

Kingston Seymour Village Magazine



Issue 226 October-November 2026



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The sign on the triangle has returned and is now complete again. Thank you Steve and the Parish Council for organising this. The next couple of months in Kingston looks to be busy what with the Harvest Flower Festival Weekend in aid of the church roof, the Halloween Party and a Murder Mystery Evening organised by the Friends of All Saints. There will be the usual Tuesday Coffee Mornings, Toddlers, the occasional Friday Pop Up Pub and the monthly Saturday Village Market. I just want to say a big thank you to everyone involved in all these activities, who work so hard to keep Kingston Seymour such a great and unique place to live

Sylvia Stokes ksmagazine@outlook.com 01934 834461

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Kingston Seymour Big Breakfast

Back in May the Village organised a Big Breakfast in the Hall, which was very well attended and enjoyed. The donations given were intended for Charities the village wished to support.

On behalf of myself and Ian and myself we would like to thank all those who prepared and served the amazing breakfast. We give special thanks to Anita Simmons who organised the event.

Thank you to all those who kindly donated and part of the proceeds went to the Haematology Department at Weston Hospital. The funds were handed to the Macmillian Trust office at the hospital, where we received grateful thanks and an assurance that the money would go directly to the Haematology Department.

Thank you for your thoughts.

Sue Smith and Ian Ford.

This article should have appeared in the last Magazine Issue but was carelessly lost by the Editor! I am really sorry about this. I have a copy of the receipt which I am afraid I haven't been able to fit in the magazine.

All Saints Churchyard



After all the summer 'off duty' due to the hot weather and the amazingly swift tidy by the Young Farmers it was time to get back to work! We met on 26th September and our final tidy will be:

Saturday November 21st 10 – 12.30

Just come along to the churchyard, maybe just for an hour, you will be most welcome and remember every little helps.

Anthony and Margaret Hawks



Historical Society

Autumn Programme 2026

Membership £10.00, Visitors £3.00

Junior Visitors £1.50

(This price includes light refreshments)

Tuesday October 20th

"The Mystery of the Banjo "

Speakers and Performers: Steve Price and Pete Dunn

Come along and enjoy an evening with Steve and Pete who will unravel the mysterious world of the Banjo.

Steve and Pete play Americano music inter-woven with some hilarious stories of their many years performing as a duo. They also perform some original songs which take a wry look at life.

Tuesday November 24th

"Further Adventures from the Farm"

Speaker: Sarah Harris

Sarah will be amusing us again, this time with a follow up talk about how they arrived at Kingston Seymour and set up a small holding.

No Meeting in December

For details contact Jane Bell on 01934 877322 and Anne Perrott on 01934 833888.

**All meetings take place at The Owl in the Oak Café,
Mendip View Farm, Yeo Bank Lane, BS21 6XH- 7.30 for 7.45pm**

Meet Molly the Mobile Library

Hello from Ana,
The Mobile Relief Driver!

I drive the mobile when Linda, our full-time driver, is away. You may have seen me covering in the spring/early summer gap between Richard's retirement and Linda joining the team. I am happy to report that Richard has been living life to the fullest, tearing up France on a motorbike he dubs "the silver beast."

As you may be aware from previous editions of the newsletter, the Kingston Seymour stop is on **fortnightly Tuesday mornings at 11.40-12.40**. You will find the exact dates of our visits on page 16.

In this edition, I thought I'd list some of the useful things you can do aboard Molly the Mobile. Enjoy!

Did you know? You can use the mobile library as you would any other library if you're already a member of one in North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Dorset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Got books from a trip to Clevedon Library? No problem, return them on the mobile!

Did you know? If you're not a library member, you can join on the mobile and take away books the same day. Just bring some ID along.

Did you know? If the mobile is set as your home library branch (you can check with us when you visit), you won't get any late fees.

Did you know? Not only can you browse our books, but you can get titles reserved and sent to the mobile for you to pick up.

Did you know? We have an app that makes things even easier. The LibrariesWest app allows you to order books to the mobile, renew your books, and browse the full catalogue – all from your phone.

That rounds out my top facts about Molly the Mobile for today! If you have any questions about the mobile service, please don't hesitate to email us at North.MobileLibrary@n-somerset.gov.uk – otherwise, we look forward to seeing you soon!







The Living Orchard

It's 1926. In the village of Kingston Seymour the men have come home from the Great War; labour for the farms - they and the remaining horses. The first tractor is yet to arrive from America. It is a village at sea level, the land a heavy clay. Pasture land. Grass for cattle and sheep. There are some 25 farms, mostly reliant on hand-milked dairy cows. There is no mains electricity, so the unrefrigerated milk goes directly to Clevedon to the north or Weston-super-Mare on the Light Railway to the south, with the surplus converted on-farm to butter and cheese. There is also no mains water supply, and the wells are of variable potability. What to quench the manual farm workers' thirst? - well cider of course. Every farm and many a smallholding had its orchard, mostly cider fruit, and with some dessert apples, pears and walnuts. The bigger farms had their own cellars and cider presses, and cider was still part of the workers' weekly wage. No pub in the village mark you, but Middle Lane Farm still has a certain notoriety as an erstwhile "cider den"!

Fast forward a century. In the "new" village hall in Kingston Seymour (still only with 440 souls) there is an evening meeting of some hundred or so, many from out of the village. A lively gathering, with cheese and cider freely taken. It is organised by The *Living Orchard* to launch *100 Orchards*, and hosted by Alex Gingell, grandson of Stuart Allcott.

Apple trees have a finite life of approximately 100 years. Those orchards on the old Ordnance Survey maps are now but an isolated remnant tree in the back garden of the new houses in the centre of the village. Many of the outlying farms were even grant-aided to grub them up in the 1960s. One was actually planted anew by Stuart Allcott, when the Long Ashton Research Station was a thriving concern; it covers some 14 acres off Back Lane, and was revered at today's meeting as *Allcott's Orchard*.

