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Award Winning

Parish Post

Miserden, Whiteway,The Camp
Sudgrove & Wishanger

Summer 2023



From Corner Shop to Coronation
by Jon Cobb

Friday at the shop is the busiest day of the week, filled with deliveries, collecting stock and orders. So, when I received an email from the Cabinet Office halfway through a regular busy Friday, I almost missed it. "Laura, I think I've been invited to the Coronation!"

Neither of us could quite believe it and we both had to read and reread the email a few times before finally accepting it wasn't a fake or scam. One single ticket for the Coronation, with no plus one: why had I been invited? A few weeks later I learnt that King Charles had invited 450 British Empire Medal (BEM) recipients, those that had been awarded for work within their communities during COVID. I'd received my BEM in May 2022, something I'm very proud of. A further email on dress code and decorum arrived, and a reminder it'll be an early day, with physical invites and paperwork expected by the end of April. So, with my hotel and travel booked I was set.

On Friday 5th May, in the evening after work, I travelled on a busy train from Kemble to Paddington. The train was already full of people, hustle and bustle and excitement - red, white and blue flags sticking out of luggage, and talk of royals and history. Little did they know that I was an invitee to the weekend's historic event. That evening walking around the streets of London every hotel, restaurant and pub was packed full. I was struck by how many young Europeans were

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around: French, Spanish, German along with Canadians and Asians.

The following morning, I was wide awake at 4:45am: Showered, suited and booted, I left my hotel and found myself on empty streets. The tube at 5:30am was already getting full of royal fans dressed head to toe in union flags. I must have looked out of place in my 3-piece suit, something I'd had to buy for the medal ceremony and royal garden party of the previous year. When I arrived at our congregation point, the corner of Lambeth Bridge and Victoria Gardens, I joined the queue of honoured guests, no more than 20 others in front of me! The queue steadily grew, gathering all the way over to the other side of the Bridge, I later found out that the queue also contained many of the early and keen celebrities.

Eventually, the line started to move: Security in Victoria Park was airport style with sniffer dogs, seven metal detector arches and corresponding aisles. All the ushers and marshals outside had been filled with smiles and greetings, but there was now a feeling of seriousness and efficiency as the police concentrated on searching the first bags and frisking when belts and jewellery set off the alarms. Sometimes being early pays off and I was through and outside again quickly, so quick in fact we were instantly halted outside the House of Commons by senior officials, apparently no one had told those in the abbey that the queue was moving. Never mind, an opportunity for a photo outside the abbey and briefly seeing The Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP speaker of the house as he rushed by towards his offices.

On entering the abbey, I was greeted, not only by the sense of history and enormity as you do when walking into such a historic place, but by an usher who was taken aback by my invite. A white card, with a red stripe through, with details of the day along with my name and in the top corner written North Quire Aisle. "A white card! You shouldn't be here until 10am!" he said, and quickly took me into the Abbey not quite sure what to do. Despite my protests I found myself in the middle of the blue carpeted area of the Choir stalls, being presented to a group of stern officials with papers and clip boards.

"What's your name?" an official asked. "Well, I'm pretty sure I should be over there" pointing to the other side of the Choir, "But its Jonathan Cobb" I replied. Looking through her list, Tony & Cherie Blair, David Cameron, Andrew Lloyd Webber, etc, "No you're not on my list I'm afraid!" unfortunately I didn't think I'd quite be able to talk my way into one of these seats, we quickly established I was to sit on the other side of the large pony wall which



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defines the Choir seating. Well at least I'd walked all over the blue carpet!

My seating area turned out to be a little hidden away, unable to directly see any of the procession or pageantry, but as I was first to the seating area, I did have the pick of the seats. I sat right on the end of the Aisle, in front of a very large TV with several seats around me reserved. Signs for 'Heralds' and 'Gentlemen at Arms' adorned the chairs. Well, if I wasn't going to be able to see anything directly, at least I'd be in amongst it with those involved.

