

Fiddington News



We are grateful to Hinkley Point B Power Station, EDF, for printing this Newsletter

Village Hall Committee News

Chairman's introduction

Hello everyone,

Spring is in the air, and Easter is around the corner. There are a couple of village hall events to look forward to this month.

The book swap on the 2nd March; followed by our 1st Jumble sale of 2024.

The jumble sale begins at 2pm on the 9th March

Refreshments will also be available.

More details on both events can be found in this news letter and on the Back Page

Hope you all have a wonderful March



James U'Dell

(Chair of the Village Hall Committee)

www.fiddingtonvillagehall.co.uk

In this issue:

Sponsor an Apostle tree! p 4

News about Fiddington Flower Show p 5

Know your winds? p8

**Dates for the Diary on
the back Page**

Report from Fiddington PC

Since the last submission in the December Newsletter, we have held 3 meetings including 2 Extraordinary meetings to deal with planning applications that fell outside our normal meeting dates.

Planning applications discussed were;

28/23/00006 – certificate of lawfulness for Woodland,

28/23/00011 – granny annex at Whitnell Farm,

28/23/00012 – variation of condition 10 of planning application 28/22/00003 for Mill Farm,

36/24/00001 -erection of advertising sign at junction of A39 and Over Stowey road,

28/24/00001 – erection of garage, extension to clubhouse and change of use of existing garage to soft play area at Mill Farm. The Parish Council had no objections to any of these applications.

28/23/00013 – change to all-year tourism, increase pitch sizes and create new caravan storage area at Mill Farm.

The application to change to all year pitches was considered and despite concerns by councillors for the impact on the village, the permission was supported as this is the planning policy for tourist sites. The all-year use will be of a temporary nature during the current HPC strategic demand for housing workers.

28/23/00014 – Retrospective application for the change of use of a single dwelling house to 6 No self-contained flats for a temporary period of 3 years until 31st December 2026 at the Garth, Church Road. This application was supported with a condition that the access on to Church Road is made pedestrian only, so all vehicles would need to use the Mill Farm access road.

At the November meeting a provisional budget of £4,990 was agreed. If the precept was kept at its current level this would reduce the reserves held by the Parish Council by about £700. The current precept is £4,300 and it has been at this level since 2019. It was agreed at our January meeting to increase the precept by £400 (which is a £2.50 per annum rise on a Band D property).

A new grit box has been purchased and is situated on the grass verge near the Fiddington village sign. As with the other boxes, bags of grit have been placed in them for ease of use and will be replenished when required.

At our last meeting Derek Buller gave notice that he will be retiring from the Parish Council at the Annual meeting to be held in May. If anyone would be interested in joining the Parish Council then please contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

Our next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19 th March 2024 in Fiddington Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tina Gardener

Clerk to Fiddington Parish Council

clerk@fiddington-pc.org.uk

www.fiddington-pc.org.uk

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Events, Portraits, Wedding

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Sunday March 3rd Eucharist 9am

Sunday March 10th Eucharist 9am

Sunday March 17th Eucharist 9am

Sunday March 24th Family Service 9am

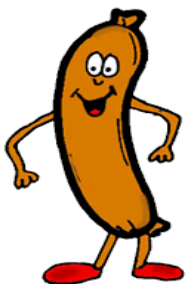
Sunday March 31st 9am Eucharist for Easter Sunday

Everyone is very welcome to any service or come and share a friendly cuppa after the service has finished. Coffee, tea and biscuits are always served from about 10.10am.

Please look at the website: www.achurchnearyou for information about services during Lent and Holy Week around the Quantock Gate Benefice.

Lent Course

Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm at Jamara Barn, Fiddington, during Lent there is a series of 6 sessions on the Beatitudes. This is very informal and friendly and open to all and everyone. It is suitable for those who are just interested in knowing more about living life as a Christian and want to find out more as well as those who have started the journey and need some refreshing.



Sausage Sizzle and Quiz

Saturday March 23rd 2024

Fiddington Village Hall

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Tickets £10.00

Teams of 4 - bring your friends or make up a team on the night.

