

Award Winning / Parish Post

Miserden, Whiteway, The Camp
Sudgrove & Wishanger

Autumn 2022

Summer of heat, light and dust



One subject links many of the articles in this issue of the Parish Post: the long, hot, dry summer of 2022. We've had some record-breaking hot days, but above all it has been remarkably dry - not just in England - Europe had it's worst drought for 500 years. We've seen a little rain recently, but this has not gone far in making up for the dry summer.

Personally, I have enjoyed the hot and sunny days: living mainly outdoors as if in the south of France rather than Whiteway. But I have noticed the effect of the drought in the garden - the trees seem to be mainly OK though they have been dropping their leaves early, but many perennials that normally thrive have dried up.

Photo by Sue Andrews

Contributors this month reflect on what the heat and drought means for the farmer, the gardener and for our wider ecology. The scientific consensus is that we are not just experiencing an odd spell of weather - the climate is changing, and we will need to adapt (using less water for example) as well as doing what we can to halt human induced climate change.

As for this year, I'm afraid that what we need now is a wet winter to restore the balance. Enjoy this issue and the remaining bright days before winter sets in.

The Editor



“Endless Summer” by Sue Andrews

Has this been endless summer? It seemed a bit like Groundhog Day. Warm before seven, hot by nine and a still, airless, blistering heat from mid-day onwards, the air still retaining its heat well into the night.

Up early, the sheep fed before seven, the lack of grass meaning all have had ad lib hay in the fields and the growing lambs had concentrates daily, the hay not providing the protein of good green grass, so they needed something extra. Feed prices have risen along with everything else; we just hope the lambs are worth a little more than normal, but corners can't be cut. We've made plenty of top-quality hay to see us through the winter, but it's frightening to start feeding it in August. Luckily there was plenty around at sensible money, so we bought additional bales in. Later in the year, if we have a long, wet winter hay prices could go through the roof.

I don't dislike this weather, although I don't want to be out in the middle of the day. Writing in a cool office in our Cotswold stone farmhouse is a wonderful sanctuary. Aubrey hates this weather and moans continually about it. Yes, we both

worry about the stock, although we're lucky enough to have fields with ample shade from groups of trees and often a slight breeze blowing on even the stillest day.

But I can't make the weather change, as I tell him. Yes, the forecast said we're going to have this heat for another week. I suggested he just went out and sat in his air-conditioned tractor and topped the neighbour's fields as they requested.

Our fields are full of long thin grasses and thistles, which would normally have been cut and tidied back in June, but due to red diesel prices we left everything until the thistles had flowered, then cut once this year, rather than tidied up twice.

While Aub has topped a part of each field, basically so he could find the sheep, a large area has been left untouched, giving the sheep a little greenery in the bottom, protected by the longer vegetation. It's also meant the bees and butterflies have been overjoyed to banquet on the thistles and our resident hares have had somewhere to shelter and hide. It's lovely to see them out playing in the early mornings and sometimes late

at night when the air has cooled. Now the thistles have not just flowered but run to seed, but still they stand, protecting what little grass is left. I can't remember seeing the fields so dry, although they must have been like this in '76.

The farm looks like the Serengeti, I'm just hoping that when the rain eventually comes, and surely it must sometime, we'll see the grass grow at the speed of time lapsed films where everything flourishes within minutes. I know it won't but I can still imagine it.

But however lovely the weather has been there was always discontent when we had two or three days of cooler weather, especially in the evenings. Unfortunately, this often happened when you've just invited everyone round for an evening barbeque. Why is this? How can the weather be so fickle?

The evenings up to now have retained so much heat from the day, and sleeping has been difficult at nights, but not once a party is planned. These sudden cooler nights play havoc with the livestock, and sadly several have died from pneumonia, in spite of antibiotic and

anti-inflammatory medication, simply because their bodies cannot cope with the temperature change. Of course, you can always find the really stupid one that lies out in the sun, then falls asleep, like a lot of humans. The down side for sheep is it can kill them not just give them sun-stroke. But we must adjust. This weather is simply a sign of the times and global warming becomes more apparent, although I still find it odd picking ripe blackberries in early August.



The Brown Hare: Lepus europaeus



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Creating Multilayered Borders - Part one

By Sue Spielberg

The recent hot weather forced me to do some unexpectedly early cutting back in the borders in preparation for a group of visitors who were interested to see progress in our garden.

It isn't ideal (or actually very easy!) to carefully pick one's way into the middle of the borders during the height of summer without doing any damage, but on this occasion it simply had to be done because some of the perennials, which in most 'normal' years would still have been in peak flowering mode, were looking parched and very sorry for themselves.

Having located my spot, I crouched down and set to, secateurs in hand. It was in this low position that I suddenly became aware of all the spring-flowering groundcovers as well as remnants of spring bulbs, which had performed such a valuable job earlier in the season. Where once they had taken centre stage to be the main event, they had now receded into the background, rendering themselves invisible to all but the ground dwelling creatures that seek refuge among their leaves.

