

# KILMERSDON **PARISH** NEWS



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



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Your **FREE** magazine, supporting the **COMMUNITY** and **PARISH COUNCIL** news.  
DELIVERED TO THE PARISH OF KILMERSDON, CHARLTON, GREEN PARLOUR & FOSSEFIELD ROAD.



# Ammerdown Christmas Meals 2023

Join us at Ammerdown this festive season!

Lunchtime Christmas Meals from  
Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th December.

Gather for our Candlelit Christmas Carol Service at 12 noon or enjoy a  
drink in the bar. Food will be served at 1pm.

## *And new for 2023*

Evening Christmas Meals on  
Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December.

Gather for our Candlelit Christmas Carol Service at 6pm  
or enjoy a drink in the bar. Food served at 7pm.

Book for your group or family and friends.  
Call us on **01761 433709** or email [bookings@ammerdown.org](mailto:bookings@ammerdown.org)

Two Courses £26.95

Three Courses £32.95

Prices the same as 2022!

Table wine available to pre-order.

Overnight accommodation and conference spaces available,  
please enquire.



## Recognition to Penny Hutton

Many people in the Parish will now know that Penny has stepped down as editor of the Parish News and we are most grateful that Phil Preen has taken on the role as well as doing the desk-top publishing. At one time the Parish News was in jeopardy of coming to an end, but Penny and Sue Meadows stepped in to save it. Sue has since passed away and Penny took it on her shoulders completely but now feels she wants to 'pass the mantle.' We all benefit greatly from the Parish News either as a contributor providing reports from our respective organisations or as a parishioner recipient. We feel we should thank Penny for her unstinting work in keeping our Parish News going for, I do not know how many years and to that end there will be a presentation to Penny during the Morning Service at Kilmersdon Parish Church on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, the service starts at 11.15a.m. It would be really lovely if as many people as possible could attend this service.

Martin & Frances Horler

## From the editor ...



Hello again,

Firstly, I would like to echo the words and sentiments expressed so very eloquently by Martin and Frances regarding the great work that Penny has done for the newsletter and for the village over the years. Hopefully we can continue to make it worthwhile, so please keep sending your articles in, and if you have any ideas for new things to put in, please let me know.

*Phil Preen*  
*editor@kilmersdonnews.org*



**The copy date for the next issue is 20th December. Please restrict articles to 350 words and notices to 100 words. Please send items for inclusion by email to [editor@kilmersdonnews.org](mailto:editor@kilmersdonnews.org)  
We reserve the right to edit any item submitted.**

**If you would like to receive your Parish News by email as a pdf, please get in touch to be added to the mailing list. Contact [editor@kilmersdonnews.org](mailto:editor@kilmersdonnews.org) or visit the website [www.kilmersdonnews.org](http://www.kilmersdonnews.org)**



## KILMERSDON VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Management Committee are pleased to confirm that they will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 7PM** in the Village Hall.

Val Candy, Chair, will be reporting on the work of the Committee over the last 12 months and there will be an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions.

The Annual General Meeting is also the time when committee members are elected. The Committee would very much welcome new members and this would be an ideal time for those that might want to be involved to come along and hear what the Committee does.

Everyone is welcome.

## KILMERSDON WI

We are a friendly group of ladies. We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at Kilmersdon village hall, 7.15pm for 7.30 start. We have some really good speakers and craft making. If anyone would like to join us, you are more than welcome.

Please contact

Viv Love 01761 414419



## VILLAGE GROUPS

### KILMERSDON ART GROUP

Roz Wilkinson 01761 434452

### KMR BRIDGE CLUB

Mike Bradbury

Tel: 01373 455645

### KILMERSDON VILLAGE HALL

Danielle Forrester 07527 693937

[managerkilmersdonhall@outlook.com](mailto:managerkilmersdonhall@outlook.com)

### COLES GARDEN MEETING ROOM

Cherry Gilham 01761 436767

[www.kilmersdonmeetingroom.org](http://www.kilmersdonmeetingroom.org)

