

# The Villager

Minsterworth News



from Jenny Franklin

July 2024

Edition 259

**Dear readers,**

Apparently, we're going to have some nicer weather before you read this – about time, we don't seem to have left winter behind us yet! This year has been so wet. I know, that's global warming but it's also chilly so how does that work?

A fond farewell to Liz Duff on p11, why not try the competition on p10 and do apply to join the Parish Council and make a difference on p14.

Crafternoons are back on p20 and see p24 for some lovely photographs of our D Day commemoration, thank you all for sending them in, especially Grace Watkins for the lovely pictures of Lorna and Daniel. Very glad you enjoyed it.

*Paula*

All items for consideration to: -

Paula Ruffley, Editor The Villager E-mail:

Tel: 07905 694612

thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com

**Deadline is ALWAYS 10th of the month before the magazine is published, so for August it's Wednesday 10th July or can be a few days later by arrangement.**

*Responsibility is not accepted for the accuracy of submitted items nor the content of advertisements.*

### KERBSIDE July 2024

GREEN & BROWN bin & caddy (landfill) (garden)		BLUE bin & caddy (recycling)	
Tuesday	2	Tuesday	9
Tuesday	16	Tuesday	23
Tuesday	30		

Please put your bin & caddy out the night before, where possible.



# Minsterworth Village Hall AGM Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Chairman's report

Good Evening. Thanks to all for attending. It is both an honour and a surprise to find myself presenting the Chairman's report this evening!

You will remember that Sarah took over from Andrea in October of 2022, and then around May/June 2023 we found ourselves with no Chair, no Vice Chair and no Treasurer. Someone had to step forward, and somehow, I fell into – or maybe dropped into! - the post. But it's been an enjoyable year.

Ritchie and Judith had both recently joined Simon, Brian and myself in 2022, then in 2023 they were soon followed by Gordon and Andrew, and then Stuart, who joined us later in the year. I am extremely grateful for the good-natured input of all committee members, and for the effort and enthusiasm that we have enjoyed together. It makes life so much easier if we do things as a team! So, let's look at what we have done throughout the year.

In May 2023 we had the Coronation celebration, then I think that the first event we organised was the car boot sale on 11th June. It wasn't a massive money-making event, but we had a really good turnout, and clearly everyone enjoyed themselves, which was the main objective. So, on 9th September we ran a second car boot sale. Simon ran wine tasting evenings in October 2023 and April 2024. These evenings have proved extremely popular, at least partly due to the superb eloquence and depth of knowledge of the presenters!

Evening talks have also proved popular, and it's good that we have plenty of helpers to put out tables, run the bar, take money at the door, sell raffle tickets etc. On 8th September we had a packed Hall for the GCHQ talk, then Tony Conder presented his Gloucestershire Odyssey on 24th November.

On 23rd February Matt Hart and Mike Powell gave a brilliant talk on the history of fishing in the River Severn, with funds raised shared between church and Village Hall. Then in March we tried something different – an afternoon talk on the Harwicke incinerator, followed by tea and cakes (provided by Church ladies) served at the table. The talk was excellent, and equally as good was seeing villagers sitting around afterwards and having a good chat. That's what Village life should be about! This year Gordon took the lead to run the Christmas Fayre in early December, which was again a very popular event.

In November Malcolm and Lucy Ball and Chris and Karen King organised an evening concert with 'Rockin Rod Crisp' as the lead vocalist. It was a tremendous event, a total sell-out, a brilliant evening, and raised substantial funds for the hall. There is talk of another similar event this year. Although she had retired as a full committee member, we are very grateful to Emma for organising the Comedy Evening on 10th February 2024. This type of joint venture does work, i.e. we have non-committee members organising events that provide both entertainment for the Village, and an income for the Village Hall. We are also grateful for those who help at the Hall in other ways – Ashley who keeps the grass mown and the place tidy, Paul Honeywell who puts out the dustbins every week, and Hugh Dowding for mowing the grass on the football field and taking it away.