Please contact

jenny.kinahan@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01278 732190 if you wish to come

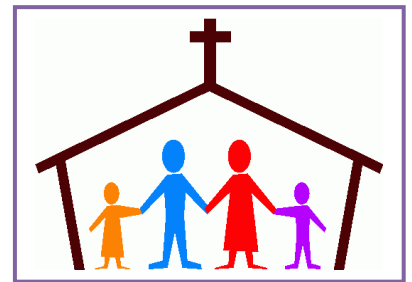
(for numbers and to let me know your team's dietary requirements)

Delicious supper of locally made sausages, onions and jacket potatoes with a selection of beautiful desserts. BYO drinks and your General Knowledge for a fun evening.

200 Club – Draw Results

Thank you to all our ticket holders for continuing to support our church in Fiddington. The quantity of tickets sold means we will be able to retain the additional £50 prize in June. The first draw of 2024 was made at the recent meeting of the Parochial Church Council and winning number is:

£30 – No 65: Peter Spear





SPONSOR AN APOSTLE TREE!

Our lovely churchyard has a line of Lime Trees, known as the Apostle Trees. Awkwardly, there are eleven!

To help with their care and maintenance, we would love you to sponsor a tree for £50 a year.

If you would like to do this, it will be possible to put a small plaque in front of your tree in memory of an old friend or loved one.

Please hurry so that you can choose your tree! Four are already sold!

So, please contact one of the organisers who will be delighted to organise things for you.

Our contact details are-

Matthew Parr ,email matttraveluk@yahoo.com Tel 01278 733856

Robin Kinahan ,email robin.kinahan@gmail.com Tel 01278 732190

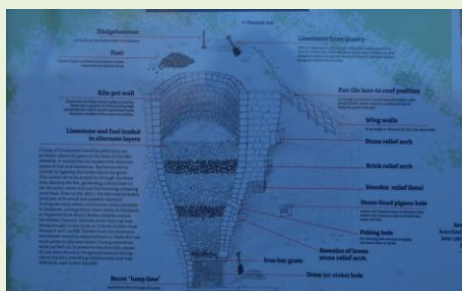
Wayne Hawley ,email hawley.wayne@gmail.com Tel 01278 734624

Aisholt lime kiln

The days are getting longer and warmer, stirring the temptation to wander more freely upon the hills. Where to go?

Aisholt is worth a thought. Good walking, not least on the Common and along the edge of the Great Wood, while Aisholt Wood, owned by Somerset Wildlife Trust, is quite one of the loveliest woodlands for miles around, beautifully endowed with spring flowers, including drifts of bluebells. The parish church is one of considerable antiquity, beauty and charm, and there is a handy car-park just uphill.

There is a further feature worth drawing to your attention, for over the past few years considerable effort has gone into the partial restoration and presentation of an ancient lime kiln. This is located by the side of a lane about a quarter of a mile south-east of the church, at grid reference ST195353. There are some excellent information boards by the roadside, while a few steps lead up to the top of the kiln, where further information is available, along with some thoughtfully-located seating, from which the superb views over the surrounding countryside can be admired.



Limestone does not occur across much of the Quantocks, but there are just a few outcrops, one of which was the basis of the quarry situated across the field from the kiln. Chunks of the quarried limestone did not have to travel far, to be fed down into the kiln. Fuel came from further away – perhaps wood or better still charcoal from the surrounding woodlands – but at some stage in history there was a shift to coal. This, probably, was shipped from South Wales to Lilstock or Watchet and brought by pack horse from there. Small fragments of coal in the ground above the kiln still linger, even though the whole operation finished over a century ago.

By heating the limestone rocks to a high temperature they were converted to quick lime (Calcium oxide), which could then be slaked by adding water to create slaked lime (Calcium hydroxide). This stuff was valuable, useful for making mortar and whitewash, treating animal hides, and spreading on the ground to neutralise acid soil to improve fertility.

Quite when this kiln was built is unknown, but it appears to date back at least to the mid seventeenth century, for there is a document in Somerset Records Office dated 1652 granting a licence *“to Elisabeth Elliott, alias Crouch widow, to continue her lime kiln in Aisholt for three years from the date hereof (Lady Day) paying yearly all the same, always at Michaelmas 10 shillings”*.

The information boards beside the kiln will tell you more. Appreciation is due to Peter Baker and the White family (upon whose land the kiln stands) for the dedicated restoration effort, as well as to various funding agencies for making this possible.

