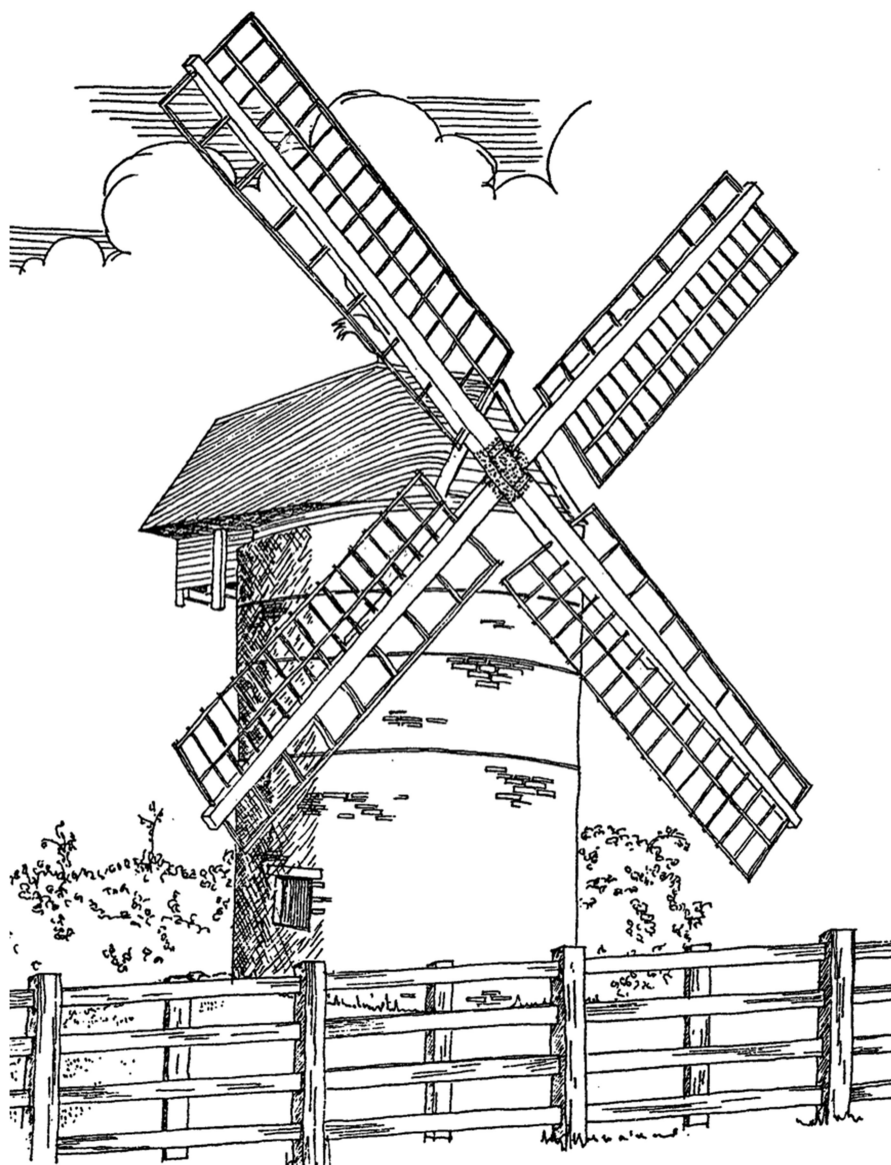


ALLERTON NEWS



August 2023

ALLERTON NEWS

Editor

Fliss Spinner

August 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

(Full details, including times and venues, can be located within the magazine)

August

Thu 3rd Ad Astra Quiz Night

Tue 8th WI meeting: guest speaker Emma Britton

September

Mon 4th Parish Council Meeting, Old Schoolroom, 7.30pm

Thu 7th Ad Astra Quiz Night

October

Thu 5th Ad Astra Quiz Night

Advance notice: The Safari Supper will take place on Saturday 18th November.

Editorial Committee

J. Bennett, J. Benson, A. Buckton, T. Crosby, A. Griffin, J. Pinnock, P. Rich and F. Spinner

Jonathan Pinnock will be editing the September edition.

We would love your news, views and pictures / animals / recipes of the month.

All contributions by 20 August 2023 please.

Email: allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk

The newsletter will now be sent out by Jonathan Pinnock on the 1st of every month as normal. Please contact him on jon@jonathanpinnock.com if you know of anyone wanting to be added to our mailing list or want your email address to be deleted from the mailing list.

Do please read the magazine right through to the end, by the way, as our advertisers are very keen that you see what they have to offer!

NEWS OF THE PEOPLE

Another quiet month in the Allertons on the news front! Please do send in any newsworthy information - big or small - that we can share with the local community.

Jean Malpass – a message from Dennis

Following the loss of my dear wife Jean on 30 May, I wish to express my thanks to all those Allerton residents who kindly wrote to me expressing their condolences and sympathy to me and my family, which has been greatly appreciated by all of us. I was grateful to have the support of those residents who attended the Thanksgiving Service on 29 June and my thanks also to everyone who made a donation to the two chosen charities in memory of Jean. It has made me realise how many good friends we left behind when we moved to Hampshire two years ago. Bless you all.

Dennis Malpass

John Ernest Gibbs

John and I both moved to Chapel Allerton in 1968. I found him to be a fun-loving, gentle man. We both played in the local village cricket team league, John with more skill than myself. When the village cricket declined we started playing table tennis in the Old School Room, later moving to the cricket pavilion. We would meet at village fund raising functions and drink red wine and put the world to rights. We both joined the golf club and the Monday night skittlers league which we managed to win thanks to the skill of the team. John spoke at Harvest Home one year. He was a mason and a churchgoer and both he and his wife, Irene, were members of the church choir. The family moved to Stone Allerton where he planted fruit trees and made a pond. Around this time Irene became ill and John became her full time carer until she passed away. He then moved to Ubley to live with their daughter Jan and he stayed with her until he passed away.