There have been improvements in the running of the Hall and some renovations. Early in 2024 we moved to the Hallmaster booking system, which is now up and running. This was proposed by Bob Holder when he was in post, and we are grateful to Bob who assisted Simon, Gordon and Brian with the changeover. Simon took over the treasurer role in autumn 2023, and again

Continued on p4

Continued from p3

we are grateful to Bob who acted as 'temporary treasurer' up until that period, despite his earlier resignation from the Village Hall Committee. During the year we obtained a grant that enabled us to install a Hearing Loop, and in April 2024 we installed a new floor covering in the Legion Room. The roadside noticeboard has been repainted and generally renovated, and Richie has kindly taken over the role of posting notices for forthcoming events. The noticeboard does work because I have had several enquiries from people who said that they had seen an event advertised!

Stuart has joined us more recently and has a remarkable ability to fix things – including CCTV Camera and a leaking tap one Friday evening which led to a flooded toilet floor just as an evening party was starting! Stuart has also kindly taken on the Village Mailchimp email system that was set up when the AGM was held at the Church, which I think was in 2017 or 2018. Mailchimp is used to distribute larger documents and Neighbourhood Watch material.

So what of the coming year? Ritchie has obtained estimates for cleaning and/or refurbishing the floors in the toilet area, so we hope to go ahead with this, followed by redecoration. Sanding of the main hall floor needs to be considered, as this will make the hall lighter. Water still leaks into the cellar – did we ought to do a major project here? We also had a water leak around a window which still needs attention.

Many of next year's events are already planned. The D Day Commemoration is on Thursday June 6th, and we hope residents will support us. We have a Quiz night in September, another Comedy evening in October (thanks Emma!), and evening talks have already been organised for October, November, January, February and March, with a repeat of an afternoon talk (with tea and cake!) sometime in the New Year, when the subject will relate to how our recycling waste (= blue bins) is processed.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support and advice throughout the past 12 months. It's been invaluable. I would also like to thank village residents who have helped to decorate the hall on occasions, those who have helped to run the bar, helped with the raffle, with putting out chairs for events, helped by looking at and advising on structural issues, and of course all those who have helped by attending events that we have organised.

If we all work together, it will make our village a better and more enjoyable place to live.

**At the AGM the Committee for the coming year was elected, i.e. for 2024 - 2025. The Officers will be Chair – Roger Blowey, Vice Chair – Ritchie Hudson, Treasurer – Simon Ruffley, Secretary – Andrew Sekinger, Booking Clerk – Brian Billingham, Hallmaster co-ordinator – Gordon Taylor, Committee Members – Judith Bidmead and Stuart Irving.**

**The Committee are delighted to have a reserve of 'helpers' to call on for a range of events. This makes life so much easier for us, and we are extremely grateful for their regular input.**

**Roger Blowey, May 2024**



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**St Peter's Church, Minsterworth**

## **Riverside Songs of Praise**

**with Members of Gloucester Salvation Army Band**

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 15.00**

**Refreshments provided**

**All Welcome**



# Minsterworth & District Royal British Legion

The Special General Meeting, which I indicated in the May and June Villagers, was held on 13<sup>th</sup> June and all options were discussed regarding the future of the branch.

## Military History

July 1 <sup>st</sup> 1974	Princess Anne becomes Chief Commandant WRNS
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1950	First strike by RN Carriers in Korea
July 4 <sup>th</sup> 2014	Naming of HMS Queen Elizabeth
July 10 <sup>th</sup> 1943	Invasion of Sicily
July 12 <sup>th</sup> 1690	Battle of the Boyne
July 19 <sup>th</sup> 1545	Mary Rose sinks
July 24 <sup>th</sup> 1704	Capture of Gibraltar
July 29 <sup>th</sup> 1588	Battle of Gravelines
	Spanish Armada mauled by English fleet
July 30 <sup>th</sup> 1949	HMS Amethyst forces her way out of the Yangtze
July 31 <sup>st</sup> 1970	Last tot of rum issued in the RN

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Terry Bourne – President  
Minsterworth & District RBL



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## Normandy '44

He walked with us, we walked with him  
His scythe so sharp, his shadow grim.  
We laughed at him, he laughed at us  
As we knew he must, he gathered us.  
The ones he called were all too young  
Their lives had barely yet begun.  
They only knew of school or play  
With mothers calling at end of day.  
The ones he missed are now old men,  
And they have never known again  
The breadth of love that we shared then.  
But when, at last he calls for us,  
We'll go with him as sure we must,  
And meet our friends of so long lost  
To sit with them at tables blest  
Above the salt to take our rest.  
We'll take his hand and walk with him  
His scythe sharp, his shadow dimmed.

