a favourite hobby or pastime in the hope that by doing so, they will be less distracted by the pleasures and comforts of life and be able to draw closer to God.

However, in light of the current situation, with so many having had to give up so much already, it seems to me that we have all suffered in one way or another, some

considerably more than others.

Maybe this Lent should therefore be a season of not so much giving up something, but doing something positive instead. I know of many people who, in the simplest of positive acts can draw as equally close to God and spread His love by doing a good deed here or there - 'phoning someone to check that they're ok, baking a cake for someone, doing a bit of shopping for somebody or putting a note through a door to say that they are being thought of. Simple things that can make a big difference to someone and show that they are not forgotten.

At the end of Lent comes a time of celebration and joy as we remember Easter Day and Jesus being raised from the dead. New life will return, as we're currently being reminded in nature, as spring arrives and signs of growth are seen once again. However you decide to spend this time of Lent, I pray that it will be a season of hope and renewal for you and that the promise of better days and a fresh start, just like the Easter story, will soon become a reality for us all.

With my prayers and best wishes to you all.
Rev. David Izzard

Prayer Support. We are very aware that many people have suffered from negative effects due to the lockdowns & restrictions we've had to endure over the past year. Some of you may be suffering from anxiety, depression or coping with isolation. So would you welcome a listening ear or have prayer for yourself or someone else? If so, please feel free to call one of us in confidence.
David Izzard, Vicar 07786 863912.
Rosie Kane, Church Warden 01761 439062.
Penny Hutton, Church Warden 07708 59279



January's icicle wonderland in Kilmersdon when temperatures overnight dropped to -6 degrees C and -22 degrees C in Scotland. Photos by kind permission of Jim Ferron & Steph Izzard (left to right).

THE SWEET SCENT OF PRIMROSES

In March, when primrose flowers begin to bloom in quantity, one begins to feel that spring is well on its way. The primrose is one of our commonest wildflowers and graces many of our woods and hedge banks at this time of year. It is to be found most often on damp, heavy soils which produce the most luxuriant plants, but sometimes it spreads into open fields where it appears in a much smaller compact form.

As a child, living in a New Forest village, I have fond memories of primrose time. My sister and I would go walking down a lane which led beside a wooded railway embankment where there was a wide tract of wilderness between the lane and the steep rail bank far above. There we would gather fistfuls of primroses to take to my grandmother on Mothering Sunday and would spend the car journey to her house with our noses buried in the fragrant bunches.

I remember the turn of the lane as it passed under the railway bridge and the illicit thrill of scrambling between a few flimsy strands of wire to gain access to this magical place. Once

through we entered a secret world of hazel and willow clumps, brambles, and trees beneath which we foraged for the flowers. I will forever associate catkins and pussy willow buds with this place and with the primroses.

Such nostalgia is not without its shudder of guilt these days, for the picking of wildflowers is just one of the reasons why so many have all but disappeared from our landscapes. We were innocent of such concerns then and it is with some sadness that I do not allow my own grandchildren to gather wildflowers. I tell them the names of the flowers and plants that we see, but I find myself reprimanding them if they give way to their delight and natural instinct and want to pick the pretty flowers.

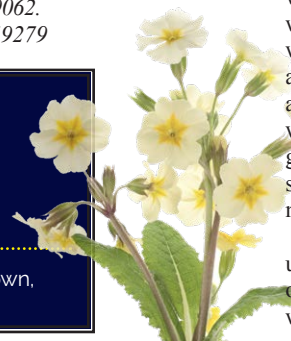
Here in Somerset, I am lucky to have primroses growing in my garden and I prefer to appreciate them there rather than bringing them into the house. But undoubtedly the best place to enjoy primroses is in a spring woodland, in the company of birdsong, where all you bring home with you is the memory of their scent and beauty. *Julie Palmer*



