Award Winning
Parish Post
Miserden, Whiteway,The Camp
Sudgrove & Wishanger
Autumn 2024



The Mystery of the Ruin at Honeycombe by James Astor

For twenty years I had noticed something unusual in our paddock, adjacent to our home at Honeycombe and overlooking the Holy Brook valley.

A slightly terraced area at the top of a short steep slope, littered with good quality building stone, more visible in winter when not covered in nettles and cow parsley. Barely perceptible shape of a rectangular and square building plan, amongst a copse of sycamore and hawthorn. Also, visible when the grass is grazed short, a 100 m long-grassed-over track or holloway, connecting this site to Honeycombe Lane, between The Camp and Miserden.

There had been speculative stories of an older building on or near the site of Honeycombe House, predating when it was re-modelled by The Rev Giles Mills (Miserden) in 1730. Also of there being a school on the site and even possibly of a tunnel connecting Wishangar Manor (500 m to the North) and Honeycombe House (having made my own difficult excavations for cables with a digger through the bedrock near by, this long tunnelled distance seems unlikely).

The manor of Wishanger was granted to The Knights of the Hospitallers by Hasculf Musard in 1186, but we have no certainty if this included the site interested in here. William Honicombe is mentioned as living in a habitation somewhere on the site of Honeycombe House in 1327 (perhaps the source of the Honeycombe name). In 1832, Honeycombe was owned by Sir Edward Bayton Sandys of Miserden, then it was owned by the Lypiatt Park Estate until after WW1. Otherwise



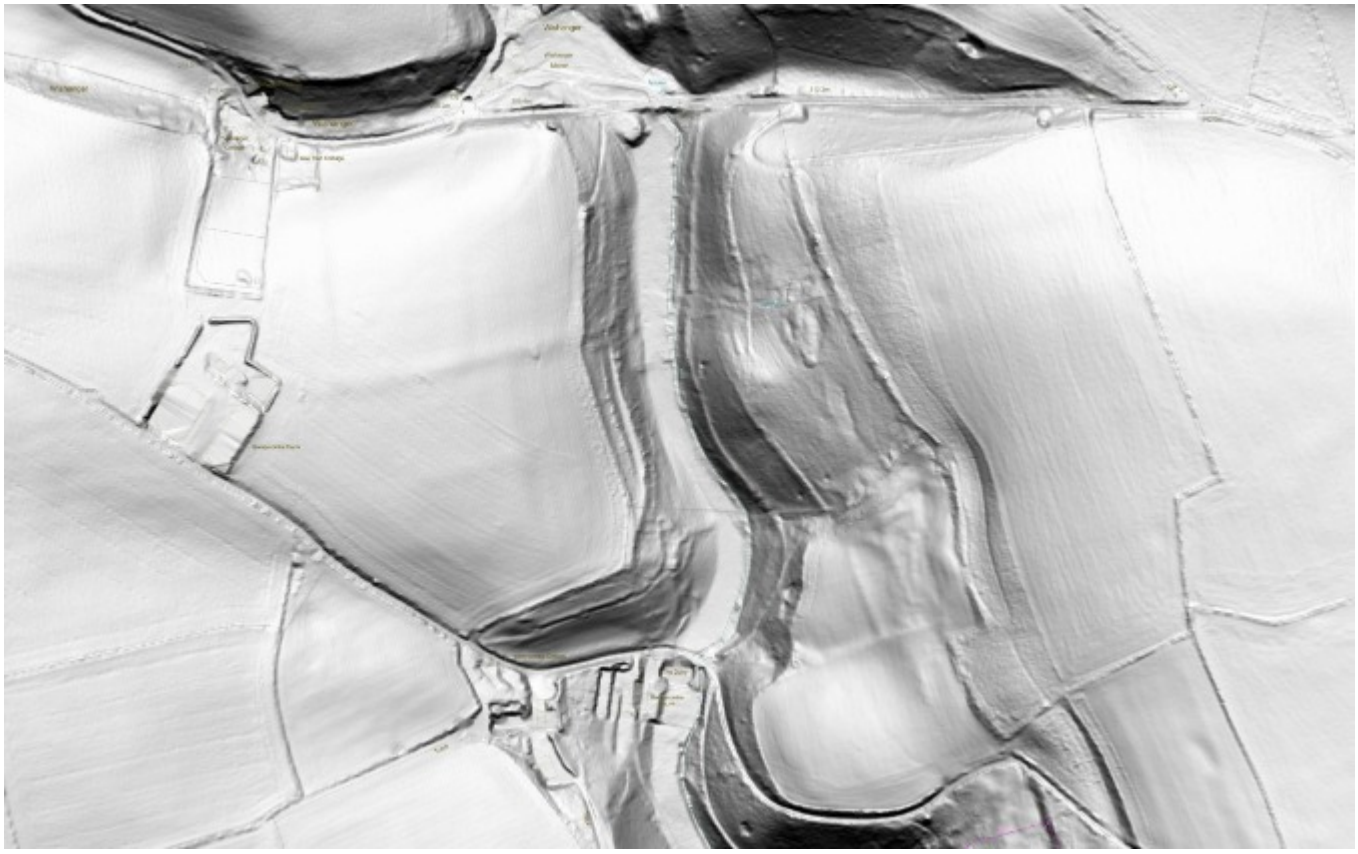
The GlosArch team working on the site in July 2024