Written by Alex Loaring, Gordon Highlanders died 2007

My uncle

Alexander Loaring, Gordon Highlanders regiment

Landed on Gold beach on D Day, and part of a regiment fighting their way to Pegasus Bridge.  
The rest is history.

He did survive and died in 2007 aged 81.

Submitted by Ann Cocks

## Minsterworth Parish Council (MPC) June 2024

(This article is a summary of a selection of some issues discussed at the Parish Council meeting and does not represent the full minutes of the meeting)

**Election of Officers.** The election of officers for 2024/2025 had been deferred from the May Meeting as the Vice Chair had been absent. Roger Blowey stated that he wished to stand down after nearly 9 years in post and Nick Powell was nominated and appointed as the new Chair. There were two nominations for vice chair, and Victoria King was elected

**Financial Report.** Paul Bell, who had carried out the audit, presented the accounts and made recommendations for the coming year. The Council remained in a very sound financial position. It was noted that CIL money needs to be spent on infrastructure projects. Villager accounts should be re-incorporated into the main spread sheet

**Planning** APPLICATION NO: 24/00319/FUL: Planning application (part retrospective) for the erection of a storage building for use in conjunction with their haulage and transportation business at Minsterworth Garage. As the proposed building is only 6m high to the apex, the Parish Council did not object

**Highways** - The Parish Council are very pleased with the cutting of the verges carried out on their behalf, although as growth was very fast this year with a warm wet spring, the cutting could perhaps have been carried out a bit earlier. This needs to be reviewed next year.

We are still awaiting the promised work from Highways to turn back/widen the footpath on the westbound carriageway from Severn Bank to Oakle Street junction, and work to improve the drainage in Watery Lane

The date for the next meeting with Highways has now been fixed for 19<sup>th</sup> July, when it is hoped that proposals for improving road safety will be put forward. The meeting is to be chaired by Mark Harper, and it is hoped that the election results will not jeopardise this arrangement.

Ditch under A48 at The Dinney. This is where Long Brook (the Minsterworth boundary) enters the Severn. Concrete panels had collapsed into the brook some 3 – 4 years ago and the bank is slowly eroding. Rectification work should be completed this autumn.

**Playground** - MPC has been offered a longer lease on the playground from Glos County Council (to enable us to obtain a grant for play equipment), but this would come at a significant additional cost. It was decided to write to GCC to ask if the proposed annual rent could be decreased. As the annual inspection of the play equipment is due it was agreed that we would investigate costs if carried out by TBC

**Biodiversity Plan.** It is now a Government requirement that town and parish councils must compile a biodiversity plan. Fortunately MPC has already carried out many of the actions needed, including planting trees (several thousand trees have been planted in Minsterworth over the past 3 years as part of GCC ash dieback scheme), providing wildlife areas (parts of Ham Green are left unmown and the eastern border of the playground remains as a small copse), wild flower areas (outside of the playground and at Ellis Bank entrance), and bulb/flower planting (in front of our Village gates and on the verges by many residents). There are many other examples, and these will be incorporated into a single document.





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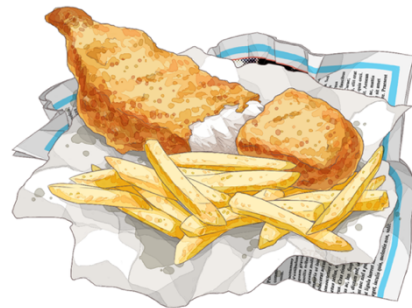


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## FISH AND CHIPS RETURNING TO VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee have been negotiating with a supplier, and it is highly probable that we will be returning to a fish and chip van once a month on a Wednesday evening, starting later in the summer - so watch this space for more details!



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## The World's Shortest Story

Paula Ruffley

It was said that Ernest Hemingway once made a bet that he could write the world's shortest story. It would be a tearjerker of a tale only six words long.

