



5ALIVE!

September 2026



MELLS CAFE RE-OPENS! SEE PAGE 18

News from
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Great Elm, Mells with Vobster and
Whatley

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FROM THE EDITOR

STACKS OF GOOD NEWS this month. First of all, welcome to Reverend Jessica Nyander who will be in charge of church things for Buckland Dinham as well as the rest of the Hardington Vale group. Check out her comments on joining us below. Fingers crossed that it won't be long before a new rector is appointed for the Mells benefice (hang on, that strong breeze is caused by a crowd of Gloucester Old Spots flying overhead!!). Secondly work on the lychgate at Buckland Dinham is due to start next month. We'll miss the scaffolding that's been there for a long time (no, we won't!!). And Mells Café has reopened. There was a risk that it would shut for ever but thanks to Lauren its future is now secure. Let's hope it that same goes for the Mells shop and post office which is looking for volunteers. Next, congratulations to Ella Norris who did so well in the European Championships. See page 28. And by far the best news (as far as I am concerned) is that Gemma Brooking has agreed to take on the admin role for 5Alive. She's handling the advertising too - her contact details are at the bottom of this page and at different places throughout the magazine. Many thanks Gemma – PHEW!!!! One thing she will be doing is keeping an eye on the magazine finances. They're OK at the moment but if you would like to make a donation, please do! Contact Gemma on the numbers below. See you with more good news in October – I hope!!

Peter

A WORD FROM JESS

IT IS AN HONOUR to have this opportunity to introduce myself to readers of *5Alive!* and especially to say hello to everyone in Buckland Dinham.

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com
01373 466536

Advertising: Gemma Brooking fivealivemag@outlook.com

Deadline for October 2026 is SEPTEMBER 18th
but do check as it could change

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy.

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 Dolly Blacker 836668 Valerie Rawlins 836252	
Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947	
Mells/Vobster standrewsmells@gmail.com	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

Quaker Services

Quakers (The Society of Friends) hold a Meeting for Worship every
Sunday. 10.30 - 11.30 Christchurch Hall, Park Road, Frome, BA11 1EU
Children's meeting 10.10

Local PCSO

PCSO Louise Perry
Louise Perry, louise.perry@avonandsomerset.police.uk

As Rector of the Hardington Vale Benefice, I am very much looking forward to getting to know Buckland Dinham and becoming part of the life of St Michael's and the wider village. Every community has its own character, history and stories, and I am looking forward to discovering something of what makes Buckland Dinham the community it is.

I am very grateful for the warmth of the welcome I have received, not least from those who came to my licensing and welcome services. Jonas and I also had the pleasure of coming along to the Buckland Dinham coffee morning this weekend, where we thoroughly enjoyed both the welcome and the amazing cakes! It was lovely to see something of the community gathered together and to begin getting to know some of you.

I hope that, in the months and years ahead, I can play an active part in the life of Buckland Dinham, sharing in worship and village occasions, meeting people, listening and learning, and gradually building relationships.

I am particularly looking forward to working alongside Rob and Jenny, Jonny and Meg, and of course the Revd Pauline Reid, all of whose ministries at St Michael's are so clearly valued. St Michael's is fortunate to have so many people who already contribute to its worship and life in different ways. I hope that together we can



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encourage what is already flourishing, while also discovering new opportunities for the future.

For those I haven't yet met, a little about us. My husband Jonas is a potter, and we share our home with our dog Freya, who is very much part of the family. We also have two grown-up children and are blessed with grandchildren, so family remains an important part of our lives.

At the heart of it all, I believe our churches are called to be places of welcome, prayer and belonging: places rooted in the communities they serve and there for everyone. Not simply on Sundays or great occasions, but as a continuing presence through all the ordinary joys and difficulties of life. This happens through worship, of course, but also through the countless relationships, conversations and acts of kindness which make a church part of the life of its village.

There is much for me to learn, and I am looking forward to doing just that. Most of all, I look forward to meeting more of you, hearing your stories and sharing something of the life of Buckland Dinham.

So, however our paths cross, please do come and say hello.

With every blessing,

Jess

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT NORTON AT NORTON ST PHILIP

This year the Christmas Fayre at Norton St Philip church will be on Saturday December 5th.

