

GRASS

THE NEWSLETTER AT THE ROOTS OF THE GRAND UNION BENEFICE
OF BLISWORTH AND STOKE BRUERNE/ SHUTLANGER,
WITH GRAFTON REGIS, ALDERTON AND MILTON MALSOR

Rector's Letter

Late on Sunday afternoon on 25 June, I sat in the finest Norman cathedral in England, a building soaked in history - a place I frequently visited in my youth. It was a glorious day, one of the warmest of the year; I was pleased to be sitting in the coolness of the building. The cathedral's main body was full of families and friends who had come to support those ordained as deacons within the Diocese of Peterborough. Among the twelve being ordained was our own curate Rev Graham Brack. It was a privilege to be with him on this wonderful occasion; it was a beautiful service.

There was an article in Grass a few months ago introducing Graham and I am sure you will welcome him warmly into the benefice as he goes about Our Lord's work.

In September, we are once again holding 'Christianity Explored', which will be run over several evenings where people can come together and explore the Christian faith in a relaxed atmosphere and ask questions that are on their minds about the Christian faith. When we ran this course earlier in the year, we received good positive feedback and how gentle it was in helping people understand who Jesus is.

Confirmation - if you are thinking or would like to discuss the possibility of confirmation, please have a chat with me.

We are entering that period of the year when many of us will embark on our holidays, a time to step aside from our regular everyday routines and enjoy a nice break. The meaning of the word, holiday, comes from HOLY DAY, a time to step aside and spend not only with our friends and family but also with our creator.

I wish you all a happy summer.

Richard

Useful Telephone Numbers for the United Benefice of Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne with Grafton Regis, Alderton and Milton Malsor

Rector: Canon Rev'd Richard Stainer, The Rectory, 37 High Street, Blisworth NN7 3BJ, tel 01604 857619.

Churchwardens of Blisworth: Mrs Fiona McKenzie, tel 01604 859541 and Mrs Angela Cheesbrough, tel 01604 858059.

Churchwardens of Stoke Bruerne: Mrs Christine Frost, tel 01604 862561 and Mr John Brough, tel 01604 862646/07768 181598

Churchwardens of Grafton Regis: Mrs Jean Glanville, tel 01908 543463 and Mr Nieldre Laubscher, tel 01908 542979.

Churchwardens of Alderton: Mrs Margaret Hall-Townley, tel 01327 811307 and Mrs Linda Dards, tel 01327 811265.

Churchwarden of Milton Malsor:

Service Schedule for July 2023

Sunday 2 July, Trinity 4

9.30 a m: Milton Malsor, Family Eucharist

11.00 a m: Family Eucharist, Blisworth

Sunday 9 July, Trinity 5

9.30 a m, Family Eucharist, Stoke Bruerne

9.30 a m: Family service, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Family Eucharist, Blisworth

Sunday 16 July, Trinity 6

9.30 a m: Family Eucharist, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Family service, Blisworth

Thursday 20 July

6.00 p m, St Margaret's Patronal service, Alderton

Sunday 23 July, Trinity 7

9.30 a m: Family service, Milton Malsor

9.30 a m: Family service, Stoke Bruerne

11.00 a m: Family Eucharist, Blisworth

Sunday 30 July, Trinity 8

10.00 a m: Benefice service, Alderton

VILLAGE NEWS



STOKE BRUERNE

Random Notes Choir and Village Vocals Choir are delighted to announce their first joint concert, Summer Fusion on Thursday 6 July at 7.30 p m at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Stoke Bruerne. Entry is free, and there will be a raffle; donations to a local charity. There will be an eclectic mix of songs, something for everyone. Do come and

support this special event.

Musical Evenings in July

On Saturday 1 July, Village Vocals will be presenting 'Making Memories' at Stoke Park Pavilions, Stoke Bruerne, NN12 7RZ. Pre-concert drinks are available from 6.30 p m and the concert begins at 7.00 p m. There will be a collection for the local charity, 'Dogs for Good'. Contact 07183957709 for more details.

