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FROM THE EDITOR

SORRY THIS ISSUE OF 5Alive is late. Events, dear boy, events as prime minister Harold Macmillan is quoted as saying. Anyway, better late than never which was the possibility I mentioned last month. I was overcome at the response from right across all of the 5Alive villages with more than £1,500 donated, including one fantastic donation of £1,000, just in the week or so after the May issue was published.

We have made quite a big saving on print costs as well – hope you like the new 5Alive style.

However, there's still a gap in the finances, with a shortfall between costs and advertising revenue and my next-door neighbour, Libby, has very kindly organised an internet appeal, which has already raised several hundred pounds. You can find it on <https://pay.collectiv.com/saving-five-alive-28547> or via the QR code on the cover of this issue.

Thanks to her and to everyone who has offered their help, either financially or practically. I am completely knocked back by the support 5Alive has received. On a more positive note, the deadline for the July/August issue is Friday 13th. It's earlier than usual 'cos I'm going on my 'appy 'ols shortly afterwards.

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

WELL, JUNE WILL BE HERE by the time this goes to print but what a fantastic month May has been. We have had the longest spell of fine weather in May that I can recall since 1940 when we had what we remembered as “cloudless May” – fine clear skies early in the war which made it easy for the German air force to begin their bombing raids. I was only eight years old but I remember it well.

We had just moved house and as I was not yet in a new school, I was free to spend every day exploring the large overgrown garden of the old house which was our new home. Being an only child, I thought it was heaven, thankfully removed from friends who only wanted to play games with dolls. I invented several imaginary friends who enjoyed doing all the things I did; spending hours sitting on fallen logs or in the long grass identifying birds and flowers with my “Observers” books, counting butterflies, pondering on the lifestyles of beetles and bugs.

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett, 01373 466536, mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for JULY/AUGUST 2025 is JUNE 13th but do check!

**Printed by Frome Printing Company
01373 455222**

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy. For any enquiries please contact the church warden in your parish. For weddings contact the benefice administrator, Mrs Catherine Brown, email catmellsgroup@gmail.com. She works on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks
Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller, 07887 556936	John Reckless 01373 461841 Diane Sleigh 07907 156735 clerk@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk
Chantry Hazel Tovey 836384 Valerie Rawlins 836252	
Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947	
Mells/ Vobster Hilary Ingram 01373 311073	John Earl 01373 812450 Joy Book 07704 584953
Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175	Andrew Bramston 01373 836513 Rachel Nash clerk.whatleyparishcouncil @gmail.com

Roman Catholic Services	
Mells: Sundays at 11.30am	Frome: Saturdays 5.30pm.
Wednesdays 11.30am	Sundays 10.00am

Somerset Councillor: Philip Ham 01373 812152
Others to be confirmed
 Chantry and Whatley Francis Hayden 07970 839532

Chantry and Whatley Francis Hayden 07970 839532

In those days before television and social media, children were mainly shielded from the horror and reality of war. Consequently, it was a novelty and an adventure to sleep in our cellar at night with my special torch and one of my favourite soft toys – often a dog, never a doll. The cellar was snug and clean and shelved for storage while the door to the coal cellar room was firmly closed. It had electric light too, so it felt like a little underground house, fun to visit, with little regard for the menace in the skies above. I had a camp bed tucked under the shelving but the family only had armchairs. Oh dear! How did I get on to all that? Memories in the media recently of VE Day perhaps?

The May warmth has speeded up everything into flower so that the froth of blackthorn was almost overtaken by the cream lace of hawthorn. Birds, too, seemed not to know if they were coming or going. A friend said he had seen two swallows arrive on the same day that he had a redwing, who should have long departed, still on his lawn.

Another keen bird enthusiast, who has a window overlooking feeding stations and bird baths, had noticed a robin regularly paddling in a saucer. Not bathing, just paddling. Perhaps he had been standing on hot flagstones or roof slates and needed to cool his feet? It's surprising what unusual bird behaviour one can spot if one has the time and patience to watch.

A really exciting bird seen last week by a local friend was an eagle. I confess to being a bit sceptical at first but he checked with the Hawk and Owl Trust at Weyhill to be told that the young white-tailed sea eagles which had been introduced to the Isle of Wight had been seen over Somerset. Later another friend saw a huge bird of prey lifting a

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whole deer carcase which it dropped on being disturbed and didn't return although my friend waited hopefully.