little information, about the house or site, before the remodelling of the dwelling in 1730.

For years, I'd wanted to find a moment to investigate these possible ruins further. Finally, during the lull of the Covid pandemic, I found that spare afternoon and headed to Gloucestershire Archives. I was thrilled to find there were references showing two separate buildings on this plot, on various maps and records up until 1844, after which they were marked as walls only, before disappearing from maps entirely after 1872.

I was advised to get in touch with Neil Cathie from GlosArch. He bought up some Lidar imagery which confirmed a definite outline of a walled structure, the access road and other structures adjacent. But what were they? Thoughts varied from a cowshed, a cottage, a chapel (being next to 'Holy' Brook), a farmstead, a school, or even the pre-1730 dwelling replaced by the current Honeycombe House.

A trial dig found well-built 2.5 ft wide walls and a corner, with a plastered interior. Whatever it was, it was not just a cow shed. The dedicated access from Honeycombe Lane and quality of the building work, indicated it may have been a building of civic use. Enthusiasm increased amongst the wonderful



LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) aerial image showing the terrain of the dig site

GlosArch volunteer group and over the summers of 2023 and 2024, we held a number of weekends of volunteer digs.

Patient, methodical and physical work slowly bought this buried past into focus, amongst a three-foot-depth of tree roots, fallen rubble and pony-trodden top soil. As Neil explained, archeological sites often contain layers of history, with buildings evolving over centuries, repurposed and re-modeled. The top layers might be Victorian or Georgian, while deeper layers may reveal medieval and possibly Roman origins.

Towards the end of summer 2024, we still have no definitive answers as to its use. We have partially excavated three well-built plastered rooms, with some beautiful entrance steps and internal stone stairs revealed, indicating it had more than one storey, a wide fireplace with bread oven and some well-finished floors, with inlay and detail, showing time and resources were spent on it.

Ceramics, broken plates and bowls, thin glass, metal fittings and tools, hand-made mother of pearl buttons and butchered bone have been found. Fragments of a writing slate and slate scribes (used as pencils between 14th and 20th C), may indicate some use as a school, for perhaps a short while towards the end of its life.

One theory for its abandonment is a visibly collapsed eastern wall, with stones tilted downslope as if frozen mid-fall. The northern walls have been heavily disrupted by tree roots, though the southern end remains better preserved. There's abundant evidence of the site being active in early Victorian times, with some items potentially dating back to the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. A heavily corroded scythe blade embedded in a tree root has been found at the wall footings, perhaps lost while the foundation stones were first laid. We hope Carbon dating of this may provide a useful indication of the date of the building's origins.

At this stage, it seems likely the site was a home, farmstead, workshop or perhaps a lodge relating to Honeycombe House. Standing on the excavated floor level, wondering whose shoes wore the floor slabs, is evocative. The freshly unearthed history rests, knowing and silent in the dappled light, with still so much guesswork, the past truths hidden



Above: some excavated walls and rooms; Below: writing slate found on the site, perhaps used for school work







Above: general view of the excavations; Right: the "finds table" with objections found during the dig

within these long buried and abandoned rooms. GlosArch hope to return next spring to continue investigations.

If anyone has any recollections or information, perhaps of stories or knowledge passed through generations, please do get in touch.

For interest in joining for the numerous Glosarch excavations, please have a look at www.glosarch.org.uk



Changes at the Village Shop by Jon Cobb

Our recent changes in layout in the shop have made us between 1/4 to 1/3 more energy efficient, depending on time of year. This will help the shop to be far more sustainable in the future so we can serve the community for years to come. By reducing the capital and operational costs, investments in new and exciting products will provide a wider range of goods and services.