On Thursday 6 July, Village Vocals will be joined by a second choir, Random Notes, for an evening entitled 'Summer Fusion'. The venue for this is St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoke Bruerne. The concert starts at 7.30 p m and aims to raise funds for The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation. This charity is for the whole community, working to alleviate hunger and provide for those in need in Northampton. Both concerts promise to be very entertaining and aim to raise money for worthy causes. Please come along and give them your support.

Churchyard Tidy

A very big thank you to all those volunteers who responded to the request for an extra working party session on Saturday 10 June. So much was achieved, especially considering the temperature was soaring throughout! The churchyard looked amazing for the wedding held on Saturday 17 June. Our next churchyard tidy is planned for Saturday 22 July. However, as we are being assessed for our bronze award on Monday 31 July by representatives from the Churchyard Conservation Scheme, we have decided to fit in another session on Saturday 8 July. We would be grateful for any time you can spare between 9.30 a m and 12.00 noon to help us.

Fashion Show

There will be a fashion show in Stoke Bruerne village hall on Thursday 13 July at 7.00 p m. The show is by Jackie's Online Boutique. There will be models to display the clothes and there will also be accessories on sale.

Tickets can be bought on the door. There is a charge of £5 which includes a glass of wine. This is in aid of the hall, charity number 304248



BLISWORTH

Reverend Roy Mellor, RIP, 19 July 1952 – 20 May 2023

Roy served as Rector of Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne with Grafton Regis and Alderton from 16 Sept 2003 to 30 November 2010. He lived in the rectory at Blisworth with his wife, Sue, and daughter, Victoria.

Roy sadly died after a very brief illness on 20 May with daughter Vicki at his side. Roy's funeral was held in his parish church, St Mary the Virgin, Ambrosden near Bicester and it was a wonderful tribute to him and his ministry as well as an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel.



Always time for a coffee.

There can be no better tribute to Roy than to read afresh his own words to us in 2007.

"Jesus paid the price of our freedom, bore the punishment, which was ours to bear for sin, ours! Jesus led by example too – how to live and die sacrificially. Christ – the One who triumphed over sin, the devil and death and in his risen glory reigns triumphant. That victory was a cosmic victory against all the powers of evil. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! It still comes as a shock to many people that we Christians actually do believe that "on the third day" Jesus rose from the dead. Even more mind blowing is the assertion we make yet again that just as Jesus came back to life so will all those who place their faith in Christ. Just as Jesus was given a resurrection body as God raised him from the dead so will all be given a resurrection body which is real."

If we find this all too much to take, we should

remember what Paul said: "If Christ is not raised your faith is futile: you are still in your sins" (1 Cor 15. 17). But the truth is: Christ is alive, and we can know his risen life in ours, disempowering sin."



Roy preaching his final sermon in Alderton.

**St Mary the Virgin Church
Stoke Bruerne
Thursday 6th July 2023, 7:30pm**

Free Entry

Raffle

Summer Fusion

Random Notes Choir
Musical Director Helen Thomas

Village Vocals Choir
Musical Director Ian Riley

Everyone Welcome

DONATIONS to The McCarthy-Dixon Foundation
a charity for the whole community, working to alleviate hunger
and provide for those in need in Northampton

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was one of the great Christian martyrs of the 20th century. The Gestapo hanged him on 9 April 1945 for his part in trying to end Hitler's tyranny. As he went to the gallows his final words were "this is the end, for me the beginning of life". He lived every moment in Resurrection Hope.

As Paul triumphantly put it "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting? ... But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ". (1 Cor. 15. 54f)

Please pray for Roy's wife Sue, daughter Vicki and grandson Seth as they mourn and learn to live without Roy (for now).



SHUTLANGER

Website: www.shutlangervillagehall.org.uk, phone number: 01327640547, Twitter: @ShutlangerVHall
Facebook: Shutlanger Village Hall, Instagram: shutlangervillagehall

Coffee Morning

Our monthly coffee, cake and chat morning was on Thursday 15 June from 10.00 a m until 12.00 noon. We were able to hear the clock chime for the first time in seventy years. Lights will soon be added to illuminate the clock and complete the project. The coffee morning was preceded by a short prayer service.

