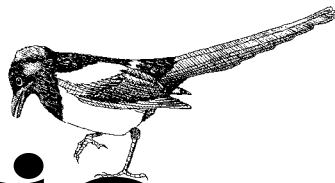


the mAGpie



Issue no 72
Feb/March 2011

Published for the residents of Aveton Gifford with the support of Aveton Gifford Parish Council.

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 73 must be submitted by the 15th Jan 2011.

Magazine Production

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Magpie illustration by Barbara Anstey

Maintaining Momentum

Aveton Gifford Parish Council decided at its January meeting to seek an increase in the Parish Precept for the coming financial year. Over recent years the precept has been increased in line with the inflation level; for the year 2011/12 there a number of additional factors involved. Expenditure and service at County and District Council level are being reduced, and there is the coalition's concept of the Big Society, and Localism to take on board. In addition to this background, the Parish Council wishes to complete a number of long term projects, and maintain the momentum that has been achieved on others.

An updated Parish Plan is required to gain information across the parish about needs and wishes to improve the environment. Action must be taken to alleviate the quantity and speed of traffic using the centre of the village. Progress must continue to gain more car parking space. Money needs to be available to support applications for lottery grants and other awards.

A number of projects will be delivered this year; the pre-school is about to open, a completely re-designed and up dated Play Area will be completed and opened; Timbers Car Park is now a much more attractive place to be and safer to use; the Avon Boatwatch scheme is a contribution to safety and security on the Avon.

This decision was not taken lightly; the Parish Council took considerable time in arriving at what projects to include, and the level at which the precept should be set.

EGM

To Shareholders of Aveton Gifford Village Shop Association Ltd

You are invited to attend
an Extraordinary General
Meeting on

**Friday February 11th
at 7pm in
Aveton Gifford
Memorial Hall**

The one item agenda is
to consider the implications
of the planned Employment
Tribunal Hearing.

Deadline for copy for next issue: 15th March 2011

Preschool New Build - The time is near!

After many years of planning and hard work, the preschool new build is now complete! It looks fantastic and will be a great space both indoors and outdoors for the children (and staff) to enjoy as well as being a real asset for the village. It's also very eco friendly with a solar energy supply!

The winning name for the preschool is The Hive. (Congratulations to Kay Burnett who submitted this entry)

The finishing touches are currently being completed,

with the aim of transferring over to the new premises by half term.

A Preschool New Build Opening Ceremony is being planned, hopefully around Easter, full details will follow! Everyone will be invited as this project has very much only been made possible by the amazing support of a number of local people - Thank you

We currently offer Preschool sessions Tuesdays to Fridays, with breakfast and lunch clubs available, and will be increasing sessions to meet demand!

Speak to us and you may be surprised at what we can offer...

If you have a child of preschool age and are interested in finding out more, please contact Mandy Tucker, Senior Preschool Practitioner 01548 550541 (home) or Rachel Townsend, Preschool Committee Chair 01548 550524 (home)

We look forward to many happy years and many happy children at The Hive!

Sue May.
Preschool Secretary.

Not a Panto

The Taverners' Amateur Drama Group gives the World Premiere of a specially commissioned play for their production in February. Fay Gordon has written and directed this year's offering - 'Seasonal Scoop' - which is not a pantomime. Yes, there are Fairies, a Prince and Princess, a Villainous Villain and of course the Dame, songs, dance but it's not a pantomime. It's fast moving with lots of local references and plenty of fun - oh yes it is!

Performances will take place in a transformed Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th February, with a Matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday 26th. Tickets for the three performances are available from the village shop priced at £5 for adults and under 16's £4. Please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.



Speeding

In another demonstration of Community Action, the Police are supporting Aveton Gifford in establishing a village Speedwatch group. This group of local volunteers will be trained to operate speed detection devices with the aim of reducing speed and increasing safety in the village.

No doubt some new friendships will be made as the majority of motorists who go faster than the posted limits are local residents - so we have a strange circle of us having to take this drastic action to point out the irresponsible actions of our neighbours; the village stocks remain in good condition.



AGM

The Sports & Leisure Group supply the organisation and expertise that stages a wide range of events - Fireworks Night, Christmas Tree lights, Outdoor Concerts and arrange refreshments etc for many other events.

If you would like to be part of the Sports and Leisure Group then be at the

**Fisherman's Rest for 8pm
on February 7th**

for their

Annual General Meeting.

Sarah's Shop Talk Love your Post Office!

As you will have gathered by now, if you have been anywhere near the shop, that, at last, the Post Office is re-opening on Monday 14th February, a Valentine's Day celebration with a difference! You will have to be patient with myself, Miriam, Babs and Rebecca because we will be learning 'on the job'.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Burda Gage and the whole previous shop committee for offering to purchase the new Ice-cream cabinet, the lovely comfy cushions for the café chairs and the new Fruit and Vegetable Display unit. I really appreciate the

kind offer, which I, of course, on behalf of the shop and the village accepted gratefully.