As the Abbey started to fill, the TVs started to show what was happening in the areas of the Abbey we couldn't see, and we were entertained by choral and orchestral music. As the well-known faces arrived alongside the public invitees, a few moments later many would pass our aisle looking for their allocated seating areas. The ushers did a great job, but as it got busier, soon became over worked, disappearing with one guest only to leave many others scratching their heads. But an adjacent guest and I soon worked out the colour coding of the invitations - white with red stripe for



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our area, green for the adjacent, yellow for Nave etc. and began helping where we could. Many a celebrity came our way politicians and actors; faces you were trying to put a name to etc. Gyles Brandreth was amusing: pausing to tick off a lady as she tried to take a sly photo. Ant & Dec had small cheers where every they went, so full of energy and most obviously so proud and excited to be there. "Are you getting ready to rumble?" I asked Dec, "steady!" his response as he continued almost skipping down the aisle.

Soon enough the main event started and we, like millions of others around the country were glued to our TV, the only difference being the quality of the surround sound. As the procession entered the seats around me filled with the Heralds and Gentlemen at Arms. Many of those taking part in the ceremony had to walk past to return to their seats, including Rishi Sunak.

I was particularly struck by several parts of the ceremony, Sir Bryn Terfel and the Hymn *Veni Creator* sung in English, Welsh, Celtic and Gaelic were personal highlights. During the ceremony I heard several mobile phones buzz and chime, I was glad mine was firmly switched off as when turning mine on after the event I'd received several messages.

The order of service was incredibly detailed, every word spoken, and person's actions were detailed. However, our last task as congregation caused a little confusion, after the last song sung by the choir, and before the King and Queen and royal procession left the Abbey the congregation were to stand after a royal fanfare and to sing *God Save the King*. The vital piece of information missing was the song had three fanfares itself, so many within the congregation stood and then quickly sat three times before the actual royal fanfare. Surprisingly the sound of 1500 people standing and sitting again wasn't picked up by the media microphones.

By the time I left the abbey, in line with Rory Stewart and Stephen Fry, the rain was pelting down so I made a quick exit back in the direction of Victoria to a restaurant, and a toilet. What an amazing day, I truly felt honoured to be present in part of the history of the country. But now I've put the suit back in the wardrobe and I'm looking forward to a more regular life again!



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Second and Fifth Sundays: Please see *Parish Connections* Magazine and Benefice website www.erminwestbenefice.org.uk

For further information call 01285 821040 or email rev.val@btinternet.com

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Are you inspired by the Big Help Out to consider volunteering? Do you want to be part of a friendly team helping your local community?

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts needs volunteers now more than ever to help make a difference to local people. In the last year we have faced an unprecedented demand due to the cost of living crisis.

We are appealing for new volunteers from all backgrounds who are looking for a volunteering role that is both challenging and rewarding. We are looking for people who can give 8-10 hours per week and are currently recruiting for the following roles:

Administration/triage assistants. You will provide a professional welcome to callers at the door of our Stroud or Cirencester offices. You will triage callers without an appointment -identifying emergencies and providing information and signposting to other agencies when needed (no advice giving involved). You will also undertake a wide range of administrative tasks, including contacting clients by telephone and text, and handling inward and outbound post.

You must be computer literate but full training in triage and our IT systems will be given.

Volunteer Advisers. You will give advice and information (face to face, by telephone and email) to clients on a wide range of problems. No prior advice experience is necessary as full training will be given. Information sessions for volunteer advisers will take place on 7 June 2023 (10.30-12 noon) in Cirencester.

Elizabeth Hall, our Chief Executive Officer said: "Now more than ever, you can really make a difference by volunteering with us. We're seeing more and more people needing support as living costs spiral. As well as helping the local community, we know people who volunteer their time get a lot back. We'll give you all the training you need and would love to hear from you."

To find out more about these roles or register your interest for a volunteer adviser information session please contact our Learning and Development Officer at **training@ca-scd.org.uk**. You can also find further information on our website **www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk**.



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Heaven Scent
Gardening by Sue Spielberg

Nothing evokes past memories quite like a smell - whether for good or bad. For instance, wafts of overcooked cabbage still transport me back to my childhood and the brown sludgy cabbage rolls that my beloved German mother would try to persuade me to eat, while the scent of lily-of-the-valley always reminds me of the birth of our second son - not only because I had been weeding round a large patch of it hours before my labour started, but also because a friend's mum brought me a large posy of them when she later visited me in hospital.

It's no surprise to learn that the olfactory bulb, which is the region of the brain that processes smells, is next to the one which deals with emotion and memory. That is why dementia gardens usually feature a high percentage of scented plants as these can help unlock distant memories by catapulting the patient back through time.