He will be greatly missed and we extend our heartfelt sympathies to Malcolm, Jan and Lucy. May he rest in peace.

Ted Bevis

CHARITY BIKE RIDE

In the last week of August, Stone Allerton resident Ben Spinner and his dad, David, will be undertaking a 250km bike ride from Hull to Biggleswade, Bedfordshire to raise money for Dementia UK. No mean feat for a 9 year old to attempt!

Why Hull to Biggleswade for Dementia UK you may well ask! As some of you are aware, David sadly lost his father in June. Vernon was a proud Yorkshireman having grown up in Hull. He was most disappointed that David was born in Derbyshire (where they were living at the time) and thus disqualified from playing cricket for

Yorkshire as were the rules back then - a serious loss to the Yorkshire cricketing community as anyone who has seen David on the wicket in Allerton can attest to! However, for the last 40+ years, David's parents lived in Biggleswade. Vernon suffered from dementia for the last ten years.

Ben decided that he wanted to do a bike ride in memory of his grandad, and David started planning a route. They plan to do it over the course of 5 days, each day's ride being further than Ben has cycled in one go before.

They are aiming to raise £1000 for charity (and not get too wet in the process!) and would be very grateful if you could spare a few pounds to support them.



The sponsorship page can be found here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-spinner-hulltobiggleswade>

You may well spot them out and about over the next couple of weeks training hard!

Fliss Spinner

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Letter from the Parish Council regarding The Wheatsheaf

The Wheatsheaf Inn will reopen ASAP.

The shop is open and very well stocked. Please visit and buy if suitable.

The local folk need to offer all the support they are able. This will help Alison and Jonathan over this very difficult trading time.

The pub can be booked for parties of 8 plus.

In the meantime coffee and/or light lunch will be served in the garden.

The pub is an asset to the area but will be kept in private ownership it is their home and they intend it to remain so.

Please support The Wheatsheaf, it will soon return to its former glory.

Jasmine Blakemore CAPC

Planning News

No new planning applications have been made.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 4th September at 7.30pm, at the Old School Room, Stone Allerton.

NOTICES

ALLERTON OLD SCHOOLROOM

There is a new dedicated email address for booking the Allerton Old Schoolroom.

allertonosrbookings@gmail.com

If necessary, a full booking form can be downloaded from the Allerton Villages website (allertonvillages.co.uk), where details of the booking procedure and the facilities available at the schoolroom can also be found.

FAMILY FUN INSPIRATION

The Museum of Somerset presents 'Axel Scheffler: A Life in Illustration' this summer from 15th July-28th October, with events throughout the school holidays.

The illustrator Axel Scheffler is the creative force behind some of the most instantly recognisable characters in children's books – from The Gruffalo to Stickman and beyond. This summer a new exhibition will bring together the broadest public display of Axel's illustrations in the UK, giving visitors a unique insight into his published work. See original illustrations from The Gruffalo, Room on the Broom, Stick Man, the Pip and Posy series and many more.



Admission to the museum and exhibition is FREE, with donations welcome.

WEDMORE FRIENDS OF WESTON HOSPICECARE

BIG DROP 30TH SEPTEMBER 9.30AM – 12.30PM WEDMORE VILLAGE HALL

Please bring any items that you would like to donate to the Weston Hospicecare.

We reserve the right to refuse to take things which we consider are not of a good enough standard to handle.

Shirley Wederell
01934 712089

ALLERTON SCARECROW TRAIL

- Fun activity for all the family. Build a scarecrow with the theme PLACES IN SOMERSET. This could be Burnham Beach, Glastonbury, Weston, Wedmore or even our own beautiful Allerton.
- Each household that participates should email me with your house name, street & village and also your chosen secret 'place in Somerset' (i.e., Manor Farm Cottage, Back Lane, Chapel – Burnham lighthouse) and I will produce a trail list which will be available to collect so that you can go hunt all the other scarecrows and guess the place.
- There will be a prize for one winner (drawn out of a hat) for anyone that guessed all locations correctly. The prize draw will take place on Sunday 29th October.
- There will be a voluntary £3 cost for each trail sheet with the money raised going to Weare school.
- Information to me (email below) by Sunday 24th September at the latest, scarecrows to be ready and in a visible location from the road/driveway by Sunday 1st October, when the trail list will also be available.
- Entries should be emailed to: lyndsayandrews@hotmail.com
- Happy planning!



SAFARI SUPPER 2023

As mentioned in the dates for your diary, please save the date for the Safari Supper which will take place on **Saturday 18th November 2023**

Nina Reading

The poster features a background image of a mountain range under a blue sky with clouds. A green line art silhouette of a mountain peak is positioned above the main title. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold serif and italicized serif fonts. The event details are listed in a clear, organized manner, with each performance section separated by a horizontal line.

CROOK PEAK
Music Festival
— 2023 —

Every **TUESDAY** *in* **SEPTEMBER**
Early Evening Concerts from 6.15 - 7.00pm
Doors Open 6.00pm
Complementary glass of wine or beer on arrival
Retiring Collection

ORGAN RECITAL
TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER : St. Congar's, BADGWORTH
Robert Anderson plays the mighty digital organ with a programme of impressive organ show pieces

ELIZABETHAN RECORDER CONSORT
TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER : St. Gregory's, WEARE
Back by popular demand with their period-style recorders, including the Great bass, Contra bass and Crumhorn

SOMERSET FLUTES
TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER : St. Andrew's, COMPTON BISHOP
Playing classical, popular, jazz & show music, these five professional musicians perform regularly throughout Somerset

CROOK PEAK SPECIAL CHOIR
TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER : St. Congar's, BADGWORTH
The choir's greatest hits, since their formation in 2021, plus a few crowd-pleasing surprises!