For those of you, who for one reason or another, haven't visited the shop recently, I have opened up a small café which is being used by passing traffic, people working in the village and walkers passing through. I also have the Internet up and running, so if you have any problems connecting, pop-in, bring your laptop and use the facility, all I ask is you buy a cup of tea, coffee, chocolate or soft drink while you are working.



I would like to thank all of you for using the shop and please continue to do so as much as you can to ensure that it and the Post Office stays open.

Sarah Oatley

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Feb/Mar Diary at St Andrew's

February Diary

Sun 6th	11am	Family service
Thu 10th	2pm	Prayer group at 17 Icy Park
Sun 13th	11am 3.30pm	Holy Communion Service at South Efford House Aveton Gifford
Sun 20th	11am	Morning prayer
Sun 27th	11am	Family Communion

March Diary

Sun 6th	11am	Family service
Thu 10th	2pm	Prayer group at 17 Icy Park
Sun 13th	11am 3.30pm	Holy Communion Service at South Efford House Aveton Gifford
Sun 20th	11am	Morning prayer
Sun 27th	11am	Family Communion
Tue 29th	7.30pm	PCC

AG MAKING TRACKS

27th, 28th, 29th & 30th MAY 2011

Plans are going ahead for our own parish walking event. I hope that we will be able to plan two walks on each of these days. We plan to have walks suitable for everybody from the oldest to the youngest! Local history, Flora and Fauna will be part of the themed walks. We will hope to walk most of the footpaths in the Parish. One idea is to include a pub lunch and a tea in the programme. Any ideas gratefully received.



Two people will be required for each walk to act as leader and backstop and each walk will have to be risk assessed. We intend to have a meeting of all those interested in about a month's time so we can plan the programme. Please contact me if you would like to help - Delia Elliott Tel 01548 550298

Parish Plan Progress

To all those who offered to help with the Parish Plan

A meeting has been arranged on

Wednesday 9th February 5pm-7pm
in

Downstairs in The Fishermen's Rest

to welcome all those who offered help with the Parish Plan from which a core group of volunteers will be enlisted. It is vital that they are a cross section of our whole Community.

If you or your friends were unable to attend the Presentation Evening held at the end of November and have not made any comments so far please bring them with you or email them to me and I can type them up with the others. We are aware that some of you will find the day or time difficult but please come for some of the time. If however you cannot attend please let me know before hand if-

- a) you are interested in being on the core organising group
- b) you are interested in helping the core group to implement the plan
- c) you have local knowledge that will be helpful
- d) any help or expertise you can offer

I have all the notes from the previous meeting highlighting just some of the concerns and interests from Parishioners – make sure you add your voice to this Parish-wide research.

Jocelyn Ponting
jocelyn.groveparkfarm@gmail.com

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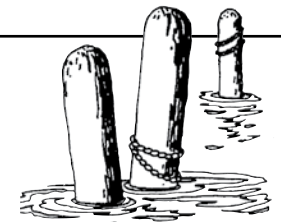
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Nature Notes

by Rodney Bone

A Christmas walk down the tidal road



With everywhere covered in snow and ice I decided to go for a walk along the tidal road hoping that some unusual birds may have been brought in by the cold weather.

Standing on the road by the first stakes, looking up the stream that runs down from Waterhead, I spotted a **Little Egret**, and a **Green Sandpiper**. Looking up the river towards six arches were 5 **Little Grebe**, a **Commorant**, a **Heron**, 11 **Black Headed Gulls** and a pair of **Mute Swans**. On the mudflats there were two **Common Sandpipers**, a **Redshank** and an **Egyptian Goose**. Suddenly a **Kingfisher** landed on the telephone wires.

Just past the entrance to Pond Farm running along the mudflats were 9 **Ringed Plover**, 4 **Dunlin**, 2 **Oystercatchers** and a **Curlew**

On the edge on the river by the 2nd stakes were 60 **Herring Gulls**, 3 **Great Black Backed Gulls**, 1 **Lesser Black Backed Gull** over 100 **Mallard**, three **Redshanks**, 2 **Common Sandpipers**, 1 **Greenshank** and the first **Shelduck** seen since the summer.

Standing on the shore at the end of the road looking towards Stadbury Woods with my binoculars, I could see over 100 **Wigeon**, 20 **Lapwings**, 2 male **Shoveler** ducks, another **Common Sandpiper** and two **Snipe**.

Altogether 25 species

Winter Highlights

19 Nov	13 Turnstone, Bantham
	5 Common Sandpipers wintering
27 Nov	1 Jack Snipe
2 Dec	2 Golden Plover
3 Dec	5 Gadwall Duck
4 Dec	240 Wigeon
8 Dec	2 Sanderling, Batham 16 Dunlin
10 Dec	2 male Shoveler ducks
19 Dec	70 Teal
20 Dec	1 Bar-Tailed Godwit, Batham
23 Dec	3 Red Breasted Mergansers 1st Shelduck returns
29 Dec	1 Black Tailed Godwit
4 Jan	1st Snowdrop open
5 Jan	70 Lapwing Pair of Egyptian Geese
10 Jan	1 Guillemot, Bantham

were recorded, certainly a worthwhile walk in the cold.

