

the mAGpie



Issue no 82
Oct / Nov 2012

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

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Articles for issue number 83 must be submitted by the 15th November 2012.



Magpie illustration by Barbara Anstey

The Answer is...?

The results of the Parish Appraisal accompany this issue of mAGpie. The publishing of the results is an important part of our local democracy and accountability. Whilst the Parish Council accepts that the document may not be the most read item in the Parish, it is hoped that it is referred to, kept and valued.

Have a look and see how your answers were matched or contradicted by those of other Parishioners. There are large areas of agreement and some very interesting submissions.

The analyses of the answers that have been given create evidence for change, suggest priorities and will allow a Neighbourhood Plan to be established.

Copies will be supplied to Gary Streeter MP, Coun William Mumford and Coun Bryan Carson to ensure that Aveton Gifford's Voice is heard further afield.

Gala Film Evening (AG does what Cannes can't)

Local celebrities will dress in their finery to celebrate Aveton Gifford's sparkling red carpet occasion when the WORLD premiere is held of any number of wonderfully creative blockbuster films. Each one is locally hand crafted using local talent, local expertise and local technicians.

Tickets are priced at an astoundingly low £5 each to include refreshments; there will be a raffle and you might like to bring along your own bottle of something efficacious. Tickets will be sold from the Village Shop and Post Office and are available on a first come first served basis.

The whole affair is on Saturday October 13th starting at 7.30pm and will use the newly fitted stereo sound and vision system in the Village Hall.

As mAGpie goes to press there are an amazing number of entries for the AG Festival Prize which will be presented to the winning Director after measuring the acclamation of the audience at the Premiere.



Deadline for copy for next issue: 15th Nov 2012

Recruiting a Village Voice

The Parish Appraisal results showed how important the various methods of communication are in such a widespread Parish. A new Voice is needed to write and send (by e mail) the weekly contribution of Aveton Gifford's news to the Kingsbridge Gazette. An

internet linked computer is essential and up to a couple of hours a week to compile an article and photographs to be sent each Tuesday lunchtime. If you are interested then please contact John Coates via email to jhcoates@live.co.uk.



Hearing the Call



Peter Smith (left) was assisted by Ian Adams and Rick Clayton in achieving the renewal and refurbishment of the village's surviving Telephone Box. Thanks to Chris Reynolds for providing the scaffolding.

The nearest neighbour to Peter and Joanne Smith in Fore Street had seen better days and was looking a bit dilapidated and flaky. It had been in situ since 1935 and had survived the blast from a 1,000 lb German bomb that landed in Parson's Brook, about 100 yards away. Peter decided that remedial action

was necessary to make his neighbour a little more like his old self and approached the Parish Council; Peter would provide the labour if the PC made available the paint, spares and replacement door. With much research to ensure authenticity and backed by Peter's patient skill, the Telephone Box has returned to its former glory and now provides a vibrant red beacon in Fore Street. The telephone is completely functional and as frequently used by the Smith family to summon Peter for his lunch! Many thanks to Peter.

HEARTSTART TRAINING

The Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary club will be running a Heartstart course in Aveton Gifford.

This is a very good practical course on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. Good videos are shown, and there will be information about defibrillators. The course will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday October 25th at 7.30pm. The course takes 2 hours and there is no charge.

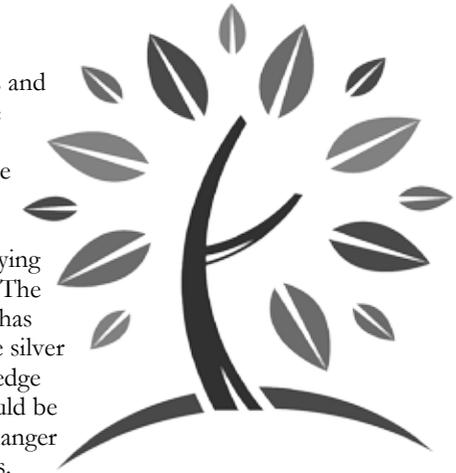
Places are limited; to reserve a place contact Delia Elliot on 01548 550298 or deliaelliott@doctors.org.uk

Trees, Laurels and The Rectory Lawn

Parishioners will have noticed that a large number of overgrown laurels on the northern edge of the Rectory lawn have been felled. It is proposed that the stumps will be cleared and later in the year the cut laurel and stumps will be shredded. The very tall laurels close to the wall will be pollarded; to move these might undermine the wall. The plan is to open up this area to make a feature of the yew trees and to undertake limited new planting to add year round interest and colour. I would

welcome suggestions and donations of suitable shrubs.

