

Fiddington

NEWS

April 2025



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

Chairman's Introduction

Hello Fiddington,

Thank you to our helpers and those that donated to last month's Jumble sale. The monies raised were gratefully received. (see Heather's 'Thankyou' on the back page)

I would also like to also say a big thank you to everyone involved, including the students from Cannington College for their hard work clearing the storm damaged trees within the spinney.

If you haven't yet seen the wildlife hedge that was created from the branches, then please do. It looks great. (see the pictures on p.4 & 7)

Don't forget Book Swap and to book for Ruth's cooked breakfast on the 5th April

Lastly I'd like to share this poem that I stumbled across:

*On the grassy banks
Lambkins at their pranks;
Woolly sisters, woolly brother
Jumping off their feet
While their woolly mothers
Watch by them and bleat.*



Take care all and have a wonderful Easter.

James U'Dell
(Chair of the Village Hall Committee)
www.fiddingtonvillagehall.co.uk

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**Rod Cole
on the Spinney p.4**

Recipe for the Show p.6

PLUS:
Editor's Easter Egg Hunt:

How many eggs can you spot in this edition?



**Dates for the Diary
On the Back Page**



Sunday Services for St Martins, Fiddington for April

Sunday April 6th Eucharist 9am
Sunday April 13th **Palm Sunday** Eucharist 9am
(**Monday April 14th** at Stogursey at 6.30 pm the Deanery Choir will be singing The Passion of Christ by Arthur Somervell for a service to start Holy Week)



Friday April 18th 1 **Good Friday** Liturgy 10am
Sunday April 20th **Easter Sunday** Family Communion 9am
Sunday April 27th **Family Service 9am** (Please note that if you are planning on coming please check with Jenny Kinahan first as this service may have to be cancelled)

Everyone is very welcome to any service or come and share a friendly cuppa after the service has finished. Coffee, tea and biscuits are always served from about 10.10am.

Lent Lunch

Please join us for a very short service followed by a simple lunch in church at 12.00 on Saturday March 29th.

Other Lent Lunches in the Benefice will be at Combwich on April 5th and at Cannington on April 12th. They will be at 12.00 in the church and everyone is most welcome.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

All who live in or have connections with the parish of Fiddington are invited to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St Martin of Tours, Fiddington. This will be held in the church after the service (10.15am) on Sunday April 6th. Anyone wishing to stand as Churchwarden or as a PCC (Parochial Church Council) member or who would be willing to act as Church Secretary (there is no need to be a church attender for this role) please contact me before the meeting so that nomination papers can be prepared.

There are vacancies!!

Jenny Kinahan (Sec to the PCC) Tel: 01278 732190 or jenny.kinahan@hotmail.co.uk

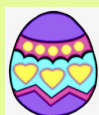


Sausage Sizzlers!

The Lascars - (Heather & Wayne Hawley, Marianne and Matthew Parr) took first prize at the Sausage Sizzle Quiz

200 CLUB – DRAW RESULTS

The March draw was made at the Spring Sausage Sizzle & Quiz. The winning tickets were:



£30 – No 11: Jamie Driver

£50 – No 180: Kieren Berry

The Marion Evered Trust

We have a few things going on in 2025 some dates confirmed as shown below and some still to confirm so watch this space.

On May 10th Ian Barrow and a group of lads from Hinkley C are taking on the Carten100, a 100 milebike ride from Cardiff to Tenby in South Wales. It is being done in aid of our cause please see the Marion Evered Trust facebook page for a link to donate towards this challenge.

The 200 club is now up and running and if you haven't received a reminder/invitation to be in the draw then please contact Pauline Barrow on 01278 732522 for details.

Feb draw

£20 Madeline Davey £10 Tony Spence £5 Stuart Modley

Dates for the diary

21st April Easter Bingo Over Stowey Village hall

7th -8th June Big Bash cricket weekend at Over Stowey cricket ground



Use Your Village Website!



SPREAD THE WORD!

You may not be aware, but Fiddington Village Hall has its own website. If we don't get a replacement for our Newsletter Editor, this might be the only way of finding out what's going on in the village, so take a look! You can find it here...

<https://www.fiddingtonvillagehall.co.uk/>

You can find all you need to know about the hall, including:

- Useful contacts
- What's on, events and bookings diary
- Facilities on offer
- Cost of hire
- Special wedding deals
- A Gallery with lots of great photo ideas on how to make use of the hall.
- Fiddington News Letters – (but see above.)
- Contacts and photos of the church.
- We also have a Face Book page which you can find here...

<https://www.facebook.com/fiddingtonvillagehall/>



It's an ill wind that brings benefits to no-one



Last winter's storm wrought havoc in the spinney, felling some fine trees, not least a couple of well-grown limes. The resulting clear-up owed much to the land management students and their teachers from Cannington College, as well as a hardworking team of village volunteers. Well done, all!