Rod Cole



The Fiddington Show cometh!

Make a note of the date: Saturday 13th July

(We know, we know – it's not the third Saturday of the month, but things sometimes change...)

So it is time to get planning and planting and designing and modelling, and knitting and painting and so on...

Oh, and it is time, come April 1st, to form an orderly queue outside Old Rectory Gardens to collect your seed potato/es and your sunflower seeds, part with the few shekels involved, and enter your name and contact info on the list (vital, when it comes to the judging).

The more the participants, and the bigger the number of entries, the greater the event!

And we have quite a celeb to open the show....



Lucy by Richard Brazier

Art Focus

The latest commission by Richard Brazier of a dog of more varieties than a tin of baked beans.

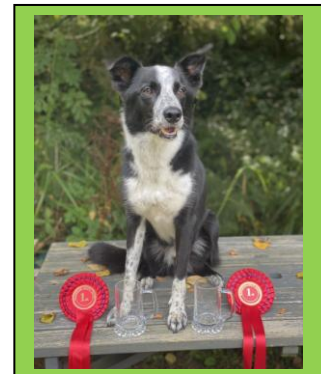
She is called Lucy and has the most delightful personality.

If you have a pet you would like immortalised and framed please contact Richard on mobile:

07721012178.

or 01278 734565

And talking of Dogs.



Fiddington residents Seb Thomas and his dog Buddy will be heading to the NEC in Birmingham in March to take part in Crufts 2024 after qualifying in agility.

Buddy was given up by his original owners at 11 months old and taken in by local rescue charity Paws4Thought.

Seb saw Buddy advertised for adoption on social media and was quick to give him a new home.

Seb has trained Buddy from a complete beginner in agility, but has managed to progress up the grades, and last summer out of thousands of dogs across the UK, got through two qualification rounds to make it to the famous green carpet of Crufts.

They will be competing on Thursday 7 March in the Kennel Club Novice Cup (Large), highlights will be available to watch on YouTube and TV coverage on Channel 4, and they will be happy to stop for photos and signatures if you see them in the village!!

Good luck Seb and Buddy!

Travels (without my father)

by Jane Zambra

In May 1994 I was asked to accompany a lady who took private escorted tours, and used the company I worked for to arrange them all, this trip was a recce to Syria, and of all the places in the world that I have been to, this trip was the most exciting. I know that I was asked to go with Sue as none of the others in the office would have been interested!

We started our 5 days in Syria in Damascus. Much grey concrete and not much else. Even the Great Omayyad Mosque that dated from the 9th century had been rebuilt in 1898. 1/2 a morning was suffice. Then we were driven to the uninspiring village of Maaloula However its great claim to fame is that they still speak Aramaic - the language that Christ spoke. I don't think that we got out of the car. But then our day started to get so much better. We drove west over the Anti Lebanon range of mountains that runs from Turkey down to the bottom of Lebanon The only pass, through which the Spice Road ran, was guarded by the biggest, and greatest of all the Crusader castles, Krak Les Chevaliers. Think of our border castles and multiply by about 5 or 6 to get an idea of the size. Built over 800 years ago and housed over 4000 troops. Very fine indeed, and well worth seeing. The village below is Greek Orthodox and the monastery bells echoed across the valley. There were 4 monks in the little monastery, and the 'new' icons were 15th century! We stayed in a little B & B run by an old French lady whose main joy in life was her 'potager' or kitchen garden. Most of Syria is sandy and rocky, but the narrow coastline is very fertile and there are acres of wonderful veg being grown.

Next day we got up very early and drove North to the castle of Qala'at Al- Marqab. It stands high above the sea and is built of black basalt stone. Not much remains except the outside walls and towers, but it was a magical place. Absolute silence except for a few birds singing and bees buzzing, honeysuckle, oleander and jasmine growing wild over the walls and the courtyard well still usable and filled with clean cool water. And there were NO tourists. Just the 2 of us.