The SHDC will be undertaking some remedial tree work in the area of the playing field in the Autumn. The SHDC Tree Officer has advised that the large silver acer on the western edge of the Play Park should be felled: the tree is in danger of shedding branches. A hornbeam has been chosen as a replacement. The large willow by the northern footbridge will be pollarded once it has shed



its branches: to remove it completely would destabilise the brook bank. The willow by the footbridge at The Fishermans is under discussion! It is certainly planned to tidy it and possibly pollard it.

There is a plan to thin the trees between the Play Area and

the track to Pittens Barn. This will be done after consultation with plans for stage 2 of the Play Park. SHDC will only pay for essential work; the Parish Council will be asked to meet the cost of the non-essential clearing and felling work. Much has been achieved by volunteers as seen by the transformation at the Fishermans Rest.

Please let me have your views and ideas. I am Tree Warden for the parish; this does not give me any "power": my role is concerned with promotion of tree planting, conservation and education.

Through the Parish Council I have gained a role as a "Tree Coordinator"!

Please let me have your views and ideas.

Delia Elliott
Tel. 01548 550298
email: deliaelliott@doctors.org.uk

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Hi Everyone.

It's been a while since I brought you up to date with what is happening in the shop. It has been drawn to my attention that in the Village Appraisal several of you said you would use the shop more if it wasn't so expensive. So I thought I would take this opportunity to put you all in the picture of how I am trying to make the shop work.



I made a conscious decision right from the start that I wasn't going to run a "Spar or Londis" style shop where everything was dirt cheap and rubbish quality. So that left me with selling branded products and we come down to what I sell and why I sell them at the prices I do.

Firstly, it is obvious, I am not a major supermarket who can tell suppliers what I am prepared to pay for products. Secondly, I have a wall of shelves in what was designed to be a disabled toilet as a stock room and a very damp shed at the back, so I am unable to buy in bulk, which would also command better buy-in prices. I am therefore left buying from wholesalers, local suppliers and supermarkets when their prices are better than I can buy from the wholesalers. I have tried to give you as many price marked goods as I can, but these give me very little profit - a good example is Andrex (4 rolls) that is price marked at £1.99 for which I pay £1.75 and therefore make 24p profit, 4p of which I have to give to the taxman; Tetley 80's are price marked at £2.45 while I pay £2.12 and therefore make 33p. Cigarettes and Tobacco, of which I sell a lot, only give me somewhere between 3 - 5% profit. So, for example, a 12.5g pack of Cutters Choice sells at £4.03 and I make less than 20p per pack.

These are some of my problems in buying and stocking the shop. The other side is the money I have to pay out each month before I can buy any more stock. I have added all my outgoings up and it works out that before I can pay myself a wage at all I have to make over £450 a week to pay staff costs, rent, electricity, business rates and car running costs. To put this in context, this would be equivalent to selling 1,674 packs of Andrex per week or over 2000 packs of Tobacco.

However, taking on board what you have said, I have decided to make a **Value Lines** shelving area to see whether this will tempt you all to come and support the shop. This will be in place at the start of October, so make a note in your diaries and come in and see. To start with it will just be a small range of essentials, but after a while I will make a judgement whether to increase the range or not. Just to let you know, there have been increases in the price of milk and bread, which I am sure you have heard about on the news due to an increase in the price of wheat and the farmers (quite rightly) demanding more for their milk production. For the moment I have not passed on the price to you but have reduced the profit I make.

On another note, if you haven't been for a while, I now have the Lottery and Scratchcards in the shop so there is no need to pop into Modbury or Kingsbridge just to pick the winning numbers.

I hope to see more of you all soon.
Sarah

October/November Diary Dates for Aveton Gifford

At the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated.

