

Fiddington News



March 2021



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

Village Hall Committee News



Chairman's Note

Despite our PM's recent announcements, we really have little clarity as to when the hall will finally be fully open .

However, we are going ahead with planning the Flower Show, which we hope will be on July 17th. Rod Cole has kindly agreed to organise it and will post updates as time goes on.

Other than that, there is sadly little to report. The hall is still standing and the roof isn't leaking!

Keep well and safe everyone.

Robin Kinahan
(Chair of the Village Hall Committee)
www.fiddingtonvillagehall.co.uk



In this month's edition...

(see page 4) Get planning your flower beds and vegetable plots Fingers X there will be a Flower Show!

(see Page 8) Treat your mum on March 14th!

(see page 9) For a little light relief!



Working together to deliver a successful Census 2021

The Office for National Statistics – which runs Census 2021 – is working with Sedgemoor District Council to deliver a successful census and help local services to fully meet future needs.

Understanding the needs of the nation helps everyone from central government to local organisations, such as councils and health authorities, plan and fund public services across England and Wales. Census outputs inform where public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health – on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries.

The census, taking place on 21 March 2021, will shed light on the needs of different groups and communities, and the inequalities people are experiencing, ensuring the big decisions facing the country following the coronavirus pandemic and EU exit are based on the best information possible.

Households will begin receiving letters with online codes in March explaining how they can complete their online census. People can also request a paper questionnaire if they'd prefer to complete the census that way. In areas where lower online completion is expected, around 10% of households will receive a traditional paper form through the post. There is plenty of help available, with people also able to complete the census over the phone with assistance from trained staff via the ONS' free phone contact centre. The ONS also aims to provide in-person support to complete the census online through Census Support Centres where it is safe to do so.

The main census field operation will begin only after Census Day, contacting those who have not responded. Field staff will never need to enter people's houses; they will always be socially distanced, wear PPE and work in line with all government guidance. They will be operating in the same way as a postal or food delivery visit.

Census 2021 will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available in 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information and advice on how to answer the questions, visit census.gov.uk.

Bereavement support

The Somerset Bereavement Support Service is here if you've been bereaved and need emotional support or someone to talk to.

Call 0800 304 7412
9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

In partnership with



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COVID-19: to find out how to stay healthy, happy and safe at home head to the Healthy Somerset website



St Martin of Tours, Fiddington

Church Services for March

Due to the continuing lockdown there will be no services in the churches of the Benefice during March.



There will, however, be services held on Zoom each Sunday at 10.30am that will take the form of the Eucharist celebrated by the Rector, Nicky, from the Rectory in Stogursey. There will also be a Wednesday morning service at 10.30am on Zoom. On Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm throughout Lent there will be a Lent Talk via Zoom. This will last about an hour and is a weekly video talk by a theologian called Brant Pitre. It should be most interesting and there is no requirement for participation, you can just watch and listen. Everyone is most welcome.

If anyone would like to participate in any of the services or the Lent Talk and does not receive the regular service sheets and pew sheets with the relevant Zoom invitation, please contact either: **Paul Matthews** (Church Warden) 01278 732175 or email: pandi@talktalk.net - **Jenny Kinahan** (Secretary to the PCC) 01278 732190 or email: jenny.kinahan@hotmail.co.uk Or Nicky, the Rector, 01278 732873 or email: rectoryqcb@gmail.com .

Instructions can also be given to connect using your telephone if you are unable to do so via a computer or tablet.

Dates for your diary: World Day of Prayer March 5th at 2.30pm. To join on Zoom use access code: 810 4181 2951 Everyone is very welcome.

Mothering Sunday March 14th, Good Friday April 2nd,
Easter Sunday April 4th.

Church Open for Private Prayer

St Martin of Tours, Fiddington will be open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm and Sundays from 9am to 1pm. The church is organised for social distancing with hand sanitiser at the door. If someone else, who is not in your family bubble, is in the church at the same time it would be advisable to wear a mask. Please observe the strict Covid Secure rules displayed at the church door to keep everyone safe. Should you develop Covid after you have visited the church please ensure that you let the Church Warden, Paul Matthews know of this (contact details above). This is essential. Thank you.



