

EVERY LITTLE HELPS

And a little from everyone helps enormously... but I am not asking for money; I am asking for your unwanted clothing and footwear for men, women, children and babies, all sizes, to send to refugees who live in camps, sometimes permanently, mainly in Southern Europe and the Middle East. We know there are families fleeing from camp to camp and country to country with limited options for their futures. For the first time charities there are asking Raft (refugee aid from Taunton) for large suitcases no longer in use. We can all feel helpless when viewing such distress. But as wars erupt in many countries and other wars continue, and refugee numbers rise in adjacent states there is this way to help.

I am seeking good clean warm washable clothing for all, particularly at present warm coats, either outgrown or no longer needed, all ages and sizes, and footwear to withstand mud, rain, snow as wintry conditions can be harsh. In addition blankets, sleeping bags, tents, unopened hygiene and toiletries are always requested, and now large suitcases. From April summer clothing and footwear will be required.

I began by writing 'a little from everyone' and I wish to emphasise this. Whatever you can donate will be really appreciated by those who receive them, for practical reasons obviously, but equally importantly, they will know the world has not forgotten them.

With grateful thanks,

Geraldine Downey, Merriott tel. 01460 271358

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The deadline for submission of articles and adverts for the next edition is the
18th February 2025

VILLAGE NEWS

COVERING

NORTH PERROTT

AND

HASELBURY PLUCKNETT

FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to 2025

This Publication relies on Volunteers to print, collate, fold and distribute it free of charge to all households in the two Villages.

If you would like to become part of this wonderful team of community minded people, please email
vneditor2@gmail.com

All help is greatly appreciated and needed
Ian Stewart

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Pop up cafe- lunch and pud

Bringing the community together!

Wish your village had a cafe?

Somewhere to meet friends for lunch?

Enjoy a monthly lunch

Haselbury Plucknett Bible Christian Centre

Thursday 6th Feb

12-2pm

Join us as we serve you coffee, light lunches and puddings. PLEASE

BOOK IN ADVANCE, phone or text us on 07487782730

We have a small children's area and menu to cater for all.

Event being ran by Traditional Cakes & Bakes by Denise, small local registered business, insured and 5* hygiene rating.

Looking forward to seeing you

World Day of Prayer

Compiled this year by people of the Cook Islands

Entitled "I made you wonderful"

A set servicefollowed by tea or coffee

The Bible Christian Centre, Haselbury Plucknett,

FRIDAY 7th MARCH 2025

At 2.30 pm

ALL WELCOME

Half-term Fun with Pop-Up Play Village

Monks Yard, Horton Manor, Ilminster

Pop Up Play Village is a mobile role play village for toddlers, pre-schoolers and school aged children, providing a fun, engaging, exciting and educational experience. We have created an environment where babies and children up to age 8 can explore, imagine, create and learn through play

For more info and to book tickets:

[HALF TERM FUN @MONKS YARD, ILMINSTER | Pebble](#)

HOLLYWOOD IN HARDINGTON

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

**PADDINGTON IN
PERU**
(PG)

Paddington and the Browns set off to Peru to visit Aunt Lucy. When they arrive, Aunt Lucy has disappeared from the Home for Retired Bears. Off they go into the Amazon to find her....

A comedy for the family.

in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall on
Thursday 20th February.

Afternoon Performance at 2:00pm

Coffee, tea and cake available, doors open 1:30 pm

Evening Performance at 7:30pm

Licensed bar available, doors open 7.00 pm

Tickets: £5.00 in advance from Springfield Stores
(01935 862363) or on the door

Visit our website at: www.Hardington.net



Editorial

Welcome to 2025 and I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas? The Village News is back for another year and will be distributed free of charge by the fantastic team of volunteers as usual every month apart from September. A slight change from previous years as the August edition is created in July whilst the September edition was created in August, which had it's difficulties due to Summer Holidays. I hope you are still enjoying this publication.

