
KILVE NEWS



Issue 373

November 2023

EDITORIAL

We all send our best wishes for recovery to our regular postman Adrian; we have missed him, and not only because of the recent problems with Royal Mail deliveries! As I write this it seems that deliveries are coming through more speedily now, so let's hope that the service is soon completely back to normal.

And good news from Kilve Stores. The transfer of the Post Office partnership has finally gone through, and our Post Office is fully functioning again. And (for those willing to take the risk) Christmas stamps should be on sale from the beginning of November. You may have noticed that last month's *Kilve News* was early; this was because we went away for ten days. Any hopes that we might have had of "getting away from it all" were dashed, though, when we bumped into Roger Cuff in the middle of St Ives! He and Pam had had the same idea. Not quite as outrageous a coincidence as those regularly occurring to John Buchan's heroes, but unexpected, even so.

Jenny

Contact the Editor on 01278 741663
e-mail jakent@btinternet.com
or text on 07745 805006

WELCOME

This month we are glad to welcome Rob and Kirsty Ward, and their daughters Celina and Milly, who have moved into 7 Millands Lane with their three dogs. (The dogs are already enthusiastic about the walks!)

And after a lot of hard work, we welcome the Jones family to their own home in the village. After staying in Hilltop Lane with parents John and Mandy Hoare, while they carried out the renovations, Finley, Myles and Rufus, with their dog, have finally moved into Sunray on Lager Hill. We hope you will all have a long and happy time in Kilve.

HILLTOP JUBILEE PATH



On 30 September the Hilltop Jubilee Path was formally opened. The Parish Council had been trying for decades to achieve this milestone and the opening also included the unveiling of the Peter Gill memorial bench by his wife Bette. Peter was one of the first Parish Councillors to start the process to establish this path.

The Parish Council Chair cut the red ribbon to open the path and in a short speech thanked Greg Glendell for his consultation with Lady Cecily Dory in gaining agreement for the path, plus his continued involvement with the local authorities and the fencing contractors that resulted in the successful completion of this valuable asset to the community. Lady Dory had also communicated through Greg that she was delighted that the path was now in place and that she hoped to visit it herself in the near future.

Sincere thanks were also extended to the Thorne and Salvidge farming families for their permission to utilise their land for the path and their continued support throughout the process.

The village town crier (Simon Blackley) concluded the opening ceremony with a rousing proclamation announcing our latest acquisition.

Steve Collins

(See page 4 for more photographs and an update.)

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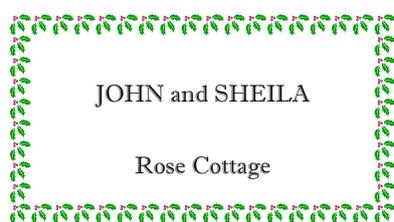
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As has become a Kilve tradition, next month's issue will give you a chance to send Christmas greetings to friends within the village and at the same time support local charity. This year we have decided to divide any donations between the Quantock Food Bank and the Stogursey Forget-Me-Not Café.

The greetings will come under a general heading:

*'To all our friends in Kilve, Holford and East
Quantoxhead
Best wishes for Christmas
and a Peaceful and Happy New Year'*

Below this heading will be individual boxes such as this example:



If you would like to include a greeting, please let me have your first name(s) together with your house name/number. You can give it to me directly or leave it at the shop in an envelope marked *For the attention of Jenny (Christmas Greetings)*.

In return for this service we would be grateful if you would kindly consider including in the envelope a donation to these two very worthy local charities. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

Your details and envelope will need to reach me by Saturday 18 November.

GENTLEMEN'S LUNCH

The next gentlemen's lunch is on

**Tuesday 7 November
at The Hood Arms,
at 12.30 for 1.00pm**

To book, please contact Arthur
01278 741429 or Art_1948@yahoo.co.uk

READING GROUP

A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson was the choice for the October meeting. This is the first time we had read a novel by the prolific Kate Atkinson, who proved to be a very divisive author. Her style of story telling is certainly very different to anything we've read before. *A God in Ruins* is a 'sequel' to *Life After Life* in that it tells the story of the Todd family through different siblings' eyes. It is a stand-alone book but easier to follow if you have already read *Life After Life*. After a rather tedious beginning, which actually went on quite a long time, the story suddenly became incredibly interesting dealing with Bomber Command in the Second World War. Teddy Todd was the skipper of a Halifax bomber and a very conscientious leader, looking after his crew and his plane. Their life was quite finely portrayed and certainly well described, really taking the reader through the experience of bombing raids and the perilous return journeys.