It also struck me just how many plants I had managed to cram into the available space in order to achieve the waves of colour and interest that ebb





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and flow in our borders throughout the year. Setting out plants to achieve this effect is now second nature to me whenever I lay out a new planting bed or tweak an existing one, but it's a hard-won lesson, and one I thought worth sharing with you since early autumn is the ideal time to dig up and move existing plants as well as plant new ones.

Start with the key structural elements such as trees, shrubs and hedges as these create the framework in winter when everything else is pared back. Whether you opt for deciduous or evergreen

depends on whether you want a permanent effect or one that changes throughout the seasons

I then like to place the edging plants, which are usually the lowest plants in the scheme (eg. 10-40cm tall), although a few taller, gauzy plants such as *Verbena bonariensis* nearer the front can pep things up considerably by creating a see-through veil.

I then position the tallest plants (eg. 100-150cm tall) towards the back of the border, then fill in the



spaces in between with the rest (eg. 40-100cm tall).

I keep back till last the groundcover plants such as pulmonaria, hellebores, ajuga, primroses and omphalodes, which I place beneath shrubs and the taller growing mid to back-of-border perennials. These all tend to flower in spring but will carry on growing perfectly happily in the shade of their taller summer flowering companions.

Last of all comes the positioning and planting of the spring flowering bulbs such as snowdrops, scillas, daffodils and tulips around the clumps of perennials. By doing it in this order you avoid the inevitable spearing of underground bulbs.

Other points to bear in mind:

- Aim to have about 30% evergreen to 70% deciduous plants in your planting scheme to stop things falling away to nothing in the winter months
- Use a series of repeated plants along the length of an access path that runs between two borders. If plants look as though they have naturally 'jumped' across from one side to the other, a sense of continuity and rhythm is created.

- Restrict your plant choice and repeat them. For instance, instead of using 30 different varieties, use ten and repeat them three times along the border. This will unify the whole effect.
- Prethink a colour scheme and stick to it. Whites, creams, pale yellows and blues work well together, as do pinks, blues and purples. Later in the season 'hot' saturated colours such as gold, oranges, burnt umber and deep reds really come into their own when the sun is lower in the sky.

The deeper you delve into border planting design, the more you realise there is to know and discover, but the above tips are a good starting point. And don't despair if you realise you have planted something in the wrong place or think it will go better elsewhere - plants are very forgiving and can normally be moved quite happily next autumn.

Creating borders is a complex subject, and there is a lot more to say than will fit in one article - so I will continue in a future edition!



Summer fades to Autumn

By Tom Uridge

As we reach the end of August the atmosphere becomes calmer, the air becomes quieter and the sounds of spring seem a distant memory for us all, yet the chattering of martins and swallows, the liquid song of the robin and the distant hum of farm machinery tells us that autumn is on its way.

July and August broke records in terms of heat and drought and has no doubt had an impact on our native wildlife. Early leaf loss, due to stress was observed, particularly affecting sycamore and beech. Natural underground springs dried up meaning that Miserden became solely reliant on mains water for the first time in decades and grasslands turned to barren dust bowls, which meant livestock were eating into their winter supply of hay.

Late august rain was a welcome sight and went some way to restoring our green and luscious land

but a hose pipe ban proved that we are not out of the woods yet.

September is an exciting time for wildlife enthusiasts, particularly birders. Autumn migration is in full swing seeing a huge number of bird species pass through as they journey south to their wintering grounds, sometimes as far south as the Gambia in southern Africa.

As stated previously swallows and martins can be seen gathering in huge numbers often around a water source where they will be feeding or hydrating, before they begin their epic journey across land and sea. Some birds will travel in flocks but often they travel alone, relying solely on their in-built compass powered by instinct.

Look out for species that breed further north in northern England and Scotland, Wheatear and



(Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*)



Ring Ouzel breed high up on exposed mountain-side and are drawn to areas of altitude, the steep sided valleys and exposed farmland of the Cotswolds is an ideal stop off for these hungry migrants.

Not only are we bidding farewell to summer visitors but the first influxes of winter visitors are beginning. Huge flocks of golden plover will soon be stubble surfing on freshly turned soil in search of life within the substrate. Short eared owls are common winter visitors here in the Cotswolds and can be seen locally towards Andoversford but there is always the possibility they could turn up on any rough grassland in the area.

August was peak season for hummingbird hawk moth which could be observed feeding on plants such as nepita and verberna, using their long proboscis to reach the nectar source deep with the tubular flowers.

The much larger and revered death's head hawk moth (see photos above) could turn up anytime between August and October, the huge yellow caterpillar of this species can be seen munching its way through potato leaves so keep an eye on your allotments and in your gardens. The adult form of this moth is a giant creature with a skull shaped marking on the back of its head, it is

attracted to light so porches and security lights should be watched eagerly of an evening, or invest in a moth trap and whittle away many hours sifting through moths.