Ian Stewart

Rob Wood

It was with great sadness that I heard about the passing of Rob Wood in December 2024. Rob, along with his wife Gill, helped to fold and deliver the Village News every month. Rob was always one of the first to volunteer at Village events such as the May Fayre's, and he cared for the War Memorial in the Church grounds. He will be sorely missed by June and I and everyone else that knew him. Our thoughts are with Gill.

Ian Stewart

Christopher Simmonds

It is with great sadness that the Simmonds Family announces that Christopher (Chris) died peacefully on Sunday 12th January 2025. He lived an amazing life and was a huge part of the Community of Haselbury Plucknett. The Celebrant service will be held on the 5th February 2025 at the Tithe Barn, Haselbury Mill. We ask for people to arrive by 10:30am for Chris to arrive on his Tractor and Trailer soon after for the service to then take place.

If you could please let us know if you are wishing to attend so we have rough numbers for catering reasons. Please could you contact Daisy Clark [07741259678](tel:07741259678) or Miki Simmonds on [0146078774](tel:0146078774)

Many thanks

Daisy

Your local WI
Haselbury Plucknett Women's Institute
Registered Charity no 227699

It's a jolly good thing that the Village News is typescript. Goodness knows what you would discover about me and the other contributors if you could see our handwriting. Members of Haselbury WI and any intrigued female guests should bring a pen along to our next meeting on Wednesday 3rd February, when Christina Strang will give us a talk and practical demonstrations of the art of graphology. Two of our committee enjoyed a talk by Christina at the Somerset WI Speaker Previews and have promised that we're in for a treat.

Ladies are invited to join us for the meeting on Wednesday 5th February at 2 pm in the Beaumont Room, St Michael's Church, Haselbury. For information about our WI and to enquire about coming to a meeting, please call Barbara on 07986 907441.

Our March meeting will be on Wednesday 5th, also at 2 pm. We look forward to Nick King telling us about his Goats of the Gorge and goatmilk products.

The first meeting of 2025 welcomed Sue Darling from Snooks Hatters of Bridport. Members learned about the family firm of T Snooks, founded in 1896. Sue displayed many different styles of hats and explained their histories. WI ladies tried on a variety of hats, from cosy winter fur hats to fascinators and summer hats. Who knew that the bowler hat was worn by gamekeepers and was the forerunner of modern safety helmets, or that genuine Panama hats are actually made in Ecuador?

Our members are now well educated in millinery matters.

HOSKYNS MEMORIAL HALL
NORTH PERROTT
Registered Charity 1029582

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 15th February
100th Anniversary Party

A celebration to commemorate the handing over of the
Hoskyns Memorial Hall to the village
Live music from the Topsy Swing Band
plus a Buffet and Licensed Bar
Doors open at 7.30pm
Tickets £15 from North Perrott Farm Shop or
Pip Oxenbury on 01460 73308

Saturday 15th March

A concert to raise funds for the RNLI
featuring

The Wareham Whalers

a group of Shanty Singers and Story Tellers
Bar open

Doors open 7.30 and concert begins at 8pm
Tickets £10 from North Perrott Farm Shop
or Pip Oxenbury on 01460 73308

Weekly Coffee Mornings

every Monday 10.30am – 12 noon excluding Bank Holidays
Everyone Welcome – Come in for a Chat and Coffee and Biscuits

The Village Hall is available for everyone in the two villages.
If you are looking for a venue for a party, reception or other event
please contact Lesley on 07732 030279 to make a booking
or to arrange for someone to show you around.

The Village Hall website: Northperrottvillagehall.co.uk

SPLAT Kids club

Friday nights of fun for children of School
Year groups R-4. Games, songs, stories and more
from 6:30-7:30pm, every Friday in term time.
50p entry.



FUSION Youth Café

A space to come and chill for young people from School Years 5-13, with board games, table-top games and a tuck shop. Every Friday 8-9pm, term time only.