The story did jump around a bit between different time lines and the family situation. There were many sisters involved, as Teddy married one of the (possibly) 5 sisters from next door. Teddy also had a couple of sisters — so we were kept on our toes as to which sister was which. I have to admit that I did lose track of the sisters. I also found his bomber crew rather confusing too, but it certainly didn't detract from enjoyment of the novel. Teddy's whole life was the basis of the book, so there was certainly much variety, as we progressed through his life and family.

Kate Atkinson had obviously done some diligent research into the War and this made the book extremely interesting. The sources of her information listed at the end of the book were most impressive.

After a rocky start, we all agreed that *A God in Ruins* was an extremely good Reading Group choice.

Sue Hares



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HILLTOP JUBILEE PATH



Bette Gill unveiling the Peter Gill memorial bench (top) and the plaque on the bench (above).



(Left) The town crier making his proclamation.

Latest update on the path

We have cut the hedge and cleared the path to its full width. We've not cut the hedge back to its original trimmed height, but left it a bit taller, so it will grow taller still next year. This gives users some visual 'protection' from the road traffic below. The hedge is mainly elm, with some dogwood, ash and field maple. But we left the one oak tree in the hedge untrimmed, so that it will grow up as a full-sized standard tree eventually. The newly-sown grass in Nick Thorne's field is growing slowly, and with some more mild weather it should continue to grow well before winter really sets in. So, for now do 'keep off the grass' for a few more weeks please.

Greg Glendell

POND LIFE

A huge "well done" to everyone who turned up to the first village pond working party on Sunday 24 September. Having delayed the event from the previous week due to torrential rain and flooding (as shown here), the weather was kind to us on the day, the waters had receded and great progress was made.



The flooded road before work started.

A huge amount of overgrowth was cleared from the area nearest the road, revealing the outflow culvert and trash screen still

in place (though no sign of the old duck house as yet!). A lot of vegetation was also cleared from outside the wall, exposing road drainage holes that had long been blocked. Even this small beginning has made a great improvement to the look of the corner and I've heard lots of positive comments from people who have walked past and admired the works; even just the little waterfall into the outflow alone is most pleasing to see and hear.

The other major bit of work was to rebuild the broken part of the weir which controls how much of the river flow goes into the pond area. We built it up with rocks and mud (and an old duvet which was dangling in the river from a tree branch) so we could see the effect on the flow before committing to a more permanent fix. So far it seems to be doing the job, it even survived the latest deluge without allowing the area to get flooded out.

A welcome hot brew was provided at half-time by Jamie, Lisa and their children.

What next?

Well, it looks as though we might need a bit of mechanical assistance to shift the huge quantity of accumulated mud from the area we've already cleared, but in the meanwhile there's still an opportunity to improve the area behind. We'd like to clear some of the scrub and branches to allow in more light and improve access so the pond can be appreciated other than by standing in the road. It has the potential to be a lovely tranquil space of paths amongst small water channels and mini

ponds. We also need to further reinforce the weir dam.

So here's the next call to arms: in order to mix it up a bit and include folks who find their weekends are generally too busy to help, we'll be meeting on **Wednesday 8 November at 10:30am**. As before please bring shovels, loppers and whatever other equipment comes to hand, stay for as long or short as you want and help out in whatever way you can; even just saying "hi" and cheering on the workers is appreciated.

Pat Hayward

The photographs below show the overgrown pond at the start of the morning, work in progress, and the cleared area by Sea Lane at the end of the day.

Here you can see the damaged weir allowing water to flood into the pond area (on the right of the first picture), the rebuilding, and the final result.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From Issue 115, November 1998

A group of residents used to meet in Kilve Court on the second Monday of each month to hear a talk by one of their number.

