

# South Milton Newsletter

May-June 2023 No 140

## Weekend of fun as village marks Coronation of King Charles III



*Mick and Jane Howey (left) were kept busy serving lunches at the hog roast on Sunday*

A vibrant pub night and a family hog roast were the village's events as the country celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. Organised by the Village Hall committee, the double-header attracted more than 150 people to the hall and gardens on Saturday and Sunday.

Monthly pub nights are just getting  
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*Saturday night revellers at the monthly pub night and, below, families tucking into their Sunday lunch*

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better and better as more people join in the friendly atmosphere. It is especially good to be able to welcome many of the new residents who are definitely feeling at home in the village.

After the dampness of Saturday, the weather on Sunday could not have been better for the hog roast South Milton-style.

A wonderful selection of salad dishes complemented the pork, crack-

ling, stuffing and onions, all served with or without a bap.

Pimm's was available from a gazebo erected on the front lawn of the hall, and other drinks were on sale in the hall.

The hall committee extends a big thank you to everyone for their support over the two days.



*Village hall pictures by James Day*



## Weather fails to deter keen gardeners



It was meant to be held in its usual place at the entrance to Backshay Close, but when they looked at the forecast for Bank Holiday Monday the organisers of the plant sale wisely made the decision to move it to the village hall garden where they were able to set up in comparatively dry conditions under one of the hall's gazebos. Difficult growing conditions limited the number of plants available, and the weather on the day kept the attendance down, but

business was brisk during the morning and the hort show committee was pleased with the donations received on behalf of the village hall. The annual fun hort show will be held on August 12.

*Damp and cold but cheerful. Organisers of the plant sale, from left: Lindy Ander-ton, Gaynor Day, Tom Gilkes, Lynn Darch and Louise Tabiner*





# The times they are a-changing on the Parish Council



*Main pictures by Clare McKillop*



When the Parish Council met last month it signalled the end of an era as two councillors with a combined total of almost 55 years' service retired.

They were Marion Brice, who joined the council in 1983, and Graham Collyer, a member for more than a doz-

en years. Marion was also the chair for a number of years.

Steve Harding (above, right), who is also the new chair of the village hall committee, has been co-opted to fill one of the vacancies. The council hopes to **Continued on next page**

*Who's who in the parish council photographs on the previous page: Top, from left, Graham Collyer (retiring member), Graham Jinks, Peter Goodliffe (former member and chair), Emma Halmshaw, Paul Booker (current chair), Judy Pearce (retiring district councillor), Marion Brice (retiring member), Paul Davies (former member and chair), Lindy Anderton (former clerk), Nick Townsend and Geoff Bell (former member and chair).*

*Bottom, five villagers who have chaired the parish council in the last four decades: From left, Peter Goodliffe, Paul Booker, Marion Brice, Paul Davies and Geoff Bell*

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recruit another new member shortly. Interested persons should notify the clerk, Katharine Harrod, at south.milton@gmail.com or speak to any of the councillors.

As only one person stepped forward to join the council it was not necessary to hold an election on May 4.

It was also farewell time for district councillor Judy Pearce who, as one of the two South Hams ward members, has regularly attended SMPC meetings. Judy, who had been the Conservative leader of the district council, announced her retirement earlier in the year.

Mark Long (Independent), who has also been a regular attendee at parish council meetings, was re-elected for a further term on May 4 — a day that will

be remembered for the public's rejection of around 1,000 Conservative councillors across England.

Many of Judy Pearce's erstwhile colleagues were shown the door as Liberal Democrats swept to power at Follaton House.

It is the first time since 1999 that the Conservatives have not been in control of SHDC. The make-up of the council now is: Liberal Democrats 19, Conservatives 7, Greens 3, Labour 1, Independent 1

In the poll for the Salcombe and Thurlestone ward, which includes South Milton, the result was: Mark Long (Ind) 1160, Samantha Dennis (Cons) 618, both elected; Jim Heaven (Cons) 513, Nikki Turton (Ind) 447, Lewis Worrall (Greens) 257, Alan Kerr (Lib Dems).

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### **Thursday Club**

We enjoyed a very informative and entertaining talk from Shane Austin who gave us some of the inner secrets of the cold chain journey. How do blueberries get to us from Morocco in perfect condition or mangoes from Peru?

Not just fresh foods but high value pharmaceuticals. Temperature control

plays a vital part.

As this issue went to press we looked forward to a talk from Nick and Gill Townsend entitled Kipling to Calcutta and other Travels.

In June we will enjoy our annual delicious cream tea at Thurlestone Golf Club.

Gaynor Day



## Caroline sets personal best time in London Marathon

All the hours spent pounding the roads and paths around South Milton and neighbouring villages paid off for Caroline Carroll when she set a new personal best time in the London Marathon last month. The Backshay Park runner covered the classic 26.2-mile course from Blackheath to The Mall in three hours 27 minutes and 53 seconds, more than five minutes better than her previous fastest time over the distance.

She was the 1366th woman to finish, and was among the first 8000 of the 45,000 starters to complete the course.

Caroline is often to be seen running with her husband Matt, whose recent training has been leading up to the Exeter Marathon this month



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## Bells and a cake for the King

The bells at the parish church rang out ahead of the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6.

And, led by Mike Brice, the ringers climbed the tower again the following morning for a special service of commemoration for the new monarch and Queen Camilla.

During the service, which was conducted by the vicar, the Rev Daniel Hartley, slices of a special Coronation



cake were offered to the more than 40 members of the congregation.

## National Trust

Work on the beach boardwalks will get under way again this month, with thanks to funding from Defra and the South West Coast Path Association. The accessible boardwalk from the car park will have a viewing platform installed, and the top boardwalk opposite the toilet block will also be completed. Once installed the cleft chestnut fencing will be replaced or repaired along the sides. The track will also be regraded before the half-term break to remove potholes and maintain the speed bumps.

Although the weather remains unsettled there have been some busy days at the beach car park. Thank you to the volunteers in the village who assist with the "car park full" sign, it is greatly appreciated.

Emma Reece (01548 562344 or [emma.reece@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:emma.reece@nationaltrust.org.uk))

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## Bellringing Festival

After numerous weeks of practise, bell-ringers from local churches do battle on Saturday, May 20, in the annual Woodleigh Deanery Festival which is being held in South Milton.

The competition begins at 2.30pm with a short service, followed by the draw, and then the so-called junior section, which includes South Milton.

Tea will be served in the village hall, after which the senior section teams will go head to head

The hall committee will open the bar to the ringers during the tea break, and to the village at 6.30pm.

## Nick is champion bowler



*Nick Townsend (left) and Bob Breese played in the final of the short mat bowls club singles competition, with Nick running out the winner by 15 shots to 10.*

**The deaths of two of the village's older residents, Malcolm Dent and Gillian White, have occurred in recent weeks, and thoughts and condolences are offered to their families.**

## Special Anniversary

The family of the late Jim Penwill will be in the village from Australia on July 20 to scatter their father's ashes at his birthplace, Collacott. It will be the 100th anniversary of his birth.



# Ten Tors no sweat for village lads



Thomas Luscombe (above and right) and Ethan Clack (below) took the Ten Tors challenge on Dartmoor in their stride. The Kingsbridge Community College students also followed in family footsteps, namely Thomas's dad Robert and uncle Christopher and Ethan's dad Phil. "It was a proud moment seeing him cross the line as I had done 27 years previously," said Phil. He added: "As a KCC volunteer I have got to know some of the young people and have found them to be tenacious, kind, engaged and unfailingly polite."



Editor: [grahamcollyer46@gmail.com](mailto:grahamcollyer46@gmail.com)