For further details contact Debra Anderson : 01934 732537 / 07881 955804

WINDMILL ROTA

Date	Day	Name	Tel #
30-Jul-23	S	David & Madeline Roberts	01934 712895
02-Aug-23	W	Scott & Irene McIntosh	01934 713529
06-Aug-23	S	Johnny & Fiona Torrens-Spence	01934 710188
09-Aug-23	W	Peter Booker	01934 713507
13-Aug-23	S	Andrew & Jane Midgley	01934 712642
16-Aug-23	W	Patrick & Caroline Cook	01934 713473
20-Aug-23	S	Patrick & Caroline Cook	01934 713473
23-Aug-23	W	Simon & Diana Midgley	01934 712097
27-Aug-23	S	Val Wathen	07500 081556
28-Aug-23	M	Tony & Sue Unwin	01934 752506
30-Aug-23	W	Val Wathen	07500 081556
03-Sep-23	S	Tony & Sue Unwin	01934 752506
10-Sep-23	S	Jim Mathers & Lucy Hetherington	01934 713159

WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Each month the Allerton News is looking for a picture that sums up the previous month in the villages. As each entry is automatically entered into the Ad Astra summer competition, we have taken a break from new entries this month to bring you the prizewinners of the 2022/23 competition who were announced at the Allerton Harvest Home (see p10 for an account of the event).

Should you wish to put a picture forward, please send your recent pictures to allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk and you could be next month's photographic star or even next year's Ad Astra photographic competition winner!

Winner Daisy Nicolaou – Windmill with Rainbow



2nd place Ian Axton – Stone Allerton Road Sign at Sunset



3rd place Nina Reading – Line of Cows



FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ALLERTON HARVEST HOME

A massive thank to all who helped with this year's Harvest Home and of course to all of you who came along to support the event. The weather was a real concern with high winds and intermittent heavy downpours impacting efforts to set up the site and indeed on the day itself.

A small but efficient team got to grips with what needed to be done on Friday morning and we particularly thank Jeremy Pope, Scott Mackintosh, Chris Perry, Jonathan Bull, Phil Southey, Tracy Mathews and Jenna Lewis who did the bulk of the setting up work. As the morning progressed more arrived to add to the set-up effort. Dave Nevitt, ably assisted by Scott did such a good job with the bunting that they are in danger of having to do it again next year.

Bev Smith is deserving of a special mention this year for her efforts with coordinating ticket sales and seating arrangements. Some of our regular team were not available and Bev really stepped up to the mark, coping admirably with last minute table configuration changes that she and husband Mark took in their stride. Rachel Duckett coordinated sales on the Chapel side and we thank her for her help this year.

Crucial to Harvest Home success is the fantastic lunch which Helen Pickett once again organised. There was plenty of everything and the quality of the meat supplied by Hansfords was superb. The vegetarian option this year, stuffed aubergines, went down very well and we thank Lyndsay Andrews for preparing such a delicious vegetarian option.



There were plenty of lunch helpers. Helen and Adrian Rigby coordinated the team to keep lunch guests supplied with all they needed. We were very grateful to Weare and District Scouts who were at Harvest Home in force this year. The youngsters and their parents made a great contribution to the lunch service and table clearing effort. Allerton Cricket Club ran an excellent bar throughout the day, their numbers this year boosted by their ladies' section that continues to grow.

Lunch speakers this year were Jenny Mason and Clive Whitehead. Jenny came to Bristol University to study Veterinary Science in the late 90s and got to know the Allertons when riding out around local villages. Following graduation she worked in Wales and then in an equine practice in Cambridgeshire before coming back to join the teaching staff at Langford. In addition to her work at Langford, Jenny works one day a week at the Stables Equine Practice in Wookey. Jenny and husband Alan moved to Fallowdene on Top Road in 2010. She is a founder member of the newly re-formed Allerton Ladies Cricket team. Jenny spoke about her habit of raiding recycling bins to help with her preserving interests and reminded us all of the correct pronunciation of Moët.



Lunch speakers:
Clive Whitehead & Jenny Mason

The second lunch speaker, Clive Whitehead, needed little introduction. His Wikipedia page lists the various football teams he's played for and he still dines out on the fact he scored the winning goal to secure Bristol City's promotion from the second division back in 1975. Following his illustrious career, Clive went into financial services with the Professional Footballers Association and has also worked as a referee assessor. He lives with his wife Heather in Badgworth. Clive entertained guests with anecdotes from his professional footballing days when he played with some of the greats from that era. Some people are terrified about the prospect of speaking at the Harvest Home but you really are among friends and local speakers make our Harvest Home very special.



Floral competition
winning arrangement
by Jane Winch

Harvest Home wouldn't be the same without some friendly competitions and we had two this year. Ad Astra cider sponsored the Images of Allerton competition which this year was won by Daisy Nicolaou. Daisy was not at the Harvest Home to accept her prize – a bottle of the new Ad Astra gin. She is advised to pop round to my place soon to collect it. Our floral arrangement winner this year was Jane Winch. Jane created a wonderful display of flowers and cans of cider in a wellington boot. The children's prize went to Kieran O'Connell. Thank you to all the entrants. There were a number of names put forward for the Patrick Smith award and the winner this year was Angie Horne.

The weather was such that we did not have the usual children's races but the children did have their own special tea party in the marquee and we need to thank Annabel Cook for organising this once again. An enthusiastic crowd in the evening enjoyed a great local band – Haytown 75 and, as is now the norm at Allerton Harvest Home, the evening passed without incident.

We would like to thank those who helped clean up after a very successful Harvest Home. A better degree of organisation with regard to the table clearing meant we were able to recycle a lot of the waste this year, something that Harvest Home is committed to build on in the future. Thanks in particular to Kasia McGregor, Dave and Jane Ash, Graham Catley, Louisa Chatting and Roger Duckett for their help on Sunday morning and Lindy Paul who washed up all the cutlery. Also a very big thank you to Martin Cooper and Becs for taking all the plastic, glass and paper to the recycling centre.