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“Driven Potty!” By Hugh Shewring

As both a cyclist and a car driver I have become increasingly fed up with the appalling state of the roads in this area especially the Whiteway to Miserden road, which has been getting worse year by year with little repair work being carried out.

Why wasn't it being repaired? My first thought was to report the potholes on the Gloucestershire County Council website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/> But there are far too many on the stretch of road I am concerned with i.e. Calfway Lane junction (by the pig farm) through to Wishanger junction to use that method.

So last year I emailed the Area Highways Representative, Yakub Mullah, who responded quickly and was very helpful. To cut a long story short, this stretch of road didn't get included in this year's budget for repatching, but after contacting Yakub Mullah again recently he paid a visit to Whiteway to see for himself.

He told me that for potholes to be repaired they have to be reported by members of the public. Sue Williams, our local councillor, also offered to come along and together we did a survey of the road. Sue had an app on her phone called

'what3words' which enabled her to record locations of all the potholes which she, having a councillor's privilege, could then email to the Council Highways Dept. - full marks Sue! (The rest of us can use the what3words app, but would have to record the location of each pothole on the council website.)

The whole process took about half an hour. The condition of our roads has deteriorated massively over the last 10-12 years and Gloucestershire's seem particularly bad partly because the county has a very high mileage of roadways compared to other counties, but receives no extra funding. But the main reason for the decline is the reduction in funding given to councils from central government. For the year

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2021 - 2022, £400 million pounds was cut from council budgets for road maintenance - that is a whopping 22% cut!

A 'smaller state' inevitably means a worsening of services across the board. As the council have had to make staffing cuts the only way potholes or other damage gets reported now is if members of the public do it using the council's website or, if the hole is over 75mm (3 inches) deep then you can phone the hotline on 08000 514514. If you consider any road damage to be dangerous you should notify the police.

There are no regular inspections by the Highways Dept. Poor and dangerous road surfaces have become the norm it seems, so why do we accept it?

One person who does not is Mark Morrell aka Mr Pothole (see recent Guardian article) who, since 2013, has successfully campaigned, complained, harassed and harangued councils across the country into repairing damaged roads. He has had enormous success mainly due to his dedication and persistence using stunts and social media amongst other things.



We don't have to accept the status quo, if more people complained to our councils and MPs the roads would be repaired and funding increased.



In his article, Hugh mentions "**What3words**" and how it can be used to report potholes.

What3words is a system devised by a group of British inventors about ten years ago: it divides the surface of the Earth into 3 metre squares with each location (square) being identified by three words. For example the front door of 10 Downing Street is identified by **slurs.this.shark**

The 3-metre accuracy is more precise than using a street address or postcode to identify a location.

There is an app (see AppStore or Google play) which will give you the three words for your current location - or if you enter a three word identifier it will show you where it is on a map.

As well as pothole locating, it has been used to guide rescuers to walkers and mountaineers in difficulties

A flyer for Miserden Acorns Preschool. At the top, it says "CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL" and "MISERDEN". The main title is "MISERDEN ACORNS PRESCHOOL" in large, bold, green letters. Below the title, there are three circular photos: one of a child playing with blocks, one of children sitting around a table, and one of a child painting. To the left of the photos, the text "PLAY LEARN GROW" is written in a stylized font. Below the photos, there is a section titled "Why us?" with a list of bullet points: "Safe and nurturing environment", "Open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 3.15pm, (half days available with or without lunch)", "Wraparound care with breakfast and after school clubs", "Providing high quality care and education from 3 years of age", "Fresh and healthy food cooked on the premises", "Fun and vibrant preschool classroom", "Fantastic outdoor learning areas, including enclosed play areas, Forest School, Sensory Garden, and Vegetable Garden", "Established and familiar transition to Reception", "Taster sessions available", and "Free parking". At the bottom, it says "Book a visit today: 01285 821 463" and "www.miserden-gloucs.sch.uk | admin@miserden-gloucs.sch.uk". There is also an Ofsted Good Provider logo.



Beer and Bears in Bern

by the Reverend Julie Nelson

It's been a busy year, with big birthday celebrations, and several trips catching up with friends after Covid. But it was too good an opportunity to turn down when I was invited to be a locum priest for two weeks in August at the English Church in Bern.

Ernest secured the new passport he needed (despite horror stories of delays at the Passport Office). Train tickets were booked. We prevailed upon kind neighbours to water the greenhouse and keep an eye on the house in our absence.

And we packed - and repacked: trying to keep luggage to a minimum knowing we would have to lug cases up and down staircases and negotiate the Metro from Paris Nord to Gare de Lyon. We still took clothes we never wore, not quite believing we wouldn't require jumpers or waterproofs.