His six-word story was, "For Sale: Baby shoes, never worn."

Hemingway won the bet.

Researchers have long since proven that Hemingway's baby shoe story has been around since at least 1906. It wasn't even attributed to Hemingway until 1991, 30 years after the author's death. In fact, these types of micro tales go back so far that even William Shakespeare employed them.

"These violent delights have violent ends."

"Eaten out of house and home."

And perhaps his most famous line,  
"To be or not to be."

This type of micro story is called "flash fiction." These six-word memoirs were so popular that they spawned a series of books, one of which became a New York Times bestseller.

I know our Reading Group doesn't like a short story, but I am strangely drawn to them. I enjoy 'Stroud Short Stories' and have even got Simon enjoying Volume 3. Unfortunately, it'll be a while until Volume 4 is out as they're usually an anthology of several years' competitions. Patience.

### **Why not write a six-word story?**

**Send it to [thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagerminsterworth@gmail.com) by Wednesday 10th July** and I promise to include it in the August Villager (if it's clean!). Blimey, I might even ask the Villager Steering Group to judge them if I get several!

# A Farewell to Liz Duff: 1933 - 2024

Sarah McHale

It wasn't the warmest of Summer days but the sun did make an appearance as Minsterworth bade farewell to one of its most well-known and much-loved residents: Liz Duff of Mermaid Cottage. For a lady who adored the Arts the service was most fitting with carefully selected readings, beautiful music and the church filled with flowers gathered from village gardens and the nearby river bank. Tributes from the family and reminisces from neighbours and friends tried hard to capture the essence of a truly wonderful lady whose passions and interests included gardening, poetry and prose, travel, painting, drama, the list is endless. But essentially, Liz was a people person. Family meant everything to her, and those of us who knew her were swept up and became part of it. Liz was genuinely interested in all of us and had that rare and special gift of making us all feel important to her.

Liz and George moved to Minsterworth in 1986 from nearby Highnam. Originally from Irvine in Ayrshire she had moved south after marrying George in 1955, settling first in Middlesbrough and then eventually in Gloucestershire. She would say living in this county she had never resided as far



from the sea that she loved, but the move to the banks of the Severn fulfilled her need to be by the water. The purchase of Mermaid Cottage seemed to be Liz's spiritual home. She created the most wonderful home and garden, its door always open to visitors of all ages whether this was neighbours' grandchildren exploring secret staircases, fellow gardeners snipping cuttings, or folk calling in for a cup of tea or something stronger! Calling in unexpectedly would find Liz deep in a book, lost in the garden or painting in her studio.

Liz retired from teaching in July 1988 enabling her to play a very active role in village life. The church was important to her; she

sang in the choir, arranged flowers and played an active role in its running. Liz also served on Minsterworth Village Hall committee organising and running various events. Along with a small group of residents she was proactive in establishing a branch of the Arts Society (formerly known as NADFAS), now meeting at Highnam it numbers some 70 members, clearly fulfilling an interest in the area for the Arts that Liz had identified several years before.

Many of us are fortunate enough to have one of Liz's paintings in our homes. Self-taught, she had a brilliant eye for colour and mark. She adored landscape, but was especially fascinated by the relationship between figures, frequently leaving the narrative of

many works to us the viewer to discern what the picture meant. She was an active member of both FarOpen Studios and the prestigious Fosseway Artists exhibiting regularly with both and opening the doors of her studio to visitors each Summer.



Minsterworth was so very important to Liz, she loved this village, adored her neighbours and

Continued on p12



all that life here presented. While reminiscing about the past, she also embraced change and was equally as excited about the community's future plans and events. It is therefore very fitting that she now rests in St Peter's churchyard looking out over the river and surrounded by close friends who had gone before. It was also very appropriate that following the service many of us walked along the river bank to Mermaid Cottage and enjoyed afternoon tea in her stunning garden. Liz would have loved every minute of her farewell. Hopefully we sent her on her way with words, music and art. But most importantly showed her the love that she had bestowed on us, both as individuals and as a whole community.

