

South Milton Newsletter

March-April 2023 No 139

Local elections on May 4: You will need photo ID to be able to vote

The Government has ordered that voters in the local elections on May 4 must produce photo ID in order to place their X against their preferred candidate. This can be a passport, driving licence, Blue Badge or any official document bearing your photograph.

An out of date photo ID is permitted provided that it looks like you and your name is the same as that on your voter registration card.

If none of these is available the deadline for acquiring a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on April 25

Voting will take place for all wards on South Hams District Council, whose



leader Judy Pearce, one of the two councillors for our ward, is standing down. Two South Milton parish councillors are also retiring and applications to fill their places are sought. Contact the council clerk on south.milton@gmail.com

Hog roast plan for Coronation weekend

The village hall committee will be organising a hog roast on Sunday, May 7 to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort.

The Coronation service will take place in Westminster Abbey on the morning of May 6.

Our hog roast on the village hall lawn will be among the thousands of similar events across the country under the banner of the Coronation Big Lunch,

and it is hoped that as many villagers as possible will wish to join in the celebration.

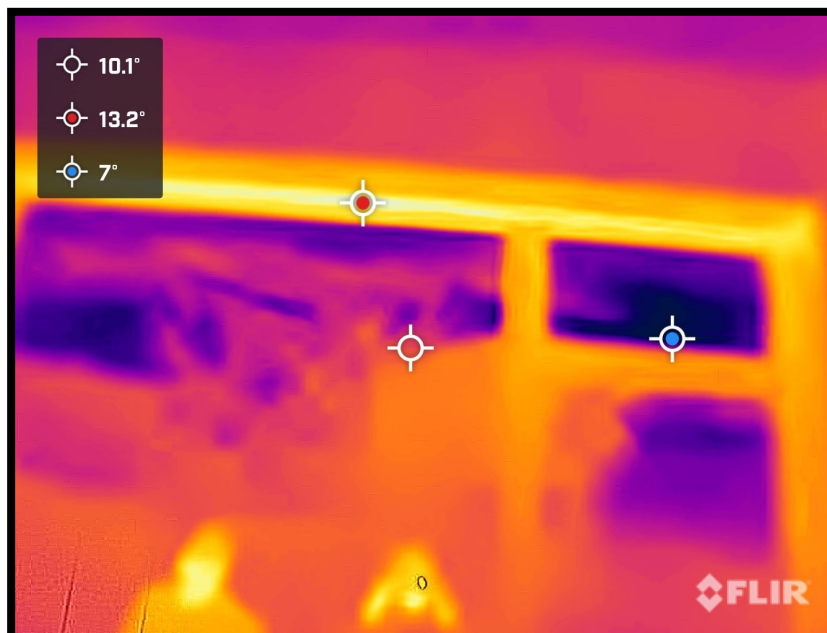
On the Monday, which has been declared a bank holiday, the Big Help Out will enable groups and individuals to carry out volunteer tasks in their communities.

Watch the usual outlets for further details of how the village will mark the coronation weekend.

Where's that draught coming from? Let the thermal imaging camera find it

Village residents have been taking advantage of the Climate and Nature Action Group's newly acquired thermal imaging camera in their bid to keep on top of their rising energy costs.

The camera has been funded by a grant from South Hams District Council and is operated by group members James Day and



Nick Townsend. It produces images like the one seen here, where the red spot clearly indicates a loss of heat area. The householder was able to plug this external gap with decorator's caulk bought

for under a fiver.

The often relatively cheap cost of saving money on your fuel bill is a message being put across by the group.

Continued on opposite page

Village Hall diary

March

17 Wine Tasting
23 Sound, Meditation and Stretch
27 Parish Council
29 Lent Lunch
30 Village Hall AGM

April

1 Pub night
12 Skittles
13 Thursday Club
17 Soups and Puds
20 WI
24 Parish Council
27 Sound, Meditation and Stretch

May

4 Local Elections
5 VH Committee meeting
6 Coronation Pub Night
7 Coronation Hog Roast
8 Plant Sale
10 Skittles
11 Thursday Club

Table tennis most Mondays
Bowls Club on Tuesdays
Coffee Break on Wednesdays
Yoga on Fridays

Website: www.southmiltonvillagehall.uk



Nick Townsend addresses the gathering at the Climate and Nature Action Group's energy workshop



James Day checks for draughts and cold spots with the aid of a thermal imaging camera and a mobile phone

From the previous page

At its recent workshops in the village hall a number of speakers gave first-hand examples of the steps taken to help their bank balance. Subjects dis-

cussed included air source heat pumps, solar panels and, a first for the village, an anaerobic digestion system.

A third workshop is to be held in the hall on Saturday, May 13 at 4pm when among the topics to be discussed will be electric cars, batteries, National Grid difficulties and tariffs.

The energy group is particularly keen to help as many residents as possible in their battle against rising costs, and a longer term goal is to achieve the production of electricity for the village without the dependency of the Grid. A pipedream? Join the Climate and Nature Action Group to see how you can help.

Watch local notices for dates of meetings.

The group's clear and informative website can be accessed at www.southmiltonclimateandnature.co.uk

Anniversary cake for the village's WI



Picture by June Richardson

Longest-serving member Ivy Yeabsley cuts a cake to mark the 90th birthday of the WI branch in the village. Below, members at a Christmas party in 1994. How many can you identify?