October Diary

- Thursday 11th 7.30pm WI – Adventures in Fair Trade with Lesley Allsopp
- Saturday 13th 7.30pm 'Premiere Gala Film Evening' - A selection of short films made by villagers. This promises to be a fun evening and you are invited to dress up if you wish! Tickets are £5 to include a glass of wine and are available from the village shop. Refreshments will also be on sale.
- Saturday 20th 2.30pm St Andrew's Church Autumn Fair. A variety of stalls including Raffle, Crafts, Cakes, Produce, Books, Plants and White Elephant. Refreshments will also be available. Admission – Adults 50p, Children free.

November Diary

- Monday 5th 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting
- Thursday 8th 7.30pm WI – Learn How To Play Whist
- Monday 12th 7.30pm Memorial Hall Committee Meeting
- Thursday 15th 7.00am – Polling Station – Police Commissioner Election
10.00pm

Regular Events

- Mondays 2.30-4.30pm Monday Club
- Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm Lupridge Singers

Pre-School Now at 'The Hive'

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 9.00-12.00
12.00-1.00
1.00-3.30 | Morning Sessions
Lunch Club
Afternoon Sessions |
| Thursday | 9.00-12.00
12.00-1.00 | Morning Sessions
Lunch Club
No Afternoon Session |
| Monday | 9.45-11.45am | Parents & Toddlers |

No Breakfast Club at present but if demand increases or anyone is interested please contact Mandy Tucker on 550541

Half Term Holiday is the week beginning Monday 29th October

Think Drains!

Our drains in the centre of the village are old, and too small. When they were put in about 50 years ago nobody could have foreseen how much the village would expand, or how much our use of water would increase over the years. Extensive work needs to be done to bring our inadequate drains in the older part of the village up to standard. There have been several sewage spills over recent months, some in the middle of public roads or by footpaths; raw sewage ran into the stream for some days from a recent overflow in Jubilee Street. South West Water will have to update our drainage in the next few years, but it will cost a lot of money and being realistic it may not be soon. Without letting them off the hook we could probably help ourselves to avoid unpleasant and potentially harmful sewage spills.

I'm told that the reasons



drains get blocked are usually the same, and ways to avoid these problems are simple, but we just don't pay that much attention to our household pipes; once out of sight it tends to be out of mind until something goes wrong! It also seems that it's not just up to people living nearby; drains from houses higher in the village run down into the lower part of the village where the pipes are inadequate.

What can we do to help ourselves? According to advice from various agencies, we have to "think drains"! Maybe, if we are more conscious of what not to put down them, we might avoid some of the very unpleasant sewage horrors of the last few months.

We shouldn't flush things that are not meant to go down the toilet. South West Water has a "Dirty Dozen" list of things that routinely cause blockages, and other agencies also have their own favourites. These include disposable nappies, panty liners, incontinence pads, and many things that manufacturers tell us are bio-degradable, but actually aren't - nappy liners, baby wipes and lavatory cleaning cloths. Also cotton wool, wet wipes, facial cleansing pads and cotton buds (perfectly good bathroom



bins for those they say). Paper hand towels and kitchen paper are also on the list, and although they may be technically biodegradable they are made so that they don't disintegrate easily when they get wet. All of the above seem fairly obvious, but believe it or not, included in these lists of common culprits were razor blades, syringes and needles, bandages, rags, plastic bags (including carrier bags), food wrappers, false teeth and disposable lavatory brushes.

For kitchen drains SWW reckons that the build up of cooking fats which we send down our drains in hot washing up water causes them the greatest problem. It solidifies in cold drain pipes and is often the chief culprit of blockages both close to home and in main sewers. They ask us to scrape all fats and foodstuffs from plates and pans into a compost caddy before washing up.

The final recommendation is to avoid washing any paint, decorating materials or motor oils down the drain.

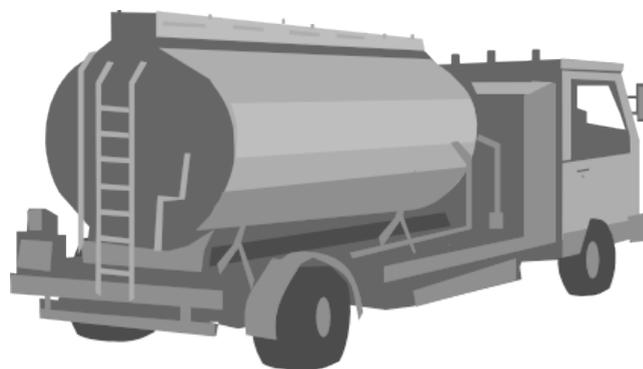
Winter Draws On!