The bole of one tree was left on its side, still partially rooted into the ground. It might yet survive and have a new lease of life. Much of the brash went into a dead hedge, rather than simply burned.

With Wayne Hawley's assistance, a substantial section of tree-bole was brought away, and drilled with deep holes of varying diameters, from 1 to 10 mm., slanted slightly upwards into the wood (so as to prevent rainwater collecting). Object of exercise? To create nesting tubes for a variety of solitary bee species, in the hope of generating new colonies.

Why? Hive bees and bumble bees – so-called social species - do a great deal of good in pollination. Not an issue. Much appreciated (and needed). But the smaller solitary bees (with no workers) contribute a range of extra services, and their disappearance would be bad all round. We need them, but their habitats are under severe pressure in the modern manicured landscape.

One well-drilled bole of hardwood, suitably located, can achieve so much, over many years....



New beetle on the block

There was puzzlement in the spinney when it came to shifting all that storm-smashed lime wood. Both shiny and tiny, yet very noticeable (see the photo of a whole beetle and only part of a Bic pen).

Anyone seen such a beetle before? No, was the response – yet there were lots of them.

Well, the association with lime wood proved to be a red herring, so to speak. For this is a species dependent upon alder – meaning, hereabouts, the alder trees growing in the stream side. Meet the Alder Leaf Beetle (*Agelistica alni*). Virtually extinct in Britain not so long ago, but now abundant in due season in Fiddington (at least, near the stream).

The adult beetles fly in late winter-early spring – and the larvae feed on alder leaves during the summer.

Suitably enlightened, the spinney squad resumed their toils...

Rod Cole

Quantock Lakes Fireworks Warnings

Saturday 12th April 2025
Thursday 29th May 2025
Sunday 29th June 2025
Thursday 17th July 2025
Tuesday 5th August 2025
Saturday 11th October 2025

These are reduced volume "Whisper" fireworks displays. We will aim to fire before 10.30pm.



**Meetings - 3rd Thursday of each month
7.30pm at Nether Stowey Church Centre**

The aim of the club is to offer gardeners, from around the Quantock area, whatever their enthusiasm, a chance to get together with other gardeners in the locality, to their joint advantage and mutual interest. We enjoy a guest speaker, raffle, plant table (season dependent), tea, coffee & home-made cake. Members free (annual membership £25), guests £5

Coming up:

Thursday 17th April Gardens of Madeira , a talk by Jonny Hartnell

Tuesday 29th April Car visit to Fairfield, Stogursey

Sunday 11th May Coach trip to RHS Malvern Spring Show

Thursday 15th May The Newt in Somerset: History & recent developments, A talk by Arthur Cole

Saturday May 17th May Plant Sale @ Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Thursday 22nd May Car visit to Wick Gardens, Langport

**For more information contact secretary
Kate Houghton:
stoweygardeners@yahoo.com**

Or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/stowey-gardeners>

FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ JUBILEE ROOMS, CASTLE STREET, STOGURSEY FORTNIGHTLY ON WEDNESDAYS 10-12

Café Dates:

Wednesday 9 th April

Wednesday 23 rd April

Wednesday 7 th May

Wednesday 21 st May

Wednesday 4 th June



FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉS provide support, companionship and a warm welcome to those who are recognising issues with their memory, as well as their family, friends or carers. There are a variety of activities, some involving existing local groups, such as music, singing, arts, crafts, poetry, bingo, quizzes, or if preferred, just a quiet chat over a coffee. We are a voluntary group, financed by donations and fundraising events.

The Café runs twice a month, planned so that the café is open the alternate week to Watchet Forget-me-Not Café.

Many friendships have been made over the years.

Please come along and see what we do, you will receive a warm welcome

FORGET-ME-NOT NEWS

We will be at Burton Fete running our annual fundraising Tombola on Sunday May 25th from 10am. We hope to see you at Burton Springs Fishing and Holidays, Burton, TA5 1QB. It's a great day out for all the family, stalls, music, food, bar, dog show and lots more...

VOLUNTEERS

We always need extra help at the Forget-me-Not Café, why not pop in one Wednesday and meet everyone, and see if you'd like to volunteer.

People from all the neighbouring villages are welcome.