This month Peter Pullen gave a talk on the development of flying for military purposes, culminating in the formation of the Royal Flying Corps. One of his anecdotes was of an MP who was carried away dangling from a balloon — apparently never to be heard of again!

this month

25

years ago

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SAVE MONEY ON HEATING OIL!



The recent change in the weather prompts me to remind you of the Kilve and Holford heating oil consortium. Each month the village organisers collect orders for oil and these are then all delivered on the same day. By coordinating deliveries in this way, the supplier saves money and passes the savings on to us, the customers. You don't have to place a regular order, just order when you need to, subject to a minimum quantity of 500 litres.

Kilve's organiser is Arthur Williams (741429), email Art_1948@yahoo.co.uk.

If you don't already use the scheme, why not contact Arthur now to take advantage of it?

ST MARY'S FLOWER GROUP

On Friday 22 December at 1pm we are planning to decorate our lovely church with flowers either in an arrangement or in a vase of water.

We would love to have more people join us over the next year. Why not come and help us and see if you would like to come on to our rota? There are only 8 people at the moment, so the more volunteers we have the less work there is to do and your turn will become less frequent. We would team you in pairs for safety and companionship.

If you are interested, please contact Joy on 07711 317903 or 01278 741672, or Sally on 07710 420337.

FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ



Jubilee Rooms
Castle Street, Stogursey
**Every other Wednesday
10.30am until 12.00 noon**

Forget-Me-Not Cafés provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their carers, family, and friends.

We enjoy all sorts of activities including music, bingo, singing, puzzles, art and craft, in a friendly environment.

We also offer a friendly and confidential chat if you need it.

Please note that our guests with memory issues must be accompanied by a family member, friend or carer.

All from the surrounding villages are welcome to come along for coffee and a chat. Helen and Rose look forward to seeing you soon.

Free entry, but a donation towards our running costs would be welcome.

FUTURE DATES

Wednesday 8 November
Wednesday 22 November
Wednesday 6 December
Wednesday 20 December:

**CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS!**

Wednesday 3 January 2024
Wednesday 17 January 2024

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttelhelen@gmail.com
Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023

This year our joint ladies' and gentlemen's lunch will be held on Tuesday 12 December at The Hood at 12.00 for 12.30.

We have limited numbers so, if you would like to join us for a wonderful meal and some laughs with friends, please contact either myself or Arthur Williams to book your place! Menus will be sent out nearer the date.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!!

Kelly Stone
741149

Kelly78stone@hotmail.co.uk

Arthur Williams
741429

Art_1948@yahoo.co.uk



MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

A reminder that the mobile library comes to the village every four weeks. It parks by the notice board in Hilltop Lane from 2.20pm to 2.50pm. The next two dates are Thursday 16 November and Thursday 14 December.

To use the service, you must be a member of Somerset Libraries. If you aren't already a member, you can join on the van by filling in a membership form and showing proof of your name and current address, such as a recent utility bill or a driving licence. The staff will then issue you a membership card, which you can use in any Somerset library.

You can borrow up to 20 items at a time. Books borrowed from the mobile library are issued for 8 weeks. You can also borrow DVDs and audio books for 4 weeks (these items incur a loan charge).



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REQUIEM CONCERT

On Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, singers from across Quantock Deanery and beyond will be gathering to sing John Rutter's *Requiem* at St Andrew's Church, Stogursey, at 6.00pm. All are very welcome to join the congregation for the service. There will be a retiring collection in aid of Heart for India (this year's Deanery Mission Project) and the Royal British Legion.

Here's to the Ladies who lunch

The next Ladies Who Lunch (LWL) meals are on Thursday 26 October and Thursday 30 November, at 12 for 12.30pm at the Hood Arms.

If you would like to join us, just contact me. I send out the menu each month for you to choose and pre-order your lunch.

Kelly (741149)

Kelly78stone@hotmail.co.uk

HOLFORD GARDENERS GROUP

Tuesday 21 November at 7.20pm

AGM

followed by

Christmas Cracker Fun with Flowers



with Myra Cox

Holford and District Village Hall

Members £1.00 Visitors £2.00

For membership details call 01278 741173

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING!