If you would like a stall please contact me on 07795 984016. *Glenys Brown*

OUR WEEK COURSE FOR OCTOBER AFTERNOONS FROM 2.30 – 4.00PM.

Join in for conversational study; 'How to be a better Christian', a) with your neighbour, b) your own self, c) in the congregation, d) in the whole world.

The Coach House, Mill Lane, Bishopstrow, Warminster, BA12 9H. If you wish, bring a bible. weymontmartin@gmail.com or 01985-300025

ROUND AND ABOUT

The Cavatina Orchestra – giving outstanding young musicians the chance to play the great symphonic repertoire - announces its inaugural festival in Frome and Mells

Alongside three concerts, the festival includes pre-concert talks, a family concert, and opportunities to meet the artists. The festival is the creation of **Max Todes**, who founded the Cavatina Orchestra a decade ago at the age of 15, recognising that young musicians at conservatoires - however talented - were often denied the chance to perform the core symphonic repertoire that defines



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Mells Group of Churches

September 2026

	6 th September	13 th September	20 th September	27 th September	4 th October
Chantry		11.00am Harvest Festival Matins Val Rawlins	11.00am Holy Communion Chris Hare	11.00am Matins Val Rawlins	10.00am Group Holy Communion Service Barry Davies
Great Elm			9.30am Holy Communion Rev. Robin Isherwood	9.30am Harvest Festival Service Richard King	
Mells		9.30am Holy Communion Martin Weymont			
Whatley	10.00am Group Holy Communion Service Catherine Llewelyn- Evans			9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	

Mells Every Wednesday at 09.30, Matins/Morning Prayer, in St. Andrew's, Mells

Great Elm At 7.30am on Wednesdays Richard King leads a prayer session in church

Hardington Vale Church Services September 2026

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Sunday 6 September Creation 1	09.00	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast
	10.30	Rode , Holy Communion
	11.00	Laverton , Holy Communion
	18.00	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Tuesday 8 September	09.00	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
	11.00	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 9 September	08.30	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	17.00	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	18.00	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 10 September	18.00	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 13 September Creation 2	09.00	Rode , Informal Breakfast
	10.30	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	11.00	Laverton , Matins
	11.00	Buckland Dinham , Iona/Taizé Service
Tuesday 15 September	09.00	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 16 September	08.30	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	17.00	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 17 September	08.00	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	18.00	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 20 September Creation 3	09.00	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning Worship
	10.30	Rode , Holy Communion
	10.30	Norton St Philip , Informal Worship
	11.00	Laverton , Matins
	11.00	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Tuesday 22 September	09.00	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 23 September	08.30	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	17.00	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	18.00	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 24 September	18.00	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 27 September Creation 4	09.00	Rode , Contemplation and Coffee
	10.30	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	10.30	Tellisford , Holy Communion
	11.00	Laverton , Matins
	18.00	Buckland Dinham , Iona/Taizé Service
Tuesday 29 September	09.00	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 30 September	08.30	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	17.00	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer

Version: 18 August 2026

professional orchestral life. These concerts seek to show how classical music can live within a community, rather than apart from it.

Tuesday September 22nd, 7.00pm at St Andrew's Church, Mells, with Love and the Divine. The Cavatina Choir - 16 singers and five players - brings the motets of J.S. Bach (Singet dem Herrn and Komm, Jesus, Komm) into dialogue with the anthems of Henry Purcell (O Sing unto the Lord and My Beloved Spake) and Shakespeare's sonnets, exploring devotion in both sacred and sensual forms. Shakespeare scholar Clare Asquith gives a pre-concert talk on the sonnets.

Thursday September 24th, 7.00pm, Rye Bakery, Whittox Lane, Frome - Homage and Inspiration - an exploration of how composers honour, echo and transform the of their predecessors. Mozart's dramatic Symphony No.40 is set beside Schubert's radiant Symphony No.5, written just 28 years later and shaped by admiration for Mozart's style, alongside contemporary works by Caroline Shaw and Edmund Finnis that show how today's composers draw on the masters.

Friday September 25th, 7.00pm at St John's Church, Frome, with Devotion to Delight. A 35-piece Cavatina Orchestra is joined by a mezzo-soprano soloist for a programme opening with a new orchestration of Alma Mahler's rarely heard *Sieben Lieder* before culminating in Beethoven's Symphony No.7, a work of unstoppable energy and joy that Wagner famously called "the apotheosis of the dance."