### KILMERSDON FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/Kilmersdon](http://www.facebook.com/Kilmersdon)

### KILMERSDON VILLAGE DAY

enquiries: [kilmersdonvillageday@gmail.com](mailto:kilmersdonvillageday@gmail.com)

[www.kilmersdonvillageday.org](http://www.kilmersdonvillageday.org)

### KILMERSDON C of E VA SCHOOL

Head Teacher Stephen Bamford 01761 432283

[school.office@kilmersdonprimary.co.uk](mailto:school.office@kilmersdonprimary.co.uk)

### KILMERSDON GARDENERS

Chairman Judith Stanford 01761 233045

[www.kilmersdongardeners.org](http://www.kilmersdongardeners.org)

### KILMERSDON VILLAGE SHOP

John Clayton 07974 440468

[john.clayton@outlook.com](mailto:john.clayton@outlook.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL

[clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk)

[www.kilmersdonpc.co.uk](http://www.kilmersdonpc.co.uk)

### REEL PEOPLE – FILM SOCIETY

[www.reelpeople.org.uk](http://www.reelpeople.org.uk)

[reelpeoplefilms@outlook.com](mailto:reelpeoplefilms@outlook.com)

07947325950

### PARISH CHURCH (East Mendip Trinity)

[clarissacridland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clarissacridland@hotmail.co.uk)

01373 812705

[www.eastmendiptrinity.co.uk](http://www.eastmendiptrinity.co.uk)

### PARISH NEWS

Phil Preen 01373 813441

Penny Hutton 01761 435193

[editor@kilmersdonnews.org](mailto:editor@kilmersdonnews.org)

### WOMENS INSTITUTE

President - Viv Love 01761 414419

## A Letter from Clarissa



Dear Friends

November and December are always very busy months, and this year is no exception. So here is a list of important dates which affect Kilmersdon, some of which are in other churches in the Benefice (I cannot always chop myself into three!)

The children from Kilmersdon School will be entering the competition to provide paintings for our Christmas card. All paintings will be displayed in church over the Christmas period, and the winning ones will be used on the Christmas card which will go to everyone in the village. I shall of course be going into school for several assemblies during the term, and then they will come into church for their special Christmas services on Thursday 14 December.

The news from around the world is not at all good at the moment. By the time you read this, we will have had a special

**Sunday 12 November, 11.15**

Special Remembrance Sunday Service

**Saturday 25 November, 10.00-12.00**

Christmas Coffee Morning

**Wednesday 6 December, 6.30 pm**

Carols by Candlelight outside the Church and Lighting of the Christmas Tree

**Thursday 7 December, 7.00 pm**

Advent Carol Service in St Andrew's Holcombe

**Sunday 17 December, 6.30pm**

Christmas Carol Service in the Church

**Sunday 24 December, 5pm**

Children's Crib Service in Holy Trinity Coleford

**Sunday 24 December, 11.00 pm**

Midnight Mass

**Sunday 31 December, 6.30 pm**

Christmas Carol Service in Holcombe Old Church

prayer service for the Israel-Gaza war, and we do pray regularly. The church is now open more often so do please feel free to go in and say a prayer, or simply silently reflect.

This comes with love and prayers,  
Clarissa

Revd Clarissa Cridland, Vicar, East Mendip Trinity  
clarissacridland@hotmail.co.uk  
01373 812705

[www.eastmendiptrinity.co.uk](http://www.eastmendiptrinity.co.uk)  
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## Kilmersdon Living Advent Calendar



We are really looking forward to another Kilmersdon Living Advent Calendar this December!

If you missed this wonderful event in the past few years – this is when 24 volunteer homes put on a festive window display each evening in the run up to Christmas.



The fun starts on the 1st December. Each evening throughout December one window in a volunteer house in the village is decorated and lit up. We gather each evening at 6.30pm for the big reveal of each window. The windows are lit each evening from 6.30-8pm.

This is a wonderful space to gather with others from the village during a time when we tend to stay indoors, and we don't really see each other much. It is a wonderful ritual each evening to see familiar and not so familiar faces each evening and to enjoy each home's revealed window.