We appreciate that, in addition to those mentioned, many more gave up time to help to make Harvest Home happen. Please be assured that all your contributions, big or small, were very much appreciated.

In addition to individuals, Harvest Home is extremely grateful to those businesses who have supplied products and equipment. We thank JTS snack foods, Griffin toilet hire, Cheddar Ales, who have been very generous this year, and Thatchers cider. We thank Ad Astra for donating the cider guests enjoyed over lunch. The generous support of these local businesses helps Allerton Harvest Home keep its ticket prices as low as possible which helps ensure that the cost of attending does not become a barrier.

Thinking ahead to next year's Harvest Home we are most likely moving back to a September date, the 3rd or 10th. Confirmation is awaited. I would urge you to pencil these dates into your diaries. Make sure you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment as the lunch was sold out this year.

Matthew Paul



Angie Horne, Jan Benson, Sue Unwin & Irene McIntosh at Harvest Home

HARVEST HOME PRIZES

Adult Floral Competition – Floral Display in a Wellington Boot

Pople Cup Winner	Jane Winch
Runner up	Caroline Turrell

Children's Floral Display

Winner	Kieran O'Connell
2nd place	Ffion Lewis
3rd place	Florence Lewis

Ad Astra Images of Allerton Competition

Winner	Daisy Nicolaou – Windmill with Rainbow
2nd place	Ian Axton – Stone Allerton Road Sign at Sunset
3rd place	Nina Reading – Line of Cows

Patrick Smith Award for Service to the Community

Angie Horne

Angie moved to Allerton about 20 years ago and both she and her husband John have been active in village life and indeed in the wider community ever since. She has supported and been actively involved in fundraising for numerous charities and good causes. These include Save The Children, carriage driving for the disabled for which she is also a trustee, and horse welfare charities in both the UK and Gambia. She has been active supporter of Avalon Camps as a washer upper and cook and a lunch helper at Mark Day Centre. She has chaired the WI, is the district chair of the Inner Wheel and is an active member of Allerton Church. At the age of 80 she did a wing walk to raise money for Parkinson's Disease.



ALLERTON CC v LASHINGS

On Friday 21st July, Allerton Cricket Club welcomed the Lashings World XI – a team of ex-International professional cricketers – to our humble village cricket ground. A full account of the day will come in the September issue of the Allerton News from the ACC captain, Matt Paul, but in the meantime I wanted to share my experience of the coaching sessions that took place in the morning, as it really was a moment that embodied the fantastic community spirit of our local area.

In the morning, around 25 kids from local cricket clubs came to Allerton for a coaching session with some of the Lashings players. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to experience quality tips from players who have competed at the highest level. At one point, I looked over and saw children bowling and batting in the nets, working on their wicket-keeping skills, doing fielding practice and, fundamentally, just enjoying playing cricket at a grassroots level. A lot of the parents stayed to watch



– mainly their kids but also their cricketing heroes at work! – so there was a lovely social atmosphere to the session as well. With many of the girls and boys from the Allertons and surrounding villages, the Allerton Cricket Club should still be going strong in years to come!



Meanwhile, on the other side of the ground, the newly re-formed Allerton Ladies team were also training hard and picking up some pointers from a number of Lashings players. With the likes of Martin Bicknell, Charl Willoughby and Mohammad Ashraful coaching them on bowling and batting skills, their future opponents will (may) be astounded at the new level of skill on display from the Allerton Ladies!

Towards the end of the coaching sessions, the lunch guests began to arrive and a general sense of anticipation started to build but I will leave the rest of the day and, most importantly, the Allerton CC vs Lashings World XI match (partly because I still don't really know what's going on in cricket matches most of the time!) to Matt to describe in the next issue!

Flüss Spinner

UPDATE FROM THE CIDER BARN

Opening Times

Friday and Saturday 5pm – 9pm

Sunday 1pm – 6pm

Bank Holidays 1pm – 6pm

1st Thursday of each month is Quiz Night! 6pm – 11pm (the next quiz night is 3rd Aug)

If you have a yearning for some still or sparkling apple juice nectar outside of the tap room opening hours above, please just give Suzanne a call or text on 07897 348 119 and we will be happy to oblige.

You will be relieved to know that I won't be boring you all with tales of awards for our cider this month, only because we haven't won anymore. However, we have entered the Somerset Cider Competition which is held as part of the Mid Somerset Show on the 20th August, so perhaps next month if we can bribe the judges enough.



July has once again proved to be a very busy month at Ad Astra. 1st July was our second outing with our brand spankingly new branded gazebo, this time at the Wedmore Street Fair. The weather was warm but the wind did get up later in the afternoon. We survived but a few of the other traders were not so lucky and I am sure some of the gazebos are still airborne.

We also used the street fair to launch our first ever Ad Astra Gin! Those observant cider barn customers may have noticed that we don't actually have a spirit still in the cider barn and we aren't brave enough to venture into illegal moonshine activities, so we cannot claim to be master distillers here at Orchardleigh Farm. However, we have friend in North Petherton who is a bona fide "Master Distiller" and who was kind enough to work with us to create our

Poseidon Gin. We will be working with him to create some more products in the coming months....more to follow.

Next up on our road trip was RAF Fairford and the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT). With over 200,000 visitors a day, all keen aircraft enthusiasts, this three-day event was always high on our list to attend.

As is usual with British Summers, day one was a complete wash out. The only time the heavy rain stopped was to allow the really heavy rain to start. Very few of the aircraft could fly in such conditions and the cloud was so low that even the Red

Arrows cancelled. Our neighbours in the adjoining trade stand, clearly far more experienced than us, did a roaring trade on hats and umbrellas, however it was not the weather for cider, and we headed back to our hotel soggy and disheartened (at least we weren't camping).