We achieved this reduction through monitoring equipment energy consumption throughout the summer this year and identifying the demand level of chilled and energy dependent produce and customers' expectations of stock. At the peak of our not particularly hot summer, our open fridges were consuming a third of the total energy consumption of the shop.

We've increased our ambient fruit and veg with a new display, while maintaining stock levels of chilled fruit and veg in a more energy efficient layout. This has also had the added benefits of providing increased customer flow around the shop as well as improved merchandising levels. In addition, we've moved retail displays around our post office area and dedicated more space to stationery and gift wrap.





Honouring Martin Ractliffe
A Tribute to a Lifetime of Service



This past month, Miserden Parish Council and the trustees of Miserden Village Hall gathered together to plant a Rowan tree in front of the Village Hall. This act was a heartfelt tribute to former Parish Council Chairman Martin Ractliffe, who has served the community with unwavering dedication for 24 years, including an impressive 22 years as Chairman.

Martin began his service on the Parish Council in 2000 and quickly rose to the position of Chairman in 2002. His leadership has been defined by his passion for nature, wildlife, and conservation, areas that have always held a special place in his heart.

Growing up in the area, Martin left for schooling in Oxford but was soon drawn back to the rolling hills of Miserden to establish his successful carpentry and later holiday lettings businesses. Throughout his time on the council, Martin remained a steadfast advocate for preserving the beauty and tranquility of our village and its natural surroundings.

Under his leadership, the Parish Council navigated many challenges, always with the well-being of the community at the forefront of every decision. His

commitment to local government and his readiness to assist friends and neighbours have made him a much-loved figure in the village.

While Martin has decided not to run for Chairman in the upcoming term, the decision was not made lightly. After serving for over two decades, he felt that the time had come for the council to welcome a fresh perspective. However, Martin's retirement from the chair does not mark the end of his service. He will continue to be an active councillor and remains available to all residents of the parish, always ready to lend a helping hand.

The planting of the Rowan tree symbolizes Martin's deep-rooted connection to the parish and his lifelong commitment to the environment and community. We are incredibly grateful for his years of service and look forward to his continued contributions in this new chapter of his involvement with the Parish Council.

Thank you, Martin, for your remarkable leadership and dedication to Miserden Parish and its people.

Gwen Durland









Have you seen an adder recently?
by Tom Uridge of GWT

If you have seen an adder, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust want to know.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's (GWT) *Recovering Adders on the Cotswold Escarpment* project is funded by Natural England's Species Recovery Programme, Capital Grant Scheme. This new scheme was launched in April 2023 and offers grants of up to half a million pounds to projects across England aiming to halt and reverse declines in populations of our most threatened species.

GWT's project aims to retain and enhance adder populations by improving habitat suitability and connectivity along the Cotswold escarpment. Adders, like many species, have suffered from habitat destruction and isolation. The 'keeping it tidy' mentality has seen the removal of scrubby, messy edges, bramble and areas of cover such as brash/ log piles, hedgerows, and drystone walls.

Adders require open, sunny spots where they can bask but require a quick escape, should a threat arise. Adders will often be seen basking on the margins of open habitat, on top of rocks, walls or even brash piles, but when disturbed, they will quickly slither into safety. They will also use thick undergrowth to hunt and hibernate in what's known as 'hibernacula'.

The recovering adders project aims to create a better gradient between woodland and grassland which will allow species such as bramble and hawthorn to grow, removing the harsh boundary between these habitats. These messy sunny edges create a microhabitat and their own microclimate. Temperatures along these edges can differ by a couple of degrees making them perfect for all manner of invertebrates and reptiles to utilise.

Opening rides and glades within a woodland can let sunlight in and create wildlife corridors, allowing animals to pass through and linking populations between sites. Woodlands offer a unique habitat in their own right, but they can often be seen as impassable. For an adder, crossing an open woodland floor would mean exposing yourself to predation. By creating a corridor through woodlands, individuals can colonise new sites, and as a result increase the genetic diversity within the species.

Reptile surveys are often conducted in glorious weather, at stunning locations, early in the morning (sounds horrendous, doesn't it?) but they can also be tough work at times! We are often crossing steep terrain and wading through scrub in hope of a brief encounter with our serpentine friends. An adder is always the main target, whether we voice that or not, but a view of any reptile is always a joy.

Earlier in the season we were out surveying Miserden Estate which is is a key stepping stone for adders as it is located between adder populations in the Cotswold Escarpment and the Golden Valley. The estate is impressive in its size



Adder photographs by Mark Dowie, a survey volunteer at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

but also its mindset, the landowners are making valuable moves to a more regenerative and conservation focused management approach.