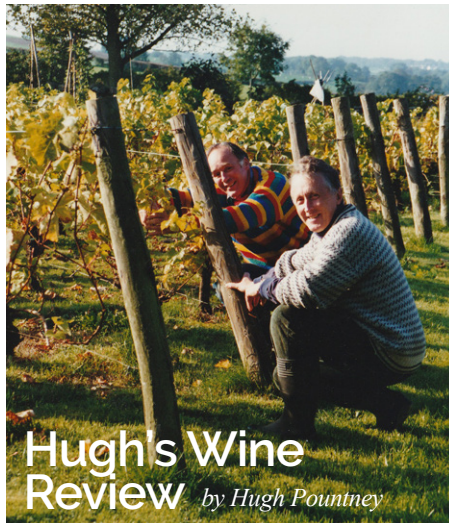
KILMERSDON & BABINGTON PARISH

<p>Vicar The Rev'd David Izzard 07786 863912</p>	<p>Church Wardens Mrs Rosie Kane 01761 439062 & Mrs Penny Hutton 01761 435193</p>
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CHURCH CLEANING ROTA. As services have had to be suspended during lockdown, there will be no church cleaning required until services resume.



Kilmersdon Reviews...



My wife Virginia and I, together with our son Benedict and daughter Miranda, moved into Melon cottage, a 15th Century former farmhouse, in July 1981. The cottage is the original building in Charlton and several stones in the walls are clearly of Roman extraction. We came to Somerset from London following my appointment as Head of Languages at Downside. The vineyard, consisting of 220 vines, was already here, planted by Ronald Aunger in 1968, and were into their prime productive phase. In 1975 Ronald produced more than a thousand bottles! He had converted some of the outhouses and byres into a large house, now Long Barn. He sold our cottage to Eric Snook, of toyshops fame, and Eric converted our byre into an extensive barn, ideal for the press and trestles needed for the wine harvest. He then sold the cottage to us. Ronald planted more vines at the back of Long Barn and was my mentor as Virginia and I grappled with the problems of wine making. He was a stern tutor! Nothing of consequence was produced, owing to our eccentric climate, until the long, dry, hot summers of the mid 1980's. In those years we had house parties to harvest and process the grapes. The two main

varieties, Madeleine Angevine and Sevillard, a Canadian hybrid, ripened at different times, the Madeleine around the beginning of October and the Sevillard a month later. Each variety took a weekend's hard work to harvest and deal with the grapes. Sometimes the Sevillard was a failure because of hard frost or lack of sun. Our variable climate has much to answer for! That is enough for now and the photos throw some light on the subject.

My pick of the month for thirsty members of the parish is Vallis Arcus 2019 from Laithwaite's at £7.99

I hope to follow this article with a wine column in each issue and you will be able to decide if I am a wine buff or wine buffoon!

Book review

We thought it would be great to start sharing some of the books that so many of you will have been reading during these lockdowns. Here is one that I read a few months' ago and would highly recommend. Please send in your own reviews for future issues.

THE SALT PATH by Raynor Winn

Just days after Raynor Winn learned that Moth, her husband of thirty-two years, was terminally ill, they lost their home and livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they impulsively decided to walk the 630-mile South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall. Living wild and free, at the mercy of sea and sky, they discovered a new, liberating existence – but what would they find at the journey's end? The Independent wrote: 'An astonishing narrative of two people dragging themselves from the depths of despair along some of the most dramatic landscapes in the country, looking for a solution to their problems and ultimately finding themselves.'

I would highly recommend it as I found it so inspirational and moving – a wonderful example of the human capacity for endurance and the amazing power of nature to uplift and heal!
Penny Hutton



The Jolliffe Arms is continuing its takeaway service from Thursday to Saturday between 5 & 8 pm and for Sunday roasts between 12 - 3pm. All meals must be pre ordered by ringing 01761 436699

Five things I've learnt offering bereavement support

Bereavement Support Champion,

Andrew Wilcox has been supporting bereaved people across Somerset for years. Here he shares some reflections and lessons he's learnt along the way:

GRIEVING

There are usually good and bad days, most people find the good days gradually outnumber the bad days, aided sometimes with a little help on the way.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

You don't have to keep talking and maybe struggling for things to say. Silence really is golden and gives us a chance to really hear what is being said and particularly the way that it is said.

LISTENING

Really listening allows a 'coming together' even on the phone. The mind can move away from brain thinking and into another dimension where true empathy comes into its own and the magic of healing is facilitated.

YOUR PRESENCE IS A GIFT

Don't pretend you are a doctor and can give advice to make any physical problems disappear. The person doesn't expect this and any healing that is required can take place by virtue of your very presence.