However, days two and three were a great improvement and by Sunday evening we had nearly sold out of everything. All in all it was a great event, and if you get a chance next year to attend the airshow we can highly recommend it.



Attendance at RIAT did mean that we had to miss Harvest Home. A consequence that we were really unhappy about. The Allerton HH is always a highlight of our year, and by the sound of it we missed a cracker. Hopefully next year it will be moved back to September so we will be able to attend once more.

As you may know, we sponsor the Images of Allerton competition that is now in its second year. Over the past six months we had received dozens of entries for the competition and whittling these down to a top three was an exceptionally hard task. In the end we agreed on the winner being the fantastic photo submitted by Daisy Nicolaou of the wonderful Ashton Windmill nestled within a beautiful rainbow. Second place went to Ian Axton with a lovely photo of the Stone Allerton signpost at sunset. Third place went to Nina Reading and the amusing photo of the meeting of cows. All three photos (shown on pages 8 & 9 above) will be displayed in the cider barn alongside last year's winners.

So, the race is now on for the next Images of Allerton competition! Get out there with the cameras and get snapping.

A few dates for your diaries for the coming months.

August:

5th - International rugby on the big screen. Home nations are in action.

11th - Live Band "Man About a Dog" This is the band that performed at the Wassail.
No ticket required.

12th - International rugby on the big screen. Home nations are in action.

19th - International rugby on the big screen. Home nations are in action.

25th - International rugby on the big screen. All Blacks vs South Africa.

26th - International rugby on the big screen. Home nations are in action.

September:

RUGBY WORLD CUP!! We will try and show as many world cup games as we can.
Keep a close eye on our website and Facebook page.

2nd - Cider Barn closed for private function.

9th - Fire Brigade Charity Event. Live band, fun and games all in aid of the fire
brigade charity. Lots more info to follow but this is a ticketed event.

16th - Cider Barn closed for private function.

October:

RUGBY WORLD CUP!! We will try and show as many world cup games as we can.
Keep a close eye on our website and Facebook page.

7th - Live bands. The Jamestown Brothers Return to the Cider Barn. Also playing are
The Beach Buoys (Shanty band).

27th - Halloween Night. Haunted Orchard mwahahahaha.

That's it for now. We will keep our Facebook page and our website up to date with
all the events, so please follow us for more info.

www.adastracider.com

Wassail!!

Paul Rolfe

MONTHLY RECIPE

Fig & frangipane tart

For those of us lucky to have fig trees in our gardens, soon we will be reaping the rewards. This is my go to recipe for an easy, quick dessert to make use of some of the figs. It is a Gordon Ramsay recipe.

Makes 4-5

Ingredients

500g ready-made puff pastry
Flour, to dust
1 egg yolk, beaten, to glaze
10-12 ripe figs

For the frangipane

100g butter, softened to room temperature
100g icing sugar, plus extra to dust
1 large egg, beaten
100g ground almonds
25g plain flour



Method

First make the frangipane. Cream the butter and icing sugar together in a bowl, then slowly add the egg, mixing until it is fully incorporated. Add the ground almonds and flour and fold through until evenly combined. Leave the mixture to rest for about 5 minutes. Heat the oven to 200°C/Gas 6.

Roll out the puff pastry thinly on a lightly floured surface until it is the thickness of a £1 coin. Using a small plate or saucer as a guide, cut out 4-5 rounds from the pastry. Score a 1cm border around the edge of each circle, making sure you don't cut right through the pastry. Lift the circles on to a large baking tray and glaze the border with the egg yolk. Smooth a thin layer of frangipane over the centre of each pastry round.

Slice two figs horizontally into rounds. Cut the rest of the figs into wedges. Arrange on top of the frangipane like a flower, with a fig round in the centre surrounded by fig wedges. Dust with a little icing sugar and bake until the pastry is crisp and golden, about 20 minutes. The pastry border will puff up around the fig flowers.

While still warm, drizzle with honey to glaze. Cool slightly before serving with cream.

Note: I never glaze them and rarely cut out circles - squares are much easier and no pastry wasted. They therefore never ever look like the picture above but they still taste delicious!

Fliss Spinner

NEWS FROM ALLERTON WI

On 11th July, members of the WI had an outing to the Aldwick Winery in Redhill, not far from Bristol airport. Several of the members were accompanied by their consorts, whose general demeanour suggested that they probably hadn't required a lot of persuasion to join them on this occasion.

On arrival we were greeted with a glass of excellent sparkling rosé, which went some way towards counteracting the efforts of the rain pouring down outside the venue. We were then given a talk on the history of the vineyard and of English wine in general, which turns out to be absolutely booming at the moment, thanks in no small part to global warming.

The end of the talk coincided perfectly with a break in the weather, permitting us to take a tour of the vineyard itself, while our host pointed out the various aspects of the location that worked together to provide the perfect terroir for making wine. After that, we went back inside to sample Aldwick's award-winning wines, along with a very pleasant plate of charcuterie and cheese.



The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th August at 7.30pm in the Old School Room when Emma Britton will be coming to speak about her journey from the BBC to becoming a celebrant.

Jonathan Pinnock (consort and wine-taster)



ALLERTON ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

This month Fiona Pople has nominated two 'Animals of the Month' – Millie and Orla.



This is Orla and Millie at the Windmill in June. Millie is on the right and Orla is on the left, being ridden by myself and my daughter Hallie.

Millie is a 5 year old Connemara x Warmblood who we have owned since she was rising 4 and Orla is a 13 year old Connemara we've owned for 9 years.

Both are very sweet mares and I feel we have been incredibly lucky as they were purchased unseen from Ireland. Internet shopping to the extreme!