Sleep well Liz





**All residents and others are welcome to the  
Harvey Centre  
AGM**



On Wednesday 17th July  
at 7.30

This is an opportunity to meet the trustees, look around and ask questions.

We look forward to seeing you.

<b>HARVEY CENTRE JULY 2024</b>	
<p>MON</p> 	<p><b><u>1)Main Hall: Tan House Choir</u></b>  <b>Weekly from 7.00 to 9.00pm</b>  Telephone <b>01452 750128</b> to join or find out more....</p>
<p>TUES</p> 	<p><b><u>1)Memory Café</u></b> every 4 weeks on a Tuesday 11:00am – 1:30pm.  <b>No Charge</b>  <b>Next Café, Tuesday 2nd July, 2024</b> Safe space for dementia patients, their partners, families or carers to enjoy coffee, crafts and lunch.  Spaces are currently available. <u>For further info call 01452 750128</u></p> <p><b><u>2)Main Hall: Crafternoons</u></b>  <b>Monthly, will restart in September, between 2-4.30pm, on a Tuesday</b> We will advertise nearer the time here and on the village WhatsApp &amp; Facebook</p> <p><b><u>3)Main Hall: Pilates for Wellbeing-</u></b>  <b>Weekly, Two sessions between 5.30pm &amp; 8pm</b>  Telephone 01452 234005 or email <a href="mailto:info@farrphysio.co.uk">info@farrphysio.co.uk</a>  Leave telephone number / email address and a member of the team will then contact you to arrange.</p>
<p>WED</p> 	<p><b><u>1)Community Café @ The Harvey Centre</u></b>  <b>Weekly, The drop-in community café</b> open from 10:30 am to 12.30pm. Cake and hot drink £2.50</p> <p><b><u>2)Main Hall: Strength, Balance and Mobility Class-</u></b>  <b>Weekly from 10:30 to 11.30am</b>  Telephone 01452 234005 or email <a href="mailto:info@farrphysio.co.uk">info@farrphysio.co.uk</a>  Leave telephone number / email address and a member of the team will then contact you to arrange.</p> <p><b><u>3)FREE -Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available</u></b> <b>Twice weekly</b>, 10:30am to 12:30pm Extensive range of novels</p>
<p>FRI</p> 	<p><b><u>1)Main Hall: Art for Wellbeing</u></b> Paul Fisher leading sessions.  <a href="http://www.selway-fisher.com/paul_fisher_art.htm">www.selway-fisher.com/paul_fisher_art.htm</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>New members very welcome</b></p> <p><b>Autumn &amp; Winter Art sessions</b> (£12 for all session, £15.50 adhoc sessions)  <b>Sept 6<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup></b> (e.g. 4 weeks at £12 = £48  <b>Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup></b> 4 weeks at £12 = £48  <b>Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup></b> (note 5 weeks at £12 = £60  <i>Please Telephone 07525 330364 to book a place</i></p> <p><b><u>2)FREE -Book/DVD/ Audio Books exchange available</u></b>  <b>Twice weekly</b> 10:30am to 12:30pm Extensive range of novels</p>