Adders are a species that have been seemingly scarce on the estate and haven't been recorded for several years. However, whilst surveying suitable habitat we discovered a fallen down building, in a lovely open glade, surrounded by scrub…. Textbook adder habitat. Upon further inspection, there upon a rock, was a lone adder basking in the sweet rays of sunshine, to say we were thrilled was an understatement, without dedicated survey volunteers and eyes on the ground we would not be able to make such discoveries.

As project manager I would be grateful of any recent adder sightings within the parish of Miserden. Looking back through historic records I can see that the area was once home to adders but very few have been recorded in recent years. It would be helpful to receive any local knowledge of where adders were, or more importantly, are still seen. Please email any information to tomu@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Scouts

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

YOGA CLASS



Miserden Hall with Lisa Taylor, £11 drop in or £10 when a block booked



6 UNTIL 7PM Mondays

www.lisasyogaforall.co.uk

phone Lisa for more info 07530 323951 or email lisa32taylor@gmail.com

Monthly Garden Checklist

I've found that remembering to do what when gets more difficult with each passing year, so writing things down as a checklist has certainly helped me to keep on track in the garden. Hopefully it will help you too. For more in-depth information on any of the tasks, visit the RHS website at https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/

October

• Using two forks back-to-back, lift, divide and replant congested clumps of perennials. Make sure you retain only the youngest, outermost growth and you will be rewarded with better flowering in years to come.
• Dig up any tender plants such as abutilons, lemon verbena, fuchsias, pelargoniums and salvias, that you want to keep over the winter, as well as bring in potted citrus plants. Place in a greenhouse, polytunnel or conservatory and have bubble wrap or fleece ready to cover them in cold spells.
• Plant spring flowering bulbs such as narcissus, Iris reticulata, alliums, muscari and scillas in containers, borders or into meadow areas.
• Early in the month order any bare-root trees, soft fruit and hedging plants so that you can get them in the ground this side of Christmas while the ground is still warm for good root establishment.
• Prune climbing and rambling roses.
• Plant garlic bulbs now for best sized bulbs next summer.
• When brown and withered, cut back asparagus and Jerusalem artichoke tops, and mulch the ground well beneath them.
• Get rid of overwintering sites for slugs by removing the yellow leaves from brassica plants, and tidying up around other veg such as chard and globe artichokes.
• Gather leaves from lawns using a mower with a collection box to make leafmould. Breaking up the leaves in this way helps them to rot down more quickly.

November

• Plant pot grown as well as bare-root trees and hedging plants. I like to incorporate a granular mycorrhizal fungi, such as 'Rootgrow' to get them off to a healthy start.
• Dig up and move any deciduous tree or shrub if it is growing in the wrong place. Water in well.
• As long as the soil is workable, plant any bare-root soft fruit bushes.
• Plant tulip bulbs in pots and borders.
• Cut back blackened dahlia tops and mulch over their crowns with mushroom compost or well-rotted bark.
• Take root cuttings of perennials such as verbascum, oriental poppies, acanthus and anchusa.
• Take hardwood cuttings of woody plants such as cornus, willow, hydrangea, vines, roses and buddleja, along with currants and gooseberries.
• Clear away any spent vegetable plants such as beans and courgettes, putting them on the compost heap to rot down.

December

• Cut back all the foliage from Helleborus orientalis to prevent leaf spot disease and show off their flowers in spring.
• There is still time to plant tulip bulbs.
• If weather is mild, keep on top of weed removal.
• Empty any well-rotted compost heaps, spreading it onto the borders and veg patch.
• To avoid winter waterlogging, raise potted plants off the ground, using purpose-made plastic feet, tiles or bricks.

January

• Prune wisteria, shortening all lateral growth to two or three buds.
• Prune grape vines before the sap starts to rise.
• Prune shrub roses while they are still dormant. Always follow hard pruning with a mulch of well-rotted organic matter.
• Place a forcing pot or an upturned dustbin onto rhubarb crowns to encourage early and very young tender stems.
• Carry out renovation work on established and neglected apple and pear trees.
• Cut down to ground level autumn fruiting raspberries, following with a mulch of organic matter around the base.
• Prune soft fruit such as blackcurrants, red and white currants, as well as gooseberries, following with a mulch of organic matter around the base.
• Clean and sharpen garden tools and service mowers.

• Do a seed order for things you want to grow next year, and stock up on fresh compost and anything else you require for the new growing season.