Sometimes there may be mulled wine, a mince pie or 3 or an outdoor fire! Each window is special because of the home, the people and thought that went into it. We delight in each and every window and the sense of community is real.

If you would like to be involved this year and would like to decorate a window, please get in touch by 15<sup>th</sup> November. If we don't get enough people we won't be able to go ahead - but we will confirm this by whatsapp/text message by 20th November.

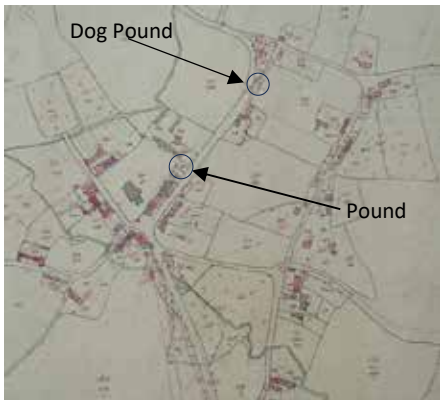
email [janet@whitelaw-jones.com](mailto:janet@whitelaw-jones.com)  
mobile / whatsapp: 077971 997770

## What's so Interesting about Kilmersdon?

### Law and Order

There would have been a Parish Constable from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, appointed originally by the Baronial Court and the Court-Leet, then later, from about 1842, by The Ecclesiastical Vestry Court. Some historians say the office of Parish Constable goes back to King Arthur or at least Saxon times. The Parish Constable was empowered with the Right of Arrest, he was conservator of the peace within the Parish, he would put felons in the stocks or the lock-up. He was also responsible for raising and provisioning the Parish Militia as well as the safe custody and maintenance of the Parish Armoury – Pikes, Muskets, Swords etc.

### THE VILLAGE POUND



There were actually two Pounds in Kilmersdon, as shown by the arrows on this map. One was a Dog Pound which seems logical, you wouldn't want to put a stray dog into a Pound with a load of sheep!

The Village pound was a feature of most British medieval villages.

A high walled and lockable structure it served several purposes; the most common use was to hold stray sheep, pigs and cattle until they were claimed by the owners, usually for the payment of a fine or levy. Early pounds had just briar hedges but most were built in stone or brick

making them more stock-proof. We don't know what the Kilmersdon Pound was constructed of. The village pound was sometimes also used as an early form of gaol or lock-up to hold petty criminals such as rustlers, thieves, and vagabonds until they could be dealt with by the local court. The pound was often associated with the village stocks as a place of public humiliation and punishment. (*as described in The Pickwick Papers Mr Pickwick being put in the Pound at Dingley Dell*)

Nearly every village once had its pound for stray cattle, pigs, geese, etc. to be driven into and there kept at the expense of the owner, till such time as he should pay the fine (the amount claimed by the person on whose land they had strayed, for damage done), and the fee to the pound keeper, man or sometimes woman, for feeding and watering the same. If not claimed in three weeks, the animals were driven to the nearest market and sold, the proceeds going to the impounder and pound-keeper. The person who found the animals on his land cut a stick and made notches, one for every beast, (*called a tally-stick*) and then split the stick down the centre of the notches so that half each notch appeared on each piece of stick; one half he kept, the other he gave to the pound-keeper. When the owner came to redeem his property and had paid for the damage done, the impounder gave him his half stick. He took this to the pound-keeper, and if the two pieces tallied, it proved he had paid and his beast was freed. Hence the word tally-stick and the pound-keeper being referred to as the tallyman" In a Court Leet of 1725 here in Kilmersdon, Robert Hughes was fined £5 (a huge amount of money) to the lady of the manor for heaving his sheep over the wall of the pound (*called, I think, pound-breach*)

I've run out of space in this Parish News so: to be continued...

*Martin Horler*

## KILMERSDON VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall Management Committee will be holding a “mini jumble sale” on Saturday 18 November 2023 between 12.00 – 14.00.

The Hall has surplus items of crockery, bric-a-brac etc., and items left over from earlier jumble sales. Some items will be for sale but others will be free, although any donations would be very welcome.

The Committee are very keen that surplus items should not be thrown away if they would be useful to local residents. Please come along and see what needs a new home.

