

the mAGpie



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Aug / Sept 2011

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Editorial Committee

The mAGpie editor is John Coates assisted by Ken Doughty. Please speak to them if you have any queries regarding the copy - or its editing - the adverts, insets or deadlines. John Coates can be contacted on 01548 550907. The Parish Pump section is checked by a member of the Parish Council prior to printing. Articles for issue number 75 must be submitted by the 15th Sept 2011.

Magazine Production

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Magpie illustration by Barbara Anstey

Fore Street Thoughts

The Public Consultation about parking in Fore Street drew in many responses and not just from residents on Fore Street. Just short of 100 people gave up part of their summer Sunday to attend and to talk to Parish Councillors. For many years it has been a top priority amongst parishioners to reduce the speed of vehicles through Fore Street and to reduce the number that use Fore Street from Tree Corner to Timbers Roundabout as a short cut.

Whilst there is some agreement on what actions should be considered, it also became clear that there are many individual needs and wants, many of which are dictated by specific and local factors such as the need to turn in to a property, the need for access by waste disposal vehicles, oil delivery lorries and of course, emergency access.

One of the broad brush comments was that lifting parking restrictions would NOT achieve much. There were many conversations about inappropriate parking of vehicles to prevent or limit access to doors and to block light through windows. These factors informed many people in rejecting the lifting of parking restrictions.

Some of the suggested solutions to speed and quantity of traffic worked together with safer passage for pedestrians, maintaining the bus route, less of a short cut etc have been compiled and put to Devon Highways for their advice and assessment. Additional consultation will be made with the Police, First National, SHDC etc.

One clear reaction is that Timbers Car Park whilst much improved, needs further work to create a higher level of confidence when parking there, and better lighting to help pedestrians walking after dark through the subway and towards the Fisherman's.



Once the proposals become more specific, a further Public Consultation will be held by the Parish Council to view detailed plans and to gain reaction.

Deadline for copy for next issue: 15th Sept 2011

Classic Cars and Classic Cakes

The Aveton Gifford Classic Car Show will be on Monday 29th August 2011 and once again the Parish Council is kindly allowing us to use the village playing fields plus the newly refurbished Play Park. The show attracts an eclectic mix of classic and vintage cars with something for everyone and has a friendly village fete atmosphere.

Full details of the expected features and facilities will be posted on the website - www.avetongiffordclassiccarshow.co.uk, as they are confirmed but we expect

the same impeccable high standard that has been enjoyed and appreciated in previous years.

And its not just vehicles; plenty of sideshows and food bars extend the attraction across all ages.... And then there are the teas – served in the Memorial Hall- try and resist the variety of home-made delicious cakes – everyone a Classic!

The proceeds from the Show are used to help the Pre-school grow and to help the newly opened Hive



continue its great work in Aveton Gifford.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Tony Porter on 01548 550523 or Tim Abrahall on 01548 559144.

Kingsbridge Probus

PROBUS is a world-wide organisation of retired PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESSMEN who are keen to retain a social network with others of similar interest. There is a 'branch' in Kingsbridge which holds monthly informal meetings. Each meeting is addressed by a guest speaker – recent topics include The Penlee Lifeboat Disaster, the Dartmoor Rescue Group, and intriguingly How to marry one hundred men in a year! After the guest speaker there is the opportunity to have a drink with other members or sit down for lunch. Members are more than welcome to attend for all or part of what could be a non-demanding, but often fascinating morning.

Further information is available from Dennis Baston on 01548 511223

COURT IN THE NET IN AG

Now that Wimbledon is over, it's time to think about getting in some more practice for next year's event. Every Monday, apart from one very wet evening, there has been general club play on the Aveton Gifford court. Although up to now, this has mainly been mixed doubles, it was reassuring to have such an influx of players over recent weeks that it was possible to have a few games of men's doubles. This makes me think that perhaps there is enough enthusiasm to run a men's evening. Perhaps I could have some feedback on this?

Monday morning around 10 a.m will invariably find Sarah and me on the court waiting to take on any newcomers, just turn up with tennis racquet and court shoes.,

Coaching for youngsters has been happening on a regular basis every Friday. The contact number for coaching is 07724 0199287.

Jackie Javes Tel: (01548) 559283



AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOC.

'Conserving the Devonshire Avon from source to sea'

For those not on our regular e-mailing list of who don't attend the twice-yearly Avon Estuary Forum, a brief update on recent activity of the ACA is provided below.

