

Fiddington

NEWS

May 2025



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

Chairman's Introduction

Hi All

I hope you all had a lovely Easter and got to enjoy some time with your families. Our village hall will be hosting a couple of events this month. The first date to note is the Book Swap which is always on the first Saturday of the month 10-12. This month there is also a Plant Sale/Swap

I hope you are all getting on well with your entries for the Fiddington Show in July. Enjoy the two Bank Holidays that May has to offer!

Take care everyone

James U'Dell

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

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

Sunday Services for St Martins, Fiddington for May

Sunday May 4th Eucharist 9am
Sunday May 11th Eucharist 9am
Sunday May 18th Eucharist 9am
Sunday May 25th Family Service 9am



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 at Fiddington.



Plant Sale/ Swap at Book Swap

on Saturday May 3rd at the village hall.

*Please bring along your surplus plants
and see what there is you might like instead.*

Swap or buy.



200 CLUB – DRAW RESULTS

The March draw was made at the April Tea & Chat.

The winning tickets were:

£30 – No 137: Denise West

£50 – No 142; Frances Pearce

Report from Fiddington Parish Council

You should all be aware by now, as you will have received your council tax bills, that Fiddington Parish Council did not raise its precept this year. We are fortunate that we do not have many financial responsibilities and have not been affected so far by the devolution of services from Somerset Council. We also have a small pot of money of £1,700 remaining from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This is a charge made on planning applications over a certain size. There are specific rules on what this can be spent on. We recently used some of this fund to sweep Whitnell Lane.

At our last meeting a suggestion was made to hold our meetings quarterly instead of every 2 months. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the annual meeting and will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 22nd May. This will be followed at 8.00pm by the Annual Parish meeting, this includes a report from the chairman of the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Church. Anyone can attend, and all our meetings commence with a public meeting where members of the public are able to speak.

Tina Gardener
Clerk to Fiddington Parish Council
clerk@fiddington-pc.org.uk
www.fiddington-pc.org.uk
01278 652642

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 mile bike 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.

We are partnering Over Stowey CC again for the fantastic Big Bash weekend, see dates here.

This is always a fantastic couple of days of entertainment with a match on the Saturday followed by a disco at the ground, and then the big bash 6 a side knockout on the Sunday. £5 entry for the Saturday Evening and free entry on Sunday (Donations appreciated) Bar and BBQ all weekend.

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.

March 200 club draw

£20 Paul Miller £10 Steve Little £5 Ann Roberts

Dates for the diary

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

THE BIG BASH
Charity Cricket Weekend
in aid of The Marion Evered trust & Over Stowey CC
Saturday June 7th
Presidents XI v Chairmans XI
followed by
bbq and Disco
Evening £5 entry
Sunday June 8th
Knockout 6-a side
free entry donations welcome
bar and Bbq

Buckthorns (ironically not thorny)



I trust that we all love those lovely yellow insects - aptly named brimstone butterflies – that appear in springtime. They occur around here, although sparingly.

They would be more numerous if their larval food plant, buckthorn, was more common.

This is a far from intimidating shrub, native to the English flora. It can be propagated quite easily by gathering a few of the berries in autumn, sowing and exposing them to winter's cold temperatures, and awaiting the results in spring.

This year germination has been good, and I have several seedlings that in due course should be potted up. Likewise it was good last spring, and I have several potted plants from that generation which can now be planted out. In recent years I have handed out a few earlier bushes for folk to grow, thereby ensuring that a network is gradually being built up across the parish.

If you are interested in adopting and planting one, let me know.

Rod Cole



OTTER

Are you an Otter Spotter? Or do you Think it's a Mink?

There have been exciting sightings in the village brook recently. An otter was spotted at Brook Cottage and another was seen carrying a baby bunny at the ford at Whitnell. But was it an Otter? Or do you think it might have been a Mink?



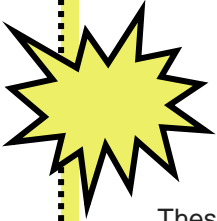
MINK

Thanks to Jim, Max and Freddy for clearing a blockage in the stream.