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 18 November

10am—12 noon

Café / Books / Bric a brac / DVDs

East Quantoxhead Village Hall



NEWS FROM ST MARY'S



Many thanks to the flower team for the beautiful decorations for the harvest service, and to Nick Dawe for playing the organ.



Services for this month

- 5 November 11am Family Service
3.30pm All Souls Service (see below)
- 12 November 10.45am Remembrance Day Service (please note time)
- 19 November 9.30am Morning Worship
- 26 November 11am Holy Communion

The All Souls Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 5 November: if anyone would like the name of a deceased loved one read out please let me know (01278 741229). Those who attend the service will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved one (not compulsory). The service is a short half hour one; refreshments will be available afterwards.

If anyone would like further information please contact me on 01278 741229 or email pam.cuff@hotmail.co.uk.

Pam Cuff

Don't forget!

You can view older editions of *Kilve News* plus much more information about the village on the Kilve village website:

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our next meeting is Tuesday 7 November at 10am – do join us if you are interested in what's going on – help is always needed for the events below. If you have ideas for the future please do get in touch: kvh@hayward.uk.net or via any committee member or the village hall post box. We could still do with some additional members to help make the events happen, as we are all busy with other stuff in our lives. If you can get involved please let us know, or come along to the meeting on the 7th. We now have a sum-up machine courtesy of the PCC, as a thank you for our support for the Antiques Fair, which means we will be able to take card payments at the village hall – hurrah!

Unfortunately no interest has been shown for *Kilve's Got Talent* so we are not pursuing this.

The village cheese and wine evening on Friday 13 October was a lovely evening and well-attended! Much wine was drunk and cheese eaten – thank you to all the Village Hall team for putting the evening on and to the villagers who attended and made it so enjoyable.

The 2024 village calendar

At the cheese and wine evening we had the chance to look at the photos submitted for the 2024 calendar – and what a fantastic selection they were. Thank you to the following people who helped make this happen by putting forward photos: Sheila Collins, Steve Collins, Alison Eyley, Ewan Flynn, Tessa Franklin, Sarah Hayward, Claire Heather, Gill Parsons, Claire Prior, Trevor Stanton, David Tansley, Gill Whitehead, Brian Woolley. We are now in the process of assembling the calendar and hope that all being well they will be with us in time for the coffee morning on 28 October, when the photographers can collect their prints if they wish, and everyone can, if not pick up the physical item, make a pre-order.

Hiring the Village Hall

Did you know that it only costs £7.00/hr for a villager to hire the main hall for non-commercial use, or £4.50/hr for the Denovan Room? The hall has a public address and sound system and a well-equipped kitchen – it's a great place for a kids' party or a special celebration. To book check out the website: <https://kilvevillage.uk/village-hall/>. Or go direct to our NEW booking system: <https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Kilve-Village-Hall> or email: kilvevhbookings@gmail.com.

100 Club

The winners for September were:

1. Arthur Williams
2. Steve Collins

If you would like to join the 100 Club please contact us – the more members the bigger the prize and the funds raised! We know that a number of members have not renewed – if you set up a standing order then you will not miss out on a draw! A form is on the village website. We will be getting in touch to remind those who have not renewed. *(But I'm sure they won't be sending the boys round! Ed)*

Things to look forward to

Saturday 28 October 10.30am: Coffee Morning – bacon baps!

Saturday 18 November 7pm: Ceilidh / Barn Dance with Hopping Mad, including a ploughman's supper. Music and easy dances to join in. Bar will be open. £15 including supper. Tickets available from the village shop, at the 28 October Coffee Morning and via kvh@hayward.uk.net. See posters for details. To pay by BACS: Kilve Village Hall, Natwest Bank, Sort code: 60-03-27 Account number: 53248198. Use *your surname Barn Dance* as the reference, please, and email kvh@hayward.uk.net to let me know you have paid online.

Saturday 25 November 10.30am: Coffee Morning

Early December Saturday: Village Food Event – date and cuisine tbc. If you are keen to be a village chef (à la Spice Boys) get in touch! This event is currently unsupported as no-one has stepped forward. We will try to reach out to get this happening but time is scarce!

Saturday 23 December 10.30am: Christmas Coffee Morning – mulled wine and mince pies!

Saturday 27 January 10.30am: first Coffee Morning for 2024!

