

South Milton Newsletter

November 2023 No 143

Hall committee invites villagers to say what events they would like staged

When the Village Hall committee meets on Friday (November 3) chairman Steve Harding will lead members in a discussion of future plans. Many of the events already appear on the hall calendar (www.southmiltonvillagehall.uk) but there is always room for more.

So what activities would you like to see staged in the hall? And would you be prepared to help out with the support of the committee?

Please let committee members know what you are interested in, or better still come along to the pub night on Saturday, December 2, and talk through your ideas over a drink and a bowl of chilli con carne. There will also be mulled wine and games to get the Christmas season off to a flying start.

Monthly pub nights are always a good place for a chat among friends. This Saturday (November 4) Nick and Gill Townsend have kindly stepped in to run the bar at short notice, so if you read this in time, and you can pull yourself away from Strictly, why not pop down to the Milton Arms?

In the New Year, pub night on January 6 will be serving tapas, for which tickets will be required, and on January 27 Ali Watkins will be organising a Burns' Night supper, which will also be a ticketed event.

Remembrance Sunday November 12



The nine people named on the War Memorial, plus five other men with strong South Milton connections, will be commemorated when two minutes' silence is observed on Remembrance Sunday, November 12. The annual ceremony will follow the Remembrance Sunday service in All Saints' Church which starts at 9.30am.

Last call for quizzers

There is still time to join the nine teams set to do battle in the Village Quiz on Friday, November 17. You will need to find from four to six players and book your place on 07973 415089. It's always a fun evening. Bar open, bring own eats.

Village street awash after deluge



Monsoon in Milton. Torrential rain on Saturday afternoon (October 28) flooded the village street between the Old School and Backshay Close. The water quickly backed up as drains, blocked by leaves and mud, failed to cope.

Garth Gregory's picture shows neighbour John Richardson clearing a drain in the hope of easing the problem.

John said: "Many thanks indeed to those who braved the elements and the traffic to help keep the drains clear.

"It was quite noticeable the contrast in behaviour that the flood caused. Some drivers clearly felt they had to put their foot down and go for it, others decided to turn around and find an alternative route and others inched their way through the flood minimising any wave action.

"Perhaps we all should remind ourselves how to drive safely through floods! Particularly when some villagers are trying to keep the water flowing down the drains."

Dates set for Christmas cards or messages

This year there will be two options available to residents who wish to send Christmas messages to friends in the village.

The traditional post box for cards will be positioned in the village hall porch from December 1 until 2pm on December 15.

In addition, the hall committee will place a driftwood Christmas tree in the porch, with tags available, so that villagers can write a seasonal message and make a charitable donation to Kingsbridge foodbank.

Farewell to vicar as he heads back to Yorkshire

The Rev Daniel Hartley, who has been the vicar of the Aune Valley Benefice of five churches, including All Saints' South Milton, for more than eight years, is returning to his native Yorkshire.

He preached his last sermon at a well attended joint churches service at Thurlestone on October 22, and conducted his final funeral service here the following day when Owen Masters MBE was laid to rest in the cemetery.

Daniel Hartley has been appointed priest in charge of the south-east Sheffield parishes of Beighton and Woodhouse, as well as oversight minister in the South East Attercliffe Mission Area.

"Moving on is never easy and I will be sad to say goodbye to so many people down here in Devon," he said.



Village Hall diary

November

3 VH Committee
4 Pub night
8 Skittles
9 Thursday Club
10 Wine Tasting
12 Remembrance Sunday
15 Bowls match
16 WI
17 Village Quiz
23 Bowls match
27 Parish Council
30 Bowls match
Table tennis most Mondays
Bowls Club on Tuesdays
Coffee Break on Wednesdays

December

1 Christmas Post Box and Greetings Tree in
hall porch
2 Pub night
7 Bowls match
8 Christmas lights (Backshay Close)

13 Skittles
14 Thursday Club Christmas Lunch (Golf Club)
15 Christmas Post Box emptied (2pm)
21 WI
Table tennis most Mondays
Bowls Club on Tuesdays
Coffee Break on Wednesdays

January

5 VH Committee meeting
6 Pub night/Tapas
10 Skittles
11 Thursday Club
12 Bowls match
18 WI
22 Parish Council
27 Burns' Night Supper
Table tennis most Mondays
Bowls Club on Tuesdays
Coffee Break on Wednesdays
Website: www.southmiltonvillagehall.uk

Death of Owen Masters MBE aged 86 — a proud native of South Milton

Owen Masters MBE, who has died aged 86, was a proud South Miltonian despite not having lived in the village for many years.

He was born at 1 Horswell Cottages on June 4, 1937, and as a boy growing up either side of the Second World War lived at The Shanty, close to the centre of the village, or with his grandparents in Salcombe. He was a pupil at the village school and subsequently Kingsbridge Secondary Modern.