Orla is a good allrounder and tries her hand at dressage, jumping and cross country including some one day events. Now she primarily enjoys hacking and we are keen members of the BlackDown Mendip Riding Club. Millie is still growing and learning the basics, but is incredibly enthusiastic about jumping and going anywhere at 100mph!

Fiona Pople

LESTER DURSTON CONTINUES HIS TRAVEL TALES IN SOUTH AMERICA

Into the Atacama Desert

So far on this trip to Chile we had explored the urban centres of the capital Santiago, its port of Valparaiso and the coastal resorts of Vina del Mar and La Serena. Things were soon to be very different as we travelled northwards.

South America does not have a significant rail network, unlike much of the rest of the world. Flying is expensive and many places have no airport. The alternative is road transport. A network of busses allows the traveller an efficient and reasonably cheap means of getting about. Some of the journeys cover great distances and are effectively non-stop services, in that the bus will arrive at an intermediate town, several passengers may get off, retrieve their luggage from the hold, and several new passengers will join the bus. It takes but a few minutes and the bus then departs for the next place. Two drivers share the operation of the bus, giving one rest breaks. There is a conductor who serves limited food. The generous seats in the double deck vehicle are just in pairs and fully recline to make comfortable beds.

Our first journey by this public transport took us from **La Serena** to **San Pedro de Atacama** in the heart of this desolate region. It was almost 1200km and took nearly 24 hours! Such a journey in a normal bus would have been a trial.

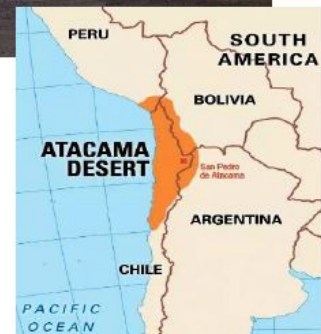
We had left our hotel in La Serena after a prompt breakfast and arrived in the bright early morning sunshine the following day.



We skirted the northern port city of Antofagasta and began the long climb eastwards through increasingly bleak terrain.



The **Atacama Desert** is one of the world's harshest non-Polar deserts. It lies between the Andes ranges and the Pacific Ocean and stretches 1600km north from La Serena right up into southern Peru. Much of it is high plateau, often over 3000m. The desolate landscape has been likened to that of Mars (and has been used not only as a film location, but to test space equipment). Parts have had no recorded rainfall for decades. However, the cold Humbolt Current causes



extensive fogs in some areas, giving meagre precipitation. Snow melt from the Andes sends some water into other areas. There are a few oases such as San Pedro and lakes that have formed in depressions.



Evaporation has caused the formation of extensive salt flats, such as the **Salar de Atacama** south of San Pedro, some 3000 sq km in area.

San Pedro began as a small oasis village of narrow dirt streets and adobe houses. Since the 1990s it has become the centre of tourism but was a settlement from pre-Hispanic times and an important trading post between the Pacific coast and the lands across the Andes to the east. Many properties now catered for tourists as places to stay, eat or buy handicrafts. It was a hub for the excursions to explore the natural wonders around.



The church looked out on the plaza in the centre but the fringes of the village were rough and ready. The cone of the extinct volcano **Licanabur** (nearly 6000m) formed the horizon to the east.



Later in the day we were taken out to the *Salar* with its surreal topography of salt deposits.



Amidst the dazzling white expanses were areas of clear water, the home of colonies of feeding flamingos, native to the Atacama.



On higher ground above the *salar* were several small settlements where there was fresh water, enabling modest crops to grow. One was **Socaire**, some 70 km south of San Pedro. It was little more than a collection of simple dwellings and a modest grass-thatched church. Cultivated terraces were nearby. We were watched by a donkey, penned in beside a bread oven.



Yet more volcanos form the horizon.

In the same area as Socaire were a couple of smaller salt flats surrounding turquoise lakes each with its shoreline of encrusted salt and a backdrop of volcanic peaks.



Laguna Minques with Cerro Minques beyond.



In complete contrast to the slight fertility of these small oases was the **Valle de la Luna**, the Valley of the Moon. This we visited on our late afternoon return to San Pedro. It was devoid of any vegetation and deserved its name.



Not far away was an even more barren valley, the **Death Valley**. Viewed from the rim of the rugged scenery the edge of San Pedro was visible whilst, several parked vehicles on the valley floor appeared as miniatures. A feature of this part of the valley was a huge sand dune that had formed of wind-blown debris. It provided a good opportunity for dune running or sand boarding.



We lingered for quite a while, marvelling at this amazing sight but soon the sun began to set. We made our way back to San Pedro. We had to be ready for a very early start tomorrow, a two and a half hour drive before dawn!

Lester Durston

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

CHURCHWARDENS' NOTES AUGUST 2023

We had a wonderful open-air Family Service on 2nd July in Jane & Andrew Midgley's garden, on the theme of "God's wonderful creation". Despite Jane's trepidations, the weather was kind and we had a great turnout. At the end of the service, Dave Nevitt, our highly accomplished village lepidopterist, showed us an amazing collection of several hundred moths he



The open-air Family Service

had collected overnight in his moth traps, including several magnificent specimens of Hawk Moths and Tiger Moths. Both the children and adults were entranced, and the kids set off with jam jars on a bug hunt with great enthusiasm, returning with eclectic collections of beetles, grasshoppers, snails and flies, which Dave was able to identify – thank you to him for his informative and inspiring contribution to our worship.



The children admire an Elephant Hawkmoth



Dave Nevitt showing his moths



The wedding of Stephen Pinn and Emily Jobling took place in Allerton Church on 22nd July. Stephen and his sister Rebecca, one of the bridesmaids, have a long connection with Allerton. They used to come to Quest when they lived on the Top Road many years ago. Jane recalls Stephen falling off his chair and breaking his arm. This was less of an issue then - just a rite of passage, not a Health and Safety issue – we all broke bones when we were eight! And now they were back to celebrate Stephen's wedding to the lovely Emily. It was wet, wet, wet, but the rain didn't dampen the spirits of Stephen and Emily, nor their many guests. The groom and ushers looked very dashing in their tweed suits and Emily looked absolutely stunning. It was a very happy occasion with the church full of family and friends. We wish Stephen and Emily a long and happy life together.