The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 20 July

We have free wi-fi and contactless payments. We serve excellent coffee and delicious homemade cakes. The bacon rolls are very popular too.

Our coffee mornings are always on the third Thursday of the month; put a note in your diary so you don't miss it.

Plant and Crop Swap

The plant and crop swap is open again; either bring a plant you don't need and take one you like or take a plant and leave a donation in the post box. We use this money to buy new plants for the hall gardens.

Tote Draw

The latest draw was, as always, during the coffee morning. This month's prize was £167.50. Congratulations to this month's winner. The tote has raised over £3,500 towards keeping our hall as a centre for community and celebration. Thank you.

It's easy to join the tote, it costs just £5 a month; half the money goes to help the village hall and the other half to one lucky prize winner. The odds are much better than the national lottery!

There are application forms in the hall, you can call 01327 640547 or email secretary@shutlangervillagehall.org.uk any of these make it easy for you to join our ever-growing band of supporters.

Recent Events

The village open gardens event was held on 4 June from 10.30 a m. The gardens, plant stall, nature trail, local art, crafts, bacon rolls, coffee, cake and ice cream all helped to raise a magnificent £1,250 for the hall.

Forthcoming Events

There will be one of our hugely popular quizzes in the hall at 7.30 p m on Saturday 15 July. Your ticket price will include a meal and there will be a bar. Get your tickets at www.shutlangervillagehall.org.uk/events. Teams of 4 or 6.

Renovations

The committee are planning their next renovation project. Watch this space.

Fundraising

As ever we continue to raise funds to renovate the excellent facilities within our most important community asset. There are several opportunities to get involved:

Direct donations via the website homepage and by using QR codes in the hall and at events. The 'donation station' in the lobby at the entrance to the hall, lets you put a cash donation in the box or use your phone to scan the QR code. You can also recycle your old ink cartridges in the hall.

We are members of JustGiving and Easyfundraising where you can easily make donations. Don't forget to join the tote too! Thank you for all your support. Your help matters to us. EVERY penny counts!

Barbara Stanbridge, Secretary Shutlanger Village Hall Management Committee



GRAFTON REGIS

A Wedding at the Church – Jessica Mcgeown and William Weston

It was a rare occasion for our church, but what a glorious day; the sun was shining, the roses by the church porch were in full bloom and the wedding party were all dressed for the event. The floral decorations in the church set the building off and all was topped off by the incredible piano playing.

This was the wedding of the last of Margaret and Robert Weston's offspring, William, and his fiancée, Jessica, on 3 June. We so rarely see a wedding at the church it was a privilege to take part in such a joyous event.





1,000 Years in 100 Minutes

Over 40 people ventured on the second Grafton historical walk of 2023 on Saturday 17 June. Much of last year’s June walk took place in the church while rain fell outside, but this year we enjoyed fine weather. The amazing history of Grafton was told by many of the famous and infamous characters who made their mark on the village’s and the nation’s history.

This time we enjoyed some extra characters – Anne Boleyn and Katherine Parr hadn’t previously arrived at the Grafton walk with horses, although they might have done back in the sixteenth century. And we hadn’t previously met Major-General Sir Philip Skippon, Civil War parliamentary military commander, who vividly related the story of the 1643 siege of Grafton House in company with the House’s tenant, Lady Crane, and a young Royalist soldier.

The final walk of the year takes place on Saturday 23 September. For booking details, see www.grafton-regis.co.uk.

Blisworth Monthly Coffee Mornings

We are now enjoying al-fresco coffee mornings on the drive as the weather has improved. Many thanks to all those who bake, make jams etc. Thanks also to our neighbours who help with setting up and let us spill over onto their drives to help with parking. Everyone is most generous with donations and a good amount has been raised for church funds this year. Special thanks to all those who help with packing away. It is a wonderful social occasion enjoyed by everyone. Please join us for the next one on 28 July at 7 Pondbank, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon.