February

• Late winter is the ideal time to tackle overgrown or top heavy deciduous hedges such as beech, hornbeam, and mixed native hedgerows. The task is best done over the course of two years - cutting back up to 50-60% on one side and the top during the first year, then cutting the other side the following year. Mulch the base well afterwards with organic matter.
• Cut back all the growth on late-flowering clematis about 60cm (2ft) from the ground.
• Prepare your protected growing areas ready for the coming growing season, tidying away old pots and throwing away any dead plants. On a fine day wash down the inside and outside of the greenhouse and any glass frames or cloches using hot soapy water. Rinse and leave to dry.
• From the middle of the month sow hardy veg crops in pots inside to plant out later. Broad beans, peas, spring onions, radishes, lettuce, spinach and coriander do well from an early sowing.
• Start off onion sets in pots so they form good roots before being planted out next month.
• Start off indoors chilli peppers, aubergines and tomato seeds.
• Sow sweet peas in pots but make sure you protect them from mice.
• 'Chit' seed potatoes in a seed tray or in egg boxes.
• Aim to finish tidying the borders, cutting back last year's tops from herbaceous perennials and grasses to allow the fresh young growth to come through.
• Plant lily bulbs in beds and borders.

March

• Weeds will be starting to grow with gusto now so keep on top of them by pulling out, or hoeing off.
• Early in the month coppice dogwoods (Cornus) and willows, grown for their striking winter stems, cutting back to 15cm (6in) from the ground.
• You can sacrifice flowers in favour of brighter coloured foliage by coppicing or stooling plants such as cotinus, Rosa glauca, catalpa, eucalyptus and elder (Sambucus).
• Prune shrubs that flower towards the end of the summer on new growth, such as buddlejas, hypericum, spiraea, perovskia and caryopteris.
• Early spring is the ideal time to tackle overgrown or top-heavy evergreen hedges such as laurel, Lonicera nitida, privet and yew. The task is best done over the course of two years - cutting back 50-60% from one side and the top during the first year, then cutting the other side the following year. Mulch the base well afterwards with organic matter.
• Sow hardy annuals under cover, such as antirrhinum, calendula, cornflowers, cosmos and sunflowers.
• If the soil is friable, you can direct sow vegetables such as broad beans, peas, beetroot, spinach, radishes and onions straight into the garden. Because of slugs and other wildlife I prefer to do this in pots in the greenhouse and grow them on to a bigger size before planting out.
• Parsnips and carrots don't transplant well and must be sown directly outside. (Although I have had a much better success rate if I sow and grow carrots in the soil borders within the greenhouse).
• Early potatoes can be planted outside now but take care to cover any green top growth if a frost is forecast once it emerges.
• Once they are fully hardened off, plant out any of the hardier vegetables that were sown in February.
• For more side shoots and consequently more flowers, pinch out the tips of sweet pea plants sown last month.
• Take basal cuttings of perennials such as heleniums, phlox, lupins and delphiniums.
• Plant up dahlia tubers into pots to get them started and up ahead of the slugs. Grow them on inside for around six weeks before planting out.
• If you want to increase your stock of snowdrops and aconites, split and divide established clumps now.
• If you have any permanent shrubby plants or trees growing in containers such as acers, camellias, hydrangeas or citrus trees, now is the time to scrape some of the old soil away and topdress them with fresh compost.
• Reseed bare patches of existing grass or sow new lawns or wildflower meadows.

Pull out and keep this checklist, and Happy Gardening! Sue Spielberg



Public Rights of Way in Miserden Parish by Nick Mann, Parish Warden

Even from the Mesolithic period semi-permanent footpaths began to be formed in Britain as hunter-gatherers followed the tracks of large herbivores. This process continued with the footpaths and trackways becoming more permanent and increasingly associated with human activities including the movement of goods such as salt.

From the 7th century onwards, Anglo-Saxons were establishing their settlements in the Cotswolds, and we begin to get a clearer picture of how many of our current footpaths and trackways became established. Indeed, we cannot think about the Cotswolds without thinking about the Anglo-Saxon settlements since most of the existing villages were established during the Anglo-Saxon period and have names which have Anglo-Saxon origins. Miserden itself was called Gren(e)hamstede until sometime after the Norman invasion in 1066.

The network of footpaths, tracks, and lanes, that we would now call public rights of way (PRoWs), are mostly Saxon. It is important to recognize that during the early Anglo-Saxon period there were no parish churches in the Cotswolds, instead the advent of Christianity depended on the establishment of minsters in places such as Tetbury, Bisley and Cheltenham. It was only later, from about the 9th century, that parishes and parish churches began to be established.