Smells are a completely subjective thing - what one person finds intoxicating might be a complete nose turner for another. I'm always pleased when my mother-in-law is gifted lilies, which she graciously accepts then passes straight to me as soon as the giver has all but left the house!

Of course, scented plants didn't just evolve to please us; their primary goal is to attract pollinating insects. The scent molecules that plants



Even rimed with frost, witch hazel scents the air in January

WE ARE OPEN!

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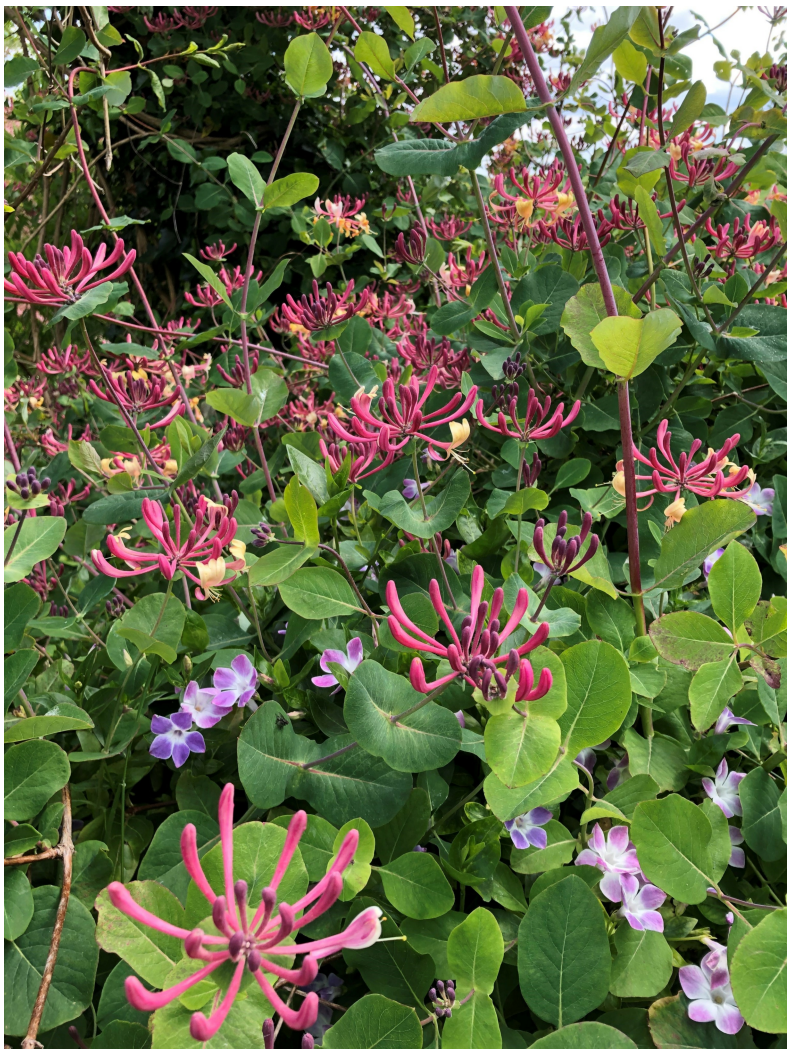