On Saturday 18th June a small group of volunteers met to clean up some of the rubbish around 'Albert's camp', on the seaward side of South Efford Marsh. Similarly, we carried out a clearance of Himalayan Balsam from Duke's Mill Creek on 22nd June as an exercise to demonstrate that, with dedication and perseverance, this invasive weed can be controlled over a period of several years. Hopefully, this conservation model can be extended elsewhere in the river's catchment where the weed is gaining an increasing dominance.

On 15th July, in AG Village Hall, we organised a 'Moor to Sea' exhibition of the work of children from the 4 primary schools in the river catchment (South Brent, Loddiswell, Aveton Gifford and Thurlestone) competing in our project (part-funded by the South Devon AONB) to encourage the children's engagement with the Avon and its wildlife. The display of work was followed by the award of some field

study kits to all the schools and, in addition, the school judged to have the winning display was awarded £200 for further field studies materials.

Saturday 23rd July, saw us cleaning up rubbish from Cockleridge in one of our regular quarterly beach cleans. If you'd like to join us, we shall be doing the same on Saturday 17th September: 10.00am on Cockleridge, Bigbury as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch weekend. The sun usually shines for us in this idyllic spot!

Along with the Avon Fishing Association, we are currently in discussion with the Environment Agency about its recent classification of the Avon 'waterbody' as only 'moderate' on the basis of water acidity and barriers to fish movement. We don't think this accurately reflects the true status of the river and, for technical reasons, the current classification might lead to a reduction in monitoring standards and a possible deterioration in water quality. We'd like to see the classification upgraded.

The state of the salt marsh verges on the Tidal Road is another concern; the verges are steadily being

damaged by 4x4's which drive and park on them. We

are investigating deterrents in collaboration with Devon Highways, AG Parish Council, South Devon AONB, SHDC and the Duchy of Cornwall.

The marker on the Murray Rocks at the mouth of the estuary is almost totally decayed and invisible. We are trying, so far without success, to arouse some enthusiasm in the powers that be (SHDC, RNLI) to repair the marker or replace it with a sensibly-positioned warning buoy.

Lastly, a request to dog owners:- please keep your pet on a lead when birds are nesting around the estuary.

Stuart Watts (chairman@auneconservation.org.uk)



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For more information please contact Hannah on 01548 550712. Come on lets party!!!!



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Salt and Snow



No not a new recipe for a savoury sorbet – a topic that was discussed again at the Parish Council. Last winter the weather was variously described as 'extreme, freakish, severe'; even the Meteorological Office, just up the A38 in Exeter, found it difficult to put the season in to

context; descriptions of likely frequency varied from one every 20 years to one in 200 years.

To try and find an appropriate response and one that reflects some solutions after last winter's difficulties, the Parish Council is purchasing bags of salt for locations around the Parish to permit an immediate and very local response, additional and replacement salt bins for location at Chantry and on Rock Hill; the Council is also evaluating the purchase of a tow-along salt

spreader that could provide a locally controlled ability to supplement the main road gritting service that is provided by the County Council.

The Parish has appointed Cllr Jeremy Gibson as a Snow Warden. Jeremy will attend a training course provided by Devon County that will help co-ordinate and integrate the needs of this large Parish with other aspects of snow clearing and public safety.

More details in the next issue of mAGpic.

Aug/Sept Diary Dates for Aveton Gifford

At the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated.

August

Monday 8th	7.00-10.00pm	Parish Plan Meeting
Saturday 13th		Aveton Gifford Flower & Vegetable Show The schedule of classes and entry forms are in the Village Shop.
Monday 15th	7.00-10.00pm	Parish Plan Meeting
Monday 29th	11.00am-4.00pm	Classic Car Show held on The Green. Cream Teas in the hall.

September

Monday 5th	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 8th	9.15am-10.15am	Zumba – This is a new weekly fitness/dance class
Thursday 8th	7.30pm	WI 'Bee-Keeping' - Jeremy Wells
Wednesday 14th	6.00-7.00pm	Zumba – A new weekly class
Regular events		
Mondays	3.00-4.30pm	Monday Club
Tuesdays	7.30-9.30pm	Lupridge Singers (Not during August, begins again 13th Sept)
Thursdays	7.00pm - 8.45pm	Line Dancing

Pre-School Now at 'The Hive'

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday	Morning Sessions 9.00-12.00 Lunch Club 12.00-1.00 Afternoon Sessions 1.00-3.30
Thursday	Morning Session 9.00-12.00 Lunch Club 12.00-1.00 No Afternoon Session
Tuesday and Thursday	Breakfast Club 8.00-9.00am (More mornings subject to demand)
Monday	Parents & Toddlers 9.45-11.45am

School and Pre-School Autumn Term begins on Wednesday 7th September. Parents & Toddlers begins on Monday 12th

Cake Stall Church Fete

Please could I give a heart-felt thank you to all those great cooks who kept the cake stall supplied with a constant stream of the most exciting, interesting and appetising cakes anyone could ever wish for.