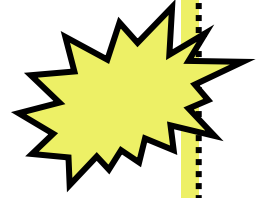
During the winter storms a large branch had become trapped against the mains water pipe downstream of the road culvert. More debris had become trapped against it. The job took the three of them several hours so thank you all for your hard work.

Regards, Wayne

Quantock Lakes Fireworks Warnings



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:

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 at Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey

Thursday 22nd May: Car visit to Wick Gardens, Langport

Wednesday 18th June: Car visit to Lydeard House, Bishops Lydeard, TA4 3AU

Thursday 19th June: Somerset's Glorious Gardens A talk by Abigail Willis

Tuesday 29th July: Car visit to Hangeridge Farmhouse, Wellington, TA21 9QG

For more information about our vibrant club, contact secretary Kate Houghton 07940 836139 or email: stoweygardeners@yahoo.com

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

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

Café Dates:

Wednesday 7 th May

Wednesday 21 st May

Wednesday 4 th June

Wednesday 2 nd July

Wednesday 30th July

Wednesday 14 th August Wednesday 16 th July



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. Donations of prizes would be very welcome, thank you. 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



Maybe it's May?

- MAY
- MIGHT
- COULD
- OUGHT
- CAN
- ALLOW
- PERMIT
- ENABLE
- LIKELIHOOD
- POSSIBILITY
- CHANCE
- OPPORTUNITY
- POTENTIALLY
- CAPACITY
- FEASIBILITY
- CREDIBLE
- EMPOWER
- WORKABLE

Synonyms for May
 Can you find 18 words (Listed on the left) that are (EXTREMELY loosely) synonyms for MAY in the grid below? GOOD LUCK!

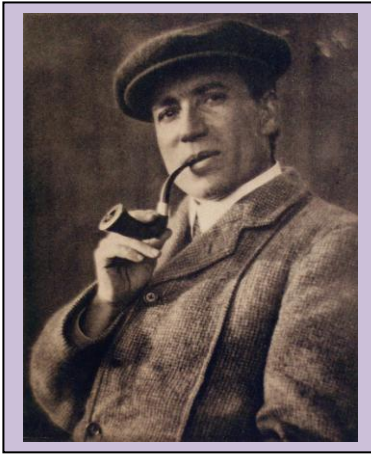
Y	P	Y	T	I	C	A	P	A	C	Y	P
A	F	O	X	P	E	R	M	I	T	Z	O
M	E	A	S	X	C	I	R	I	N	R	T
V	E	L	F	S	G	O	N	V	A	E	E
E	C	L	B	H	I	U	U	Y	C	W	N
L	N	O	T	I	T	B	O	L	E	O	T
B	A	W	Z	R	D	U	I	L	D	P	I
A	H	C	O	M	G	E	B	L	J	M	A
K	C	P	A	H	N	A	R	X	I	E	L
R	P	J	T	W	N	V	K	C	T	T	L
O	L	I	K	E	L	I	H	O	O	D	Y
W	Y	T	I	L	I	B	I	S	A	E	F

In May

By William Henry Davies

Yes, I will spend the livelong day
 With Nature in this month of May;
 And sit beneath the trees, and share
 My bread with birds whose homes are there;
 While cows lie down to eat, and sheep
 Stand to their necks in grass so deep;
 While birds do sing with all their might,
 As though they felt the earth in flight.
 This is the hour I dreamed of, when
 I sat surrounded by poor men;
 And thought of how the Arab sat
 Alone at evening, gazing at
 The stars that bubbled in clear skies;

And of young dreamers, when their eyes
 Enjoyed methought a precious boon
 In the adventures of the Moon
 Whose light, behind the Clouds' dark bars,
 Searched for her stolen flocks of stars.
 When I, hemmed in by wrecks of men,
 Thought of some lonely cottage then
 Full of sweet books; and miles of sea,
 With passing ships, in front of me;
 And having, on the other hand,
 A flowery, green, bird-singing land.