Tickets £10-£25 Festival pass £70 (concessions £30) www.cavatinaorchestra.com

BRIDGE LESSONS THIS AUTUMN

Would you like to learn to play Bridge, or improve your skills at the game? If so, Frome Bridge Club's forthcoming teaching year beginning in October provides the ideal opportunity. Taught by experienced bridge players, in relaxed and friendly surroundings, lessons are available for complete beginners, improvers - including those returning to the game - and intermediate level bridge players. Bridge is a fun and social game, which appeals to all ages, providing a perfect balance of entertainment and logic. It's great for the brain and is not difficult to learn, just requiring practice to become familiar with the basic rules.

The weekly teaching sessions at Frome Bridge Club's HQ - Wesley Methodist Church Hall, BA11 1HA - will take place on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings, depending on the level of interest. Teaching will provide a comprehensive introduction to the game for those who've never played it before, as well as top-up lessons for those with some previous knowledge. No card game experience is required and the sessions - including play practice - are an

opportunity to meet new people whilst acquiring a skill that provides an excellent mental workout. Ten weeks of teaching up until Christmas costs just £50 and lessons will continue in the New Year at £3 per lesson. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided!

Frome Bridge Club is affiliated to the English Bridge Union. We are holding an *All about Bridge* day in Frome Library on Saturday September 5th between 10.00am and 2.00pm. Do come along if you'd like to find out more.

For more information, either: call **John Perry** on **01373 467508**; email frome@bridgewebsmail.com or visit www.bridgewebs.com/frome

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BUCKLAND DINHAM

On August 4th, celebration for the Reverend Jessica Nyander as Rector for Hardington Vale by the Right Reverend Dr Fiona Gibson, Bishop of Taunton, and the Venerable Jonathan Lloyd, Acting Archdeacon of Wells, was held in Norton St Philip church. It really was a beautiful service with a completely full congregation who later enjoyed a chance to meet Jess and her husband Jonas for drinks and a great selection of sandwiches and cakes. On August 9th a joint Sunday service was again held at St Philip and St James Church when more of St Michael' members were able to meet Jess.

The services for September will be as per the rota and the Communion Service on 20th will be taken by Jess. Pleased do come and make her as welcome as you have to Pauline who has, and we hope will continue, to take the Communion Service when needed.

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, 1994-2026

On Tuesday July 7th 2026 at 11:00, St Michael's church was packed for the burial of Joe Chamberlain, aged just 32.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Pauline Reid. Music was a combination of the traditional hymns *Morning has broken*, *Praise my soul the King of*

Heaven and Lord of all hopefulness, and the rock music Joe loved so much: How's it going to be by Third Eye Blind, Standing here by the Stone Roses and Good Times, Bad Times by Led Zeppelin.

Eulogies written by the family were read by the Reverend Pauline and his brother Tom. Through their words, we learned of the life of a much-loved young man tragically cut short by cancer. We learned of his love of music and his many guitars, and his plans to study music at the Open University. We learned of his love for his fiancée and soulmate Emma who stayed by his side throughout his illness. We learned too of his exploits as the eldest of three brothers, and of the deep love his family had for him. It was clear how special Joe was, and how much he will be missed.

Pauline based her address on the scripture reading from John 14: 1-6 which assures us of a life after death in the kingdom of heaven. Pauline characterised Joe as a lovely person who gave and received much love. But losing someone so loved so unexpectedly is particularly hard. We can't know what death is like, so perhaps we are better to stay with the simple idea of going home to God who is there for us in our darkest moments. Pauline reassured Joe's family and friends that the love they have for him will never be lost, but will continue to nurture and sustain them in the years to come. Pauline ended her address with a version of Psalm 23, written by the mother of a young woman who also died of cancer. Joe was buried in the churchyard beside members of his family, as he had requested. A wake was held at Buckland Dinham Village Hall.

Donations were for Cancer Research UK

Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe's family at this difficult time.



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PAULINE SHORT 1947-2026

On Monday July 13th 2026 at 11:00, St Michael's church was full for a service to celebrate the life of Pauline Short.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Pauline Reid. Hymns were All things bright and beautiful, The Lord's my shepherd and Morning has broken.