On 16th July we welcomed Joy Hawes back to Allerton Church, the first time she's taken a service here for some years. It was lovely to see her and we all enjoyed her sermon about the sower and the seed. Joy loves Silver Birch seeds, but the seeds we should cherish are those of our inner, middle and outer selves, nourished and sustained by prayer. Thank you Joy – we look forward to seeing you again.

The Parish Church Council met early in the month to discuss two important issues. Please do contact us with your thoughts and comments on either of these issues - they would be genuinely welcome:

- **Living in Love and Prayer.** The Church of England does not currently allow same-sex marriage in church, but General Synod has recently approved a proposal that individual parishes may decide for themselves whether to offer a Service of Blessing on same-sex marriage and partnerships. A special Order of Service, distinct from the marriage sacrament, is being developed for this. The Allerton Parish Church Council will soon have to decide whether they wish to offer this in our church.
- **Clergy Deployment in Axbridge Deanery.** A plan has been drawn up with proposals for how to manage the forthcoming reduction in clergy posts in Axbridge Deanery from 9 (now) to 7 (by 2026). The most obvious change for us is that Mark Parish will join the Isle of Wedmore Benefice (of which Allerton is a part) to make it a five-church benefice (Wedmore, Theale, Blackford, Allerton and, now, Mark). This will clearly mean our vicar Richard Neill's time will be spread more thinly than it was, which will require greater engagement by the Lay members of the church, although the details of this have yet to be worked out. The PCC provisionally approved this proposal, acknowledging that such changes are inevitable in the circumstances, and must be faced head on. We will need to work together and be prepared to do things differently.

With blessings, Jane and Matthew

VICAR'S NOTES

Allerton Church Services in August

Our worship will also continue to be available online. At least one of our Sunday services each week is recorded and you can join in via the St Mary's YouTube channel. Links for all the above and details of services both online and in churches can be found <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/>.

Every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday there is Morning Prayer online at 9am on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/>

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Tuesday 22nd August, the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the communities. Details of timings can be found in the Churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.

From the Parish Registers

Congratulations to Emily (née Jobling) and Stephen Pinn of Burnham-on-Sea (Stephen formerly of Allerton) who were married in Allerton Church on Saturday 22nd July.

Our condolences to the family and friends of John Gibbs, formerly of Stone Allerton, who died on 18th June aged 90 and whose funeral was at St Bartholomew's, Ubley on Thursday 20th July.

Dear Friends,

I have been lucky to volunteer at Glastonbury Festival for a number of years and we often take for granted what an amazing spectacle takes place so close to where we live. Alongside the volunteering there is obviously opportunity to take in many of the amazing performances across the festival. Each year the Circus Tent is always a highlight, and this year didn't disappoint either – three motorbikes simultaneously weaving around each other in a spherical wheel of death was a particularly impressive act. Then there are the jugglers. As someone with terrible hand eye co-ordination who would struggle to juggle two batons, never mind the five that some do, I have always been impressed by these acts.

And so it was that the morning after spending time in the circus tent, as I was making my way for an early morning wash under the cold tap, I passed a young lad practising his juggling in the Kidzfield. He dropped his baton quickly, sat down and beat the ground in frustration with the other two. At that moment an older woman appeared, sat down next to him and began to encourage him. As I returned from my wash they were still there talking and smiling and I am sure that the young lad was able to carry on his practice in a much better frame of mind.

It reminded me that what we see in the Circus Tent and with other performers is the tip of hour after hour of practice (though how you safely practise a three

motorbike sphere of death I'm not sure!) and that it is almost always dependent on the support of others spending time in patient encouragement.

The fourth of July this year saw the thirtieth anniversary of my ordination, when I became a minister with a dog collar. I thank God for all those in this place and others who have made that possible through their encouragement, love and prayer.

Who are those in your own life you need to give thanks for? Those many people who have made it possible for you to become the person God has called you to be.

Your vicar, Richard Neill

With blessings, Richard

ALLERTON CHURCH BELLRINGING ROTA



AUGUST
Mark Bennett
Adam Martin
Rob Allen

SEPTEMBER
Johnny Torrens-Spence
Jon Pinnock
Ben Lewis

CHURCHYARD MOWING ROTA

Mark Bennett	713623
Gary Rucklidge	712501
Roger & Ewan Duckett	07779 272828

ALLERTON CHURCH ROTA AUGUST 2023

Services 9.00am at Allerton unless otherwise stated

	August 6th	August 13th
	Family Service	Parish Communion
	Transfiguration	Trinity 10
Officiant	LWA Matthew Paul	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Fiona Torrens-Spence	Nina Reading
Coffee	Tracy Mathews & Nina Reading	Di & Simon Midgley
Flowers	Tracey Crosby	Fiona Duggan-Rees
Intercessions	Andrew Midgley	Dot Puddy
Keys	Wendy Pollock	Ros Prince
Reader 1	Jane Midgley	Philip Bevan
Reading	Daniel 7, 9-10,13-14	Matthew 18, 21-35
Reader 2	Johnny Torrens-Spence	Matthew Paul
Reading	Luke 9, 28-36	Romans 10, 5-15
Sides - Collection	Dot Puddy	Nina & Steve Reading