We celebrated 90 years of the WI in the village in February and were treated to a wonderful demonstration of floral arrangements for all the milestones in life. Some lucky members won these in the raffle. Ivy Yeabsley cut the birthday cake, having been a member for 57 years.

A team entered the county quiz and had a lovely afternoon in Sparkwell's super village hall, finishing sixth among 12 teams. The skittles team amazed themselves by beating Elburton WI and progressing to the semi-finals.

This month we look forward to a talk by Angela Seel on the uses of herbs.

New members and visitors are always welcome so come and give it a try.

Marion Brice



Thursday Club news

In January we welcomed Abi Gray (right) who is curator and resident archaeologist at Devon Rural Archive at Modbury. She was a delightful and enthusiastic speaker and her talk was very good.

Last month, Liz Hext gave us her presentation on lime kilns, of which



there are a number in the Kingsbridge area. It was good to hear about how and why they were used.

The lime kiln at Blanks Mill on the estuary (pictured) can

be approached at low tide.

Rosemary Griggs (right) gave us An Audience with the Lady Katherine with a peep inside her wardrobe this month.

On April 13 Shane Austin will cross the road from his house to talk about Global Cold Chain Solutions. — an afternoon not to be missed!

We meet in the village hall at 2.30 and the meetings are rounded off with a delicious afternoon tea. Visitors welcome.

Gaynor Day

Newsletter by email?
Contact me at
grahamcollyer46@gmail.com



Picture by Gaynor Day



Picture by Daphne Osmond

Improvements to track and boardwalk at South Milton Sands

The track behind the beach was repaired, and we will continue to monitor it with another refresh planned before Easter, or earlier if needed.

The contractors are booked to replace the top boardwalk, a long overdue job which will be a great improvement.

We have also secured funding from Defra and the South West Coast Path Association to replace the boardwalk from the car park with a more accessible one, as the current timbers are at the end of their life. The new

structure will include an area at the end for wheelchairs to use as a viewing platform so visitors with limited mobility can also access this beautiful site.

We will be continuing with the archaeological digs this year, and have permission to work on Bolt Tail to further investigate the historic use of this site. Historic England will be leading this work and we look forward to updating you on the finds.

Volunteers were due to open up test pits through areas of the site in the last few days, and the county archaeologist, Bill Horner, was due to lead a guided



County archaeologist Bill Horner (hands on hips) with visitors to Bolt Tail on a summer day last year

walk on Saturday, March 18.

For information regarding the work of the South Devon National Trust team please me on 01548 562344 or email me at emma.reece@nationaltrust.org.uk

Emma Reece

Bowls Club: South Milton Originals failed to take any points in their last match of the season, at Dittisham, and were relegated from division one of the South Hams Short Mat League. They will join SM Sanders in the second division next season.



Picture by James Day

Haggis, neeps and tatties, and whisky, naturally, were on the menu at a Burns' Night supper in the Village Hall. It was organised by Ali Watkins and her team, and there were readings by Bleddyn Griffiths, Ann Collyer and Jane Howey.

Notes from the church

Lent is now in full swing, the signs in church are obvious and we will hold a Lenten Lunch in the Village Hall on Wednesday, March 29. It will be a frugal meal of soup and bread, with donations to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

At our Palm Sunday service we will each receive a symbol of the day — a Palm Cross which is kept as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made as his earthly life was ended.

Holy Week follows with services each day in one or other of our churches.

We will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday, April 8, from 9am. Donations of flowers or foliage would be welcomed; please place in the buckets in the porch on the day.

The church floodlighting has been

switched off as a gesture towards the area being a dark place.

For anyone who is unwell at this time, be assured that if we know about you we will pray for a return to a healthy and active life.

Jan Turner Gaynor Day writes: We will be grateful for volunteers to come along and arrange flowers for the following areas: Screen, Lady Chapel, Choir window-sill, Steps, Columns and the niche.

Please incorporate eggs in your arrangements; these will be donated after the Easter service to St Luke's Hospice.

Jan will be organising Easter lilies in memory of family and friends. A list will be in the church if you would like to include anyone, and a donation to the cost can be placed in a pot on the font. These can be incorporated in your arrangement if you so wish.

Plant sale on Coronation Bank Holiday Monday

Tom Gilkes writes: The “corner of Backshay” plant sale is this year fixed for the morning of Coronation Bank Holiday Monday, May 8. It is organised by the South Milton element of the now defunct Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show. Just a few of us are providing our home-grown plants, flowers and vegetables, but we really would appreciate plants, cuttings, bulb, perennial root divisions to involve as many

villagers as possible.

All proceeds to the Village Hall where, in August, we will be holding a good-quality (but not RHS judged) show, and will again be looking for enthusiastic involvement by way of entries in the horticultural, art, crafts, home-baking, cakes, bread, jam, marmalade and children’s section.

Enquiries to either Tom Gilkes (560973) or Gaynor Day (561112).

A GOOD READ: IT’S THOSE TWO AGAIN!



The monthly Soups and Puds lunch in the Village Hall is made brighter each time by hosts Jackie and Sara, here marking World Book Day.

Picture by James Day