Open Garden in aid of Ukraine 15 July from 11.00 a m, 2 Towcester Road Blisworth NN7 3BL



Following on from the garden party in April, Ihor, Alina, Olena and Hilary would like to invite you to an open garden on 15 July. There will be light refreshments, a plant stall and a chance to relax in the garden. Enjoy a variety of Ukrainian delicacies as well as some traditional English fare. Donations in aid of those affected by the war in Ukraine.



The garden party in April raised £1,700 and has helped to renovate a school damaged during the Russian invasion, supply soldiers on the front line with essential supplies such as food, wet wipes and tools, and has funded a programme of summer activities for children whose lives are daily affected by the war, The attached photos are of children enjoying the summer activities in Ukraine.

Do come and enjoy a relaxing Saturday in the garden and support a good cause.



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota
Churchyard Rota

July	Jackie Grundon & Carol Weston
1 st half of July	Anthony & Ruth Barry
2 nd half of July	Jayne & Gwyn Wallace

Fathers’ Day Service and Breakfast

After becoming slightly complacent about the good weather and disbelieving that it could possibly rain, an element of doubt crept in and fortunately a tent – ‘just in case’ was erected by an intrepid team, of predominantly female volunteers (the exceptions being



Brian and Graham) in readiness for the Fathers' Day breakfast, and thank goodness they did as about an hour before the breakfast was due to start, the heavens opened and there was torrential rain. We stood in the church and thought that nobody would venture out in such a storm, but thankfully they did.



About 40 adults and 8 children and young people joined us for a short service and then a full English breakfast. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the early start of 8.00 a m meant that the rest of the day was free for families to enjoy this special day. Once the breakfast was over, lots of people helped to clear up, which made an amazing difference to those who had organised the event.

We are not only incredibly grateful to our tent team but also especially to the team who supplied and cooked the delicious breakfast, and to everyone who ventured out and joined in to the service and feast to make it such a successful occasion.

Sale for the Knight

We will be holding another of our sales for the knight on Saturday 15 July from 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon in the churchyard. We will be spending the next week or so busily cooking in preparation for this event, so please come along and support us. There will be the usual array of cakes and preserves as well as lovely things to buy. This project has been going for the last 8 years and we are now hopefully in the final stages. Once the knight is safely re-located and on his tomb chest, we can concentrate on fundraising for the much-needed toilet and servery project.

Service to Commemorate St Margaret

As we have done for the past two years or so, we will be holding a service to commemorate St Margaret of Antioch. This year, the service will be on 20 July at 6.00 p m so hopefully you will be able to join us. The theme this year will be animals – our pets and those animals around us in our gardens and surroundings – all of which are so important to us.

After the service, a glass of wine and nibbles will be served. Do come along and support us. Our church is the only public building in the village and we are striving to make it a welcoming and inclusive place – and it will only stay open if we continue to use it for services. We really are trying to make the services as interesting and relevant as we can, but we can't do this without your attendance. We look forward to seeing you.

Margaret, Linda and the PCC



MILTON MALSOR

Friends of Milton School

What a busy and exciting summer that we're having at Milton Parochial Primary School! Our amazing year 6 pupils took



their SATs exams and their efforts certainly did us proud. Year 6 celebrated the end of SATs week with pizzas, ice creams and leavers' hoodies. The ice creams were very kindly gifted by the Chair of Governors and the hoodies were gifted by the Friends of Milton School. The children were thrilled with their treats and we are enjoying seeing the hoodies being worn at school for the remainder of their time



with us.

Just before half term, we had our May Day celebrations with maypole dancing, the crowning of our very own May Day King and Queen, followed by refreshing ice lollies and brownies with ice cream being served by the FOMS.

Our newly refurbished pupils' toilets are now complete and our outdoor area improvements have already started with an amazing rainbow roof and more to follow soon.

Next up is sports day and hopefully the weather will allow us to spend lots of time in our wonderful school grounds.

We're definitely ready for the summer break, but cannot wait for the adventures that will follow in the next school year!