The Eulogy was provided by Pauline's niece Sara, who took us through the fascinating story of her aunt's life. Pauline came from a Frome family. She was an active child who loved swimming and did well at school, passing the 11Plus. She joined Marks and Spencer's straight from school as a trainee, and went on to have a life-long career in a number of stores in the South West. M&S also gave her a group of life-long friends with whom she maintained contact even after she left the company to work as a consultant and to run her own business.

Pauline lived in Buckland Dinham for a long time and took a very active role in village life as parish council clerk, a member of the walking and history groups, a church warden, and an active participant in all village events. She was a member of the Rotary Club, including a spell as president, which led to her involvement with all kinds of charitable and social work.

Finally, Pauline loved to travel the world as well as taking walking holidays in the UK. Pauline will be remembered as someone who made the most of life, even in



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the care home where she spent the last months of her life, which she described as a hotel.

In her address, the Reverend Pauline reflected on the profound words in the bible, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die." Pauline was a person who understood that life is short and made the most of it in terms of her work life, her family and friends and her service to the community. In the sadness of Pauline's death, we can give thanks for her full life and her tireless work for others. Following the service a wake was held in Buckland Dinham village hall. Donations are to be divided between St Michael's and the Dorset and Somerset air ambulance. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pauline's friends and family at this time.

Jenny Waller, Churchwarden

LYCHGATE WORK TO START NEXT MONTH!

Good news! The ongoing saga of Buckland Dinham's iconic lychgate is nearing a conclusion. After nearly four years of negotiation with the Diocese Advisory Committee and many more years of fund-raising, we have the 'faculty' (official permission) to go ahead with the restoration.

We have a specialist carpenter lined up to start, probably in October, and we have funds - thanks to everyone who donates the Friends of St Michael's, and everyone who works so hard on the coffee mornings, and to a generous legacy from former vicar, the late Rev Dan Olive. We have also applied for funds from several grant-giving bodies and are hopeful about at least one of them, the Church Buildings

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Council, who funded the scaffolding and a conservation report. That way we won't have to empty out our reserves. The carpenter is Tom Kinsella of The Traditional Carpenters. They will take the structure down and work on it in their workshop, before returning it a few months later. We will be organising a visit to their workshop near Norton St Philip, so Tom can explain what they are doing. The restored lychgate will contain quite a lot of new wood to replace the rotten parts. So it will take a couple of years for this to weather to an even grey. But the restoration should last a good few decades before we need to worry again.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Back from my extended holiday I was delighted see so many friends, including Jess and Jonas, in August as look forward to seeing even more of you at the next one, on September 9th.

BUCKLAND BUDDIES The next meeting is in the Village Hall on September 5th, 7.15 for 7.30. No speaker this month but please do come along and meet some new faces. We really do want to keep this little group going so need suggestions for who to come and give us a talk. Diane Meaden, who has been arranging for speakers, has been finding it increasingly difficult so and any help will be gratefully accepted. There will be a speaker from Wessex Water in November, hopefully we shall have had to some rain by then!!

Craft Day September 26th Village hall, 10.00 to 2.00pm.

Jill Wright



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- an interest in the village

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CHANTRY

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

This year we are having a change and holding the Harvest festival service on September 13th at 11.00am with a morning service followed by a bring and share lunch in the community area. As usual we are asking for your donations

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of tinned and dried goods to be donated to the Frome food bank, we are always very pleased and surprised just how much this small village gives every year. We will be decorating the church from 2.00pm on Saturday 12th, please leave any donations in the church or porch, if you can spare some time to help it will be appreciated.

As stated the lunch will be after the service, if you wish to donate please bring your donations with you to Church on Sunday morning, I will be there from 10.15 onwards.

Dolly

MORE CHURCH DATES

SEPTEMBER 13th Harvest Festival in church. See Dolly's invitation above. Bring a plate to share.

SEPTEMBER 18th Thirsty Third Thursday Pop up pub. Our much expected delicious sausage (and vegan) rolls. Beers, Gin, Prosecco and Wine available with soft drinks too. 6:00pm onwards.

SEPTEMBER 25th 2nd Night River Gig with Robert Vincent and Nuala Honan performed in the church here in Chantry.