A key feature of Anglo-Saxon administration was the "hundred" – a measure of land roughly equivalent to 12,000 acres and served by a "hundred court". It was common for the "parish" of a minster to be co-extensive with an the hundred and for the minster to be sited at the hundredal centre. Miserden was in the Hundred of Bisley and the meeting-place of the hundred court is not known, but might be Wittantree, a mile north of Bisley just west of the Calf Way.

•*What are public rights of way (PRoWs)?* They include footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, and byways open to all traffic (known as BOATs!).

•*What about the footpaths and other rights of way of Miserden.* The current boundary of the parish is roughly 11.3 miles in length and the total length of PRoWs in the parish is 16.7 miles. There are 38 footpaths totalling 14 miles, 4 bridleways totalling 1.8 miles and a single restricted byway of 0.9 miles.

•*Who is legally entitled to use the different PRoWs?* Footpaths can be used by those on foot, in

a wheelchair or invalid carriage. Bridleways have the same rights, but additionally can be used to ride a horse or bicycle. Restricted byways are the same as bridleways plus a right for horse-drawn carriages.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining stiles and gates on PRoWs which cross their land and must make sure that footpaths and bridleways across fields are reinstated to the correct width and are kept free from crops. Where is the information about the official status of these PRoWs? The Definitive Map is the legal record of public rights of way in England and Wales and is conclusive evidence in court of where PRoWs are located.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 gave county councils the duty to create the Definitive Map. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 gave the surveying authorities the duty to keep the Definitive Map under continuous review and added a valuable provision enabling anyone with the appropriate evidence to apply for a path to be added.

The Definitive Map is held by Gloucestershire County Council, but a representation of the the map is available online at https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/prow/rights-of-way-online-map/. Enlarging the map allows individual parishes to be seen and the PRoWs within that parish. Mousing over a particular PRoW gives information about it (Figure 1.)

The footpaths of Miserden, like other Cotswold villages, were originally established for villagers travelling to work in the fields and woods or going to church and mill. Markets might well be further afield over the parish boundary. In the Anglo-Saxon period footpaths would have led to the nearest minster and the Hundred meeting place, which for Miserden were both in Bisley.

Until the mid-nineteenth century footpaths were mainly used by locals, and it was rare for them to travel more than a day's walk from home. Indeed, there had been old laws from 1388 preventing travel for greater distances.

•*Is it possible to discern the any of the ancient footpaths?* The places outside the parish that people would be likely to travel to would be Cirencester, Painswick and Bisley. The most obviously ancient of the current footpaths is that running from Miserden to Bisley. It passes through Sudgrove and continues in a straight line until passing Througham Slad before reaching Bisley. The road on which Miserden village stands

***Figure 1**. The online representation of the Gloucestershire Definitive Map showing the boundaries of the Miserden parish and its public rights of way (PRoWs)*