GENERAL NEWS

Police Information

Burglary Prevention Advice

Our aim is to prevent Northamptonshire residents falling prey to criminals. We are taking a more scientific approach to repeat victimisation. Due to the location of recent burglaries, we know that your home is at heightened risk of being burgled. An opportunistic type of criminal is enticed into a situation as a result of an insecurity or easy opportunity. If we simply remove that temptation and make it difficult, then it is estimated that a staggering 90% of crime would be prevented. We have compiled a short home security checklist to help guide you through your security arrangements. Working through this checklist will help you ascertain whether you have any security weaknesses. Please remember to call 101 if you see any suspicious activity or 999 if you see a crime in progress. Alternatively, if you have any information about crime or criminals in your area, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Outside the property:

- Make thieves feel exposed when they approach the front of your property by using low hedges or low fencing. Keep any gates shut when you're out.
- Use garden lighting to deter trespassers. If the property is well overlooked, choose lights which come on automatically at dusk and stay on all night until dawn. Low wattage bulbs can cost less than 1p per night in electricity.
- You can reinforce your boundary by using prickly plants. Use of natural plants is exempt from the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984 - because it is natural.
- Don't leave tools and ladders lying around for burglars to use. Remember to keep the shed as secure as possible. Thieves often search for tools nearby to break into properties.
- Where possible, keep bins chained up away from the main house and out of sight. Criminals often use them as climbing aids or ways to transport stolen property.
- Thieves often look for subtle changes in the environment. Open gates, empty driveway, letters left in the mailbox are all invitations to a criminal.

Inside the property:

- Keep all doors and windows locked - even if you are in the house. If you leave a room, close and lock the doors and windows.
- If you have an alarm, use it! Most alarm systems can be 'zoned', which means parts of the house can be active at night time.
- Always remove the keys from locks to stop someone breaking a small pane of glass and entering using the key. Keep keys out of sight and in a safe place.
- Leave lights on in multiple rooms. Automatic timers can switch on lights and radios. Remember that in the winter it can get dark in the early afternoon.
- Make items traceable. Mark your property with your postcode using a UV pen or consider specialist liquid forensic coded solutions.

Following the above measures will make you a less attractive target for thieves. People who are security conscious are less likely to be burgled than those who are not. For more crime prevention advice visit: www.northants.police.uk/crimeprevention

For approved security companies and products, visit Secured by Design - www.securedbydesign.com

Sold Secure - www.soldsecure.com

Security Systems Alarms Inspectors Board - www.ssaib.org

National Security Inspectorate - www.nsi.org.uk

Register your property on www.immobilise.com

Charlotte Morris

Police Community Support Officer PCSO 7029

Neighbourhood Policing Team – Towcester

Northamptonshire Police

Telephone: 101 Ext: 348069

(03000 111222 if outside Northamptonshire)

Mobile: 07557776333

Address: Towcester Police Station Watling Street Towcester

Northamptonshire NN12 6DE



News from The Old Mail

For events and happenings in the nearby villages: Cosgrove, Potterspury and Yardley Gobion, see the newsletter, The Old Mail, is available online at various websites: www.cosgrovevillage.co.uk; www.potterspurypc.org.uk; www.yardleygobionpc.wordpress.com

PDC
Computer Solutions



Both Windows 7 and 8 have reached end of life, and will no longer receive security updates; it is time to change.

I can upgrade them to Windows 10; all your documents, pictures and programs will transfer as well. If your computer is slow I can make it faster.

Looking for a laptop? I have a number of refurbished laptops, prices starting from £150.

I repair laptops down to component level; ask for a free quote.

Contact Paul Dards on 07540 000844 or 01327 811265 or paul@dards.co.uk

PDC, Moorend, Spring Lane
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www.dards.co.uk

R. Wilson Garden & Tree Maintenance

Robert Wilson is a qualified tree surgeon and gardener based in Hartwell covering the Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire area.