ROBERT VINCENT RETURNS TO NIGHT RIVER STAGE

Following several sold out shows with us, Robert Vincent returns to the Night River stage for a special unplugged performance.

One of the most acclaimed artists on the UK Americana scene, Robert is known for his beautifully soulful voice, magnetic live presence and top-level songwriting.

His voice has attracted admirers including Bob Harris, Paul Carrack and Mary Chapin Carpenter.

In 2016, Bob Harris awarded him Emerging Artist of the Year at the inaugural UK Americana Awards, describing him as "absolutely magnetic" and "the real deal". His album I'll Make The Most Of My Sins went on to win UK Americana Album of the Year in 2018, and led to Robert being invited to perform on BBC's Old Grey Whistle Test: For One Night Only, where he closed the show.

With support from Nuala Honan, a magnetic songwriter and performer, blending fearless vocals, sharp lyricism and beautifully off-kilter folk-pop.

Robert Vincent wegottickets.com. Tickets available at www.wegottickets.com

OCTOBER 31st. Some exciting news that JAMES HORNSBY - the excellent and wonderful story teller of Charles Dickens Great Expectations last year, has agreed to come back and tell us the tale of DRACULA!!! 7:00pm in the church - tickets £16

As with G.E. it is at Parents Discretion but he advises 12 yrs and over his target is adults.

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GREAT ELM

The wedding of Francesca Louveau and Tobias Hughes was held on August 1st with Robin Isherwood officiating.

On August 7th Susan Hillier's ashes were interred.

Looking towards autumn –

HARVEST SUPPER - Saturday September 26th, 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

All information will be available via the Village WhatsApp and some promotional posters in the next few weeks.

Contact for this event is Gemma Brooking. Offers of help towards organising the evening will be warmly welcomed.

Please mark your diaries for the Harvest Supper and come along to enjoy the evening.

All profits are shared between the Village Hall and the church.

We will be decorating the church on Saturday morning at 10.00am in readiness for the Harvest Festival service at 9.30am on Sunday September 27th. Richard King will lead the service. There will be a box just inside the church to collect any food donations for the Fair Frome Food bank.

MELLS WITH VOBSTER

MELLS CAFE RE-OPENS...

Mells Café in Frome has officially reopened! The café, which has been closed since April, has been taken over by Frome's Lauren Bradley, (pictured on the front cover) who has returned to the area she knows and loves after spending a very different four-year spell working in an hotel in London.

She sees the café as a wonderful opportunity to be in the heart of a village which has a terrific community feel.

"This is a perfect location for a café like this, with a menu that appeals to villagers, visitors and walkers alike," she says. She will be changing that menu from time to time and will also be holding events, like afternoon teas.

.... BUT MELLS SHOP NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

As most of you will know Mells Village Shop, which is right next door to the café, is not only the heart of our community but along with Mike, Jerry and Helen it is

run by our wonderful community volunteers. We really need some more volunteers to lend a hand. It is a great way to feel part of our community, to meet new people and friends and to support our Village Shop. If you are interested in serving customers in the shop, please do let me know. It is easy to learn the systems, and you don't have to commit to anything on a regular basis. Your help would be VERY much appreciated by the whole community. Please message me or leave your number at the shop if you are able to help: Thanks,
Vicki vickipike1@gmail.com

NOTES OF MELLS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 11TH 2026 (WWW.MELLS-PC.GOV.UK)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr Owen King, Planning and Development Office and Cllr Steve Turner, Chair Planning Officer and Co-Chair of the Frome LCN regarding the Frome Area Movement and Place Plan: Frome Town Council is putting together a transport plan and is approaching all the local councils and villages in the area to find out what issues they experience with road safety, cycling, walking, bus and rail



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service, speeding and connections to other forms of transport, essential services and connecting local areas via footpaths. They will be running a Citizen Engagement Platform survey for anyone to complete. Concerns raised:-

- Holes Lane – lorries from the quarry and Marshalls
- Tourist traffic in the village
- Lack of signage, especially HGV
- Bus service only going to MSN and back rather than onwards to Bath
- Speeding (Cllr True will look into organising a Speedwatch group)
- Improvement of rail services
- Improvement of road surfaces

CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR – Caroline True was welcomed onto the council.