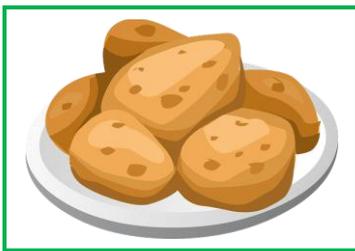
Will there, won't there, be a Fiddington Flower Show this year?

Exceedingly good question! Welcome to this year's village cliff-hanger.

Nevertheless, plans are currently afoot for the show, scheduled for Saturday, 17th July, as per the time-honoured slot of third Saturday of July. It's been like that since time immemorial, we're told, although there seems not to have been a show in 1685, for some reason. Nor in 2020.

All such plans might yet be brought to nought – it all depends on the state of the Covid, government instruction, and the overall advisability of going ahead with a substantial social get-together. Watch this space!

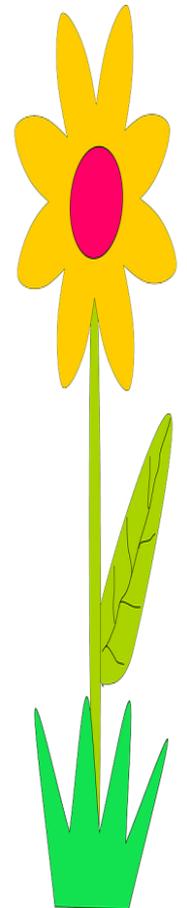
Delightfully, all the judges who had been lined up for last year's show are happy to perform their crucial role this time around, assuming all goes ahead. That's splendid news, and we are very grateful to them. Meanwhile, there's the business of the **'heaviest harvest' potato competition**, as well as the **tallest sunflower**. Seed potatoes, price 30p each, and a smattering of free sunflower seeds will be available on 1st April from out front of Milestone, Church Road (tel: 732345).



Be sure to register your name when collecting the seeds, otherwise you will be missed on the

Day of Judgement. Details of the classes for the Flower Show competitions will be distributed next month.

Jenny and Rod Cole.



Postbag

Thankyou

"A very big thank you to all my friends from Fiddington W.I who sent flowers and good wishes on my 90th Birthday. My best wishes to you all."

Margaret Arrigoni



Laptops for Kids

I have been helping with this project. They have given out over 100 laptops so far. Significant logistics have had to be set up, all from volunteers, a lot of them with jobs to go to as well as families. They collect laptops (2010 onwards), from donors homes, deliver them to a central point, overhaul them and put in new drivers. They then allocate out to families, then the laptop delivered to the families. I did 4.5hrs and 58miles this week for them. They are also taking donations and have Rotary support etc. They still need laptops.

Get in touch with www.schol.tech. or with me.

Heather Hawley

mummyhawley@hotmail.com



Schol Tech : Refurbishing Laptops for Kids

Schol Tech is a community-formed action group of volunteers refurbishing donated old laptops into school kids' lockdown laptops in Wellington, Taunton and Bridgwater, Somerset, UK.

www.schol.tech





St David's Day!



A poem for March 1st

St David's Day by Brenda Williams

A land of rugged mountains
A land of finest slate
The sound of rushing rivers
Gives us cause to celebrate.

A land of ancient forests
Green valleys, grazing sheep
Gives the people of St. David
A land they wish to keep

Follow the red dragonflag
In parades led by Welsh bands
Raise voices in the choirs
To salute this lovely land.

For here in Wales, or far away
The Welsh remember still
And on St. David's Day with pride
Wear leek or daffodil.

Growing Unusual Vegetables in 2021?

Can you find 15 unusual vegetables in the grid?

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

St. Patricks Day!



A Poem for March 17th

Lake Isle of Innisfree

by WB Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee;
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.



Noisy nocturnal goings-on around Fiddington

Usually it is the sound of the owls calling from taller trees that disturbs the night, or the distant lowing of cattle and baaing of sheep. Just occasionally, the roar of louder vehicles, Bridgwater-bound, prevails above the murmur of lesser conveyances.