# Minsterworth Photographic Club

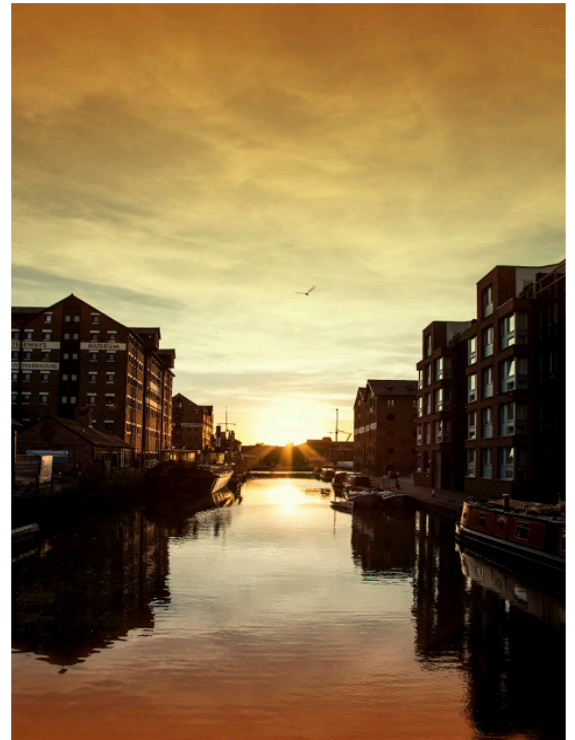


Now in our 7<sup>th</sup> year, Minsterworth Photographic Club has established a core of keen photographers who have measurably improved their skills in the art. Meeting twice a month, we look at all aspects of photography from beginner to advanced techniques. We are lucky to have such a delightful venue in the village hall, but many of our members are from surrounding villages. We are looking for more Minsterworth members to join us even if you belong to another club! You will find a warm and friendly group of like-minded people, where we share ideas and knowledge in pleasant surroundings.

## *"We Teach Photography!"*

We are one of a very few photographic clubs in the area that actually teach the subject. From composition of an image, through the technical aspects of your camera to post-production and enhancements of images, we look into how to make you a better photographer. It doesn't matter what level or type of equipment you use, it's the results that count. From camera phones to DSLRs you'd be very welcome!

We meet on the 3rd and 4th Monday of each month, from September 16th in the village hall. If you'd like to give us a try, your first two sessions will be free of charge and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. If you'd like to see what our members are currently achieving, and for more information, please take a moment to look at our website gallery. You can find our website at: [www.minsterworthphotoclub.co.uk](http://www.minsterworthphotoclub.co.uk)



### **If you think our members' images are very good, that could be you in just a few months...!**

For a more casual encounter with members and to see examples of our work first-hand, we will be exhibiting our images at the Tibberton Show on the 17th August from 2pm at the Taynton and Tibberton Village Hall. Come along and see us and have a chat and look at our work; we'd be delighted to see you!

If you can't wait until then, there is a link to contact us on our website homepage. You will also see our calendar of events to tell you where and when we are meeting and the evening's subject. We hope to see you soon...

Bob Holder Grad. Dip. Phot.  
Chair, Minsterworth Photographic Club

## **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

Due to a recent resignation, we now have another vacancy on the Parish Council. This is YOUR OPPORTUNITY to influence what happens in our Village. For further information please contact our clerk, Kate Wilks, at [clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterworthparishcouncil.org.uk) or one of the current Parish Councillors.

***Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024***

***Minsterworth Village Hall***



***Stall holders £8 per car,  
£10 Small Van, £15 Large Van***

***Gates open 08:00 for sellers    09:30 for buyers***

***Tea, coffee and cake available***

***As in previous years there will be a 'Village Stall' where  
donated goods (please!) will raise funds for the Village hall***



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# SUMMER SONGS

Paula Ruffley in no particular order!

Summertime	George Gershwin	1934
Indian Summer	Victor Herbert, Al Dubin*	1919/1939
Summertime Blues	Eddie Cochran	1958
Sunny Afternoon	Ray Davies	1966
Good Vibrations	Brian Wilson	1966
Sittin' in the Dock of the Bay	Otis Redding	1967
Here Comes the Sun	George Harrison	1969
School's Out for Summer	Alice Cooper	1972
Summer Breeze	Jim Seals, Dash Crofts	1972
Everybody Loves the Sunshine	Roy Ayers	1976
Cruel Summer	Bananarama	1983
Walking on Sunshine	Katrina & the Waves	1985
Summertime	DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince	1991
Happy	Pharrell Williams	2013

\*Victor Herbert wrote the tune in 1919, Al Dubin added the lyrics in 1939

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## PLACES TO VISIT IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dawn Ricketts

### Littledean Jail

**Description** - 18th-century prison housing quirky, disparate exhibits on crime, spying and Victorian taxidermy.

**Address** - Church St, Littledean, Nr. Cinderford GL14 3NL

**Cost of Entry** - Adults £10. Seniors £9 Juniors 3-18 £9. (Children under 3 Free)

**Opening Times** - April to October. Thursday Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays. 10:00 - 17:00 with last entry at 15:45.