	August 20th	August 27th
	Morning Prayer	Parish Communion
	Trinity 11	Trinity 12
Officiant	LWA Johnny Torrens-Spence	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Shirley Turner	Jane Midgley
Coffee	Jane & Andrew Midgley	Fiona & Johnny Torrens-Spence
Flowers	Anita Tonks	Nina Reading
Intercessions	TBC	Andrew Midgley
Keys	Martin Long	Ros Prince
Reader 1	Angie Horne	Fiona Torrens-Spence
Reading	Isaiah 56, 1, 6-8	Isaiah 5, 1-6
Reader 2	Lester Durston	Judith Ogden
Reading	Matthew 15, 21-28	Romans 12, 1-8
Sides - Collection	Fiona Torrens-Spence	Doris Langdon & Irene McIntosh

SEPTEMBER 2023

Services 9.00am at Allerton unless otherwise stated

	September 3rd	September 10th
	Family Service	Parish Communion
	Trinity 13	Trinity 14
Officiant	Rev. Richard Neill	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Fiona Duggan-Rees	Matthew Paul
Coffee	Tracy Mathews & Fiona Duggan-Rees	Matthew Paul & Angie Horne
Flowers	Kate Fielder	Irene McIntosh
Intercessions	Jane Midgley	Dot Puddy
Keys	Dot Puddy	Martin Long
Reader 1	Jane Midgley	Johnny Torrens-Spence
Reading	Jeremiah 15, 15-21	Ezekiel 33, 7-11
Reader 2		Andrew Midgley
Reading		Romans 13, 8-14
Sides - Collection	Fiona & Johnny Torrens-Spence	Andrew & Jane Midgley

	September 17th	August 27th
	Morning Prayer	Parish Communion
	Trinity 15	Trinity 12
Officiant	LWA – TBC	Rev. Richard Neill
Cleaning	Judith Ogden & Sylvia Finch	Fiona Torrens-Spence
Coffee	Di & Simon Midgley	Irene McIntosh & Nina Reading
Flowers	Dot Puddy	Anita Tonks
Intercessions	Johnny Torrens-Spence	Andrew Midgley
Keys	Elaine Steckler	Wendy Pollock
Reader 1	Lester Durston	Matthew Paul
Reading	Genesis 50, 15-21	Jonah 3, 10 – 4, 11
Reader 2	Philip Bevan	Angie Horne
Reading	Matthew 18, 21-35	Philippians 1, 21-30
Sides - Collection	Judith Ogden & Dot Puddy	Di & Simon Midgley

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

<p>ALLERTON CHURCH Benefice Vicar: Rev. Richard Neill (713566) Enquiries except personal or pastoral to Churchwardens Mrs Jane Midgley (712642) and Dr Matthew Paul (712934) Or PCC Secretary Mr Johnny Torrens-Spence (710188) Parish Safeguarding Officer Lyndsay Andrews (710305) (07813 931734) lyndsayandrews@hotmail.com</p>	<p>ASHTON WINDMILL Chairman Mr Steve Reading (712692) Open Sundays 2.30 – 4.30pm April – September Open Wednesdays July & August Parties by arrangement with the Chairman</p>
<p>ALLERTON CRICKET CLUB Chairman Mr Andrew Cook (710074) Secretary Mr David Spinner (710784) Captain Dr Matthew Paul (712934) (07703 776447) cricketallerton@gmail.com</p>	<p>BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS at Badgworth Old School Cubs - Mondays Beavers – Wednesdays Scouts -Fridays Contact Mr Mike Wilkinson (713356)</p>
<p>ALLERTON HARVEST HOME Chairman Dr Matthew Paul (712934) Secretary Mrs Sarah Axton (712935)</p>	<p>BROWNIES & GUIDES At Weare Academy First School Brownies Mrs Juliet Dormer (741875)</p>
<p>ALLERTON NEWS Email allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk Enquiries Mrs Alison Buckton (712714) Adverts Mrs J Benson (713112) Benson43@hotmail.co.uk Mailing List allertonnews@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>MOBILE LIBRARY See the village notice boards. Usually 3rd Friday of the month. Front Street, Chapel Allerton, between 1.25pm- 1.45pm www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries</p>
<p>ALLERTON OLD SCHOOL ROOM Chairman Mr Johnny Torrens-Spence (710118) Secretary Mr Steve Reading (712692) Bookings Mrs Louise Whittaker (07729 845723) Louise01934@gmail.com</p>	<p>NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES Mr Jeff Savage (744830) (07973 232140)</p>
<p>ALLERTON PARISH COUNCIL Chair Mrs Jasmine Blakemore Mrs Fiona Torrens-Spence, Mrs Margret Wallach Mrs Val Wathen, Mrs Rachel Williams Footpath Liaison Office John Crosby (07470180759) John57crosby@yahoo.com Clerk Sammie Millard - Jones</p>	<p>OIL BUYING GROUP Co-ordinator Mr Jonathan Pinnock theoilbuyinggroup@gmail.com</p>
<p>ALLERTON VILLAGES WEBSITE www.allertonvillages.co.uk</p>	<p>REFUSE COLLECTION Recycling weekly Mondays Black Bins every three weeks For information and dates https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk</p>
<p>ALLERTON WOMENS INSTITUTE 2nd Tuesday of the Month at The Old School Room President Mrs Jackie Klinker (01934 732208) Secretary Mrs Gail Pinnock (01934 709496)</p>	<p>SOMERSET COUNCIL Bob Filmer (01278 760760) bfilmer@somerset.gov.uk Tony Grimes (01278 786308) tony.grimes@somerset.gov.uk</p>
<p>ALLERTON YOUTH CLUB Alternate Fridays in The Old School Room Contact Denise Pope (07786071007) denise.pope101@gmail.com</p>	<p>WEARE PARISH COUNCIL https://www.weareparishcouncil.org.uk weareparishcouncil@hotmail.com</p>
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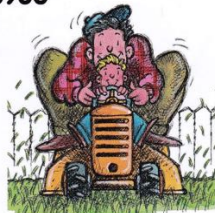
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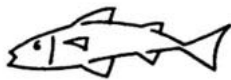
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