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Government Issues Best Value Notice to Somerset Council: The notice describes the council as being in a "fragile financial position" and identifies weak-

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nesses in financial management, continued reliance on Exceptional Financial Support, low reserves and instability in financial leadership.

Automatic Free School Meals Registration: Somerset Council has supported proposals to introduce an automatic "opt-out" system for registering eligible children for free school meals. The new approach aims to automatically identify eligible pupils using existing council data, while allowing parents to opt out if they wish.

MATTERS ARISING

Public Space Protection Order – regarding dog fouling: Should be in place in September.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Condition of Selwood Street: Clerk has reported the issue and some tarmacking has been undertaken but several large pot holes remain which have caused injuries to pedestrians.

PLANNING MATTERS

Other planning matters: Lime Kiln Quarry new access road consultation queries – Ruth Amundson (Senior Planner Minerals and Waste) confirmed that the procedure met the minimum statutory advertisement requirement



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for this type of application. They admitted there was a delay of 14 days in sending out the consultation letter however an extension was granted. A planning application for the land is unlikely to be received for a year or two as the land now needs to settle before any development can be considered.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

184 Bus service: The Saturday service is being reinstated on September 5th..

Abandoned vehicles in Recreation Ground car park and Fairview: Arrangements are being made to have them removed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday September 8th 2026 at 7.15pm in the Barn.

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

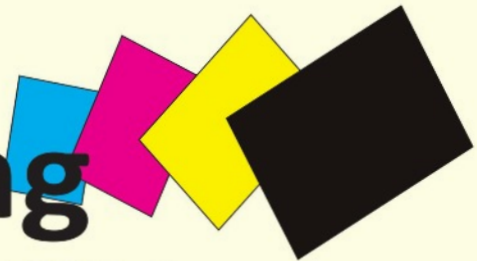
WHATLEY

ST.GEORGE'S CHURCH

Cleaning rota. September 5th: L Thomas; September 12th: J Uhrmacher; September 19th: P. Witt; September 26th: K.Gay.

An early notice for October: the monthly coffee morning at St. George will be a bigger event than usual as Laura Baber is kindly offering to run another fund raiser for MacMillan Cancer Support.

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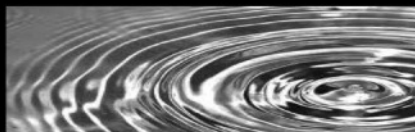
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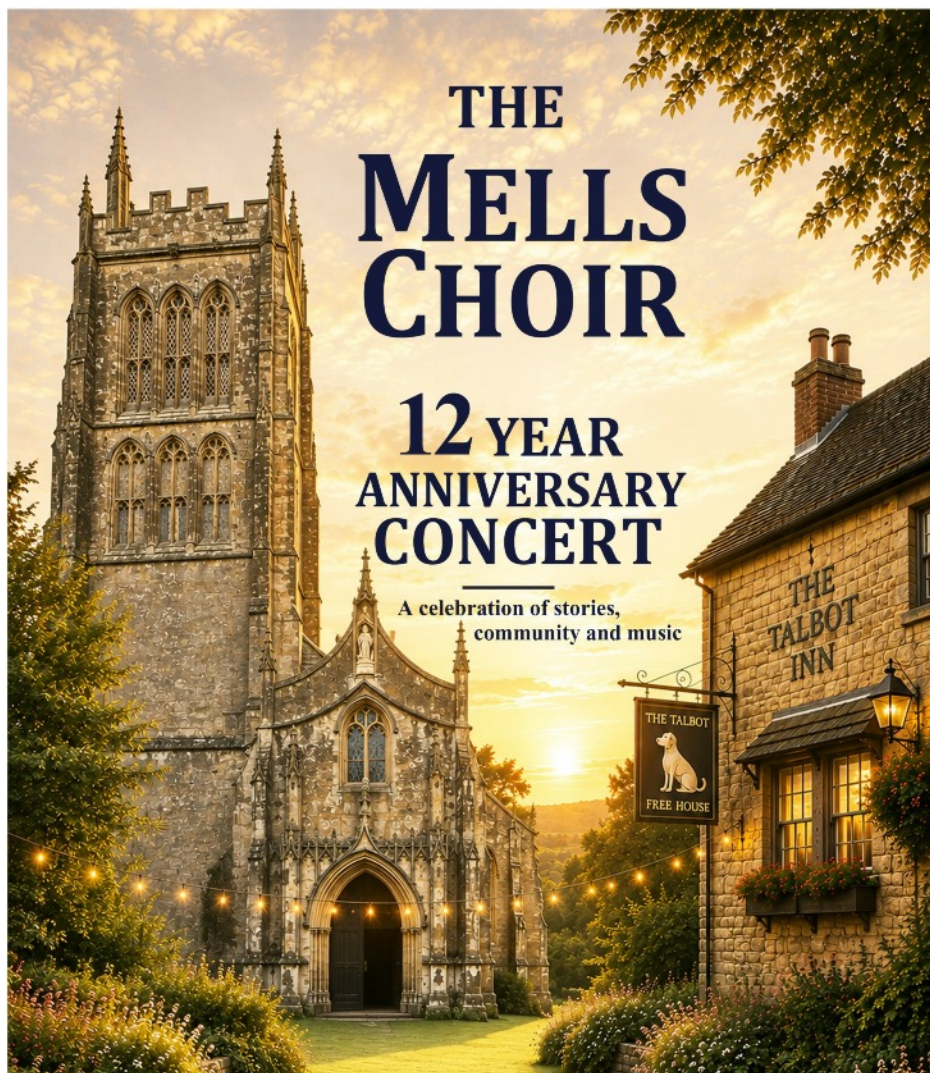
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VILLAGE NEWS