Kilmersdon Village Hall Management Committee

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## APPLE PRESSING

There will be an Apple Pressing Day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023. As usual, this will be at The Old School House, Ames Lane. Starting at 10.00 a.m. and continuing until we finish. Bring along your apples and containers for the juice. As usual we will be charging £3 per press and all the profits will go towards the cost of next year’s Hanging Baskets.

*Martin Horler*





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## **SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER.**

**TO BOOK A PLACE or FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Heather by email: [mitchellheather63@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellheather63@gmail.com)**

## KILMERSDON GARDENERS



In September the Gardeners heard about 'Trug Making' from expert Carl Sadler. A Trug is constructed like a small clinker-built boat with a keel. Carl favours using Ash in summer and Sweet Chestnut in winter for the frame with White Willow for the strips. Ash die-back has caused lots of problems, as the bark peels off from the wood of diseased trees. He uses copper nails that have become expensive. He can put together 6 trugs in an hour but preparing the wood takes many hours before the assembly process. He uses a throw, an axe, and a draw knife. He smooths them off and rubs in linseed oil to finish. He also makes traditional hurdles in a range of sizes. Carl attends a lot of agricultural shows across the country and enjoys his interaction with the public. He

took over from his father and is hoping that his 11-year-old grandson will follow him. He is also a creative carpenter and makes props for films. He has worked on 'Star Wars' and 'Wicked', creating chairs for Luke Skywalker and looms for witch Ariana Grande. This was tricky when the size of the stars was wrongly estimated but led to an interesting encounter with Daniel Craig in his storm trooper cameo role on the set of 'The Force Awakens'. Carl was a striking presence on the stage of the hall surrounded by his hurdles and trugs as shown in the photograph. The Gardeners were very impressed and keen to purchase original trugs and hurdles direct from their maker. In October, James Cross described how the Bishop's Palace Gardens in Wells have developed from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and

during his nearly 20 years as Head Gardener. He has created an interesting garden for all seasons with many new beds and borders in the 14 acres, with his team of 3 full time assistants and 40 volunteers. The croquet lawn is separated from the south lawn by the remaining wall of the ruined Great Hall. The borders on either side of the wall include plants to create interest for all seasons. The wall was an important feature of the Victorian garden design of Bishop Laws with strategically planted trees to create a 'Picturesque' space to entertain his guests. This style continues with a mature Ginkgo, Mulberry, Tulip and Indian Bean.

James has created a tropical looking bed around the remaining isolated tower. Another large new bed demonstrates James's technique of creating borders with plants that have a variety of leaf shape, texture, and colour.

The ramparts are planted with bulbs and primroses which create a wonderful display in the spring. Under the Evergreen Oak is the stumpery with a variety of ferns and damp loving plants such as hostas, forget-me-nots, and hellebores. The east parterre garden has been completely redesigned and the box edging replaced with euonymus. The photograph shows where the wide path below the oriel window was replaced with attractive planting of a magnolia, fig tree, salvias, and day lilies. The edging of the knot garden picks up the portucullis motif from the window. The corner of the garden near



the swing has more modern informal prairie planting.

Across the Willow Bridge, beneath the golden weeping willow are the outer gardens. In the boggy area around St Andrews Wells is the reflecting pool

created by Bishop Laws with a border planted by Mary Keen in 2002. The planting of the damp area by the board walk was influenced by the Beth Chatto Garden. The Arboretum, with its spring bulbs was planted by Bishop Bickersteth, a keen gardener, for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The area once the Kitchen Garden is now a community garden

providing vegetables for the café and the bishop's family as well as allotments for local people.

The next meeting is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start at Kilmersdon Village Hall. Dr Frances Burroughes will talk on 'A Victorian Head Gardener.' Refreshments and raffle on arrival. Visitors are very welcome, see website for further details. On Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am to 12.30pm there will be a wreath making workshop in the hall £35 to include materials and refreshments visitors welcome. Please email [mitchellheather63@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellheather63@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking part. The talk on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 will be topical, Amanda Hirst will talk about 'James Allen. The Snowdrop King'.