Flowers by Rachael



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The Minister's Review

by Rev Neil Barker

Dear Friends,

How do you say it, if you do?

Sometimes it is in words that love is spoken, but as we get near to St. Valentine's day, (14th February in case you have forgotten), there will be many other ways in which people decide to communicate the same message.

Some will say it with flowers or a gift; or an unsigned card may add an element of mystery. Perhaps you have your own special way to say it.

This month's celebration can seem very exclusive, as if we forget the love between brothers and sisters, parent and child, or

even wider than the nuclear family with grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts and beyond. Friendships are so valuable too! Could you find a way to let others know you love them?

God found a way to let us know he loves us.

He says it with flowers and we can marvel at the wonderful world we live in; He says it with the gifts of life and time and health; and in the wonder of worship and so much more can remind us of God's love.

God sent his Son Jesus into the world to show us his love and Christians are called to be part of the message.



If you put a cross at the bottom of your card, remember that Jesus too showed his love with a cross. Please pray for someone else to help share the message of God's love as we look to appoint a new Team Vicar in the Modbury Team this month.

Love
Neil Barker
Team Rector

Mobile Library Visits

Devon County Council has announced changes to the mobile library service. With effect from January 2011 the van will stop in Aveton Gifford every two weeks. It will park outside the Memorial Hall at 9.15 for one hour. This will be the only place it will stop in the village.

The full timetable for Aveton Gifford for 2011 is:

Feb: 2nd, 16th	Aug: 3rd, 17th, 31st
Mar: 2nd, 16th, 30th	Sept: 14th, 28th
Apr: 13th, 27th	Oct: 12th, 26th
May: 11th, 25th	Nov: 9th, 23rd
June: 8th, 22nd	Dec: 7th, 21st
July: 6th, 22nd	

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Taste of Winter

Winter's icy blast came with a vengeance and seemed to go on and on. . . . Parish Clerk, Peter Javes learnt a great deal about the efficacy of certain salt and grit mixes as he negotiated extra supplies for many of the local roads and pavements. There was never enough, and some stories showed that supplies were being restricted and even stopped to preserve quantities for prioritised roads.

The Parish Council has decided to add the incidence of severe cold weather to the Emergency Plan. Many of the smaller and outlying hamlets in the village found that a length of untreated road was a barrier to getting supplies in and out, and prevented access to work and school. To limit this effect, bags of salt will be purchased and located at property close to a road that will need treating. To keep control of costs, six bags will be purchased per location.

If you have suitable storage and are willing to help with gritting the road, please send an e mail to jhcoates@live.co.uk with your postal address to ensure that there is little if any duplication.



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February diary dates for Aveton Gifford Memorial Hall

At the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated.

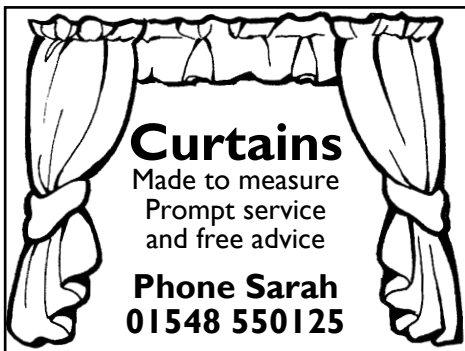
Monday 7th	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting
Thursday 10th	7.30pm	W.I. Camellias – Michelle Watson
Friday 11th	7.00pm	Aveton Gifford Village Shop Association EGM
Wednesdays until the 16th	3.30-4.30pm	Taverners Children's Drama Group
Friday 25th	7.30pm	Taverners Drama Group – 'Not Quite A Pantomime'
Saturday 26th	2.30 and 7.30pm	Taverners Drama Group – 'Not Quite A Pantomime'.

Pantomime Tickets – Adults £5, Under 16's £4. Available from Aveton Gifford Shop.

Regular events

Mondays	9.15-11.45am 3.00-4.30pm	Parents & Toddlers Monday Club
Tuesdays	9.15-11.45am 7.30-9.30pm	Preschool Lupridge Singers - term ends 7th
Wednesdays	9.15-11.45am 7.30 - 9.00pm	Pre-school Yoga for You (not the 20th)
Thursdays	9.15-11.45am 7.00pm - 8.45pm	Preschool Line Dancing (not the 9th)
Fridays	9.15-11.45am 11.45-1.00pm 1.00-3.30pm	Preschool Preschool Lunch Club Preschool - afternoon session

Half Term from Friday 18th - No Parents & Toddlers. Resumes from Monday 28th



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