William Henry Davies
 (3 July 1871 – 26 September 1940) was a Welsh poet and writer, who spent much of his life as a tramp or hobo in the United Kingdom and the United States, yet became one of the most popular poets of his time. His themes included observations on life's hardships, the ways the human condition is reflected in nature, his tramping adventures and the characters he met. His work has been classed as Georgian, though it is not typical of that class of work in theme or style.
(from Wikipedia)

from the Village Cook's Kitchen ...

Braised chicken with flageolet

4 Chicken thighs (skin on, and bone in)
2 fennel bulbs
1 tbsp olive oil
150g smoked bacon lardons
1 echalion shallot or small onion halved and sliced lengthways
2 cloves of garlic sliced
150 mls white wine
250 mls chicken stock
1 x 400g can flageolet beans drained and rinsed.
Salt



1. Take the chicken out of the fridge 30 minutes before you wish to cook it. Season it all over with salt, and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, prepare the fennel. Trim the fronds and set aside for use as a garnish. Trim the base, then cut out and discard the hard core. Remove any thick or tough outer layers and slice thinly. Cut the remaining fennel into chunky slices and set aside.
3. Preheat the oven to 180c/ gas 4 . Heat the oil in a large ovenproof sauté pan or shallow casserole over a medium high heat. Pat the chicken dry then add to the hot oil skin side down. Fry for 6 - 8 mins, or until golden brown, then turn and fry on flesh side for 2 mins .
4. Remove from the pan and set aside. Add the lardons (there should be plenty of fat left in the pan) and fry for 5 minutes, then add the fennel, shallot, and garlic with a pinch of salt. Fry for a further 6 - 8 minutes until the vegetables begin to soften as they cook.
5. Add the wine to the pan and bubble until reduced by half. Add the stock and bring to a simmer, put the chicken back into the pan skin side up. Transfer to the oven and cook for 20 minutes.
6. Stir the beans into the pan (you may want to lift the chicken out for a minute whilst you do this), then return to the oven for 15 - 20 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through and the juices run clear when pierced. Leave to stand for 5 minutes before serving. Garnish with fennel fronds.



Our Master of Wine recommends. .

I suggest that you don't want anything too serious with this rich garlicky dish. You will be surprised how good old reliable Chardonnay wines will be with it.

Try Morrison's The best French Chardonnay @£10 or the richer Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Barossa Valley Chardonnay@ 8.75 from just North of Adelaide in Oz.

For a red - a spicy rich Côtes du Rhône will do well. Try the Les Dauphins Côtes du Rhône @ £8.75 in both Morrison's and Sainsbury's. It's from a reliable Co-operative in the South of France

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 May 3rd** **Book Swap** **10-12** plus plant swap/sale (see below)
- **Thurs May 8th** **VE Day** (see below)
- **Sat June 7th** **Book Swap** **10-12**
- **Sat July 19th** **The Fiddington Show** **3pm**

Tea & Chat
In the Village hall
Thursday May 15th



3 pm - 5 pm All very welcome

PLANT BRING AND BUY/SWAP SALE

Please bring surplus seedlings on May 3rd
Profits to Friends of Fiddington Church



Some people will be celebrating Victory in Europe on May the 8th and many will be marking the 80th anniversary of the day that Peace began, and sharing their memories of the Second World War. There are various events happening in Somerset including the lighting of Beacons ; and at Cannington the ringers are marking the day at 7pm.

For more information go to:

[Activities and events – VE Day and VJ Day 80](#)

[VE Day in Somerset – South West Heritage Trust](#)

<https://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/taunton/whats-on/community-events>

VE Day Memory – 8th May 1945

from Dennis Harkness

I was nearly 8 years old and my mother and father had taken me on holiday.

It was for a week in North Wales, in a cottage on the hills above Holywell.

The views to the north spread across the Dee Estuary and beyond the River Mersey.

As night fell, the wartime blackout ended.

All over Liverpool people were dragging bunks and shelves from the many air-raid shelters and piling them onto hundreds of street bonfires. The city was alight with celebration. Peace had come at last.

Except for those whose loved ones were servicemen in the far East, fighting on for the next three months.

fiddingtonnews@gmail.com

Deadline
for the June 2025
(possibly the last?)
issue is
May20th

So take this opportunity to write in,
sending
articles/photos/letters by
email or by post to
Juliet Harkness
Redwood, Whitnell, TA5 1JE