*Trisha Jordan*

[www.kilmersdongardeners.org](http://www.kilmersdongardeners.org)

## Kilmersdon C of E VA Primary School



It is hard to believe that we are well into autumn, but life in Kilmersdon reminds us of the season every day. The children have been finding leaves of many colours and sharing these excitedly with adults in the playground, as well as trying their hand at autumnal poetry. In Barn Owl's Class, Eloise wrote, "Underneath me, golden leaves crunch and crack!" Holly described, "Trees as tall as mountains and leaves as weak as paper." Leo described the trees as, "The colour of burnt marshmallows; crimson, orange, brown and yellow." As you can imagine, we are really proud of our young writers at Kilmersdon!

Even though the year is winding down towards winter, Kilmersdon School continues to be a busy place! Our activities

have included Football and Netball with other schools in the area and we are planning to take children to events such as Young Voices early next year. Things show no sign of slowing down, with a variety of events to come in the calendar, including all those over Christmas.

With a busy timetable, we recognise the importance of slowing down and taking a moment to appreciate the beauty of autumn and the changing of the seasons. We do this in our assemblies, in forest school and as part of class activities. We appreciate our setting in the wonderful village of Kilmersdon and we feel lucky to share the season with members of our community, including those who attended the harvest services with Clarissa at St Peter and St. Paul Church. Our parents and carers managed to help donate over 70 kilograms of food to our local Food Bank!

We hope you are enjoying the season as much as we are and would encourage you to take a walk up Jack and Jill Hill if you can, to see the school and surroundings at this time of year.

Steve Bamford  
Head Teacher

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US AT THE JOLLIFFE ARMS PUB FOR  
**SKITTLES!**

EVERY 3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8PM.





# What's on at Ammerdown

## November

- 3 – 5 Stitched Textiles
- 3 Reparations and reconciliation Forgiveness made Meaningful
- 4 - 7os Evening
- 12 – 19 Interfaith Week
- 17 – 19 Enneagram Foundation Workshop
- 20 – 23 Autumn Delights Stumpwork Embroidery
- 20 – 22 Silver Jewellery
- 21 Advent Bible Zoom
- 23 TLC Day for the Retired
- 24 -26 Advent Retreat
- 24 -26 Just Passing Through
- 24 Stained Glass Christmas Decorations
- 26 Book Club Relaunch
- 27 Cuppa and a Chat
- 28 Advent Bible Zoom
- 28 Refreshing Day for Carers

## December

- 2 Ammerdown Christmas Fun Day 2023
- 3 The Joseph Story
- 5 Advent Bible Zoom
- 12 Advent Bible Zoom
- 13 Candlelit Christmas Carols
- 13 -16 Lunchtime Christmas Meals
- 15 -16 Evening Christmas Meals
- 19 Advent Bible Zoom
- 23 – 27 Christmas House Party

Find more information on all of our courses on our website [www.ammerdown.org/WhatsOn](http://www.ammerdown.org/WhatsOn)

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[admin@ammerdown.org](mailto:admin@ammerdown.org)  
01761 433709

# REEL PEOPLE FILMS

## at Kilmersdon Village Hall

Everyone is welcome at Reel People Films - all films are shown at 8pm but the doors & bar open at 7.15pm for a drink and a chat. You can come along as a guest for £6 on the door or join us for the whole of the rest of the current season for £30 - card payments accepted.



### LUNANA - A Yak in the Classroom (PG)

8pm Friday 10 November 2023 - 1hr 50mins Subtitled

Join us as we head to the Himalayas for our November film with this heartwarming story of a young teacher who dreams of being a singer in Australia but is sent to teach at a remote school where there is even a Yak in the classroom.



### BENEDICTION (15)

8pm Friday 8 December 2023 - 2hrs 17mins UK

For our December film we are screening this vivid and moving exploration of the life of the WW1 poet & war hero, Siegfried Sassoon. This was the last film by the much loved British director, Terence Davies who died recently and who considered the film to be his best work.

for more information - [www.reelpeople.org.uk](http://www.reelpeople.org.uk) or call 07947 325 950

## KILMERSDON PARISH NEWS

**Reel People Films – Cinema at Kilmersdon Village Hall**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first film of the season, 'Dream Horse' on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. It was great to welcome so many people coming along for the first time – many of whom had read about the film in the Coleford & Holcombe Community Magazine!