For more information please contact:

Helen: 01278 733451 cuttellhelen@gmail.com

Rose: 07507 374234 rosechalk@icloud.com



We are on Facebook and Instagram

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Claire Hill

THE FURNITURE RESTYLIST



The Fiddington Show

Saturday, 19th July 2025

Show to be opened at 3.00pm by

Juliet Harkness

Many of the customary categories will be staged again. **There are some changes, and the ones you need to know about in good time are as follows:**

Young Person's Sections: two age categories, namely 3-7 years and 8-12 years (as of the day of the show)

Photo: any sport

Model: tray garden made from recycled items

Best decorated hat

Drawing/Painting based on your favourite film or game

Home Craft Section:

Flowers in a cup & saucer arranged for effect

A Knitted or crocheted item

For this year only:

Floral Table Decoration for a Christening (maximum size 60 x 60cm; gender optional)

Creative:

Cake made by gentleman, (as per recipe supplied below)

Handmade Greetings Card

Photos: any sport, and pet/s (2 categories)

The soft toy category is again replaced by homemade toy – any media (thus including wood or whatever)

Details of all other categories will be given in the usual schedule, later on.

Potatoes: seed potatoes will be available as from 1st April, dispensed by Paul Crosland at the gate of Old Rectory Gardens @ 30p per tuber, cash.

Sunflowers: collect seeds from same source, free. **Do leave your name and contact details when collecting stock!** Otherwise the judges will be gloriously unaware of all your efforts to grow prize-winners.

Rod Cole

Ginger Loaf Cake

Recipe for Class 37 - Cake made by a Gentleman

Cooking time 30 – 40 minutes.

– oven temperature 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5.

Ingredients.

125g/4½ oz unsalted butter, at room temperature plus extra for greasing

100g/3½ oz dark brown sugar

2 free-range eggs

175g/6oz self-raising flour

4 tbsp milk

1½ tsp ground ginger

2tbsp orange marmalade

1 orange, finely grated zest only

4 bulbs stem ginger, chopped, plus 2tbsp ginger syrup from the jar

Method.

Pre-heat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5.

Grease or line a 2lb/900g loaf tin.

Cream together the butter and sugar. Beat in an egg, then mix in half the flour.

Beat in the other egg and the milk, then mix in the rest of the flour, the ground ginger, marmalade, orange zest, chopped ginger and syrup.

Spoon into the prepared loaf tin.

Bake for 30-40 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean.

Leave the cake to cool in tin for 5 minutes, then remove and finish cooling on a wire rack.

GOOD LUCK! Ruth Brazier



Spring is Sprung!



Now Young-Ey'd Spring

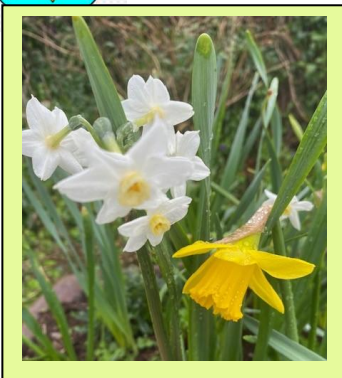
Now young-ey'd Spring, on gentle breezes borne,
Mid the deep woodlands, hills, and vales, and bowers,
Unfolds her leaves, her blossoms, and her flowers,
Pouring their soft luxuriance on the morn.

O! how unlike the wither'd, wan, forlorn,
And limping Winter, that o'er russet moors,
Grey ridgy fields, and ice-incrusted shores,
Strays!—and commands his rising Winds to mourn.

Protracted Life, thou art ordain'd to wear
A form like his; and, shou'd thy gifts be mine,
I tremble lest a kindred influence dear
Steal on my mind;—but pious Hope benign,

The Soul's bright day-spring, shall avert the fear,
And gild Existence in her dim decline.

by Anna Seward





Fools for April



A Comics Wordsearch

Can you find the Surnames of 27 famous Comedians? Here are their Christian names- *Answers on the back page*

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

Apologies to those not mentioned – there are too many funny people out there! (Ed)

John (2)
 Ronnie(2)
 Arthur
 Alan
 Michael
 Suzy Eddie
 Dave
 Jack
 Victoria
 Eric
 Ernie
 Peter
 Frankie
 Miranda
 Charlie
 Harry
 Billy
 Dawn
 Jo
 Johnny
 Stan
 Oliver
 Spike
 Ken
 Lenny

New Editor - You decide!

As you might know, the current editor of our Newsletter will retire in June, having reached her maturity. The good news is that we have received applications for the vacancy from no less than FOUR good souls.

We have decided, therefore, that YOU THE READERS should now elect whichever you consider the most suitable candidate. The options are:-

- A) Will Winger, 51, the former Rugby International, who is at present Editor of the Twickenham Times. If appointed, he intends to move his residential caravan home to the Mill Farm Estate. His priority for the Newsletter is to establish a multi-coloured sports page.
- B) The Rt Hon Cordelia Spinks, 66; currently Overseas Correspondent for 'The Lady'. She promises that she will introduce a Births, Marriages and Deaths page, which, she says, will make the Newsletter 'really lovely'.
- C) Captain Jock McStrap, 78, poet; the award-winning 'Bard of Bannockburn' states :- *His promise for the Newsletter*
Is to make it truly better
By making every single line
End up with a gorgeous rhyme.
- D) Jadon Zee, 12; he plans to leave all editing to Artificial Intelligence, apart from the eight page section about computer games.