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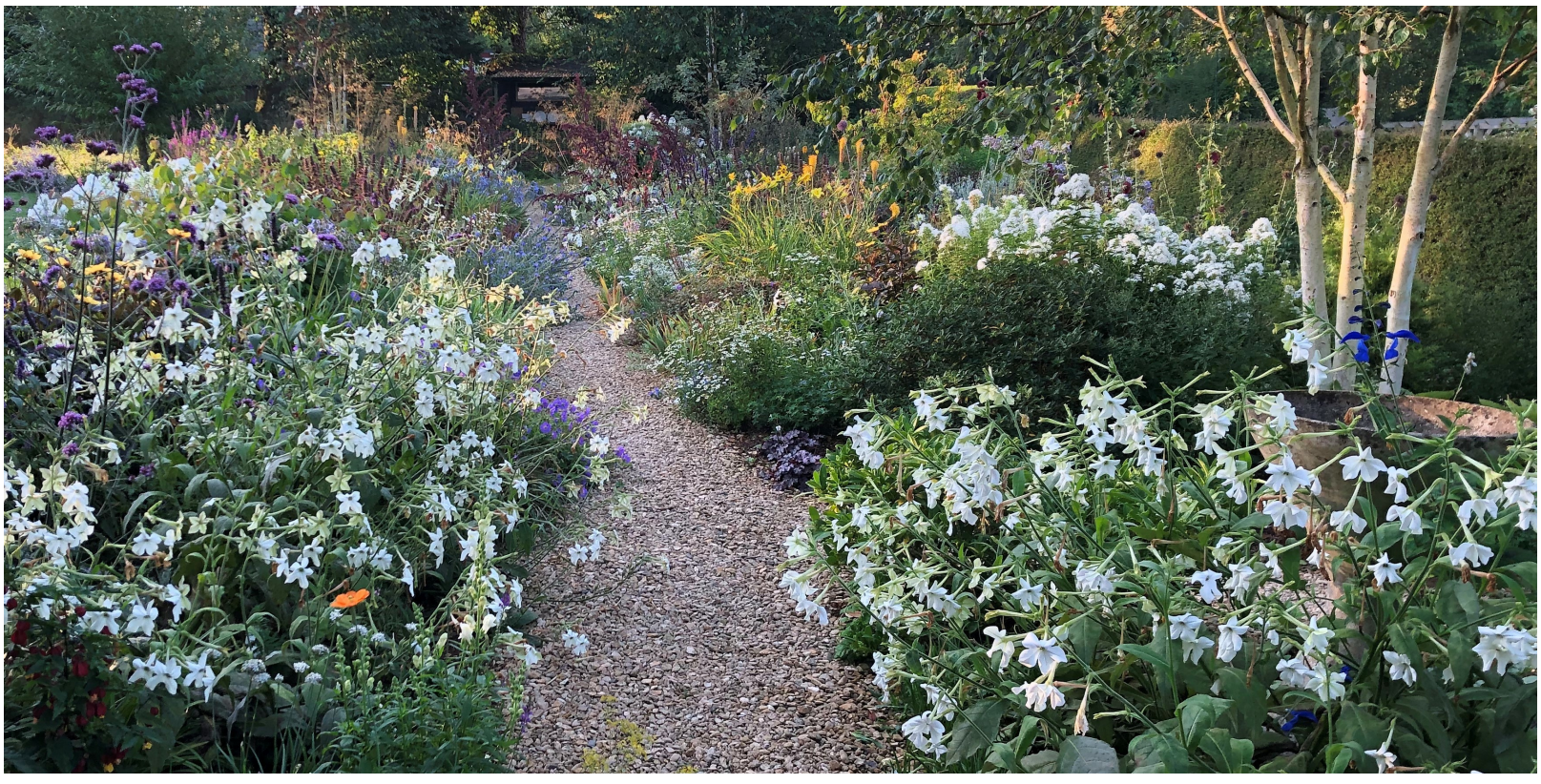
produce are released as volatiles that float on the air, and are more perceptible to us when the weather is warm and still, or after the sun goes down. But emitting a fragrance is exhausting for a plant, so once the flower has been pollinated, its scent often becomes more acrid to put off further insects, which explains why lilac and hyacinths start to smell rank when the flowers go over.
As summer approaches, we are entering the time of year when we are probably most aware of scented plants, and we will often detect their fragrance in the air long before we can track down the source of it. Longer summer days and warmer evenings encourage us to spend more time in our gardens, so it makes sense to plan our outdoor spaces accordingly, by choosing plants not just for their visual appeal but also for their intoxicating olfactory properties.

It's also worth giving some thought to their placement - don't waste scented plants in areas that don't get a lot of use, particularly in summer. Far better to layer up the fragrance around seating areas or windows that will be open for much of the time.

However when the days are short, you will appreciate winter scent far more along access



Lonicera periclymenum 'Belgica' starts flowering in May



Nicotiana ramps up its perfume as the sun goes down

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paths that you use regularly as you dash in and out of the cold. And don't just limit yourself to planting in open borders, remember to tuck climbers at the base of walls to grow up vertically, and use large pots and containers to offer extra opportunities for waves of fragrance to drift around where you most need it.