Contact Paula Harris for more details: 07807446106

No SPLAT / Fusion on Friday 21st Feb during Half term



Little Wrigglers

Our baby & toddler group is open on Mondays 10am - 11:30am in term time with great toys, a singing time and our Oasis Coffee shop. Free entry! **(No Wrigglers on Monday 17th Feb - Half term)**



Contact Paula Harris for more details: 07807446106



Oasis Coffee Shop

Speciality coffees and teas, delicious, homemade cakes, tray bakes, savoury scones, toast and toasted teacakes.

Photocopying and laminating service available.

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am – 12noon.



The Haselbury Plucknett Charities

Registered Charity No.201573

Are you feeling the cold? Do you live in Haselbury?

Are you missing your winter fuel allowance? As we all know, the Government has changed winter fuel allowances for pensioners. In view of the changes, it is likely that some people on small pensions but not entitled to certain state benefits, may struggle with heating bills this winter. They may also struggle with other essential household requirements. Do you live in Haselbury Plucknett and fall into this category?

The Haselbury Charities are three old charities set up to support those who find themselves in severe financial difficulties. We are a small charity with only a small amount to give out each year. We aim to give grants where the need is greatest and we will consider all genuine applications. Applications should be submitted in writing to:

The Secretary to the Trustees, Globe Farm,
North Street, Haselbury Plucknett, TA18 7RP.

ROLL UP for a ROLL UP

South Perrott Short Mat Bowls Club is happy to welcome new members. The club meets on Mondays from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00p.m. in South Perrott village hall DT8 3HS. Each session cost is only £2 per person which includes light refreshments, free use of club bowls and initial coaching if required. For more information please contact our secretary Doreen on 01935 891431.

Why do they have signs in hospital car parks that say
"thieves operate here" ?
I'd feel safer with a surgeon



The 16 Bells' Choir

The 16 Bells' Choir is a friendly, non-auditioned group of enthusiastic people who love to get together to sing!

We meet fortnightly during term time on a Wednesday evening in Merriott from 7pm to 8.30pm and sing for a variety of special services and occasions throughout the Benefice as well as our annual summer concert.

We are always happy to welcome new people to our ranks. If you enjoy singing and would like to find out more, simply come along to a rehearsal to see what we are all about.

To find out more, please email Rachel (choir leader)
rachelcrane3@gmail.com

Haselbury VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebration – 8th May 2025

There will be a meeting to plan our event in March (date to be included in the March Village News). At the moment we are thinking about an event similar to the commemoration of D-Day last year – a beacon lighting in the Community Orchard, together with some music, games for children, and a cake competition, but all ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Please look out for the date in March and come along and support the meeting to plan the event.

Matthew Bryant (bryant.haselbury@gmail.com)

I was given line dancing lessons for Christmas but I'm really struggling with them, it feels like one step forwards and two steps back!



Bible Christian Centre

Haselbury Plucknett

Minister: Pastor Andrew Harris – Tel: 01935 864414
Admin: Paula Harris – Tel. 01460 73147 or 01935 864414
www.biblechristiancentre.com

Services for February 2025

Sunday 2nd February	10:30am Café Church Fun with the family, with games, songs, coffee & cake and CREA'8 children's group.
Sundays 9th, 16th & 23rd Feb	10:30am Family celebration & worship with CREA'8 children's group. Communion on: 9th & 23rd February
Wednesdays	10:30am Morning devotion with Communion
Thursdays 6th & 20th Feb	7:30pm Bible Study
Fridays	10am - Prayer meeting

For more details please visit our website: www.biblechristiancentre.com

“The faithful love of the LORD never ends. His mercies never cease.

Great is His faithfulness;

His mercies begin afresh each morning”

(Lamentations 3:22-23)



PILATES

A relaxed group for all abilities, run by qualified instructor

Sharon Smith. Fridays from 11am

Contact Sharon for details: 07715301782



Thought for the month

You may, or may not know that 20-26th February is 'National Chip Week', when we are encouraged to celebrate one of our national dishes. Apparently the first chippies opened in the 1860's, both in Oldham, Lancashire.

Although it was probably the Belgians who first came up with the idea of frying potatoes in 1680 when they cut potatoes into the shape of fish in the winter when fishing was not possible.