PLAN FOR THE END

During our lives we all share two common events, our birth and our death. Births are planned for and celebrated; deaths should be no different.

If you or someone you know, is affected by grief or bereavement, and would like to talk to someone, please call the Somerset Bereavement Support Service call 0800 3047 412 (Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm)

The Somerset Bereavement Support Service can offer a variety of support to adults and children over 12 in Somerset. The service has been commissioned by Public Health at Somerset County Council with support from Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group and Somerset Community Foundation. It is provided in partnership by end-of-life charity Marie Curie and mental health charity Mind in Somerset.

If readers would like to receive their parish news online each month,
please contact Penny on 01761 435193 or Sue on 01761 437855

VACANCY FOR KILMERSDON VILLAGE HALL MANAGER

Cherry Gilham has very kindly been looking after the Hall since last August while the Committee looks for someone to take over the post.

The Hall Manager's duties are:

- General Hall oversight
- Dealing with customers enquiries and bookings;
- Issuing invoices and collecting hiring fees or directing customers to the bank transfer facility;
- Opening the Hall as necessary;
- Joining the Village Hall Management Committee which meets about 6 times a year;
- A contractor undertakes the Hall's main cleaning and the Committee has a Treasurer.

If you are interested in this post, which receives a regular monthly payment, please email the secretary Sally Evans on secretarykilmersdonhall@btinternet.com by the 31 March 2021.

KILMERSDON ART GROUP



Judy Hallam's "In a Lockdown Garden"

As the weather warms and once Covid regulations are eased, Kilmersdon artists hope to start meeting together in groups of six to paint in each others' gardens. We are so lucky to live in a beautiful part of the country where we can find inspiration in Nature and enjoy seeing people's creativity expressed in their garden designs and planting. Many thanks to those in Kilmersdon and surrounding villages who have already offered to host the small meetings.

We very much look forward to being able to meet again as a whole group in the Village Hall, whenever that may be. Fingers crossed!
Judy Hallam



Ammerdown

HOSPITALITY • PEACE • RECONCILIATION

CARERS' & RETIREES MORNINGS

An invitation to carers to join Ammerdown via Zoom for the **Carers' Morning Tuesday 16 March 10am-12pm - FREE.**

While we can't meet at Ammerdown, will you join us via Zoom for all or part of the morning? First a simple Chapel Service, followed by an informal chat with others and then singing with Helena. Singing lowers stress levels, improves mental alertness and posture, strengthens the immune system and - most of all - it's fun!

TLC Morning Zoom for the retired Thursday 18 March, 10am - 12pm FREE

Join us via Zoom: Chapel Service, Cuppa and a Chat, followed by 'My Trip to Rwanda'.

While we can't meet at Ammerdown, join us via Zoom for all or part of the morning? First a simple Chapel Service, followed by an informal chat with others. Then Christine will share the story and photos of her trip to Rwanda in February 2020. The Zoom links can be obtained from the contacts: interfaith@ammerdown.org or Christine.clinch@ammerdown.org
www.ammerdown.org

AMMERDOWN COURSES

Esther 'Ett' Hillesum

With Sue Glanville

Saturday 13th March, 10am-4pm

Via Zoom Cost £20

'We went to the camp singing' (written on a postcard thrown by Ett from the train taking her to the concentration camp)

Esther, 'Ett' Hillesum was the Dutch author of a diary and letters described in the book 'An Interrupted Life'. The book describes her spiritual awakening and transformation and her struggle with the persecution of the Jewish people and life in Amsterdam under the German occupation.

Her refusal to hate, her appreciation of life in all its forms, her tenacity and faith - all give us much needed inspiration and encouragement in the challenging days in which we find ourselves.

Email: admin@ammerdown.org to register.

Adapting to our Changing World

With Sue Brayne

Saturday 27th March, 10am-4pm

Via Zoom Cost £20

This one-day workshop provides a much-needed opportunity to come together so we can explore how the immense changes that have taken place are profoundly affecting us all on a personal and collective level.

Even though things appear to be challenging, particularly in these Covid times, there are positive and creative ways in which we can become much more conscious and wiser around how we react to what's happening. This helps us to build resilience and hope and to find meaning and purpose in our future.