Having stayed at our daughter's the night before, we were up early to be driven to Stansted Mountfichet. Overland train to Tottenham Hale, underground to Kings Cross/St Pancras, lengthy queue through ticket gates/UK and French Border Police checks/security, followed by a long wait in the departure lounge. Eurostar itself is tightly packed with little leg room - for once it's an advantage to be small! We'd done our research (Thank You! to The Man in Seat 61 www.seat61.com) and bought our Metro tickets in the Eurostar buffet

bar. We'd even watched a video of how to catch the right Metro train. So all went smoothly (despite the heat).

A long wait at Gare de Lyon, so I stayed with the luggage while Ernest went off and managed to buy the only bottle of wine in Paris with a screw top - a bit more forward planning would have been good! The TGV to Basel was more spacious and extremely fast, reaching 300+ kph. The train from Basel to Bern was delayed - the Swiss blamed the Germans (the train was coming from Berlin), which is apparently what they always do. We reached Bern about 9.30 p.m., and after a bit of a panic about tram tickets, and with help from a friendly local, arrived at our destination: just over 13 hours - not bad at all!

We stayed in Church House, which is part of the complex including church, two halls and offices, surrounded by a wooded garden, in Kirchenfeld, an 'elegant suburb' of Bern where many of the embassies are situated. Bern is the capital of Switzerland, but it's a small city, population about 150,000, feels friendly and accessible, and we were able to walk to most places.

The historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site: a dense cluster of sandstone buildings, with a jumble of red tiled roofs and chimneys, arcades

providing shelter and shade down the shopping streets, dominated by the 101m spire of the Münster (Cathedral), all squeezed onto a peninsula of the Aare, Switzerland's longest river.

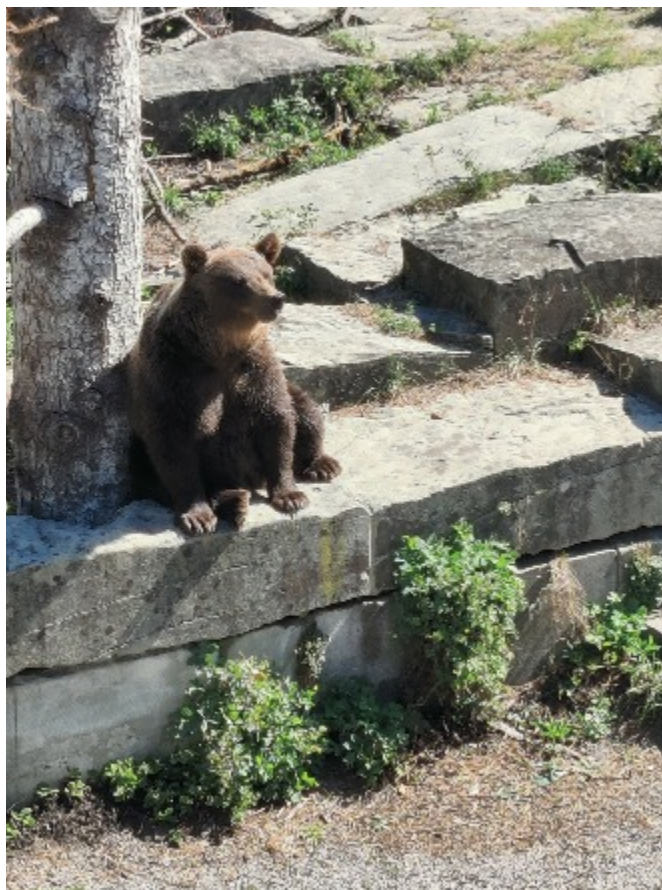
Swimming in the Aare is very popular, despite the glacial blue colour of the water. 'Swimming' is a misnomer: you step gingerly in from the bank - or (if you're young and crazy) recklessly jump in from a bridge - and are immediately swept away by the fast current. The only 'swimming' involved seems to be the energetic/frantic strokes required to move out of the current and back to the bank in order to exit before being swept over a dangerous weir. It will be no surprise that we resisted the temptation to join in. Several people die each year 'swimming' the Aare - most of them foreign visitors - we didn't want to add to the statistics.

Still, it was always entertaining to watch, as we returned from town, or took a late afternoon stroll to the Altes Tramdepot (now a brewery and beer garden), a good viewing point for the bears. Bern is famous for its sixteenth-century Bärengraben (bearpit). The Mary Plain series of children's books (I never read them, but a friend remembers them well) were all about a bear (Mary Plain) who lived in the Bern bearpit. The bears (European Brown

bears) now live in a secure wooded area on the banks of the Aare, and you can observe them climbing trees, wandering through the undergrowth or cooling off in the stream that runs through their enclosure. You can always tell where the bears are, as there'll be a cluster of tourists with cameras, leaning over the barriers or squealing delightedly. The bears look happy enough too.