But the day the village helpers were preparing then plant and cake sale in Chantry church and churchyard they were treated to an aerial display by the sea eagle being mobbed by crows and accompanied by local buzzards and kites who were probably reclaiming their air space but too cautious to do more than follow and observe. What a marvellous sight that must have been.

The following day while on duty all day at the plant sale I kept a hopeful eye on the sky but sadly saw nothing of note. But the same day, another "birdy" friend identified by song and sight a goldcrest in the churchyard. Amazingly largest and smallest birds seen in Chantry within 24 hours. How lucky we are! But watch out! "The eagle has landed." Do report any further sightings. Enjoy the summer! See you in July. *Hazell*

ROUND AND ABOUT

MENDIP COUNTRY PRACTICE

Time is Precious, a local charity, has kindly donated a Rhino Sensory Voyager to the Practice. The Voyager is a uniquely portable kaleidoscope of colour, sound and touch - jam-packed with stimulating sensory potential. They're typically used in hospitals, schools and homes to distract, calm and relax children and adults with Autism, Disabilities and PMLD. We thank them enormously for this generous donation to our community.

Retirement It is with regret that Dr Helen Musgrove will be retiring from partnership at Mendip Country Practice on May 14th after more than 25 years at the practice. We are very grateful for everything she has contributed to the care and wellbeing of patients over the years and wish her the very best for the future. Dr Musgrove's list will be transferred to Dr Sophie Herbert who joined the practice in March. Dr Herbert trained at University College London, completing her training in 2014, and has been a qualified GP since 2023, working in two London GP practices.

BUCKLAND DINHAM

Hi everyone. There will be a meeting for Buckland Buddies on Tuesday June 4th, 7.15 for 7.30. The speaker is from Frome Fair Trade. Everyone is welcome but please could you bring a food donation. Our craft day is May 31st. 10.00 – 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along even if you are not crafty so why not pop in for a tea or coffee and a chat. There are no craft days in June, July and August and the first one will be Saturday September 27th.

Sandy Carter

RIP Jenny Holmes

The funeral of Jenny Holmes was held at Haycombe Crematorium on May 7th. She was one of Buckland's real characters with a particular talent for poetry with one of her poems, Milestones, included in her funeral programme. She wrote:

It's not much fun being forty,
They can say what they blooming well please.
That sprinkling of grey
Wasn't there yesterday
Not that arthritic ache in my knees.

My husband said proudly he'd found just the thing
In his search for the right gift to get me
But a shawl trimmed with lace
Wiped the smile from my face
And he couldn't see why it upset me.

The post brought a card from my daughter,
Its words were depressingly flat.
O the dartboard of life, Mum,
You've reach double top
Well, there isn't an answer to that.

My son looked astonished to hear me remark
That this birthday was just a beginning.

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SERVICES FOR JUNE

	1 st June	8 th June	15 th June	22 nd June	29 th June
	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Pentecost	Trinity	Trinity 1	Peter and Paul
Chantry	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion Martin Weymont	11.00am Matins Hazel Tovey	11am Holy Communion	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins	11.00am Holy Communion Martin Weymont
Great Elm			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	
Mells				9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Cauldwell	
Whatley		9.30am Morning Prayer Hazel Tovey			

SERVICES FOR JULY

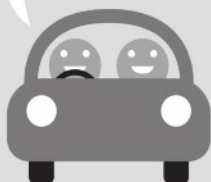
6 th July	13 th July	20 th July	27 th July	3 rd August
Trinity 3	Trinity 4	Trinity 5	Trinity 6	Trinity 7
	11.00am Matins Martin Weymont	11am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins	
10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	
	9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Cauldwell	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Gatliffe
	9.30am Morning Prayer Hazel Tovey		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	

Hardington Vale Church Services May – August 2025

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Sunday 1 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Monday 2 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Tuesday 3 June	11.00 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion
	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer
Wednesday 4 June	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 5 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 8 June	9.00 am	Rode , Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Iona Service
Monday 9 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 11 June	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 12 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 15 June	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Worship
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Monday 16 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Tuesday 17 June	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer
Wednesday 18 June	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 19 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 22 June	9.00 am	Rode , Contemplation and Coffee
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	6.00 pm	Buckland Dinham , Evening Healing service
Monday 23 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 25 June	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 26 June	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 29 June	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , United Service
Monday 30 June	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer

Version: 14 May 2025

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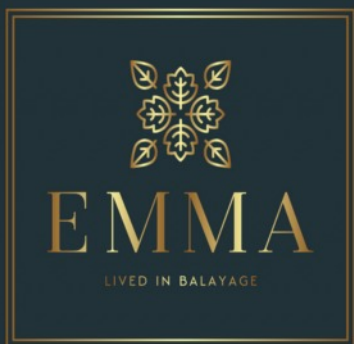
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To use cricketing terms, it was clear what he thought
I'd already enjoyed a good innings.