I can vouch for all of the following plants, and the more you manage to make space for, the more richly rewarded you will be:

Spring

- Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata';
- Wallflowers;
- Narcissus 'Avalanche,' N. 'Actaea,' N. 'Geranium';
- lily-of-the-valley;
- Violets;
- Cowslips;
- Viburnum x carlcephalum

Summer

- Hesperis matronalis (sweet rocket);
- Philadelphus 'Belle Etoile' (mock orange);
- lilies - particularly Lilium regale 'Album' and L. speciosum 'Rubrum';
- lilac - particularly Syringa meyeri 'Palibin', which is small enough for a large pot;
- sweet peas;
- Honeysuckle;
- roses - particularly 'Gertrude Jekyll,' 'Buff Beauty,' and R. Rugosa;
- border phlox;
- Nicotiana (tobacco plant);
- Zaluzianskya

Autumn

- Gladiolus murielea;
- Trachelospermum (star jasmine);
- Abelia x grandiflora;
- Mahonia 'Winter Sun';
- Viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn'

Winter

- Daphne bholua 'Jaqueline Postill';
- Chimonanthus praecox 'Grandiflorus' (wintersweet);
- Hamamelis x intermedia 'Pallida' (witchhazel); Sarcococca confusa (sweet box)



Phlox paniculata 'White Admiral' has a strongly clove-like scent

Interested in Helping Out, or have you a Skill/Experience to Share?

Might you be interested in joining the dynamic group of adults who currently lead a thriving group of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts based at Cranham Scout Centre?

We are looking for:

- Assistant leaders on a Wednesday evening for Beavers aged 6-8 years, 4.45-5.45pm, or Scouts aged 10-14, 7.30-9pm
- People with a specific interest/experience, who might come and talk to the Beavers/Cubs/Scouts for an evening.
- People prepared to be part of the Executive Committee supporting the leaders.

If you think you might be interested in finding out more, or attending a session to see what it entails, please contact Nicki on cranhambeavers@gmail.com

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For the last thirty-seven years Mark has been a Postman for Royal Mail and for the last six years he has delivered the mail around the Parish. March of this year was the last time that he was to bring our post.

Mark was born in Stroud: the only boy brought up amongst seven sisters. He has been married to Bernie for 37 years, they live in Uplands Stroud and have two grown up sons.

Sally Shewring recently caught up with Mark and Bernie to bring you this interview:

What have you most enjoyed about working in this area? Mark was thrilled when he had the opportunity to take over from his friend 'Bob' (previous postman for Whiteway, Edgeworth and Miserden). He has always loved being on the rural rounds, and was especially looking forward to this one! He has grown very fond of the area and particularly all the friendly and welcoming people who he delivered to.

How do you like to relax? Mark has always enjoyed playing sport. He played football for many years. He now enjoys cycling and is a regular player for Stroud Tennis Club. Now he has the time to have the occasional game of golf with 'Bob' as well as tending to his allotment.

What do you like to eat and drink? Mark likes to have the occasional beer and enjoys home cooking and home grown vegetables.

Where do you like to holiday? Mark is a real sun worshipper and enjoys going to Hayle in Cornwall and Christchurch in Dorset as well as the occasional trip abroad.

How do you feel about retirement? Mark feels that now he has the time to do the things he enjoys most which is playing tennis and cycling, together with country walks and catching up with jobs that need doing on the house.

Mark wishes to take this opportunity to thank you all for the lovely cards and good wishes and for making the job so enjoyable.



Save the date: Whiteway Fete 3rd September

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Arable Management practices for the benefit of wildlife.by Tom Uridge

The intensification of arable farming over the decades has had a devastating effect on our native wildlife. The increase in herbicide, insecticide and the removal of hedgerows has not only removed vital food resources for birds but roosting and nesting habitat too.

Over the past couple of years Miserden Estate has been adopting regenerative farming techniques to help restore soils, sequester carbon and encourage wildlife back into the farmed landscape. Regenerative farming techniques go against highly intensive traditional methods of farming by working with nature to minimise inputs such as fertiliser and herbicides, but in doing so increase productivity.

Traditional farming practices often saw fields turned by the plough and left bare for long periods over the winter months, soil erosion was and still is a huge problem. Hot dry weather would see fields turn into dust bowls whereas heavy rainfall through the winter would simply allow the soil to be washed away, nutrients would be flushed out



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and the unique microorganisms found within the substrate itself would no longer be able to survive in such conditions, and simply fade away.

Soils now left void of life would need high levels of fertilisers applied to simply get crops to grow. Regenerative farming techniques look to keep the soil covered by sowing over winter cover crops, not only do these cover crops reduce soil erosion but quite often a nitrogen fixing herbal lay will be used that draws nitrogen from the atmosphere and down into the soil itself.