One problem that arises, other than the fact that there seems to be a day or week for anything and everything!, is what to do on Tuesday 21st February. This is Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day.

Is it alright to have chips as well as pancakes?

Shrove Tuesday - also known as Mardi Gras - marks the start of Lent. Lent is the penitential season leading up to Easter. Pancakes are traditionally eaten as they would use up eggs and fat - things which would be not be eaten in Lent.

People did, and often still do, give things up in Lent. This is a way of preparing for the celebration of Easter. It may be chocolate, or alcohol, or Facebook. And giving these things up may be helpful to enable us to focus on other, possibly more important, things. Yes, I believe there are more important things even than chocolate!

But this year, may I suggest that we try something different. Let's take something up for Lent instead.

Jesus told his followers to love God, and also to love their neighbour as they love themselves. There are two parts to the second commandment, which I think are vital for everyone, - love others and love yourselves. We often forget that second part about loving ourselves. There are lots of things that we could do which will make us (and others as well) feel better. Here are just a few suggestions, but have fun finding your own.

Read that book that you have always meant to.

Volunteer for a local charity or good cause.

Go for a walk each day. Do an act of random kindness every day

Write a letter to a friend you haven't seen in a while. Be creative - draw, paint, write a poem Spend time with yourself (and God)

And, if you want to - have chips and pancakes!

Ian Stobart

Haselbury Plucknett Chairs Chat

As there was no Village News in January, a little late, but Happy New Year.

Some of you will have read on Facebook the success that the Parish Council highways team have had with the installation of a new gully at the end of Puddletown. Hopefully this will help solve the flooding of this area we have seen in the past. Our thanks also go to the Somerset County highways team for their support.

On the subject of highways, many of you will see that there is an ever increasing number of potholes on the roads in the village – we need your help please. On the Somerset.gov.uk website there is a page for reporting a pothole. It is very easy to use, it brings up a map which you expand, mark the location of the pothole – (if you can add a photo even better), and it really is that simple.

Also, it has been reported that the dog bin at the entrance to the play park has not been emptied – this has been reported, and we will continue to monitor the situation. If the bin is full, either please use the dog bin on the other entrance to the park, or please find another bin on your way home. Just leaving it the floor under the bin is not acceptable.

Walking around the village you can't help but notice the litter – I will be arranging a village spring clean in April – if you can spare the time, all the equipment is provided, and your help would be appreciated – I will let you know the date next month.

I am looking forward to seeing the rewards of the various teams that have planted spring bulbs in the community orchard, the churchyard, the wildflower area in the playpark, the flower troughs around the village and people's front gardens.

Thanks and regards

Hugh

Community Orchard update – February 2025

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Wassail in the orchard on 18th January. We had a record turnout – there was great singing led by Martin Palfrey and Julian Brookes and a wonderful bonfire that many had contributed to. It was lovely to have so many children coming forward to dip toast in the cider and place it in the apple trees.

A group of around fifty people then enjoyed a Wassail Supper in North Perrott Village Hall – again many thanks to everyone who helped with the cooking, entertainment and clearing up.

We made £400 for the orchard and £100 for North Perrott Village Hall. All the money raised by the orchard ultimately goes back to the church in Haselbury via our annual donation for the field – last year we were able to give £700 so there's only another £300 to raise this year to match that!

Our next maintenance morning is on Saturday 8th February, 10:30-12:30 – all ages (including children accompanied by parents) are very welcome to come along. We will be clearing around the bases of trees and orchard boundaries. Please bring your own tools.

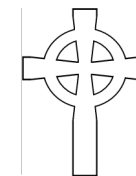
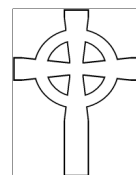
For any more information about getting involved in the orchard, or about community orchard cider, please get in touch.

Matthew Bryant (bryant.haselbury@gmail.com or tel, 73454)

Welcome to Haselbury Plucknett

For many years St Michael and All Angels Church have produced a Welcome Booklet for new Residents in Haselbury Plucknett. If you have recently moved into the village or know of anyone who has and would like a copy, please contact Margaret Rendall, [51 New Close, 01460 73949].