Email: admin@ammerdown.org to register.



HANGING BASKETS

We're really pleased to let you know that Anthony Dutton has very kindly agreed that he will do the hanging baskets for us again this summer. We think you will agree that those he did last year were very attractive and seemed to last for ages - despite a few rogue sunflowers having self-seeded in one or two of them!!

Of course, this means that we need to raise some money to buy the plants, to repair any damage to the irrigation system that is required, and to compensate Anthony for his time and patience. Let's make the village look especially beautiful this year, so that our spirits are lifted! Please give donations to Penny Hutton (Wilscombe, Hoares Lane) or Martin Horler (The Old School House, Ames Lane) by the end of April. This gives you enough time to save up and will enable Anthony to buy the plants in early May. Many thanks in anticipation of your generosity.

WASSAILING!



The annual Kilmersdon Wassail hosted by Frances and Martin Horler in their Old School House garden is usually buzzing with 89-100 villagers when crowning the Wassail Queen and the traditional celebration takes place.

Covid 19 and the Lockdown put paid to any revelry this year but on old Twelfth Night of January 17th Frances and Martin still maintained the tradition around their apple tree while next door neighbour Jacki Hill-Murphy photographed the occasion.

After Martin had crowned Frances as the Wassail Queen she placed a piece of toast in the tree for Robin Goodfellow (the good spirit of the orchard) and poured cider, made from last year's crop, around the tree's base to give back a little of what the tree had given them. They then sang the Wassail song, followed by the incantation, at the end of which Martin fired his twelve-bore shot gun up through the branches to wake up the tree and ward off evil spirits. They finished the ceremony by drinking hot cider from the Wassail cup and hoped that next year a full complement of Wassailers could again join them to mark the occasion. **The date for your diaries will Saturday January 15th 2022.**

Village Agent News

Kilmerston Parish News readers! Can it really be April already? As I write, the spring sunshine feels warm on my face through the window and the daffodils on my morning walk today are a sign that hopefully the cold weather has left us for this year.

Being at home a lot more over the past couple of months has without doubt bumped up our fuel bills. The Centre for Sustainable Energy's Home Energy team are on hand to deal with fuel debt, help find cheaper fuel, aid in switching suppliers and much more – just watch this Talking Café they co-hosted with our Village Agent Wendy Rudd to see why it is so important to stay warm & how they help: <https://youtu.be/Xjmw10nk9C0>.

You can also complete their online referral form on their website: www.cse.org.uk/advice.

Don't forget you can also join our Community Oil Scheme and save in bulk orders of oil! www.ccslovesomerset.org/oil. 50% of the small annual fee goes into our Crisis Fund to help people in need in Somerset. The Crisis Fund is distributed by our Village and Community Agents to help people in crisis situations and for whom a small grant can make a huge difference in their lives. At this time for many in our communities the need is greater than ever. We have never actively fundraised before for the Crisis Fund, but this has been an unprecedented year, and our important 'pot' of money has almost depleted, due to unprecedented demand because of the Coronavirus. We would love to raise £20,021 in 2021 for this Fund, and are asking you to get involved in anyway you can with sponsored runs, bake sales (after lockdown!), setting yourself any kind of **#CrisisFundChallenge**, or by simply and very kindly donating! Follow us on social media @RuralSomerset for updates and how to get involved!

Some examples of what these grants have been used for recently: Mattress protectors • Funeral costs • Children's clothes for bereaved family • Oil for someone with chronic health condition • Washing machine for carer struggling to keep up with demands.

Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/ to find out more. You can donate to a county wide 'pot' <https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/> or directly to Mendip: <https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/mendipcrisisfund/> Active and In Touch and Frome Community Drivers.

On 1 January, two local charitable organisations which support people who are isolated and lonely, joined forces. Frome Community Drivers, established in 2016 by Morag Stuart, ensured the provision of volunteer drivers for medical appointments, social engagements, shopping trips and prescription collections. They are currently working hard shopping for essentials and taking vulnerable passengers for their COVID vaccinations. Active and In Touch was established in 2011. Director Dougie Brown and his team of volunteers, help and befriend members, whilst trying to minimise their feelings of being lonely or isolated from the community. Together they are hoping to expand into the villages of East Mendip to help more people. For more information or to become a volunteer please contact **Morag on 07595591391 or e-mail- hello@fromecommunitydrivers.org.uk**.

Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce:

We are proud to be part of the county-wide initiative and we organise, coordinate and deliver food boxes and pre-cooked meals to those in need via our Agents, community groups/kitchens. Over 20,000 items of food a WEEK are delivered – 200,000 since lockdown began last March – a staggering number! As always, if you don't have access to the internet and you'd like to find out more or discuss how we can help you, please get in touch using either of the numbers below. Stay safe, stay well and stay active!

Nic - 07946461468 01823 331222 - nicolae@somersetrec.org.uk

5 ways to make your vaccine more effective

You might think that your Covid-19 jab involves just showing up for your appointment. However, the latest study¹ shows there are things we can all do to boost our body's vaccine response. Stress, loneliness and lifestyle factors including alcohol, fitness and diet all impair the immune system. Combined, they cause inflammation, increasing the time it takes to build up a protective antibody response.

1. Uncertainty and endless lockdowns means we are more stressed, and our fight-or-flight systems are in overdrive, increasing cortisol and adrenaline and suppressing the immune system. However, there is hope: if you can keep your stress levels down in the 10 days following the vaccination and prioritise sleep, this can influence antibody response. Guilt-free lie-ins, naps and PJ days allowed.

2. Like stress, loneliness can impair immune function. Social support has decreased as another brutal side effect of the lockdown. However, it isn't the quantity of social contact that matters but the quality. Even a single phone call to someone who can make you smile can reduce the feeling of being helpless or overwhelmed.

1 Psychological and Behavioral Predictors of Vaccine Efficacy: Considerations for COVID-19, January 27, 2021

IT MUST BE RIGHT...I HEARD IT ON WHATSAPP!

A group of adult computer science students were split into a male and female group and for fun were asked by their professor to decide what gender they thought computers should be. The men unanimously decided that computers should definitely be referred to in the feminine gender because:-

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. When computers communicate with each other they speak in code language that only they and experts can understand.
3. Every mistake you make is stored on their hard drive for later retrieval.

3. Linked to sleep is alcohol. Heavy alcohol use (the study points to six units in one go for women, eight for men) disrupts sleep and immune cell function. This decreases the body's ability to defend against viruses. Laying off the heavy nights for four weeks after each injection is shown to make a difference.

4. Get up and move. Data collected from general flu shot trials reports that increasing your steps for two weeks after a vaccination improves your antibody response. The World Health Organization recommends 2.5 hours of "moderate" exercise (walking) per week, or at least 20 minutes of "vigorous" exercise (enough to make you sweat) three times per week.

5. While overeating is common during stressful times, it is undernourishment that is more concerning for the vaccine response. All evidence points to the make-up of your gut bacteria (microbiome) being a key factor in everything from your mental health to your physical inflammation. Swapping out a Big Mac for a probiotic can't hurt... and the antioxidants in fruit, vegetables and legumes are the building blocks of a robust immune system.

4. As soon as you commit to one you spend half your pay check check accessorising it.

The women unanimously decided that computers were definitely male because:-

1. In order to get their attention you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but still cannot think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help solve problems but half of the time they are the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one you realise that if you had waited a little longer you could have got a better model.

The copy date for the May/June issue will be April 20th. Please restrict articles to 350 words and notices to 100 words. Items for inclusion to be sent by email to: kilmerstonnews@gmail.com - We reserve the right to edit any item submitted.

Coles Garden Meeting Room - New look, new blood

The Kilmersdon Meeting Room is a unique community facility gifted to the village by Lord Hylton and now owned by the White Horse Housing and run by the village.

Comprising two rooms, plus a kitchen and toilets, it is ideal for small intimate gatherings, teaching, and occasions where the Village Hall may be too large. Since lockdown the Room, located in Coles Garden, has had to be shut since it is very difficult to maintain adequate social distancing, particularly on the stairway, in the kitchen and in the smaller downstairs room. Nevertheless, the committee of villagers that run the Room on behalf of the village and White Horse Housing have been busy making and planning improvements. The building has recently been redecorated inside and out, and new flooring laid in the kitchen and in the toilets. Soon, when the relevant permissions are granted to the listed building, all the doors and windows will be replaced, thanks to a substantial government grant obtained by White Horse Housing. When COVID-19 is behind us and it is safe to reopen, this historic building will be shiny, warm, and energy efficient and it will be great to welcome people back.