Another natural method of soil improvement is the reintroduction of livestock into the arable rotation. Sheep can now be seen on fields that once had crops in, after a few years of holding livestock these fields will then return to crop production, the livestock naturally fertilise the soil therefore lessening the need for artificial fertilisers.

Field margins and cover cropping are another key feature of regenerative farming that can be seen across the estate. The introduction of floristic field margins encourages pollinators into the arable environment which is obviously beneficial to the pollination of crops but the margins also provide habitat for natural pest controllers such as lady bugs, hedgehogs and birds.

Grass margins will provide hunting habitat for birds such as barn owl but also nesting habitat for farmland birds such as yellowhammer, grey partridge and linnet. Large areas of headland have been drilled with bird seed mixes for overwintering birds, this provides over winter cover but high energy food during the harsh winters also.

Our hedgerows have seen a lighter touch over the past few years. Where they were once flailed to the same knuckle every year they are now cut on a 2-3 year rotation allowing them to thicken up at the base providing better habitat for nesting birds. Thick wide hedgerows along with bordering margins create safe corridors through which wildlife can pass. This connection across the landscape is key if we are to create landscape scale change and reverse the biodiversity crisis that we are facing, linking rich pockets of biodiverse habitat via the restoration of the farmed landscape is something Miserden Estate is eager to accomplish.



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Pets Corner
by Claire Coles-Jones

I have to be absolutely honest - I thought I had an article 'in hand' for this edition of the Parish Post, but I haven't. How the time flies... So - I thought I'd let you know a few of the facts about our furry friends that I find really fascinating - a short article, with a promise to 'do better' for the next one.

If anyone has any questions regarding pets, behaviour in cats and dogs, or Vet/Nurse questions (obviously nothing that actually requires a vet!) then please do email me - **cmorgan47@hotmail.com** I am always happy to answer any questions.

So. On to the facts about our friends:

Cats spend about 70% of their time sleeping... Isaac Newton invented the cat flap.

There are approximately 49 different breeds of **Tortoise**. They can live for many years, often into their 60/70/80's and beyond. In February 2022 'Jonathan' celebrated his 190th Birthday - he lives on the island of St Helena. Yes, he had a Birthday cake! No, it wasn't chocolate. It was made up of all the things he loves, including bananas and melons.

Rabbits show happiness - they jump around, and flick their feet. This is called 'Binkying' They also show that they are happy by purring, clucking and sighing.

Contrary to popular belief, **Goldfish** do not have a 5 second memory. Studies have shown that they can remember things for up to 6 months. I remember a Koi Carp coming to the Vets many years ago - it had an anaesthetic to have an abscess removed. The anaesthetic agent was dissolved into the water. After it's surgery, to wake it up, it was put into 'clean' water!

It is illegal to own a **Hamster** or **Gerbil** in Hawaii...the environment is so similar to their natural habitat, that agricultural and environmental groups are concerned that if they escape they could breed in the wild, and potentially damage crops and natural habitats. They come from Europe and Asia, some live in groups, and others will fight any other hamster that comes close! They eat seeds, plants, insects, and small lizards - they are omnivores…

Dogs can breathe at the same time as sniffing - and as they spend a lot of time sniffing to work out



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what has been going on around them, it's important that they continue to breathe at the same time. And remember, a 'sniff walk' is more tiring and relaxing than a manic hour chasing a ball or running around!

Chickens. I love chickens! I miss ours...maybe we'll get some more...anyway I digress. Chickens have better colour vision than humans - they can see all the ultraviolet colours, which we can only see with a special light. Chickens also have amazing memories - they are able to recognise up to 100 different faces, even after a separation of 6 months. This includes human faces too.

Budgies can perceive up to 150 images per second (we perceive 16...) Household lamps, to a Budgie, is constantly flickering - our sight is too sluggish to pick that up. This is why some budgie enthusiasts buy special lamps for them…

Horses are 'obligate nasal breathers' - which means that they cannot breathe through their mouths, and they cannot vomit or burp. Horses are great therapy animals. Their gentle and calm nature enables them to work with humans by mirroring and responding to human behaviour. This means that they are highly effective at interacting and working with people. Studies have shown that spending time with a horse can lead to heart rates syncing up, which can then help slow the heart rate of someone who is feeling anxious, helping them to calm. I miss my horses too…

Mozart had a rescue **Starling** as a pet. He wrote a poem about it after it's death.