From here we carried on up the coast, through Lattakia, Syria's third town and there is a university, and some very old artifacts have been found in the vicinity including the tablet with the first script alphabet (16 - 1300 BC). On, through wooded countryside that could have been Spain or France, past the castles of Salah-Ah-Din (Saladin to you and me!) We had a picnic lunch of spit roast chicken with garlic puree dip and the most wonderful cherries. After that there was a long drive of 4 or 5 hours - our objective was the monastery of St Simeon. Like many saints he was a little different. Wishing to be truly nearer to God he spent 36 years on top of a 15 meter high pillar. He was tied on to prevent him falling off whilst asleep.. 5th Century AD. Nothing much modern in this country. We had arrived there about 5 in the evening and most of the tourists had left to return to Aleppo. The stones were yellow/pink and in the soft evening light the sky pale blue and quite beautiful. End of day 2.

To be continued.. . . .

The Marion Evered Trust

We are pleased to say that we have rebooked Two Tone to replace the cancelled event in February. See dates below for info.

200 club is now up and running if you wish to join the monthly draw then contact Pauline on 01278 732522.

January winners:

£20 - 77 Lena Popham, £10 - 100 Jason Barrow, £5 - 110 Lynda Ingram

Dates for your diary:

1st April - Easter Bingo at Over Stowey village hall, doors open 7pm eyes down 7:30
27th April Two Tone at Stogusey village hall £12.50 includes draw entry, Bring own nibbles.

Tickets available from 07984943464 or 01278 732522 or 07415868531

June 8th / 9th Big Bash Charity cricket weekend in conjunction with Over Stowey CC.

The Marion Evered Trust presents
Two Tone duo
Enjoy an evening of music from 60's to 2024
New Date
Sat 27th April from 7pm
Victory Hall, Stogursey
Tickets £12.50 also includes entry to raffle
Bring your own Nibbles
call 07415868531 or 01278732522 or 07984943464 for tickets



STOGURSEY FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ

JUBILEE ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, STOGURSEY
FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS 10.30 – 12.00

Upcoming Café Dates:

- Wednesday March 13 th
- Wednesday March 27 th
- Wednesday March 27th
- Wednesday April 10th
- Wednesday April 24th



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.

There are a variety of activities, some involving existing local groups, such as music, singing, arts, crafts, poetry, bingo, quizzes, or if preferred, just a quiet chat over a coffee.

The Café runs twice a month, planned so that the cafe is open the alternate week to Watchet Forget-me-Not Cafe.

Many friendships have been made over the years.

Please come along and see what we do.

People from all the surrounding villages are welcome.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttelhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com

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Windsearch



Can you find 20 named winds below?

Listed on the right as, if you're like me,
you only know a few! (ed)

C	A	T	T	L	E	E	G	R	E	T	R
F	A	R	E	P	I	N	S	G	X	S	E
K	C	N	S	T	E	C	O	V	A	N	H
N	L	L	A	E	T	D	R	N	N	A	C
A	C	L	V	D	W	E	D	B	I	S	T
H	U	B	I	I	A	E	J	R	L	H	A
S	R	W	T	B	R	G	K	E	N	O	C
N	L	J	I	L	N	Z	O	V	U	V	R
E	E	A	I	D	K	O	R	O	D	E	E
E	W	N	E	B	G	N	O	L	S	L	T
R	G	K	X	T	I	E	X	P	Y	E	S
G	N	O	R	E	H	S	O	V	S	R	Y
S	H	E	L	D	U	C	K	N	O	T	O

Bora
Chinook
Mistral
Sirocco
Foehn
Khamsin
Bise
Brickfielder
Haboob
Harmattan
Bali
Abroholos
Bayamo
Buran
Zephyr
Araceli
Brisote
Helm
Levant
Monsoon

Winds of the World

A blow by blow survey!

March has the reputation of being windy, although meteorologists will tell you that, in the UK, December to February are the stormiest months. Around the globe there are many different named winds. Here are some notes on lesser-known blows:-

Abroholos	SE Coast of Brazil, bringing violent gusts
Bayamo	Cuba's South coast – warm and moist
Bora	Adriatic shores of Italy and Croatia – cold & strong
Brickfielder	South Australia – hot, with dust storms
Brisote	North Cuba – a strong trade wind, rough seas
Buran	Central Russia – sandstorms in Summer, snow in Winter
Chinook	N. American Rockies – a warming down slope drift
Foehn	Alps, Rockies, Andes – dry and warm
Haboob	Worldwide in dry regions – dust storms
Harmattan	'The Doctor' – dry & dusty, relief to humid W Africa
Khamsin	Egypt & the Levant – dry and dusty
Levant	France & W Mediterranean – Easterly
Mistral	S France into the Med – cold & strong
Sirocco	From N Africa into Europe – up to hurricane speeds

This is, of course, only a taster. To learn more, do conduct your own research.