Many people will be thinking about ordering oil for the winter now. From past experience oil prices are probably only going to get higher with demand as the weather gets colder, but a lot of us don't

have much choice and have to pay up because we have to use it anyway. In the past year several people have suggested that we set up a local scheme in the parish to organise shared oil deliveries and negotiate lower prices.

However there is a scheme run by the Community Council for Devon which may help to reduce heating bills. The Devon Oil Collective is a county-wide syndicate and by bringing communities together throughout Devon they have a much greater purchasing power.

You may be interested in finding more information about this scheme from the Community Council of Devon's website - <http://www.devonrcc.org.uk> - or email info@devonrcc.org.uk or you can ring 01392 248 919.



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Oct / Nov Diary at St Andrew's Aveton Gifford

October

Thu 4th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Sun 7th	11.00am	Family Service
Wed 10th	7.30pm	Team Council
Thu 11th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Sun 14th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thu 18th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Sat 20th	2.30pm	Autumn Fair in the memorial hall
Sun 21st	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Thu 25th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Sun 28th	11.00am	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Service of memories for the bereaved at Loddiswell

November

Sun 4th	11.00am	Family Service
Thurs 8th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Sun 11th	10.45am	Remembrance service
Thurs 15th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Sun 18th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Thurs 22nd	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
	7.30pm	PCC
Sun 25th	11.00am	Family Communion
Wed 28th	7.30pm	Team council
Thu 29th	3.05pm	Primary school collective worship
Fri 30th	7.00pm	St. Andrew's day service

ST ANDREWS AUTUM FAIR

Saturday 20th October 2.30pm

Aveton Gifford Village Hall

Refreshments – Crafts – Cakes
Produce – Books – Plants
White Elephant

Admission – Adults 50p
Children - Free

Proceeds to St Andrews Church

PARISH PROJECT GROUP AGM

Annual General Meeting to be held on 8th
October 7pm. Downstairs room at the
Fisherman's Rest.

Meeting to be followed by showing of 2
DVDs of local interest: Devon at War
which includes interviews with two of our
villagers and South Hams Villages Past and
Present

Light refreshments provided

PLEASE COME, and learn more about our
group.

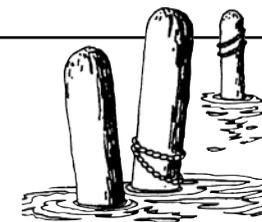
Nature Notes by Rodney Bone

South Efford Marsh

Due to a combination of a very wet summer, the controlled flooding of the marsh and the grazing cattle, the bottom half of the marsh now consists mainly of shallow flooded pools. On the high tides shoals of small mullet enter the deeper pools and there are literally millions of small midges on the surface of the water. This is now beginning to attract small

numbers of waders and passage migrants.

On almost every visit to the marsh you can now see Kingfishers, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Mallard, Moorhen, Common and Green Sandpipers, Egyptian Goose, Curlew and Greenshank. Swallows, Housemartins, Pied Wagtails and a pair of Grey Wagtails can be seen hunting the midges.



Corrections & Updates

- In the last mAGpie the House Martin numbers for the parish should have been 38 nests not 28.
- The very lucky cygnet in the last article was not so lucky as all three cygnets died.

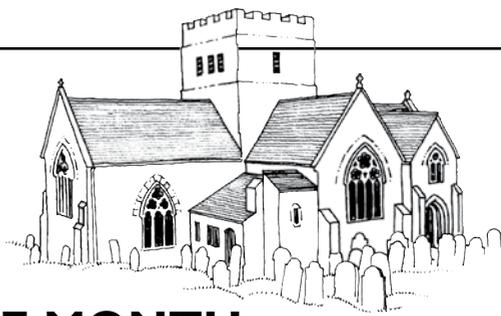
Late Summer Highlights by Rod Bone & Eric Wotton

All recorded on S.Efford Marsh except the records with an (E) which were seen on the estuary.