Although for me it was a working holiday, there was plenty of time to enjoy the delights of Switzerland. It was our wedding anniversary during our stay, so we treated ourselves to a day trip to Lake Lucerne and a trip up Rigi: 1,800m high, and with an amazing panoramic view of surrounding mountains and lakes. Friends at the church secured for us Gemeinde Tageskarte: day tickets for public transport. For 49 CHF each (about £43) we were able to travel by tram to the station, train to Lucerne (1.5 hours), boat to Vitznau, cog railway to the top of Rigi and back, paddle steamer round the rest of the lake (about 5 hours on the boat in total), then home via train and tram. Excellent value!

With better forward planning (again) we would have taken a couple of bottles of beer with us too, instead of having to pay ship prices (about £10 for 2x33cl). Switzerland is expensive, there's no doubt. Prices seem about twice as much as here. So we were fortunate to have free accommodation in Church House, and grateful for offers of hospitality from the church community. There's been an English church in Bern since the early nineteenth century, and the current church, St Ursula's, was built



in 1906, paid for by a wealthy American lady, Mrs Castleman, as a thank offering for the miraculous recovery of her daughter, Ursula (hence the church's dedication) who was treated by the famous Professor Kocher. The church today is a very diverse, international community, lively, active and welcoming. St Ursula's comes under the jurisdiction of the Diocese in Europe and is part of the Church of England.

Our two weeks rapidly came to an end, and it was time for the return journey: no delays this time, the only challenge being the long queue at Paris Nord. It was one of the hottest days of the heatwave, and ahead of us we could see people being sprayed with water, but that seemed to have run out by the time we reached the head of the queue. (Sigh!) But at least it was cool on the Eurostar itself, and for the first time I needed to put on a jumper. Again, about 13 hours from door to door. And a welcome mug of proper English tea was all that we wanted before collapsing into bed.



The TGV reaches 309 kph



The Zytglogge (clock tower)



A couple of beers and a view of the historic town centre



Favourite post-Medieval finds by Nick Pane

First up (see photos above) is the very First silver Tudor coin I found, it is a silver groat (4 pence) of Henry VIII. It has a mint mark of a lis, which dates it to between 1544 and 1547. Coins of this period were typically debased, the silver being replaced with cheaper base metals, noticeably, copper. The previous standard for silver coins was 92.5% sterling silver, this was reduced to as little as 25%. Overspending by Henry to pay for his lavish lifestyle and various wars with Scotland and France are blamed for the introduction of this policy. As the coins were used Henry's nose wore down revealing the copper underneath, this earned Henry the nickname "old copper nose". My example below seems to have got a healthy shot of silver and hasn't been in circulation long. The crack however may be partly due to the addition of a base metal making it brittle.

Moving forward a few centuries and we have an object I've been waiting many years to find and then two pop up within a week of each other ! It is a late Georgian child's toy cannon accurately



modelled on a full size cannon and complete with a fuse hole which could be primed with powder and fired , often with disastrous effect....see photo on the left

Next up is a very curious object, this time from the reign of Queen Anne. Found near Sudgrove I have tried to research this but haven't really got anywhere. Jacob Tibson was a Sheriff of Nottingham in 1707 but that is the only reference I can find. Various people have suggested as to what it's use may of been, ranging from a pipe to an advertising piece for shoes. If anyone has any thoughts I'd be grateful to hear them.





Portable sundials are known in this country from at least the late Anglo Saxon Period and Eleanor of Aquitaine is said to have given Henry 11 of England a ring designed as a sundial. Such finds are as rare as hens teeth but the type pictured below are found more regularly. This would suggest they were a reasonably common object amongst the wealthier population. They were known as a pocket dial or "poke"dial and are the simplest of all having a single moveable ring or gnomon with a pinhole through which the sun could pass. (Sadly missing on my example) the ring was contained within the groove alongside markings for the months I, F, M, A, M on one side and I, A, S, O, N, D on the other. At this time there was no J in the alphabet.

On the inside are engraved the hours and halves. To tell the time the ring (gnomon) is moved to the

letter of the correct month, the ring is then suspended by the loop so the sun's rays pass through the pinhole, striking the hour mark on the inside of the ring. They would never have been particularly accurate by today's standards but in rural areas they must have served a useful purpose. They are thought to date from the late 17th Century

Another coin next (pictured below), this is known as "gun money" and is a shilling of James 11. The name "gun money" stems from the idea that they were minted from melted down cannons, however this isn't strictly true as any other brass objects such as church bells were also used. This particular example dates to April 1690 and was struck in Ireland. They were used to pay James 11's common soldiers who were helping him to regain the English throne from William and Mary.





A bit of Georgian bling to finish in the form of a watch fob (see photos above). The semi-precious stone is, I think Carnelian, but I will stand corrected if anyone knows differently !