Quiz and Bingo Nights – Jan/Feb 2024: details to follow

3rd weekend in March 2024: Cri du Canard – a French bal – in association with Take Art

For more information and tickets etc contact: Claire (01278 741654), or kvh@hayward.uk.net.

To book the hall: kvhbookings@gmail.com (forms and online bookings are here: <https://kilvevillage.uk/about-kilve/village-hall/>).

Sarah Hayward

DIARY DATES

- Sat 28 October 10.30am** Coffee Morning, KVH
- Tues 7 November 12.30 for 1pm** Gentlemen's Lunch, Hood Arms
- Wed 8 November 10.30am** Pond working party, at the pond, Sea Lane
- Sun 12 November, 6.00pm** Requiem Concert, St Andrew's Church, Stogursey
- Thurs 16 November 2.20–2.50pm** Mobile Library, Hilltop Lane
- Sat 18 November 10am–12 noon** Coffee Morning, East Quantoxhead VH
- Sat 18 November 7pm** Ceilidh / Barn Dance, KVH (see page 11 for details)
- Tues 21 November 7.20pm** Holford Gardeners Group, Holford VH (note time)
- Thurs 23 November 3–4.30pm** Kilve Voices, KVH
- Sat 25 November 10.30am** Coffee Morning, KVH
- Thurs 30 November 12 for 12.30pm** Ladies Who Lunch, Hood Arms

A TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

Recently I was surprised, delighted and not a little moved to unearth an old copy of a magazine from my place of further education. Aptly named *The Furrow Press*, it bears the sub-title *Official Journal of the Shuttleworth College Students Union*. The college, near Bedford, offered a Diploma Course in Agriculture as well as a useful rugby team and an in-house bar. One splendid use of the profits from this enterprise was an annual bursary covering the cost of a return budget flight to North America and an introduction to work on a dairy farm outside Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I remain proud of the fact that I was one of two students selected to benefit from this initiative during the summer vacation of 1969; on my return I wrote an article for *The Furrow Press* describing the trip.

After finishing our farm work, we decided to pilot ourselves across the continent to Vancouver via an 'auto drive-away' company. (These companies bought up used cars at an economic price in the East where they were manufactured, and then contracted delivery to the lucrative West with travellers such as my colleague and myself). At the company's offices we signed-up to take charge of a 6 litre Ford XL500 convertible which was to be our home for 10 days and 3,200 unforgettable miles across North America.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be a combined issue for December 2023 and January 2024.

Please send contributions to the Editor (contact details below) or leave at the Village Stores (marked *Kilve News*).

Please note:

NO LATER THAN 18 NOVEMBER

If you have reports, adverts or contributions ready before the deadline please let me have them as soon as possible. It really does help having them well in advance.

Please send contributions in a Word or Publisher file, or just as text in the body of an email. I sometimes need to adjust sizing and layout to fit, and I cannot do this with text contained in PDF and JPG files.

Contact the Editor on 01278 741663

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Our required daily average of 300 miles was no difficulty as everything was geared to the automobile. We slept in the car, paid 2/6d (12.5p) a gallon for 'gas' and enjoyed the many roadside diners. All the service stations bar one routinely checked the engine oil and washed the car's windscreen, and they all supplied free road maps.

We didn't follow the route laid down for us, which caused us some concern when the engine started an ominous ticking in Montana, some 300–400 miles south of where we should have been. Luckily a friendly mechanic at a lonely gas station cured the problem (a sticking cam follower) with a 15/- tin of special oil.

It is difficult to pick out any particular highlight of the trip, but Niagara Falls, the Prairies, the sprawl of Chicago and Yellowstone Park would be in the forefront. Our English accents gained us free admission to Yellowstone Park, as the ranger on the gate had rowed at Henley Regatta during his college days. Indeed, my outstanding memory is of the kindness and hospitality of the people we met.

As agricultural students we were fascinated by the variety of the agriculture that we passed in our journey, ranging from very rich land to desert. Dusty but triumphant, we reached the drop-off point in Vancouver 15 minutes before the contracted time!

I still have an extensive collection of colour slides, which, with my article, are a pleasant reminder of that memorable adventure.

Peter Hares, NDA