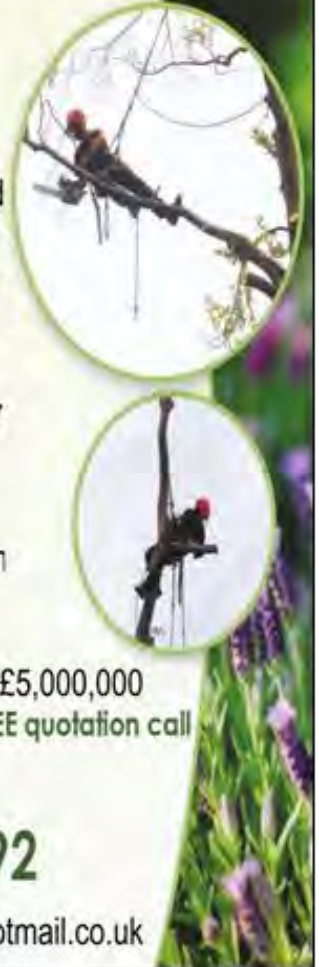
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United Benefice Calendar for 2023

All groups and organisations within the community are warmly invited to include events here.

July

- 1 Coffee morning, Milton Malsor church, 9.00 a m to 1.00 p m
- 1 Concert, Stoke Park Pavilions, 7.00 p m, drinks from 6.30 p m
- 3 Blisworth Parish Council meeting, village hall, 7.30 p m
- 8 Churchyard tidy, Stoke Bruerne, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon
- 6 Concert, Stoke Bruerne Church, 7.30 p m
- 13 Fashion Show, Stoke Bruerne village hall, 7.00 p m
- 13 WI meeting, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m, 'Women in the 'R.N.L.I.'
- 14 Farmers' market, Towcester, 9.00 a m – 1.00 p m
- 15 Sale for the knight, St Margaret's Church, Alderton, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
- 15 Open garden, 11.00 a m, 2 Towcester Road, Blisworth
- 15 Quiz, Shutlanger village hall, 7.30 p m
- 18 Parish Council meeting, Stoke Bruerne
- 20 Coffee morning, Shutlanger, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
- 22 Stoke Bruerne churchyard working party, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon
- 28 Coffee morning, Blisworth, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, 7 Pondbank

August

- 7 Blisworth Parish Council meeting, village hall, 7.30 p m
- 10 WI meeting, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m, local trip – watch this space
- 12 Coffee morning, St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, raffle
- 25 Coffee morning, Blisworth, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, 7 Pondbank
- 26 Stoke Bruerne churchyard working party, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon

September

- 2/3 Alderton Art Festival
- 4 Blisworth Parish Council meeting, village hall, 7.30 p m
- 12 Parish Council meeting, Stoke Bruerne
- 14 WI meeting, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m, 'A taste of the Camino de Santiago'
- 23 Stoke Bruerne churchyard working party, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon
- 23 1,000 years in 100 minutes – walk and talk in Grafton Regis, 2.30 p m
- 24 Honey show, York House, Stony Stratford, 1.00 p m
- 29 Coffee morning, Blisworth, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, 7 Pondbank

October

- 2 Blisworth Parish Council meeting, village hall, 7.30 p m
- 12 WI meeting, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m, 'Three in Accord Entertain'
- 27 Coffee morning, Blisworth, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, 7 Pondbank
- 28 Stoke Bruerne churchyard working party, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon

November

- 9 WI meeting, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m, 'The Blisworth Tapestry'
- 11 Coffee morning, St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, Remembrance weekend

December

- 14 WI meeting, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m, - Christmas party

SNIPPETS:

The way to get started is to stop talking and start doing.

Never give up. Today is hard, tomorrow may be worse, but the day after tomorrow may be sunshine. What you do today can improve all your tomorrows. Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 19 July

If you can get any copy to us earlier than that it would be very much appreciated

Please send any copy to: Linda Dards, Moorend, Spring Lane, Alderton NN12 7LW tel 01327 811265, e-mail: linda@dards.net. **Could you please include your name & phone number with entries in case we have any problems.** If you would like to add photographs or drawings to your text these are welcome and can be supplied via email or as photos, and returned after scanning. Contributions by email are most welcome, we can accept most formats; please request a response from us on receipt – so you are sure that we have your submission. Word (any version) is preferred.