It was our first film as an entirely new committee, and we clearly underestimated how many people would come along as we only put out 35 chairs and quickly had to add more! We were using the newly upgraded projection and sound equipment for the first time and were delighted with the quality. Our next film is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November - 'Lunana - A Yak in the Classroom' (Cert PG, 1hr 50 mins). In stark contrast to the last film, which was set in the Welsh Valleys, for November, we are transported to a village in the Himalayas. It promises breathtaking scenery and is definitely one

The film gives a fascinating insight into life in the village through the eyes of a young teacher reluctantly sent to the school – and you guessed it, there is a resident Yak in the classroom. Please note, the film is subtitled and there will be fewer tables in the Hall so we have more space between the rows to give everyone a good, clear view of the screen.

As always, the doors and bar open at 7.15pm and the film starts at 8pm prompt.

**Everyone is very welcome** either as a guest for £6 payable on the door, or you can join as a member for the remaining 7 films in the season for £30. Just to let you know we can accept card payments for all transactions.

For full details on the rest of the films we are showing and membership, please visit our website [www.reelpeople.org.uk](http://www.reelpeople.org.uk) or you can call 07947 325 950. For all other enquires please phone 07523 082 293.



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## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across

1 Joseph of Arimathea needs only follow all risen Christ's principles to become a saint (4,2,3)

7 Cooler name for vinegar perhaps? (4)

8 Celebration of Byzantine art schism (9)

9 Vacation of healthy sports can generate a lot of publicity (4)

10 Pile of wood held onto by modeller if no balsa is returned (7)

12 Planting myosotis in the middle next to extension (6)

14 Sturgeon beat even Labour unions going against those on the left (6)

17 Spotted undecorated cake? (7)

20 Frustrating without King's alliance (4)

21 Lobby to go during working time to get spirits (9)

22 Island of gold in the middle of motorway (4)

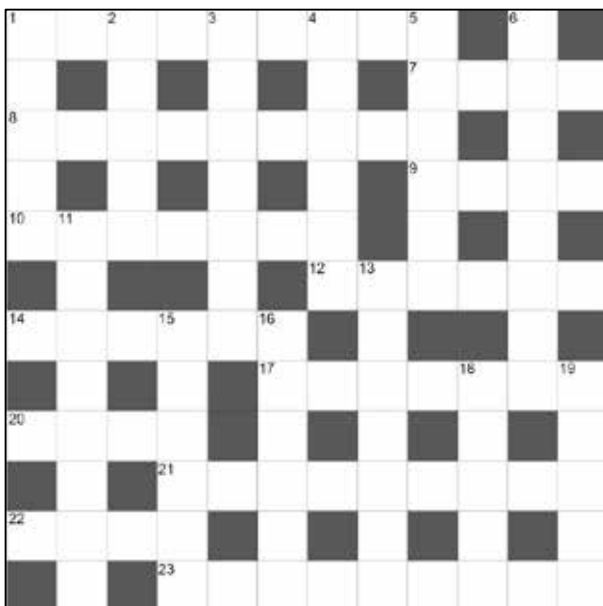
23 Rust stain ruined clothes discarded by these people (9)

Down

1 Occupation takes account of Israel (5)

2 Overall cost of loan with zero taxation at the end (5)

3 Judge discharged from taking part in tournament dismissal (7)



4 Medium possessed by bold and ambitious person's forces (6)

5 Gathered money to scare away nut (6)

6 Vi to write to Church of England and make some money like in the olden days (8)

11 Finished jump with increasing volume to get to the other side (8)

13 Stumped by entrance not in building (7)

15 Poor child stumbling with no clothes (6)

16 Lower jewellery and let last of gold be taken centrally? (6)

18 Champs announced pick (5)

19 People from Copenhagen went inside, had an espresso (5)

Solve online: <http://www.philpreen.co.uk/kilmersdon-cryptics>



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