- **4 Aug** - 1st Snipe returns.
- **6 Aug (E)** - 2 Mediterranean Gulls
- **9 Aug** - 1 Whinchat, 1 Wheatear
- **11 Aug** - 1 Whimbrel
- **11 Aug (E)** - 14 Ringed Plover
- **15 Aug** - 1st two Teal return.
- **17 Aug** - Two Whincats
- **18 Aug** - Two Moorhens chasing a grey squirrel
- **20 Aug** - 8 Green Sandpipers
- **23 - 28 Aug** - 2 Wood Sandpipers. The first time I have ever seen two together.
- **24 Aug (E)** - 1st Greenshank returns
- **26 Aug** - 4 Greenshank
- **26 Aug** - 38 Little Egret
- **29 Aug** - 58 Canadian Geese
- **30 Aug** - 1 Redstart
- **3 Sept** - 2 Juvenile Cirl Buntings
- **3 Sept (E)** - 8 Common Sandpipers
- **5 Sept** - 30 Curlew
- **6 Sept (E)** - 44 Dunlin, the highest count since 2002
- **7 Sept** - 1st Wigeon returns

The Minister's Review

by Terry Valiant



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: WHAT MAKES CHURCH CHURCH

The church is the body of Christ. The early church was made up of a network of household fellowships in a town. The word for church in the Greek, ecclesia, means the community of those who are called out (ie. called out by God). In New Testament times there were no large church buildings; there was no hierarchy, no Christian colleges, Sunday schools or choirs. There were only small groups of believers. All they had was the fellowship of each other. We also see from scripture that the church is not dependent on buildings; that every member is involved in ministry; that house and prayer groups are as important as Sunday worship; that the church as the Body of Christ has access to extraordinary spiritual power; and that the church is part of the community.

The church is there to be a healing, growing community which invests in people. I believe there are 4 basics of being part of a

church:

1. A living relationship with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with a thirst and a love for his word.

2. A distinctive quality that others can see; the proof of our relationship with God and the fruit of his Spirit, is visible in our lives. Any conflicts within the church community should be seen to be resolved.

3. Act our faith: We are called to demonstrate the significance of what God has done through us. We are called to demonstrate God's love and to shine as lights in his world so that the world will believe.

4. The use of spiritual gifts: We need to be aware of and use the spiritual gifts that we have been given. We need to know the purpose of our gifts, and how we

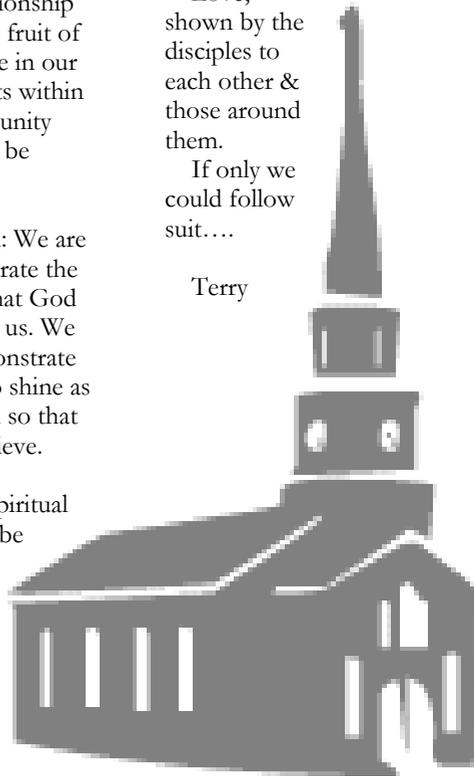
can use them in the church and in the world. It is God's desire that we all live and move only under the anointing of his Holy Spirit.

And the main reason for church growth in the New Testament? Love.

Love, shown by the disciples to each other & those around them.

If only we could follow suit....

Terry



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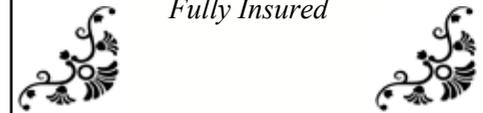


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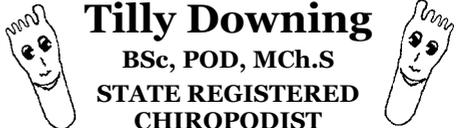
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