The management committee too is changing. Roz and John Wilkinson and Sue Meadows, who have been stalwarts of the management committee since 1997, and Wendy Roberts have finally been 'allowed' to stand down, and in have stepped Brian Nagel, Raph Butt, and Edward Drew. All familiar faces, and bringing the promise of new ideas and energies.

This year the AGM will be held virtually on Zoom and, as usual, everyone in the parish is invited. It is to be held on Tuesday April 27th at 7:30pm. If you want to participate, or just to drop in and watch, you will be most welcome. Email Dave Durkin dmjdurkin@gmail.com or Helen Chivers at helenchivers747@hotmail.com and we will send you an invitation and link. Likewise, if you have any ideas or questions about the Rooms, or want something put on the agenda, then let one of us know. Information about the rooms can be found at <https://kilmersdonmeetingroom.org>.

Dave Durkin

KILMERSDON 'WOMBLES'



Recently Yvonne Kirby and Rosie Kane spent over an hour picking up litter up Jack and Jill Hill, along School Lane and down Kilmersdon Hill. Most of the haul came from Kilmersdon Hill, where

there is still a car tyre embedded in the hedge that they could not manage. "When the weather is good, why not take a bag and have a walk round the village and have a tidy up - it will improve the look of the village and make you feel virtuous as well! And you never know what treasures you just might find in the process," said Rosie.

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

In accordance with the Government's roadmap for easing Covid-19 restrictions, the Village Hall hopes to reopen on the 17 May, subject to the continued fall in coronavirus cases and hospitalisations. We very much look forward to welcoming back all our regular groups as well as new customers.

Kilmersdon Village Hall Committee.

THANKS FROM PEGGY RHYMER

I would like to say a big thank you to all the kind neighbours and friends for the cards, letters and messages of sympathy that I've received. Also for the lovely lunches and cakes etc. which have all been very much appreciated. Last, but by no means least, a belated thanks to David Izzard for the lovely graveside service he took in remembrance of Geoffrey.

The donations in Geoffrey's memory amounted to £551.21, which has been shared between the Air Ambulance and Kilmersdon School.

Linking with the Community at Kilmersdon School

During the lockdown we have been fortunate to continue to receive support from our local community. Our own Reverend Izzard has provided us with brilliant assemblies that we have been able to share with our families. He has looked at themes including trust and valuing difference and the children love watching these!

The children have also been learning that music is a powerful tool to help us with expressing ourselves with the help of our music specialist Mrs North. Even though she cannot be with us in person she has created a very special assembly for the children all about "The Power of Music."

Another way to join in with community activity has been to take part in the RSPB Big Garden birdwatch. Our children spotted Blackbirds, Sparrows, Pigeons, Robins, Chaffinches, Buzzards and a Greenfinch, amongst many other species. The children have also been spotting wildlife around the U.K. using the many webcams set up and accessible via the internet.

We can't wait to enjoy more links with our community as the lockdown continues to ease.
Steve Bamford - Head Teacher



Photos above taken at school by Ospreys Class

VILLAGE GROUPS

KILMERSDON ART GROUP
Roz Wilkinson 01761 434452

KMR BRIDGE CLUB
Mike Henton 01761 439960
mike.henton@talktalk.net

KILMERSDON VILLAGE HALL & MEETING ROOM
Bookings Clerk Mrs Cherry Gilham
01761 436767 www.kilmersdonvillagehall.co.uk
www.kilmersdonmeetingroom.org

KILMERSDON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/Kilmersdon

KILMERSDON VILLAGE DAY
enquiries: kilmersdonvillageday@gmail.com
www.kilmersdonvillageday.org

KILMERSDON C of E VA SCHOOL
Head Teacher Stephen Bamford 01761 432283

KILMERSDON GARDENERS
Chairman Judith Stanford 01761 233045
www.kilmersdongardeners.org.