I've just seen a sign in the post office that said "Stamps sold by the book".
It's good to know that someone follows the rules



Village Church Services for February 2025

Date	Haselbury Plucknett St Michael's and All Angels	North Perrott St Martin's
Sunday 2nd February Presentation of Christ	10.30am Holy Communion CW	9.00am Holy Communion CW
Sunday 9th February 4 th Sunday before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion BCP	
Sunday 16th February 3 rd Sunday before Lent	10.30am Family Service	9.00am Holy Communion BCP
Sunday 23rd February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion CW	

Contacts:

Churchwardens

Haselbury Plucknett: Jim Farrant (76233) jim.farrant@btopenworld.com

Julian Brookes (279603) jbrooks967@gmail.com

North Perrott: Alison Stevens (76214)

Local Minister

Ian Stobart

ian.hpn@gmail.com

The Electoral Roll of Parish Churches

An important part of the 'Church Representation Rules' is that residents in each Parish, who are 16 years of age or older, baptized, and members of the Church of England, are able to have their names entered on the Church Electoral Roll, so that their views and their voices can be heard at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

Names can be added to the Roll in time for the APCM every year, but every six years, the Roll is completely renewed so that all Parishioners can make the positive affirmation that they wish their name to remain or to be entered on the Roll.

Our two Parishes of St Michael and All Angels in Haselbury Plucknett and St Martins in North Perrott will be renewing their respective Church Electoral Rolls this year, 2025. The dates for notification, application, completion and publication of the Roll have to follow a prescribed timetable in order that the work is completed in good time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Further details will be published in the March edition of the Village News, but in the meantime, if you would like your name to be included on the new Roll in 2025, please contact the Churchwardens in your Parish who can then ensure that the Parochial Roll Officer provides you with the relevant application form at the appropriate time.

The Churchwardens.

I asked my wife why there was music coming from the bag of potatoes. She said not to worry it was just the Maris Pipers



Classified Ads:

Mountfield electric garden shredder, hardly used - £45
Phone 01460-73540

Established/rooted Raspberry Canes available. Please contact Margaret Rendall, [51 New Close, 01460 73949]. Donations towards the church roof fund would be appreciated.

Teak appearance glass fronted cabinet with pull-down flap and storage drawers. Free to a good home. [76233]

3-sided, [quarter octagon], corner cabinet. Teak veneered lower storage cupboard with internal shelf and glass sided upper display section. Excellent condition. A donation to a Charity of your choice would be appreciated. [76233]

If you are a resident of Haselbury Plucknett or North Perrott and would like to place a classified ad in next months Village News, please email it to vneditor2@gmail.com. A maximum of 2 lines of script, no names or addresses, just contact details. Entries must be received by the 20th of the month to be entered in the following months village news

Speedwatch Haselbury Plucknett

Speed Watch is conducted in a 20mph area. Speed watch Stats for December 2024:

Number of watches – 9, Vehicles monitored – 962,

Speeders Reported – 63, Highest speeder – 40,

Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 6.5%.

A History of Glenfield Farm, Puddletown Part 5.

Farmhand Alfred Champion's prime responsibility was to look after the hens. The poultry house had 2 banks of 3 tiers of cages with a hen to each quite large cage. It was made of wood and wire netting resembling something that might have been created by Heath Robinson. An overhead rail ran along both sides of each bank of cages. Suspended from the rail were 3 food troughs and 3 water troughs, one for each level. This contraption moved very slowly past the hens allowing them to feed and drink. The whole thing was powered by a small electric motor, a bewildering arrangement of bicycle wheel sprockets and an impossibly long bicycle chain. As the hens floor sloped slightly, eggs rolled out of the cage into a shallow gutter.