That's all for now. **Don't forget the Dog Show at Whiteway Fete in September** - get practicing that special trick! See you there if not before. Claire x







Stop Press

Fred and his dog Rosa (pictured right) have just been awarded the UK Canine Scent Detective award. Watching them work together is truly heartwarming- very proud parents moment here! Congratulations Fred & Rosa - good luck with the next level course starting this week.

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Miserden Church Bells
by Nick Musgrave

Judith Carter and Myra Burridge of the Cirencester Bell Ringers Group had a very busy time on Coronation Day, travelling around ringing various church bells locally, very kindly including St Andrew's Miserden 2 bells for 20 minutes at 1pm. We are most grateful.

In preparation for their visit, the bells and hangings were checked for us by Malcolm Taylor Coordinating Belfry Adviser for the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers.

Malcolm passed to us the following fascinating historical information on the Miserden bells and others made in Gloucester and still in existence as follows:

Both Miserden bells were cast by Abraham Rudhall II of Gloucester in 1722.

The Rudhall family cast over 5,000 bells between 1684 and 1835 over 4 generations of the family. Abraham Rudhall II was the son of the first Rudhall, also called Abraham.

Over 2,700 of these bells till exist today.

In the same year the Miserden bells were cast Abraham II cast another 129 bells including 8 at Tetbury (7 of which still exist) and 2 more at Cirencester to make them the 2nd ring of 12 in the world and these are still in use today.

Cirencester's ring of 12 bells is the oldest in the world now because the earlier ring at St Bride's Fleet Street London dating from 1719 also by Rud-hall were destroyed in the bombing in 1940.

For further information on Church Bells, etc. you might be interested to look at Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers on the internet!



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Opinion: "Time For Change" by Sue Bullingham

I've deliberated about writing this, however recent events have compelled me to do so.

I consider myself privileged to live in such a beautiful area. Nature and the environment, alongside people, play a huge part in my sense of belonging and well being.

Every year I dread the hunting season. this comes as no surprise to those that know me. I struggle to understand how others get pleasure from inflicting cruelty to animals and disrespect others who attempts to stop this. I have always been against cruelty to animals and wildlife, and a keen advocate for sustainable living wherever possible.

I'm always willing to listen to opposing views. But to those who are entrenched in their belief that hunting is a right and a long held tradition, I would argue that this pastime is outdated, and where trail hunting is not adhered to, taking place illegally.

Hunting impacts on the environment and village life. Villagers are divided, many afraid to speak out. this in itself engenders a sense of powerlessness, and does little to aid a sense of community, inclusion and trust.

Recent publicity does not show our village in good light and will prevent some from visiting. This may impact on local businesses.

I trust others will respect my view on this matter.

Sue Bullingham

Note: the above letter represents the views of its author and are not necessarily the views of the Editor or of the Parish Council.

Coronation Celebration Street Party by Martin Ractliffe

Unbelievably, the sun shone and the rain of previous and later days stayed away for the party which was held at Miserden Village Hall to celebrate the Coronation of H.M. King Charles the Third.

Attendees were able to enjoy the occasion outside, in the car park and in the adjoining field, with the warm sunshine making it a delightful, relaxing experience.

An amazing array of party food was assembled and duly consumed during the afternoon by the good turnout of partygoers. Thanks to all the helpers who erected bunting and organised the memorable event, and, indeed to everyone who joined in on the day.





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PARISH POST CONTACT DETAILS
Email: editor.parishpost@hotmail.co.uk

Please could anyone intending to submit an article, advert or announcement to the Parish Post that is not a regular item, let the editor know as far in advance of the deadline as possible . The editor will acknowledge receipt of all articles, so if you do not hear back chase it up. **The deadline for the next Parish Post will be August 25th**

It's your Parish Post!

The Parish Post is created from stories written by our readers. We have great regular contributors but we would love to hear from more writers.

Stories, photos and memories are all welcome. Your friendly editor is always willing to help get the article into shape if you are not used to writing.

The Editor

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS
These are held on the last Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm. All members of the Parish are welcome to attend. Participation is at the discretion of the Chairman.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Plans of any applications for property in this Parish may be viewed by appointment with the Parish Clerk.
Tel: 01285 821 871
Email: clerk.miserdenpc@hotmail.co.uk

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