You will all be delighted to hear that Ella Norris (you saw her photo on the front page on last month's 5Alive) and her team came second at the European championships in August. The teams competing were Austria, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, Scotland and Wales. To me, a second place sounds great alongside the fact was the best from eight countries, but Ella and the team were a bit disappointed as they were only two points behind Italy, the winning team.

Mum Debbie Norris reports: "They rode their socks off for the total of seven sessions. We had a very hot and busy week but had so much fun. Ella made a few friends from France and Italy and at the end they swapped competition tops. There was a fantastic atmosphere and the whole competition was amazing. Ella and her team-mate Chloe raised £2,300 which was a huge help. They are very appreciative of all the support from the raffle. What a week, what an experience."

FoW listings September 2026 at St. George's Church. Whatley.

Pop Up Pub, Friday September 4th. 6.00-11.00 pm

FRIENDS of WHATLEY meeting-all welcome

Tuesday September 8th 6.15 to-7.45

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12th September 10.00am-12.00.

QUIZ and Pop Up Pub (more info on Facebook and email to follow)

Saturday September 19th, 6.00pm-11.00pm

Future events.

MacMillan coffee morning Saturday October 10th.

There will be a new regular programme after September, so keep your eyes open for the October issue.

A REQUEST FROM FOW

Alice has decided to step down from being the secretary for FoW because of increasing demands on her time. Alice has done so much for us, working to establish FoW and ensure its smooth running. She has our whole-hearted thanks for all she has done.

Alice will be a hard act to follow, but, if you can spare about an hour a week for secretarial duties, working in co-operation with the FoW committee for the benefit of Whatley, please contact Alice directly. Her email is alice.kettle@gmail.com- or, of course, go along to the fortnightly pop up pub to find out more.

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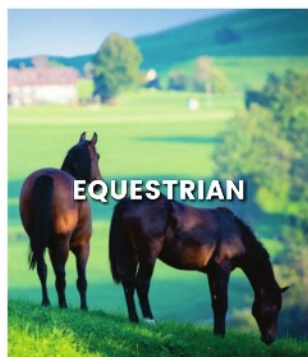
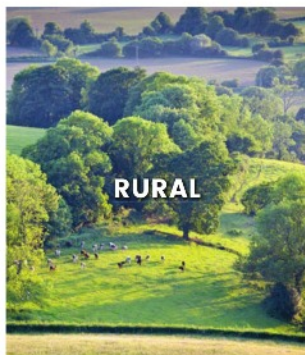
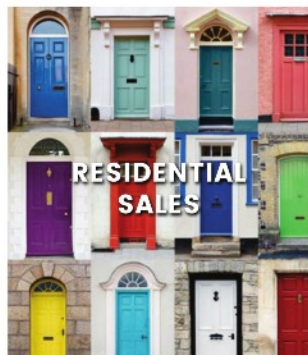
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