Alfred collected the eggs every afternoon, refilled the feeders and repaired the broken bicycle chain! If the mains power supply failed, a single cylinder Petter engine took over the task of the small electric motor, thus keeping the hens fed. This rich smelling manure found its way to the end of each bank of cages via scrapers which ran beneath the cage floors and were connected to the moving feeders. Alfred shovelled this into a wheelbarrow, pushed it up a scaffolding board ramp and tipped it into a trailer which had wheels from a war time glider! The contents were used by North Perrott fruit farm.

Alfred's connection with the village was that he lived in the Old Bakery at the bottom of Swan Hill. I believe he worked for the baker and then married his daughter! So he and his wife ended up living there after the bakery had closed down. Can a local historian add more to this story?

Roger White

Just got back from the shop and told the wife I couldn't find any cheese called "Blindfold a horse."
She said: "You idiot! It's mascarpone."



Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council

Summary of meeting on 13th of January 2025

Present: Cllrs H Williams (Chair), W Hunt (Vice-Chair), J Farrant, M Rendall, L Deer, M Wroe, R Bourne, A Scott, M Bryant, S Cllr M Hewittson and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk) Members of the Public: One. H. Williams opened the meeting and offered our deepest condolences to the family of Chris Simmonds, who sadly passed away. Chris served as Chair to the PC for five years (2017–2022) with many more years as a Councillor and Vice-Chair, prior to that. A minute's silence was held in his honour.

Open Session: J Hall of North Perrott PC came to share concerns regarding structural damage being caused to houses along the A3066 by HGV's. She is pursuing the idea of obtaining a restrictive weight limit to alleviate this issue. There are particular concerns regarding the corner as you leave NP at the far end of the village. This would not stop HGVs with business along the route, but it should stop other HGVs using the route. This will be put on our February agenda.

1. Apologies for absence: S. CLLR. O Patrick

- County Councillors Report o The budget consultation for Somerset Council is live. Anyone can access this, and comment if they wish, on the council website. o LCN: No updates. The next meeting is on the 30th of January. o Items for escalation to our District/County Councillors: Request for a copy of the flood report regarding Brook Farmhouse
- Planning o No applications or decisions.
- Roads and Highways: o The new gully system near Fairview House Puddletown has been installed.
- Footpath Working Group Update: o The fallen tree at footpath Y11/42 is still blocked by a horse box.
- The Park o No issues highlighted.
- Village Matters o We are waiting for a proposal to replace the ranger service to help with general maintenance in the village.
- Matters to report: o None

The next meeting is on the 10th of February in the Beaumont Room in the Church at 7.00pm – all are welcome.

Bi-monthly meeting of North Perrott Parish Council

At the time of Publication, the Minutes of the January 7th meeting were not available online

The next meeting will be on the 4th March 2025 at 7:30 pm in
The Hoskyns Memorial Hall
All are welcome to attend

Haselbury Village Fayre Update

As previously announced, this years Fayre will be on the 7th June 2025, instead of in May. With the VE Day Commemoration on the 8th May 2025, we felt it would be best to move this event to prevent clashes, and hopefully to get better weather.

We had a Public meeting in January, thank you to those who braved the bad weather to attend. We now have a new Committee member but we do need more volunteers to help organise and run the Fayre every year. If you would like to join the Committee, we are holding a meeting on February 19th at 7pm. Please email hpmayfayre@gmail.com or call us on 01460 391816. Another Public meeting will be arranged for April. Events like this can only be run if we have enough willing volunteers to help set up, run stalls and close down, so, to keep community events going, I hope we can get enough wonderful people to help.

Ian Stewart

Camp Kenya Update

Hello and Happy New Year to you all!

Thanks to everyone that came to the Christmas pub quiz at The White Horse on 15th December and especially to Rebecca and Richard for hosting, to Andy Smith for being a super Quizmaster and of course Paul Lewis for writing the quiz, a task that can't be under-estimated! The proceeds raised on the night were split between my fundraising for Kenya and Haselbury Plucknett Primary School, with each of us receiving £260, which is fabulous!

Thanks to those of you who bought Rudolph Hot Chocolates too.