You must now decide. Vote now by telex, phone, Yewtube, Ticktock, email, whatever. BUT HURRY!
All votes must be received by noon on 1/4/2025



Chorizo & Tomato Tagliatelle

1/2 a 150g pack of diced chorizo
1 large clove of garlic, sliced
250g ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped
200g dried tagliatelle
125g frozen peas
4tbsp 1/2 fat crème fraiche
30g grated parmesan
40g wild rocket



- 1 Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil, and put a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat
- 2 Add the chorizo to the dry frying pan and cook, stirring occasionally, until it starts to release its fat. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute before adding the tomatoes. Season and cook gently for 4 - 5 minutes until the tomatoes start to break down, adding a splash of water to help things along.
- 3 Meanwhile, cook the tagliatelle in the pan of boiling salted water for 7 minutes. Add the frozen peas and cook for 2 - 3 minutes more or until the pasta is cooked, then drain well, reserving some of the cooking water.
- 4 Stir the crème fraiche and most of the parmesan then toss with the tagliatelle, peas and most of the rocket, adding enough of the cooking water to give the sauce a good coating consistency. Divide between warmed bowls, pile on a little more rocket and scatter with the rest of the parmesan.



Our Master of Wine recommends..

This is a rich dish, but not massively spicy, so either a rich or spicy white or softer red will do well. If you want to play it safe buy the ever reliable Casillero del Diablo Reserva Chardonnay or Merlot from Chile.

All the supermarkets have them at £8.50 .Despite their huge production these wines are remarkably decent.

To be a little more adventurous try the white light and spicy Gruner Veltliner from Austria - Sainsbury Taste the Difference £11 and Morrison's The Best £10 or ,for a red, a Cotes du Rhone Villages. The Morrison's The Best £9.75 comes from the lovely village of Sablet and should be worth a try.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Book Swaps are on the First Saturday of the month - All welcome
(cooked breakfast available **01278 734565**
or Hot drink & biscuits)

- **Sat April 5th Book Swap 10-12 + Plant Sale** (SEE BELOW)
- **Sat May 3rd Book Swap 10-12**
- **Sat June 7th Book Swap 10-12**
- **Sat July 19th The Fiddington Show 3pm**

Tea & Chat
In the Village hall
Thursday April 17th



3 pm - 5 pm All very welcome

PLANT AND PRODUCE BRING AND BUY SALE

AT THE BOOK SWAP APRIL 5TH
Please bring and buy seedlings, jams
cakes and many things.
Profits to Friends of Fiddington

How many
eggs ? **25**
Including
this one!

A THANKYOU from Heather Hawley:

"....Results of the Jumble Sale held Saturday March 22nd. The total so far is **£754.00**.
A record for the March Jumble Sale!

Thank you to all that came along to support the event, donated jumble, and delicious cakes to sell. Also, to all those who help set up then clear all the jumble.

This involves two days with lots of lifting, sorting, and then selling on the day. Once the sale is finished there is more sorting, clearing, packing goods into the ship container, deliveries to charity shops and the tip. Quite a hard two days for all those involved.

Jumble Sales are now our biggest fund raisers for the hall. So again, thank you everyone."

fiddingtonnews@gmail.com

**Deadline
for the May 2025
issue is
April 20th**

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

April Fools

John Cleese
John Bishop
Arthur Askey
Tommy Handley
Ronnie Corbett
Ronnie Barker
Michael McIntyre
Alan Carr
Jimmy Carr
Dave Allen
Jack Dee
Victoria Wood
Peter Kay
Frankie Boyle
Miranda Hart
Jo Brand
Stan Laurel
Oliver Hardy
Spike Milligan
Ken Dodd
Dawn French
Harry Hill
Suzy Eddie Izzard
Lenny Henry
Eric Morecambe
Ernie Wise
Johnny Vegas

Temporary Road Closure: ttro372152N-MGC-Fiddington Road, Fiddington

Please follow the link to view the above road closure; <https://one.network/?tm=142297737> and the link for the Notice 2: https://api-gb.one.network/downloads/tm/1111/03-notice-2_142297737_3868047_3eb6215779.pdf

The order becomes effective on 1st April 2025 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to commence on **7th April 2025** and last for **26 days (07:30 - 17:30)** to enable **Mike Gardiner Construction** to carry out construction of two passing places. The contractor has indicated that access for Emergency Services through the site **is permitted** on this occasion.

For any further information about this closure please contact **Mike Gardiner Construction** on **07717 33068**, quoting reference: **ttro372152N**.