KILMERSDON VILLAGE HALL DRAW
Martin & Shayne Gibbs 01761 432574

KILMERSDON VILLAGE SHOP
John Clayton 07974 440468
john.clayton@outlook.com

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK
Lesley Close 07521 951471

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE
www.kilmersdonpc.co.uk

PARISH PATH LIASION OFFICER
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WOMENS INSTITUTE
President - Elaine Herbert
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Kilmersdon Parish Council

Kilmersdon Parish Precept 2021/22

In 2020/21 the Parish Council precept was £15,100, equating to £63.60 for a Band D Property. 2021/22 has seen a reduction in the tax base, meaning that for the precept to remain the same, the precept for a Band D property goes up. For 2021/22 the precept has been set at £15,821, equating to £67.13 per Band D Property.

What services does the Parish Council offer?

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications and provides a local voice on highways and environmental matters. The play area adjacent to the Village Hall comes under its remit. It supports the parish environment by paying for the street lighting at the Village Hall car park, grass cutting of the playing field. The Parish Council maintains some of the benches in the parish.

How did the Parish Council perform last year?

The Parish Council was pleased to support a number of local organisations through grant provision, amongst them the Parish Church, the Parish magazine, Mendip Community Transport and the Citizens Advice Mendip.

2021 saw the Parish Council respond to the Planning Inspector's examination of the proposed new housing in the parish, which if successful, would see a significant number of houses being built near the White Post.

In the summer the fingerpost at Church Square was fully renovated, giving a smart new look to this area.

The Parish Council lobbied its County Councillors to improve the safety of the B3139 through Kilmersdon through liaison with its County Councillor and Somerset Highways Officers.

Both of the Welcome to Kilmersdon signs have been damaged by what looks like the hedge cutting machines. The Parish Council has been in contact with the County Council to arrange for them to be replaced and this has been confirmed for early in the new financial year.

Website Accessibility regulations came into force during the year and the Parish Council commissioned and populated a new website which meets the new requirements.

www.kilmersdonpc.co.uk Here you can find local information and please contact the Clerk if you would like to post a news item.

The much-loved play park is still suffering from rot on the wooden beams. During the year the see saw was replaced thanks to a number of councillors who reduced the cost massively by replacing the wooden beam themselves.

The small train was taken out of use during the winter because the rot had made it too dangerous to use and the Parish Council has commissioned a replacement play train.

Grateful thanks go to the team of five local people who undertake weekly checks of the play park by turn throughout the year. It is such valuable work and gives the Parish Council advance warning of deterioration of the equipment.

Thank you also to the volunteers to look after the Spiral Garden and the shrubs adjacent to Manor Close. It makes such a difference to the village.

What is new for the next financial year?

The Parish Council plans to continue its programme of renovating the fingerposts and has budgeted for another to be done in the forthcoming year. The Parish Council is working to represent the people of Kilmersdon and make decisions in the best interests of the village. We welcome your views and input.

Kilmersdon Parish Council
clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk

The Parish Council's website has been re-designed to conform with the new accessibility regulations. Why not take a look at it at www.kilmersdonpc.co.uk

If you have any community events or notices you would like to go up on the website please contact the Parish Clerk –
clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk

SLINKY BUS AT YOUR SERVICE

The Parish Council gave a grant to Mendip Community Transport. The Slinky Bus service is available to people of all ages who do not have access to a public bus service due to either location or accessibility. It can be used for a variety of purposes including; health

appointments, shopping, or visiting friends and family.

To find out more about the service contact Mendip Community Transport on 01749 880482 or visit the website:
mendipcommunitytransport.co.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE MENDIP

The Parish Council also supported Citizens Advice Mendip which gives free advice and assistance to anyone in Mendip.

PLAY AREA

The Parish Council has commissioned a new train to replace the one which suffered such severe rot last year and also a bright new trim trail because the latest play inspection highlighted the extent of the rot in the existing equipment. The zip wire is being taken out of commission temporarily for safety reasons but quotes have been received for a new one and funding is being sought.

BENCH ON KILMERSDON HILL

The bench about half way up Kilmersdon Hill has disintegrated beyond repair and the parish council is seeking quotes for its removal and replacement.

Parish Council meetings are being held on Zoom for the time being and you are welcome to attend. There is a list of meetings on the website and the link is published on the agendas page.
www.kilmersdonpc.co.uk

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