In adult life he served in the RAF, worked as a bus driver, an insurance agent and ran the village shop and post office in Hope Cove, where he and his wife Carole lived until moving to Kingsbridge, where he took a keen interest in the Royal British Legion.

Owen also served as a district and county councillor, and during the 1990s played a major role in establishing a democratic system in former Soviet countries, for which he was awarded the MBE.

But he never lost his fondness for South Milton and became a keen member of the local history group. His wealth of knowledge made him the ideal collaborator in the book, *A History of South Milton*, by Graham Collyer.

His memory of talking to villagers who had returned from fighting in the First World War helped enormously in the history group's commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the war in 2014. He was also able to assist in background notes about many of the res-



idents who fought in the 1939-45 conflict.

As a member of the Village Hall committee, and president at the time of his death, Owen took an active part in proceedings until ill health prevented him from attending meetings. Following his funeral service and burial in the cemetery — his coffin bore his scarf of his beloved Plymouth Argyle — he insisted that the Milton Arms bar was opened so that the first drinks were on him.

Owen is survived by Carole and their son Adrian and daughter Avalon, plus six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, the youngest just a few weeks old, and respective partners, filled many of the pews at the front of All Saints' Church.

The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev Daniel Hartley.

Thursday Club

There was a splendid turnout to hear Rob van Es deliver his talk about the history of clocks and the measurement of time, starting with the early civilisations using the rays of the sun, water and sand, and then moving on to early mechanical devices which enabled accurate navigation at sea. The intricacies of

the escapement were simply explained to even mechanical novices.

He also gave a brief exploration of some clocks brought in by the audience, including a spooky tale about one inherited by Graham and Ann Collyer.

On November 9 we look forward to welcoming village resident Lucy Rose Cartwright who will be telling us about her life as an illustrator. Gaynor Day

National Trust

Izzy, one of our rangers, has installed two bike lock-up posts opposite the Beachhouse Café so you can now safely secure your cycles when visiting the site. The chestnut railing around the picnic benches has also been replaced by our volunteers as the old ones were rotten and falling apart.

The track has recently been regraded and we will monitor for further repairs depending on what weather comes our way before Christmas.

The archaeological dig and open day on Bolt Tail were a great success and we had lots of visitors on the guid-

ed walk around the site with the county archaeologist on the Saturday despite the inclement weather.

The volunteers worked with a professional archaeological team over the week, and although there were not a lot of finds we did uncover possible signs of a ditch, plus postholes, some flints, medieval pottery, and brass rifle shells from the start of the Second World War. We now await the report from the dig team, and look forward to carrying out more investigations next Easter.

For information regarding the work of the South Devon National Trust team call Emma Reece on 01548 562344 or email emma.reece@nationaltrust.org.uk

WI

We enjoyed a fantastic crafty evening organised by Clare McKillop and Lynn Darch who did an amazing job in showing how easy it is to make very colourful decorations. There was a great deal of hilarity but everyone went home with a creation.

The skittles team played Elburton WI in the first round of the county com-

petition, and although we were not successful this time we did enjoy a nice pub meal afterwards.

At our next meeting on November 21 chef Charlie Lott will show us some of her favourite dishes.

We finish the year with a lunch at Stokeley Farm shop.

Marion Brice

Mosaic unveiled, see page 7



Pictures by James Day

All hands to the press on Apple Day

It was all hands to the press at the Apple Day, held this year in the Village Hall garden.

Mick and Jane Howey and helpers squeezed hundreds of apples brought to the hall from gardens and orchards, and then bottled the juice in return for donations to the hall coffers.

In the hall visitors enjoyed home-made cakes, tea and coffee, and a stronger tippie if they wished. There was also an apple-themed raffle, plus Pam Latimer's range of home-made preserves.



Mosaic unveiling celebrates 90 years of the WI in the village



The Women's Institute has celebrated 90 years in the village by unveiling a mosaic triptych attached to the wall outside the cemetery.

Chairman Marion Brice said the idea for the mosaic arose a year ago and it was designed in outline by Lucy Cartwright, a professional illustrator who lives in the village.

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Pictures by James Day (above) and Graham Collyer



Taking the strain at sports day



Fun time at Lower Terawhiti Farm camping field, first with the village sports day, courtesy of Martin and Anita Berryman, and then the Berrymans' own Pumpkin Patch weekends.

Two events that are firmly fixed in the village diary, albeit that the sports day was a month later than usual because the regular venue was not available this year.

Pictures: Graham Collyer and Anita Berryman

WI anniversary mosaic unveiled

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As many as eight members worked up Lucy's design, meeting on most Monday mornings. Colour had not been stipulated so individual choices were made and details added according to the tiles and china available. These had been sourced by Clare McKillop, while a re-

tired mosaic maker also donated tiles and provided very useful advice on the correct use of tools.

Ivy Yeabsley, having clocked up 57 years of membership, was given the honour of uncovering the triptych, and was accompanied by former long-standing members Jean Hallam and Sylvia Killick.

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