Whilst on the subject of corrections I must apologise and thank Nick Musgrave for pointing out an error in my last article. I blame the academic or archaeologist who recorded it..... The description for the heraldic pendant featured (and shown below left) should have read thus:

Copper alloy shield shaped horse harness pendant that has a projecting loop on the top for suspension. The face of the shield is decorated with a line

of four long and thin lozenges that are covered in white metal, these are surrounded by a red enamel field The coat of arms was used by the D'Aubigny family

The description I gave was for the pendant shown below right:

This coat-of-arms belongs to the De Clare family who held the earldom of Gloucester between 1180-1314 Copper alloy circular horse harness pendant that is decorated with a shield that has the coat of arms of three chevrons filled with red enamel on a gilded field (Or, three chevrons aules).





Mike Hawkes: 1932-2022

A few weeks ago, I attended a lovely Funeral Service and celebration of the life of Mike Hawkes, of Whiteway, at St Andrews Church Miserden. The service included moving tributes and memories from his family as well as music composed and played by Mike's grandson Archie, and was well attended by many from Whiteway, the parish and beyond.

Mike grew up in Slad along with his two older siblings Nancy and John: as a boy he is remembered for his love of practical jokes - that sense of fun stayed with him throughout his life. After the village school, he attended Central School in Stroud where his talent for drawing was noticed:

this led to study at Stroud Art College followed by a four-year course at Cheltenham Art College. This broad artistic education included stained glass and wood carving as well as painting, drawing and art history: he received his National Diploma in Design in 1953.

Mike started his artistic career at the Animation Studio (later Halas and Batchelor) in Stroud where he worked on Britain's first animated feature "Animal Farm". He joined West Country Breweries in 1961 as an artist to design and paint inn signs - a job he continued for 29 years, becoming head of the Artist Department at Whitbreads. When this department closed in 1990 Mike continued to



Childhood days in Slad: Mike on the left



Mike (on right) with members of the Whitbreads Artist Department



A "Highwayman" pub sign!

create inn signs working freelance for breweries locally and far away - including America. Mike's work can still be seen at many pubs, including "The Woolpack" in Slad, and in Stroud Museum.

Mike met his future wife, Marg (also an artist) at work: they married in 1969 and then moved to Whiteway where he lived for the rest of his life.

Mike took an active part in the community - starting a football team "Whiteway Wanderers" (see Parish Post Winter 2015) which ran for several years, as well as instigating the Whiteway Fete, children's Christmas parties and other games and sports days. The children's games he made specially for the Fete are still well remembered.

Later, Mike was a parent governor at Miserden School and coached football there, as well as coaching cricket at Birdlip and Brimpsfield.

After a period of illness, Mike passed away peacefully at the home he loved in Whiteway. He will be missed by Marg, daughter Emma, son-in-law Barney, grandchildren Tabitha and Archie, sister-in-law Sue and many other family and friends.

He will also be much missed by the local dogs! Mike loved animals, especially dogs, and would sit outside his house if the weather was fine with some dog biscuits to give to local dogs - many a dog walker had difficulty passing the house as their dog dragged them to the gate hoping for a treat!

David Harris



Mike and Marg with their grandchildren Tabitha and Archie in 2011



Pets Corner by Claire Coles Jones

As I sit here typing this, its **approximately 30 degrees**, and the air is very still... I cannot count the amount of times that I have been grateful for Air Conditioning (at the Vets where I work) and swimming pools everywhere..!

But what about our furry friends? How do they stay cool?!

Dogs Well, we all know that dogs pant when they are hot, but do you know how it helps? Dogs use conduction, convection, radiation and evaporation to help lower their temperature, as they cannot sweat like us humans.

They lay in cool places - you will have noticed your dog laying on the bathroom floor or kitchen tiles. This is to absorb the coolness of the floor (conduction) just like “Dodger” in the photo above.

Blood vessels dilate in the skin, tongue and ears, to bring the hot blood closer to the surface to let the temperature dissipate (radiation).

They often seek out a shady spot with a breeze or even one of your fans - this transfers the body heat to the air (convection). Finally, they pant to bring air into the upper respiratory tract to evaporate water from the mucous membranes (gums, throat) - and then have to drink more to compensate for

the evaporation. They can also sweat a little from their paws and nose

It's worth noting that short nosed dogs such as Pugs, Boxers, Pekinese, French Bulldogs etc find it difficult to pant and breathe easily, which can make them vulnerable to heatstroke. It doesn't need to be said any dog, but especially the short nosed breeds, should not be walked in this heat.

Cats. It is indeed true that cats origins are in the desert - however they are also vulnerable to heat stroke and so they conserve their energy. They are the kings and queens of siesta, and know when to take it easy, unlike the crazy canines that will willingly put themselves at great risk by being far too enthusiastic in the blazing sunshine!