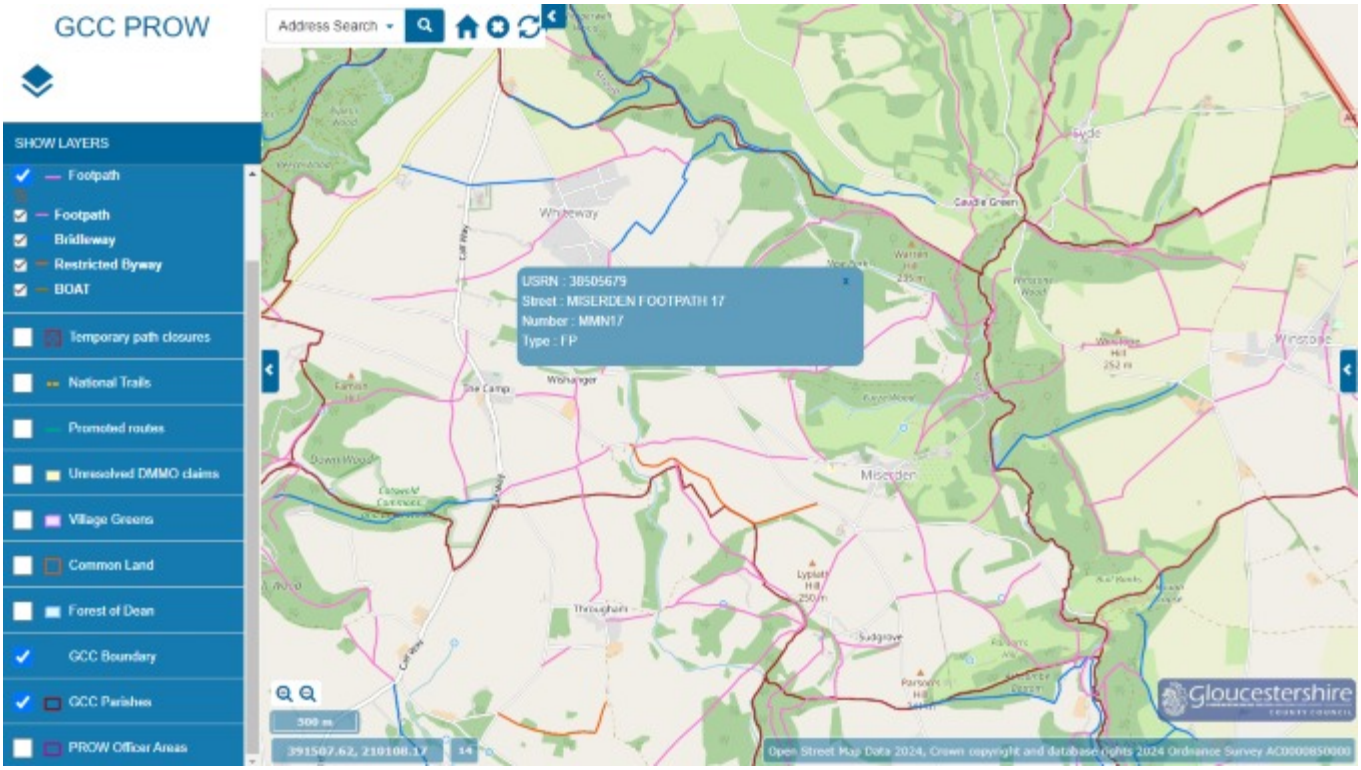




***Figure 2**. A portion of the 1824 Enclosure map of Miserden (Image ©Know Your Place 2024)*

branches eastwards from the Sapperton-Birdlip road and was probably an ancient trackway leading from Painswick to a crossing of the River Frome. The route from Miserden to Painswick (granted market status in 1253) probably passed through what is now The Camp, Bunnage, south of Jack's Green, past Beech Farm and from there into Painswick.

Looking at old maps can often reveal information about rights of way and the 1824 Enclosure map of Miserden has several interesting features (Figure 2). The footpath running from near the school through to Honeycombe is unchanged, but what is now a restricted byway running from near Lypiatt to Honeycombe was then known as the Througham and Painswick Road. Similarly, the footpath which runs from the Sapperton-Birdlip Road down to Ashcombe Bottom was then the Bullbanks Road.

The Cotswold landscape was protected by the creation in 1996 of The Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). However, like all other AONBs in the UK it became a National Landscape in 2023.

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens were established in 1968 as the voluntary arm of what is now the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL) and one role of the Wardens is to provide a Parish Warden for each parish in the CNL. He/she works with the parish council, farmers and other landowners to help keep footpaths and bridleways open and usable. Wardens' Work Parties take on comparatively large projects including dry stone walling, re-opening paths, hedge laying, tree planting, installing kissing gates and stiles, and building bridges.

Although PRoWs are legally the responsibility of the County Council the Wardens communicate and collaborate extensively with the PRoW office of the County Council.

If you want to report a problem with a footpath or bridleway you can contact me as the parish warden, via the Miserden parish group on WhatsApp, or your parish councillor Tim Shields who has a special responsibility for footpaths. Alternatively, you can report problems at Gloucestershire CC (https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/prow/report-a-problem/).



Recipe corner: Yogurt pot cake by Vanessa Price





The easiest cake recipe I've found. It just uses a yogurt pot for all the measurements, so you don't need scales. You can add your chosen flavour, I used raspberries but it's great with blackberries or even lemon.

Ingredients

- 1 x 150g pot of Yogurt
- 2 x Self Raising Flour
- 1 x Sugar
- 1 x Raspberries
- Half pot x Oil
- 3 x Eggs

Method

- Preheat oven to 160 degrees.
- Put all the ingredients (except fruit) in a bowl and mix together well.
- Fold in the chosen fruit I used raspberries but it's also nice with blueberries
- Pour into a lined loaf tin
- Bake at 160 degrees for 45-60 minutes





Hugger Mugger aka Bruno
The Colony Cat by Ann White

He was, for a cat very old. Some say about 28, others say 33 years old. Could be a record.