You'll find it a bit of a breeze.

Dennis Harkness



from the Village Cook's Kitchen ...

ONE PAN COD WITH SHRIMP.

Serves 2

2 tbsp rapeseed oil
250 g baby potatoes - sliced
1 large orange pepper deseeded and cut into chunks
1 bay leaf
1 leek trimmed and thinly sliced
2 large cloves of garlic, thinly clicked
200g passata
200 mls vegetable stock (made with bouillon cube)
10g flat leaf parsley, chopped
280g cod loin cut into 6 large chunks
100g frozen wild red shrimps, defrosted and peeled
100g fine green beans



1) Heat the oil in a wide nonstick pan over a medium heat and fry the potatoes pepper and bayleaf for 5 minutes until they start to colour. Add the leek and the garlic and cook for a few minutes more, then stir in the passata and the stock. Bring to a simmer cover and cook for 25 minute until the potatoes are tender.
2) Add the parsley , cod, shrimp and green beans, put the lid on a cook or about 7 minutes more, or until the fish flakes easily when pressed with a fork.

Our Master of Wine recommends

You will need a fresh dry white wine with this. Such styles are made all over the world. To me the clear winner is a Muscadet, which is a light dry wine from an area near Nantes, which is on the coast of the Loire Valley.

There are various categories of Muscadets. Don't buy a wine whose label just states Muscadet. They will be a bit ordinary. Buy a wine with "Sevre et Maine" on the label. This is probably the best area of Muscadet. Also look for the words "sur lie" on the label. This means that the wines will have been aged for a while on the spent lees after the fermentation. This adds flavour and richness. So the wines will have a slightly mineral flavour married to grapefruit, apples and a light fresh acidity - perfect with this dish!.

Morrison's has The Best at £8 and Sainsbury's has a Taste the Difference and a Chateau de la Pierre at £10.50. The excellent Wine Society has the Domaine des Ratelles at £8.25, which is a Kinahan family favourite.



Dates for your Diary

- **Sat March 2nd 10-12 Book Swap** (no cooked breakfast)
- **Sat March 9th 2pm Jumble Sale** (see below)
- **Sat March 23rd 6.30 for 7pm Sausage Sizzle & Quiz**
- **Sat April 6th 10-12 Book Swap** (Easter Breakfast with Plant Sale- see below)

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

Please give donations to a committee member beforehand or to the hall on the day **between 10 - 11 am.**
Doors open for sale 2 pm.
Entry 50p/pr.
Drinks and Cake for sale

Deadline
for **April Issue**
is **March 20th**

all copy & info to
Juliet Harkness 01278 733245
fiddingtonnews@gmail.com

fireworks displays currently booked in at Quantock Lakes for 2024. They are all reduced volume "Whisper" fireworks. As noted previously we will aim to fire before 10.30pm.

16th March 2024
26th October 2024

FOR SALE

TRAILER Daxara 127 with weatherproof cover - 4'2" x 3'2" plus 2'4" tow bar. Good condition - £100.00.

Ring Sue or David 01278 733554.

APRIL BRING AND BUY PLANT SALE

Saturday April 6th 10-12
ATTENTION ALL GARDENERS !!

Ruth Brazier will be offering **Bacon Butties and Hot-Cross Buns**
(1 of each for £4)

Robin and Jenny Kinahan will be doing a **Plant Bring & Buy Sale** - they would be grateful for **any plant donations to sell.**

Plus the usual tea/coffee and biscuit -
(£1 entry if you do not want the breakfast)

So that Ruth has an idea of numbers, please contact her to request a breakfast - 01278 734565 / 07721 012178 (can leave a message), or email: ruthbrazier@live.co.uk



Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month 7.30pm
at Nether Stowey Church Centre

Coming up:

Thursday 21st March Pruning: when, why & how A talk by Gilly Hayward

Thursday 18th April Vegetable growing
A talk by John Addison

For more information contact secretary
Lucy Haswell 01278 671289
shbassoon@aol.com. Or visit -

<https://sites.google.com/site/stowey-gardeners>