Just like “Matthew” in the photo above - cats actively seek out cool surfaces to stretch out on, and drink more to prevent dehydration. They can sweat tiny amounts from their paws and nose, and their fur helps them to regulate their temperature. If a cat is seen panting, then it is a sign of either heatstroke, extreme stress/distress or pain, and Veterinary help should be sought quickly.

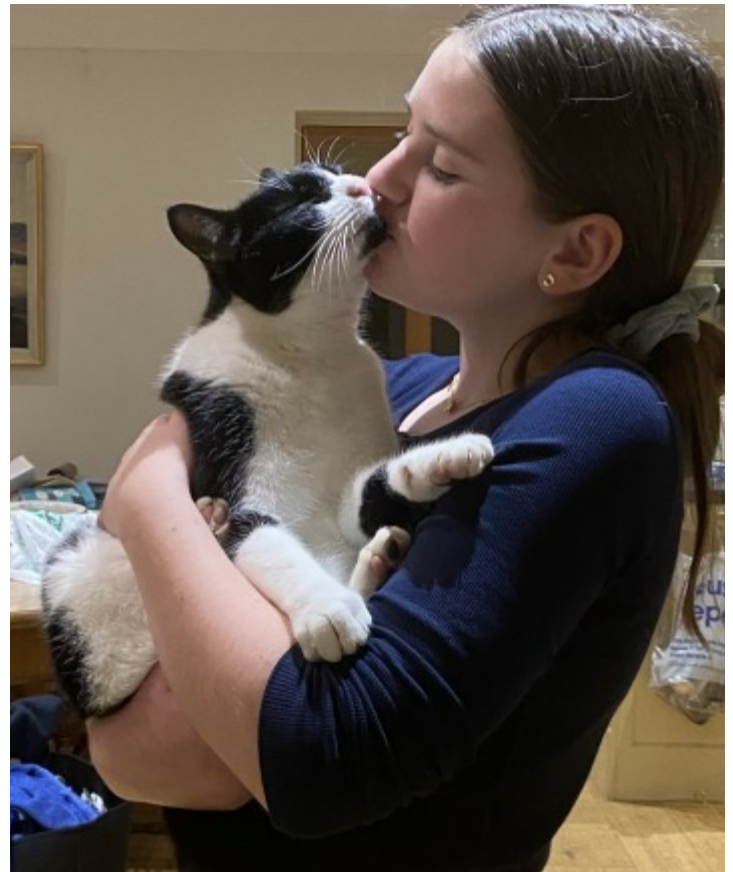
Furry family?!

Why do we have these animals that live alongside us, sharing our space, our homes, our hearts? Ask any pet

owner - and they will give you many reasons as to why they have them.

Companionship, unconditional love, great listeners, affection, entertainment (they are funny!) protectors, emotional support, purpose, enrichment, exercise -so many reasons.

What else do they bring to us as owners? Well, countless studies show that if a child is exposed to



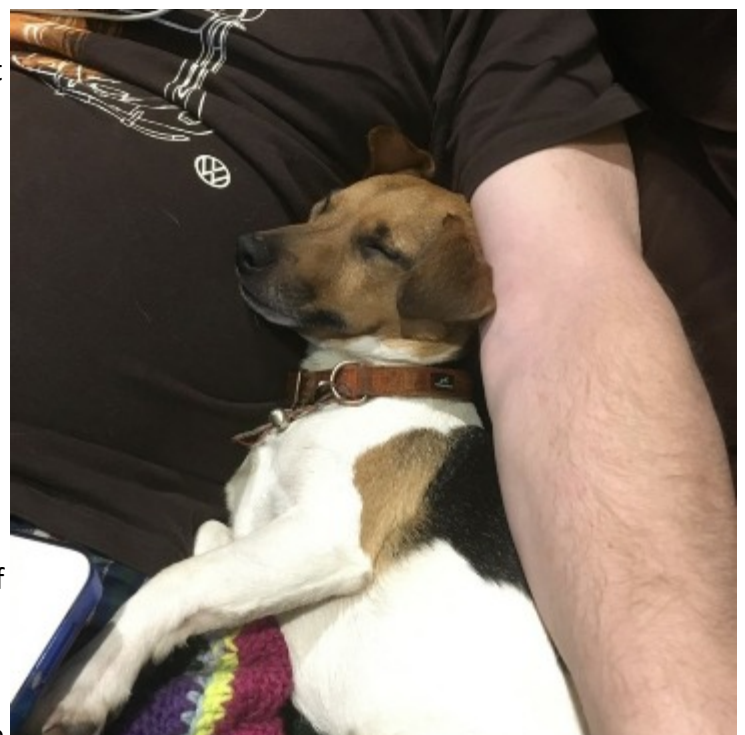
day as a direct result of our dogs and cat! They are great company, whether we feel a need to talk to them, or just sit quietly in their presence.

Dogs and cats are also great companions when we are unwell, and will lay on the bed with you to keep your spirits up. Or - is it to make the most of a warm bed or comfy duvet...?! I think a bit of both.

pets within the first few years of their life, they are much more likely to develop an immune system that combats allergies.