It might come as a shock to you children
That I've reached this incredible age.
I realise you reckon all forty year olds
Should just quietly retire from the stage.
But you needn't assume that I've finished the book
When I've only turned over a page.

CHANTRY

The AGM of Chantry church PCC was held in April the church wardens are Mrs Hazel Tovey and Mrs Valerie Rawlins. The affairs of the church were discussed and overall thanks to help and interest from locals everything is in a reasonable condition. The building is looking better and is being used for various events without detracting from the original meaning as a religious building. A new family have moved into Asham House. We would like to say a warm welcome to Mia and Edward, their children and a dog. We hope that you will settle in well and find time to join in any village events in the future and of course you are always welcome to the church. Many thanks to Mark Norris for cutting the grass on the roadside verge by the welcome to Chantry signs. It helps make the village look cared for



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Maintenance

Date	Flowers	Cleaning
08-06-25	Val	Sue
15-06-25	Val	Clare
22-06-25	Hazel	Sonia
29-06-25	Laureen	Dolly & Val.

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Open Studios – 5 – 13 July, daily 11 - 5

Brian Baxter and **Lynn Baxter** open their home for the fourth year for Frome Open Art Trail celebrating **The Creative Life**.

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www.claredelune.co.uk www.lynnbaxterartist.co.uk

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MELLS WITH VOBSTER

Notes of Mells Parish Council held on Tuesday May 13th 2025

(full minutes can be found at mells-pc.gov.uk)

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Consultation Launched to Help Shape the Future of Pharmaceutical Services: A consultation has been launched to help assess the current and future needs of pharmaceutical provision in Somerset. Closes on 16 June
https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/public-health/pna-consultation-2025/supporting_documents/PNA%20First%20Draft%20202528%20for%20consultation.pdf

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/active-travel/frome-school-streets-consultation/>

Great Green Directory Application: The Great Green Directory for Somerset residents to find local, sustainable and environmentally friendly businesses to help make eco and ethical choices when choosing products and services. If you are a local Eco-Business who would like to be listed in our new Great Green

Directory. <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/climate-and-environment/great-green-directory-application/> closes November 30th 2025

MATTERS ARISING

Quarry noise: Residents have met with Vincent Pitt, Area General Manager, who has taken onboard the various concerns and will look into ways to alleviate them where possible.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Speeding vehicles in Vobster: Clerk will make further enquiries regarding the survey that is required to start the progress to implement a change of speed.

Layby by Vobster bus shelter: Highways do not object to this in principle to the layby being filled in. Clerk to ascertain what is required to move this forward.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mells magazine – future funding: Cllr Henderson will meet with Peter Corbett to establish what is required for the long-term future of the magazine before the PC commits to funding.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Fallen tree across path: Ownership of the land it is on needs to be established.

Village signs - theft: Various village name signs have been removed and put up in different villages around the area. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the police.

Joy Book, Clerk to Mells Parish Council, Email: clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk, Tel: 07704 584953

WHATLEY

CHRISTOPHER FILER 1951-2025

We are sad to announce the death of Chris Filer of the Sun Inn at Whatley. He passed away on Sunday May 11th after a short illness. Any of you will remember him from his business with Jolly Jumpers, running his B&B and seeing him walking the local fields with his dog. He leaves behind Angela and Jack. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

The funeral service will take place at Haycombe Crematorium at midday on Friday June 6th.

CHURCH SOCIAL AREA

Whatley is beginning to make the most of our wonderful new social area in the church. The first official social evening was a great success, with lots of villagers and visitors turning up to sample the range of drinks at the bar. Many also enjoyed the delicious optional takeaway from Lungi Babas, along with much chatting around tables in the sunshine before retiring inside as darkness fell. The final calling time was midnight! It proved to be so enjoyable that these 'pub' evenings will also be held mid-month, although takeaways are only available on the first Fridays.

The first coffee morning likewise proved great success, with irresistible cakes and delicious chatter. It was much enjoyed by locals along with passing walkers. Both these events will continue on a regular basis. We hope they will flourish, but you will have to be part of this, putting dates in your diary and turning up when you can. It helps us to become a community, rather than just neighbours. Much thanks to the many people who are spending much time and effort to give us these opportunities; it is truly appreciated.