This most amazing

talent within the village produced must haves such as Viennese whirls, superb cupcakes, pies, sponges - iced to a professional perfection.

I would have loved to have sampled all of them but by the time it came to the raffle draw, we had

nothing left to either sell or sample; and a profit of well over £100.

Thank you to everyone for this great effort. It made running the stall such a pleasant task.

Jackie Javes

Smell the Coffee!

Macmillan Cancer Support is asking every community to hold a World's Biggest Coffee Morning on the 30th September this year and help raise vital funds for local people affected by cancer.

Register now to receive your fundraising pack full of ideas, by visiting www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or calling 0845 602 1246.



Sian Harris, the local Fundraising Manager for Macmillan said "This year is the 21st anniversary of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning and so we want to make it the biggest ever. It is such a fun event to host and there will be hundreds of them going on across Devon & Cornwall."

We in the two counties have organised some of the record breaking Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Mornings, including the lowest coffee morning, that was held at Poldark Mine, and the highest coffee morning hosted by an individual from Devon at Everest Base Camp!

You can hold a coffee morning at home, work, school or as part of another event.

It doesn't have to be about coffee, you can do whatever suits you. It can be a fancy dress party or a quiz or something completely different.

Sian went on to say "Over 10,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Devon & Cornwall every year and so we are all affected by cancer in some way. Macmillan not only provides cancer care specialist nurses in the community, but also a raft of information and support, from counselling to welfare and benefits advice, financial grants to campaigning for better cancer care.

We can only continue to do this work with support from local people and so hosting a coffee morning is an easy way to really make a difference in your local community."

Fete Report

We had a lovely, fine afternoon at the Church Fete on Saturday 9th July. Thank you to Michael and Jackie Tagent for coming to open it, to the children of Aveton Gifford Primary School Choir for their fantastic singing conducted by Becky Broad and to all those who helped in any way.

It was lovely to see so many people - thank you for coming - next year the date is SATURDAY 14th JULY.

The itemised results are in the Church Porch.

To those who put the tents up on Friday night and cleared the site on Saturday - Thank You

Finally - just a Big THANK YOU to you all.

The Fete Committee

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - Byways, Bridleways, Footpaths, some Permissive Paths

Aveton Gifford Parish is blessed with about 14 miles of public rights of way, which the Parish Council in partnership with the County Council tries to keep in good condition. If you come across a problem when walking or riding, it would be most helpful if you could notify our resident contractor, John Reid on 550575 or

Ken Doughty, Co-ordinator, on 550225 until October, when Jim Fowler on 550826 takes over. The network is too large to keep an eye on all of it all the time!

Don't Forget the "Making Tracks" £2 at the village shop describes them all.



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Know your Parish

by Ken Doughty

Memories, Memories



At its last meeting, the Parish Project Group was discussing the idea of recording the memories of older people living in the parish and would like anyone interested in to get in touch. Please ring Jocelyn Ponting on 830341. We are particularly interested in people **born and bred** locally or who have had **local connections** back in the past. We already have some memories and here are some snippets from them:

Dorothy Bone at 83 (recorded in 1986): Her mother came here in 1905 when Dorothy was about eighteen months old and rented a cottage for her father who was due out of the Navy where he was a regular. The only phone in the village was in the Post Office, which was used to summon the doctor who used to come out on horseback. She was able to describe the seven shops which were in the village then as well as the Post Office. There were also three shoemakers, four dressmakers, a coal merchant (Mr Burner!), three firms of builders, two blacksmiths, and two working water mills.

Robert D. Yabsley at 95 (recorded in 1994)

remembered when there was a pond near Broom Hill covering about an acre which supplied water to a turbine at Wakeham which drove farm machinery. When it was working a lot of water came down the stream at Ashford Farm where he lived. There were about 140 children at the village school when he went there and four teachers. He later went to the grammar school in Kingsbridge, which he left during the First World War to help on the family farm where he remained for the rest of his life.