Pets lower our stress and anxiety levels. Specifically, a cats purr can calm your nervous system and lower your Blood Pressure. Pet owners have a much lower risk for heart disease and stroke. People who have experienced previous coronary events, have significant risk reduction of early death - our pets help reduce stress, which is a major cause of some cardiovascular problems.

Our pets can reduce feelings of loneliness and sadness...I am willing to bet that almost every one of us has wept into our pets fur or just in their company, when grieving or simply feeling sad or lonely - and also howled with laughter with their sometimes ridiculous antics. I think our family laugh every single





Medical Detection Dogs - The Dogs' nose, knows!

I continue to be fascinated by, and follow this charity. Results of the first phase of study proves that specially trained dogs can detect COVID-19 at high levels of accuracy.

When Ash, Kyp, Lexi, Marlow, Millie and Tala sniff the samples of clothing/facemasks/socks from with or without COVID-19, the dogs indicate a positive result by indicating with a stare, nudge or a sit. If it is not detected, they simply move along. When the dogs indicate correctly, they are rewarded with a food treat or a ball game, depending on what currency they prefer to work for!

Over 3,750 people in the UK donated socks/face masks/shirts from COVID positive people. This makes it the most robust and in depth trial of it's kind around the world. These amazing dogs correctly identified the COVID 19 odour over 94% of the time .

These results indicate that the dogs perform with **MORE ACCURACY THAN LATERAL FLOW TESTS!!** These have 55-77% accuracy on average... Dogs are also much much faster - one dog can test up to 250 in one hour!

Crucially, they will be able to identify individual who are carrying the virus but are asymptomatic - ie showing no signs of disease. This research is incredible... the Medical Detection Dogs are being trained to detect many things, including Parkinsons

Disease, Malaria, Neurological Disease, Diabetes, Prostate Cancer, Bacteria detection, and various other cancers.

This Charity always needs volunteers - if you are interested in helping any way, do have a look at the web site www.medicaldetectiondogs.org

Right, I'm off to sit in the company of our remaining cat, Flossie. Sadly we lost our last cat Matthew (AKA BFM) to a rare heart condition at the young age of 6. He was a very special cat to us, and we miss his antics, his huge character, his demands, and his wonderful kisses. Make the most of your furry family!

Claire x

YOGA AT MISERDEN
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2022

MONDAY 18:15 - 19:15

Term Dates: 5,12,19,26th September, 10th, 17th October

These practices are suitable for every body.
 You do not have to have practiced yoga before
 Each practice will be supported by a carefully curated playlist
 and you will be encouraged to move as how you feel
 comfortable. There is no such thing as a perfect pose.

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Parish Council News

By Martin Ractliffe, Chairman

This news was of great concern to local businesses and commuters alike. However, there is a statutory requirement that road closures should be licensed and notified to Highways and to the Parish Council, and no such application could be traced.

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council traffic mirror has been reinstalled at the cross roads in the centre of THE CAMP. This time, it is firmly fixed to a metal pole instead of the wooden original pole. This means that it should remain in focus whatever the elements may throw at it.

Motorists and pedestrians are already telling me how much the mirror helps when entering the busy Calfway road. However, this Cross Roads remains an extremely dangerous junction, so please do take extra care whatever direction you are travelling in. Grateful thanks to Stephen Pritchard for hosting the mirror in the corner of his garden.

Also at THE CAMP, one could not have failed to notice the burned out car which had recently been dumped on the roadside. HOW DARE THEY ? Like me, you probably assumed that the vehicle had been stolen, but the POLICE tell me that this is not necessarily the case. There was no way to identify this car, but it could be that it was not insured, or maybe had been parked illegally and was racking up penalties, or simply become too expensive to own or to run.

We will never know the history of this vehicle, but we can still be very indignant that it should have been dumped in our beautiful Parish. The car has now been removed, but the cost will fall to Council Tax payers, in other words, you and me.

Finally, how about this for incompetence ? On the fourth of August, motorists at Miserden will not have failed to see notices warning of Advanced road closures of two days 17th and 18th August.

We were all therefore anxious to see who would turn up on the 17th. Sure enough early that morning, Road Closed and Diversion signs were put up,, not at Miserden, but between Whiteway and the Calfway road. The Parish Council then informed the Street Works Team at Stroudwater who vowed to investigate immediately. It was not long before an AMBERON (road sign hire) employee was spotted hurriedly retrieving ALL of these signs and disappearing with them. Needless to say, no work commenced that day, and it is not known who was responsible, although maybe a fibre broadband installer are the ones with a red face.



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 18th 2022.**

Have you got a story to tell?

We have great regular contributors but if you haven't written for the *Post* before we would love to hear from you.

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 next edition will be out in time for Christmas and you can contact me for any help or advice

David



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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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