With your help, I have now reached my fundraising target, which is fantastic news, thank you for all your support in 2024 - I can focus on GCSE revision and vaccinations now! I will still have some availability for babysitting so please message me on 07983 687906 if you need a babysitter and I would love to help if I can.

Best wishes,
Millie Webster

Haselbury Wildlife and Habitats Group

2025. A quarter of this century has gone and our wildlife is suffering more as the years go by and those in power do little about it. That's why groups like ours are important. We know we can only do a little but every little helps and the more groups there are, the better. Of course there are the bigger groups - the Wildlife Trusts for each county, Somerset Rewilding and Team Wilder. Larger still are Greenpeace and CPRE. There are so many more but we all join together to do what we can to help our endangered animals and plants. We are not 'do gooders' - we do what we do because we feel passionately about it and want to help.

Our group has been busy over the last couple of months. At the beginning of December we pollarded the willows at Rebecca's Well and have created a habitat with the risings. None of us fell in but it was very close at times! We also cleared some of the excess weed and grass in the Small Brook on Claycastle (when two of us did get very wet!). We will have another couple of sessions before the end of February when the water voles will become active. At the moment, the Brook is running well and we'd like it to stay that way. Quite a lot of damage has been done to the roadside of the brook. Heavy farm vehicles and tankers have been abusing the road and some of the damage is not repairable as the council has no money. Two water shrews were seen in the Brook recently. I saw one last year and wrote about it in the Village News so I'm really pleased that these extraordinary creatures are still using it.

The bulbs that we planted in the Play Park are coming up and we're hoping to see flowers soon. Unfortunately, we have noticed motor bike tyre treads throughout the wildflower area which, of course, is not helpful. We are hoping to be able to plant some silver birch and rowans and have asked the Parish Council to consider it.

The trees along Claycastle Lane are all doing well and it is hoped that by next year they will not need much attention.

Chris Simmonds was a great supporter of our group and it was with much sadness that we learned of his death. He did so much for the village and will be sorely missed. We send our love to Mikki and family.

Alison

North Perrott Parish Council

North Perrott Parish Council - Website www.northperrott.org
Cllr Jonathan Hoskyns (Chairman) jonathan@parrettbrand.co.uk
Cllr Thomas Winder (Vice Chair) tomfwinder@gmail.com
Cllr Jason Bradley jbradley1000@hotmail.com
Cllr Judith Hall g-je.hall@tiscali.co.uk
Cllr Bridget Reader bridget.villar@gmail.com
Lucy Gibbons (Clerk) northppc@gmail.com

North Perrott Parish Council meets bi-monthly on the first Tuesday in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept and November at 7.30pm in the Hoskyns Memorial Hall. Agendas and minutes are published on the website and village notice board.

I can't believe how cold it is in Iceland, next time I'm going to Tesco



Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council

Chair: Councillor Hugh Williams	williahc@hotmail.com
Vice Chair: Councillor William Hunt	wdghunt@gmail.com
Councillor Matthew Bryant	bryant.haselbury@gmail.com
Councillor Lucy Dear	Lucyloo1989@icloud.com
Councillor Mike Wroe	mwroe2304@gmail.com
Councillor Richard Bourne	rasm.bourne@hotmail.com
Councillor Margaret Rendall	
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North Perrott Village Hall—Chairmans Report

The Village Hall has been busy over the past 2 months starting with the Festive Supper in December. Big thanks to Belinda and committee members for producing a four course meal for more than 50 people which was after the hall had been without power for a large part of the day. The hall decorations looked brilliant too.

We then had Carols on the Green during good weather and about 50 people came to that. There was robust carol singing plus readings and poems. Thank you to Alan for leading the singing and everyone who helped with the mulled wine and mince pies.

Despite the poor forecast, the New Year's Day walk set off from the Village Green at 10am with 17 people and 4 dogs. A few hangovers were blown away on the walk to Haselbury Park where welcome refreshments were taken, thanks to Sarah. The second part of the walk was via Romsey Farm and Wood Dairy before 17 people and 6 dogs returned to North Perrott (not necessarily the same people and dogs). Thanks to Liz and Debbie there were snacks and drinks at the Manor Arms for the survivors. The full walk took us through 3 parishes.