However, with effect from 16 th February, amid the abundant rains and wildly mild westerlies, there came distinctly the wurrops and belches of the pond folk, grown amorous amid the muds of late winter. They were back!

Sure enough, the surface of the pond betrayed a frenzy of activity, as frogs locked in watery and slithery amplexus generated their jellied frogspawn, to float above the obliging waterweed and betray, come morning, the scene of what otherwise would have been the mysterious activity of the night.

Mysterious indeed! For such sudden activity was not confined to just our pond. Some secret stimulus had assailed frogs from across the parish, luring them from their lowly fastnesses to seek out their nearby ponds, all on this one night. It proved to be the cue for several evenings' activity, interrupted by day as the frogs retreated prudently into the shadows to evade the heron's attentions.

For us, with three ponds, just the one was the scene of such activity. Another of the ponds seems sullenly determined to fend off much by way of fascination, while the biggest one is the preserve of the newts. Quite who eats whose offspring between frogs and the local newts is not absolutely clear – probably a bit of both, according to size and vulnerability of prey – but there seems to be a degree of avoiding each other.

(It would be very clear if we had Great-crested Newts in this part of the country, for these are voracious consumers of frogspawn and any resulting tadpoles, to the degree that frog populations gradually die out in such ponds unless they are large enough to accommodate both species.)

But what of the toads? Are there any hereabouts?
Letters to the editor, please, if you know more.



Rod Cole.



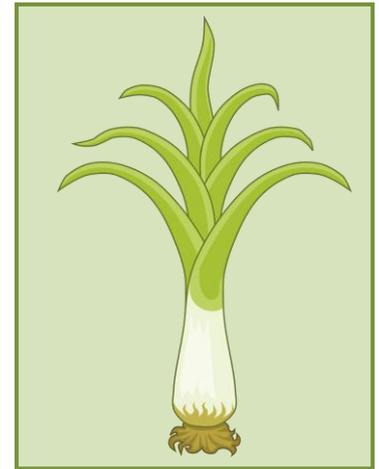
from the Village Cook's Kitchen ...

St.David's Leek and Chicken Hotpot

Serves 4. very quick and easy (and good)

Ingredients:

- 2 baking potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 leeks, cut into thick slices and washed
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 3cm slices
- 300mls / 1/2 pint hot chicken stock (cube has a bit more taste)
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 3 tbsp double cream (at least)
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley



Method:

- 1) Toss the potatoes, leeks and carrots together in a shallow microwaveable dish with some seasoning. Pour over the stock, and cover the dish with clingfilm. Pierce film several times . Cook in the microwave on High for about 10 minutes, till the potatoes are just becoming tender.
- 2) Remove the dish from the microwave, peel off the clingfilm and add the chicken . Stir. Cover the dish with fresh cling film and cook again for about 6 minutes or until chicken is cooked and succulent.
- 3) Remove the dish from the microwave, uncover and stir in the cream and parsley, plus black pepper to taste. Serve straight from the dish with crusty bread or rolls to sop up the juice.

Our Master of Wine recommends ...

A red or white will do fine with this, but you will need a bit of acidity to cut through all that rich cream

A Chardonnay from the cooler parts of the world will be good. Look for these words on Chardonnay labels – *Limari* from Chile, *Coastal* from California, *Marlborough* from NZ and *Adelaide Hills* from Australia. The NZ Oyster bay Chardonnay (£9.50) at Sainsbury is pretty good. They'll cost a bit more, but will be worth it. Regarding the red, I make no apology for recommending Beaujolais again. The excellent 2019 vintage is now with all the retailers. The many members of the Wine Society in Fiddington should try the 2019 Chateau Emeringes, Beaujolais Villages—its lovely.

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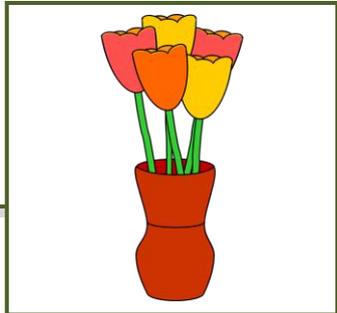
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light relief for lockdown



The Lockdowns took their toll upon my mental health.