Elsie Elson née Perrin born at Lixton 1907 in a family of six boys and six girls. Her father did all the thatching on the farm. She walked to the village school from the age of five to fourteen. Her father would not allow the children to use the Chantry Road so they went across the fields to Wakeham Lane and then down the road from Shorta Cross. She thought there were about a hundred pupils and the four teachers were Mr Denton, (the head teacher who lived in the school house), Miss Kitt, Miss Hannaford, and Mrs Stevens. The family later moved into the village and lived at Mount Pleasant

Cottages on Rock Hill where they shared the stand-pipe for water with other residents including Bill Elson who she later married

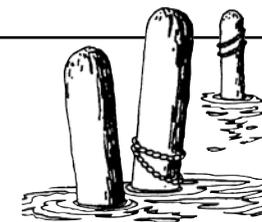
Tom Steere born 1903 wrote a booklet about the village in the 1900s, which is still available from the church. In it he recalled the two sawyers who used the two sawpits near the Kings Arms (now the Fisherman's Rest) on the site of what is now Timbers Roundabout (hence the name). One balanced on the tree trunk being cut, resting on two poles across the top of the pit and the other in the pit at the other end of a nine-foot crosscut saw getting the benefit of the falling sawdust! When not so employed they manned the coal barge plying between the village and Bantham, which was occasionally cleaned out for the Sunday School outing to Bantham.



Nature Notes

by Rodney Bone

Swifts in Aveton Gifford Parish



The swift is black/brown, has a white throat, curved wings and a short forked tail. It's old Devon name was 'Devil's Screecher' due to its screeching cry. The swift is one of the last summer migrants to return from Africa. In 50 years of bird watching the earliest arrival was this year on the 20th April. The swifts have one brood and then depart for Africa by mid August.

Originally swifts nested on cliffs, now they have moved into cities and villages and can be found in holes under the eaves and in the ventilation holes of houses.

As a boy I saw swifts nesting in thatched cottage, The Old Chapel, Court Barton barns and the council houses at Icy Park. During summer evenings groups of swifts swept over the houses giving screeching cries. As buildings have been renovated their numbers have dropped. This year I have found four pairs nesting in ventilation



holes at Icy Park, 1 pair in Shippen and 1 pair in a thatched cottage at Harraton. If anyone has spotted any other pairs I would be grateful if you could let me know.

Today groups of swifts can still be seen hunting over the marshes at Knapmill and the fields above Fir Tree garage. In flight they can reach speeds of 60 mph. They eat sleep and mate on the wing. In bad weather they may fly over 1000 miles in search of food. Baby swifts have the ability to enter a state of torpor, mini hibernation. Their pulse slows, their body temperature drops and they can cope without food for two days. Some swifts may have flown more than

Summer Highlights

- 11 May** First Spotted Flycatcher
- 27 May** Shelducks with 9 young, Stiddicombe Creek
- 17 June** Siskins breeding locally, one young picked up in my garden
- 19 June** Swans above the weir have 3 cygnets
- 24 June** First 2 Green Sandpipers back
- 25 June** I was attacked by a pheasant trying to protect her young, Knapmill
- 29 June** Peninsula Hip Operation!
- 12 July** 1st Redshank back, Tidal road
- 12 July** Egyptian geese and gosling still present

six million miles in their life time. Ringing has identified that swifts have a longer life expectancy than most small birds. There is recorded evidence of swifts that reach 20 years of age.

Edward Jenner, creator of the first smallpox vaccine, studied swifts. Unlike other birds swifts have all four toes at the front of their feet. Jenner captured twelve birds and clipped their toes to different lengths in order to recognise them at a later date. Seven years later Jenner's cat brought one of these birds home.

The Minister's Review

by Rev Lesley Valiant



Hello

As I write this letter I am preparing to move to Devon to be the Team Vicar with you, but tonight I am off on a trip on the canal with one of my present churches. We are going to be cruising on the Kennet and Avon canal through the Vale of Pewsey which is very scenic and fertile, and has white horses

cut into some of the chalk hills. It was there that I was a Team Vicar until two summers ago when I took time out from ministry to go on pilgrimage and retreat for a few months.

It also meant Terry and I could attend to the arrangements for both our children, Steven and Louise, to get married, and last year we became proud grandparents to Jasmine and Sophie.

This last year I have been a Minister in the Salisbury Circuit based on the edge of the New Forest with pastoral care of six churches. It has been

a wonderful experience and I have learnt a great deal about Methodism.

We have enjoyed summer holidays in Devon with our children & taken the youth group to Pathfinder camp at Mothecombe; but often now it is just the two of us walking the coastal path and having a quiet time. So we are hoping not to get too lost, and look forward to joining you soon and finding out what God's vision is for us all in the Modbury Team.

Yours in Christ

Lesley

Our new Team Vicar Revd. Lesley Valiant will be licensed by the Bishop of Exeter, Michael Langrish, at a service in St. George's Church Modbury at 4pm on 4th September.



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