Things coming up in the near future include the party to celebrate 100 years of the Village Hall and a concert by the Wareham Whalers to raise money for Lifeboats. For full details of these events see the Hoskyns Memorial Hall Future Events page.

Pip Oxenbury
Chairman, Village Hall Committee

New Arrivals - North Perrott

**If you are a new resident in North Perrott you might like a copy of the
Parish Council's Village Welcome Pack.**

**Let us know by emailing: northperrottville@gmail.com or ring/text
Helena Sturridge on 07802 964949**



North Perrott Cricket Club

A belated Happy New Year to all cricket supporters! It's tempting to think that the Club and cricket in general in the northern hemisphere is moth-balled at this time of year but how wrong can you be? Senior indoor training has begun in the Sports Hall at Perrott Hill and takes place each week from 7.30-9.00pm on Thursday evenings. The training is open to all players looking to blow off the cobwebs and play for the Club this season.

Not be outdone, the skittlers will be hard at it from next month. Our Spring skittle league starts at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings in the Clubhouse and players and their supporters are welcome to play or spectate whilst enjoying the hospitality of our well-stocked bar. Teams of four play three games per night – please contact the Club website at www.npcc.co.uk for further information.

January's legends

A new year and new trio of Somerset legends for you to unpick! Can you unravel the three anagrams below to reveal: A, A fast-medium South African-born bowler who qualified as a domestic cricketer through his mother's passport. He came to Taunton as a Division 2 winner from Derbyshire and often bowled the hard yards in a stint which stretched from 2015-2019. B, A hard hitting left hander who arrived at the County Ground from Oxford University and the Minor Counties. Awarded his cap in 1997 after averaging 45, he sustained a career ending knee injury which put paid to a promising career. C, A hefty and at times irascible left arm orthodox spinner and boundary hitter who came to the West Country from Derbyshire in 2000. His all-round talents earned him 34 ODI caps between 2002-2006 and one solitary Test cap. Retiring in 2013 he now earns his keep as a First-Class umpire; a true poacher turned gamekeeper! Happy puzzling - answers follow in February's edition.

RLDEGWGAOE

EOECETCSNL

ELBKWLCAL

Will Silk

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DIARY OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

WEDNESDAY 12th February– FUN CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT 8pm-

Teams of 4- £2.50 per person-

winning team chooses charity for donation

Please come along and join us even if you haven't got a team.

FRIDAY 14th February VALENTINES EVENING

8oz RUMP STEAK with all the trimmings £17.50pp

(vegetarian option available)

Selection of desserts or cheese board - £6.50

Regular event – 2nd Thursday monthly ACOUSTIC MUSIC
from 8pm Play, sing or watch – bring your own instruments

NORTH PERROTT & HASELBURY PLUCKNETT GARDEN CLUB

At our January meeting, we had a very interesting and informative talk on gardens and farming in paintings through the ages by well-known artists.

Our NEXT MEETING will be held on TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2025 at North Perrott Village Hall. Middle Street, North Perrott.

Our speaker for the evening will be Sally Morgan, ‘A climate friendly garden’.

Raffle will take place at the end of the evening,

New members are very welcome. Membership £12:00 per annum. Guests £2.50 (which will be refunded if you choose to join the club).

All meetings are held on 3rd Tuesday of the month except December which will be the 2nd Tuesday in December.

The hall is opened at 7pm for 7:30pm start.

If Interested please contact :-

Ian Benfield. Chairman 01460 929027

Barbara.Spence. Treasurer 460 73847

Gail Case. Speakers 07480 531598

Christine Bentley. Secretary 07788 316984

Frances Gearing. Committee Member 07810 340324

Weather Notes

December 2024

Max temp of 10.5c, 1.2c above 20-year average.

Min temp of 5.5c, 2.3c above normal.

Drier month than normal, only 46mm, compared with normal of 106mm.

Dull month, only 50 sun hours.

John Kellaway



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