I talked about my problems with the microwave cooker and the toaster but neither warmed to my plight.

Next I tried the fridge, but she gave me the cold shoulder.

I didn't bother with the washing machine because she always puts a different spin on things.

Next I tried the loo but she seemed to be embarrassed by the situation, and flushed a little.

The door said I was unhinged and its handle said "get a grip"!

And the curtains just told me to pull myself together.

The Fan heater assured me that things would soon blow over, and *finally* the iron straightened me out assuring me that "none of my problems was *too* pressing"

(passed on by Nancy Small)

In 1904 a book called *The Quantock Hills* by Beatrix Cresswell, was published by John Whitby & Sons of Bridgwater. It was sold for 6d.

She describes a walk to Stoke Courcy (Stogursey) and includes Fiddington in the narrative as follows;-

"- Fiddington ,it must be admitted, is hardly worth the extra distance. It is a fair sized village ,with a pretty pond, near which stands the church, where we shall see nothing of notable interest, except the fragment of a churchyard cross overgrown with ivy."

Damned with faint praise!

From Robin Kinahan

A WALK ON THE QUANTOCKS

On a lovely sunny, but extremely cold, February morning Carol Taylor and her friend were enjoying a peaceful and uneventful walk on the Quantock Hills when approaching out of the sun came a figure wearing a woolen bobble hat, walking boots and absolutely nothing else. Naked as a jay bird was an expression that sprang immediately to mind.

The extremely low temperature that morning meant that first incredulous impressions were unable to determine with any degree of certainty the gender of the approaching figure, but a brief closer inspection quickly confirmed that it was indeed a man. In a state of shock Carol and her friend averted their glances and walked hurriedly by, without the normal "Good Morning" courtesies being exchanged.

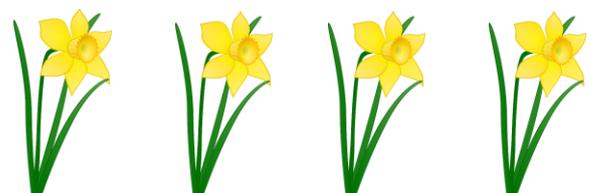
It is unclear as to whether or not nude walking is permitted under the current lockdown regulations, but it could be argued that it is certainly a good way of ensuring that other people are unlikely to come closer than the stipulated 2 metre distance requirement.



" lovely view Carol "-

" I think that's Will's Neck we can see isn't it?" –
"it doesn't look like his neck to me"....!

(ed)



fiddingtonnews@gmail.com

**Deadline
for the next Issue is
March 25th**

Please send
articles/photos/letters by
email or by post to
Juliet Harkness
Redwood, Whitnell, TA5
1JE

Notices



St Nicholas Wayfarers' Church
Kilton TA5 1ST

Project 21

The idea of Project 21 is to bring the inside out and is summarised by its title:

Bee informed, Bee inspired, Bee Active.

Set up in the porch is a display of Charitable Information from a wide variety of charitable literature which may be taken away or read on site as a rest break during your 'Pandemic exercise schedule'.

Charities are primarily formed following an individual's observation of a need in society; such an individual may be a lay person, or a member of a religious order which may then branch out and expand its foundation objectives.

* * *

Also available is a Booklet entitled '*A Meditation*' an ideal accompaniment to the present season of Lent. Free to visitors, but donation welcome do take a copy for a friend who may be house-bound at this time.

For Kilton – A39 towards Minehead, turn North onto Kilton Rd on the sharp bend between Holford and Kilve, up the hill and down through Kilton and St Nicholas will be on your left. Dogs welcome. Enjoy your walk. (From the St Nicholas Trust).

Unusual Vegetable Wordsearch

Answers : *artichoke, asparagus, celeriac, avocado, kohlrabi, pakchoi, squash, okra, plantain, aubergine, radicchio, capiscum, fennel, yam, seakale*

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