Contact - Tel:01594-826659 or email [crimethroughtime@littledeanjail.com](mailto:crimethroughtime@littledeanjail.com)

**NOTE** - Due to the graphic and explicit images and exhibits throughout, this Museum is not suitable for children and as such, the prices reflect this.

**Things To Do** - Crime through time collection + The Peaky Blinders + In memory of WPC Yvonne Fletcher + Witchcraft Museum + Satanism + The Occult + Paranormal and Beyond.



## Minsterworth 200 Club

The result of the June draw was as follows:-

£50	023	Julie East
£20	148	Paul Williams
£10	029	Julie Fisher

Thank you to all who have renewed their subscriptions for the 200 Club year. A full membership for the last year has meant that we have been able to hand over a cheque for church funds of £1200. Grateful thanks are due to the collectors of the subscriptions. Special thanks to Jo Lee who has been one of the collectors for many years. Jo has now retired from this, but we are pleased to be able to say that Jo Stait has kindly volunteered to take over.

## Whist Drive

Whilst some of our regular players were unable to attend the June whist drive, it was a pleasure to see some people who had not been able to come for a while. Enough players were there to make up 7 tables and this resulted in £108 for church funds. A special thank you to Joy and Dave who battled with the store room to get the card tables out!

The next whist drive is on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

## Church service times and flower rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> July	3pm	Riverside Songs of Praise with the Salvation Army	Anne Pearson
14 <sup>th</sup> July	11am	The 11 o'clock	Anne Pearson
21 <sup>st</sup> July	9.30am	Holy Communion	Cathy Thomas
28 <sup>th</sup> July	10am*	Benefice Holy Communion	Cathy Thomas

\*Holy Communion – Benefice Service – at Rudford

## Felicity Karger ('Flippy')

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of Minsterworth's best known residents. Felicity passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 at her current home in Ely, Cambridgeshire.

She was of course a descendant of the Viner - Ellis family, who were great benefactors of our Village, for example by both donating the land and raising the funds that enabled the building of our Village Hall in 1928. Felicity herself provided land at below open market value for our Affordable Housing project which we started in 2011.

We send condolences to her family and friends. Funeral details will be shared via word of mouth and social media as soon as they are available.

# CRAFTERNOONS WILL BE BACK IN SEPTEMBER

The full programme for the autumn and spring is still a work in progress but please put the following dates in your diary:

**THURSDAY 26th September.** Save the date as this workshop is not fully confirmed.

**THURSDAY 24th October.** Fabulous opportunity to learn the craft of **MOSAICS** with Rachel who has just had her latest beautiful piece installed in our new community hospital in Cinderford.

**THURSDAY 28th November.** Create your own fabulous designs using the ancient art of **BATIK** with Bridget. Batik is a traditional wax-resist technique of dyeing and decorating fabric.

**THURSDAY 23rd January.** Learn how to create extraordinary **CUP CAKE DECORATIONS** with Les who takes the ordinary to a whole new level. Then take away the result and enjoy!

As always, all workshops will run from 2 - 4.30 and will include tea and cake. Great fun for all and no experience is needed. These afternoons are just an opportunity to learn something new, eat cake and drink tea and of course enjoy good company. Come and try!!

Full programme available next month

*Sue*

## July



"July is a blind date with summer." - Hal Borland

"I drifted into a summer-nap under the hot shade of July, serenaded by a cicada lullaby, to drowsy-warm dreams of distant thunder." - Terri Guillemets

"If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." - Roald Dahl

"Tears of joy are like the summer rain drops pierced by sunbeams." - Hosea Ballou

"The summer night is like a perfection of thought." - Wallace Stevens

"Let us live like flowers—wild and beautiful and drenched in sun." - Ellen Everett

"If you're not barefoot, then you're overdressed." - Unknown



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## Minsterworth Reading Group

Jo Stait

My Sister, The Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite

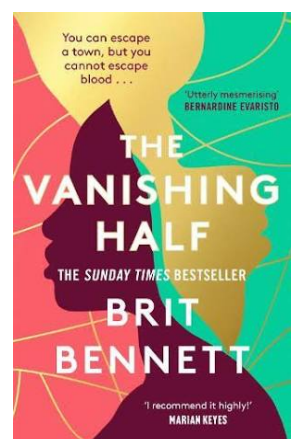
The story takes place in Lagos, Nigeria and is about two sisters, Korede and Ayoola. The book starts with the murder of Ayoola's boyfriend and the clean-up operation taking place.