His coat was black and this would fade to wisps and tufts of gingery brown before shedding, hence the name Bruno that The Colony gave him. I did not know his name when I first came to the Colony so when he started to take sanctuary in my garden I called him Hugger Mugger. The name derives in some illogical way from TS Eliot's poem "The Rum Tum Tugger"

I had a cat of my own. She, a white calico cat called Partypants, was larger than Hugger Mugger. They co-existed peaceably but kept their distance from one another until Partypants died.

He lived the last 4 or 5 years, becoming increasingly frail, losing his hearing and part of his sight, in the conservatory-cum-porch on the side of my house on the Whiteway Colony.

I had built him a safe space by insulating a huge cardboard box and putting a soft cat-kennel inside it. It kept him warm at night and in the winter. He also had a "day bed" placed on a pile of boxes with stepped access. He spent his days and nights sleeping in one or other for the last two years.

For years he must have lived by hunting mice, rats, birds, whatever he could find but settled in his old age for accepting the regular shop bought cat food put down for him twice a day.

I am told he was born on a farm, possibly Clements Farm, about a mile away on the Miserden Estate.





He was probably not handled by humans as a kitten and so never adapted to human contact. I never stroked him, respecting his wish not to be touched. I tried once by putting one finger softly on his tail. He swore and hissed and his eyes blazed a furious outraged glare.

The only other time I touched him was when he had suffered some kind of seizure and lost the use of his back legs and hips. He fell off his day bed and got stuck between two boxes. I donned a pair of leather gloves and picked him up and put him back in his bed. More swearing! Astonishingly he recovered, wobbly at first but eventually taking short ventures into the garden.

Last summer he ventured no further than a couple of feet from the doorstep outside the porch. He would sit up serene, tailed curled round his large feet, sniffing the air for news of the garden. Since he was rickety, couldn't hear and one eye was either blind or impaired, smell was his only useful sense.

In earlier years he spent a lot of time in my garden, usually raised up on something, as cats do, surveying their terrain from a height. He'd spend hours asleep on the top of an old hutch, warming himself in milder sun.

He was a Tom Cat and in his youth and prime, went on lengthy patrols around the colony and probably beyond. He'd made his way here from the farm, reportedly attracted by a female cat. (I have never heard tell of any kittens he might have fathered.) He was a familiar sight plodding along one of the many Colony paths or and if he saw you, turning off into a hedge to hide.

Inevitably he earned himself the reputation as a fighting bruiser and was not popular with some. Others kindly gave him a saucer of food from time to time and kept a weather eye out for him. And thus he survived to become a truly ancient and venerable cat.

RIP my untouchable but much beloved friend. I shall miss your golden eyes, peering out from your cardboard mansion house. He is buried on the far edge of The Green near the Fire Basket and Whiteway House.







Whiteway Fete and Dog Show 2024

Whiteway Colony Fete was very well attended this year, lots of visitors came despite the potential for it being a very wet day - but we were very lucky with the weather!

You may have seen our fabulous new signs painted by our local artist Dingus Hussey (Instagram @dingushussey) which should last a very long time. Dingus also designed the *Made in Whiteway* stickers for the items made by our talented Whiteway Colonists.



The *Made in Whiteway* stall made a comeback this year - we had so many lovely items handmade, ranging from bird boxes, beautiful bags, delicious jams, chutneys, pickles and fudge, cards, crochet and knitted items, art work, wooden coasters, and lots of other interesting items. The well-known Sunshine Health food shop in Stroud donated some of their 'Whiteway' loaves to the stall, as it is an original recipe from Whiteway.

Lots of entertainment from live music, Morris Dancers, a Dog Show and a highly competitive Skittles competition added to the fun of the day! Thanks to all that contributed to the success of the day, from the small hard working committee team, the volunteers on the day and of course all of the visitors that came along to shop, eat, drink and be merry



See you there next year!

Claire Coles-Jones and The Fete Team



MISERDEN

FIREWORK DISPLAY & BONFIRE

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2024

Gates 4.30pm — Display 7pm

Food stalls, refreshments, bar and disco, free parking

Gates open 4.30pm — Firework Display 7pm

Advanced online tickets: £9 Adult / £5 Under 16 / £23 Family of four / Under 2's go free

On The Door Tickets: £10 / £6 Under 16's / £26 Family of four / Under 2's go free

Helping to raise money for Miserden Primary School

Tickets at https://miserden.org/fireworks-2024

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 November 29th**

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 Tuesday of every month at 6.00 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.
clerk@miserdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

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