St. George's church. Cleaning and flowers.

June 7th. J Urhmacher

14th. P.Witt

21st. K Gay

28th. J Norris

The collection from the Group Service on 4th May, including Gift Aid Tax to be reclaimed, amounted to £62.50 and was given to Fair Frome.

FRIENDS OF WHATLEY

COME AND JOIN OUR REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS

at St George's Church, Whatley

Social evenings

every First Friday of the month 6.00pm - 11.00pm with food

and another Friday or Saturday towards the middle / end of the month

(check Facebook, email and 5Alive for the dates)

6.00pm -11.00pm just drinks

Coffee mornings every second Saturday of each month 10.00am - 12.00 pm

FOW monthly meeting every Third Tuesday of the month 6.15pm-7.15pm

We launched our first events with great success, taking the chairs and tables outside in the sunshine. All events were so well attended and gave us an opportunity to socialise with fellow villagers and visitors from elsewhere. Such happy occasions and we are looking forward to hosting our next round of social events in the beautiful church.

June dates for your diary

SOCIAL EVENING with FOOD, DRINKS and CONVERSATION

Where: Whatley St George's Church

When: Friday June 6th

Time: 6.00pm-11.00pm

Please drop into the church for a drink. There will be a bar open to purchase drinks at amazing prices and an Indian supper (pre order).

Bring your friends and family. Games for younger member and teens.

Drinks: Real Ale, Pale Ale, Lager & Cider at great prices

Food: pre order Lungi Baba vegetarian Indian food

£12 a head pre order through lizziedekkers2000@yahoo.co.uk by Wednesday June 4th

AND

SECOND SOCIAL EVENING, DRINKS and CONVERSATION

Where: Whatley St George's Church

When: Saturday June 28th

This date will vary each month check Facebook, email and 5Alive for dates.

Time: 6.00pm-11.00pm

Please drop into the church for a drink. The bar is open to purchase drinks and socialise.

Payment will be by card only. Sorry we are not able to take cash payments.

All Welcome

COFFEE MORNING

Where: Whatley St George's Church



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Anna Hammond

BA DipArch MSc ARB

e: annahammond@ymail.com

m: 0772 941 1360

t: 01373 834439



When: Saturday June 14th

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Homemade Cakes

Filter Coffee and Nescafe, teas

Soft drinks

Come and enjoy our friendly community space, have a chat and enjoy some amazing cakes all baked locally.

If anyone needs a lift

Contact FOW secretary Alice.kettle@gmail.com

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All Welcome

FRIENDS of WHATLEY monthly meeting

Where: Whatley St George's Church

When: Tuesday June 17th

Time: 6.15pm -7.15pm

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www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page



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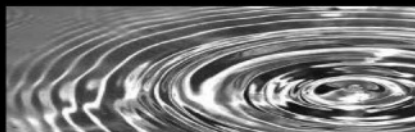
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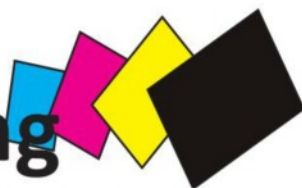
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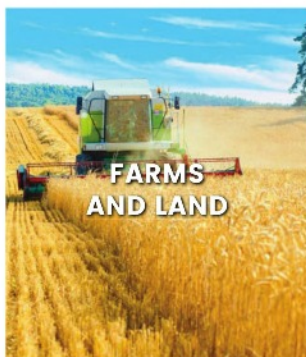
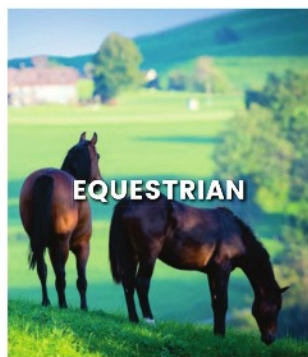
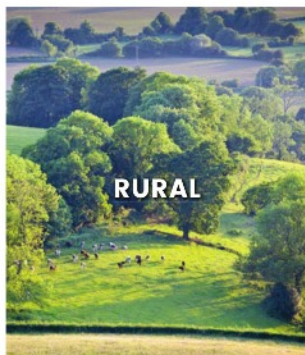
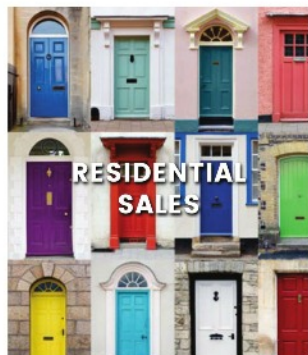
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