We discover a history of abuse from the father of the girls, a mother whose focus is on the younger daughter who is beautiful, self-centred and spoilt. Korede is a nurse working hard in a hospital with a team who appear to be lackadaisical. She shares news of her life and family with a comatose man who unexpectedly recovers and remembers her secret but chooses not to share it.

This is an unfolding story with love at the centre of it alongside corruption and jealousy.

Despite the title and the cover putting some members off, it was felt the book was a quick read and a page turner. It had conflict and dark humour and was enjoyed by all.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 5th July we will discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.



**M.B**

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A decorative border surrounding the text, featuring green holly leaves and clusters of red berries. The background is white with a subtle pattern of green pine needles and holly leaves.

**Put this date in your diary for the  
Minsterworth Village Hall  
CHRISTMAS FAYRE  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
10:00am to 2pm  
Contact Gordon Taylor for more info  
MVHgordon@minsterworth.co**

## D Day Commemoration Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024



Many thanks to everyone who supported our event on 6th June. Although the evening could have been a little warmer, we did not have any rain, and the sun came out later, allowing us to once again sit out on the patio and enjoy another village social occasion. The evening was organised by a group of four, representing the Church, the Village Hall, the Harvey Centre and the Parish Council. Thanks to the residents who supplied 'memorabilia' displayed as part of the event. We had original 1940's newspapers, wartime photos, a gas mask, food ration books, a bomb, a hand grenade, a wind up '78' record player, a war time radio, a silk map showing escape routes from occupied Europe, a continuously running power point presentation and 1940's background music. The displays were well attended throughout the evening. Thanks to those who manned the bar (the Pimms was again excellent!), those who served teas and cakes, provided games for children, and for the many people who helped to decorate the hall and tidy up afterwards. A good number of adults and children came in dress of the period, and we are grateful to Heather and Joy for

Continued on p25



Continued from p24

judging the children's competition. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended – your support is essential and without it, these events simply would not happen!

This was Minsterworth at its best, organising a function that typifies the very reason why the village hall was built. A lovely get together and chat to friends. The beacon lighting ceremony and involvement of the Minsterworth British Legion reminded us of the sacrifices that so many made 80 years ago to enable us to live the lives that we enjoy today. This was particularly poignant, in that, due to the closure of the Minsterworth Branch, our event was the very last time that the Minsterworth Legion Standard was publicly and formally paraded.

**'When you go home, Tell them of us and say,**

**For your tomorrow, We gave our today'**



***Minsterworth  
Village Hall***

**Sat. 28 Sep 7.30pm  
£5 pp. BAR and RAFFLE**

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***Martinwhitehouse586@btinternet.com***

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Don't miss this charity quiz night on Sat 28 Sep!

Martin's fundraising quizzes have raised almost £10,000 to help fund Muscular Dystrophy research.

Featuring some unusual audio video rounds, this will be a fun night!

Feedback is always great... and with a bar and raffle... what's not to like?

Bookings only please. See you there!



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## **HELPFUL COMMUNITY LINKS**

**Minsterworth Neighbourhood Watch** – join by e-mailing [64lettie@gmail.com](mailto:64lettie@gmail.com)

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

[www.minsterworthvillagehall.org](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org) – booking, recent events

[www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/](https://www.facebook.com/MinsterworthGlos/)

St. Peter's church – [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14101/) services, etc

Minsterworth Matters WhatsApp – join by texting Roger Ingham on 07525330364 immediate village interests

Harvey Centre – [www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/the-harvey-centre](http://www.minsterworthvillagehall.org/the-harvey-centre)

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## Welcome to Minsterworth Village Hall

### Why not plan your next event with us?

The village of Minsterworth can be found on the A48 to the west of the city of Gloucester, on the north bank of the River Severn nestled between the Cotswold Hills and the Forest of Dean.

### At the heart of the village is Minsterworth Village Hall.

This website is for Minsterworth Village Hall activities, clubs and events.

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