Around 40 folk gathered at the orchard in the early evening, and all were invited to partake in a glass or two of the 2025 vintage in readiness for the amble around the vast collection of cider apple trees. Alex, gave an introduction to the establishment of the orchard, and local cider maker, Ben Crossman, who in recent years has harvested the crop, identified the tree varieties, their history and the contribution that the fruit makes to the blends of cider. He explained how the bee hives in the orchard make a valuable contribution as they provide cross-pollination. The Orchard

has been transformed over the past year with brambles, nettles, neglected trees, tangled canopies, deadwood and dense overgrowth, being cleared by a team of enthusiastic volunteers. To ensure that the abundance of wildlife remains in the orchard, a large area remains untouched and continues to provide shelter and food for birds, insects, small mammals, and fungi. [A clearing in the orchard back in 2018, provided the perfect venue for Alex's own wedding!]

The applause that followed Les Davies' talk in the hall following the orchard visit and refreshments was testament enough to his knowledge and enthusiasm and a spirited question-and-answer session ensued.

100 Orchards is very much a nascent North Somerset venture and we wish it well. There are others of a kind around the country, all to promote the fruit, the nature of an orchard and our own well being.

Anita Simmons and John Harris



Kingston Seymour Flower Guild

Summer has come to an end and the flower guild now looks toward the autumn and Christmas!! Some dates for your diary-

2-4th October Harvest Festival- Our land Our story

All Saints church will be filled with amazing arrangements showing different aspects of harvest from the land and sea. The church will be open 2nd-4th Oct and lots of other exciting activities are planned.

1st Nov

Come along and help us decorate the Church for our Patronal services and then Remembrance. Details to follow.

27th Nov 7.30 pm in All Saints Church

Our Christmas Wreath making workshop

Just £25pp with all the greenery provided just bring secateurs Festive drinks and nibbles to get us in the festive spirit

More details on our Facebook page to follow.

Week beginning 14th December

Help us decorate the church for Christmas. All welcome. Again more details to come!!

Imogen Rogers



Village Show Winning Entries



A Limerick- class description - Potholes

A cyclist called Willy from Wrington
 Thought he could ride over to Kingston
 Avoiding potholes that wreck
 Made it such along trek
 He finished with burst tyres in Yatton.

Roger Gazzard

A Poem – Class description – Happiness

The curtain rain ripples with the wind,
 And golden sunshine casts it's magic glint,
 Arching rainbow, golden pot,
'I have found the treasure spot!'

'Ya', lost something?' A lilting voice enquires,
 'You're a wee bit wet, come sit by my camp fire.'
*'I know it's here, I seek the gold,
 To give me joy and wealth untold.'*

'Sure now, what's this talk of wishes and wants,
 Hold on to this pot, I'll share my response.'
 He nods, "M'dear, take a wee peek,
 I think you've found the gold you seek.'

The vessel revealed brilliant colours and hues,
 Whilst, in the depths, impressions diffused.
 Images swirled whirling around,
 Floating by like a merry go round.

All thoughts drifted off, like dandelion clocks,
 Her mind tried to grasp the dreams now unblocked,
 All cravings for money dissolved,
 As her 'Then and Now' revolved.

*'I see mum, laughing, dad, holding my hand,'
 Friends unfurl before her as moments expand,
 The children tumble, giggling,
 Her life and memories twinkling.*

*'So, This is my gold. YES, I'll hold it dear.
 My life is my riches, you've made it all clear'.
 'That's grand so it is, you found *all* you sought,
 True *happiness* and joy can never be bought.'*

*'To be sure, if you're seeking a fortune or two,
 The treasure you seek is already in you.'
 A tip of his hat, a bob of his head,
 Without further words, the wee fella fled.*

Val Hurley

100 word story – Class Description - My First Day

Annie stops the car. "Where are we?" I ask.

A woman in a blue dress says "Hello Betty. I'm Sobeya. I'm looking after you today."

"That's alright", I say, "I have my daughter here with me."

"Mum this is your new home."

"Is it?" I say. I feel scared, lost, stupid.

"Don't you remember?" Annie says, "Where you can be looked after."

The woman smiles, unlocks a door and we walk along a corridor smelling faintly of cabbage and something unpleasant. Urine.

"Here's your room Betty" says the woman whose name I've forgotten.

"Mum, I'll fetch your things!" Annie waves.

Jane Lumkin

Congratulations to the three of you and to everyone who entered.

Could you do better? Why not think about it for next year.

Church Notes



The Harvest Weekend celebration is just two weeks away at the time of preparing these notes. The church flowers group and friends are planning their final touches to the arrangement placements, various demonstrations over the long weekend are in the diary as is a variety of music within the church. Straw and old clothes are ready to be transformed into scarecrows and don't forget the decorated wheelbarrows. Our village church will be open for all this on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd October 10am-4pm and on Sunday 2-4pm. Refreshments will be available throughout with Lunch and a Pint of on the Friday and Saturday.

And, as well as all this, Friday is to be a Family Pub Night from 6pm with Skittles, a Village History display and Bring and Share Supper at 7pm. Saturday is Concert Night in the church 7pm, young performers and the more experienced, fun and more serious items... don't miss it.

The aim is to help raise money for the final payments on the roof fund, but whatever that turns out to be, its true value will be in getting us together and maybe, meeting someone we haven't had the chance to speak with before - a village gathering and celebration.

There have been some amazingly generous donations already contributed from village businesses and individuals, several are completely anonymous, but you will know who you are - thank you so much for every one.

Sunday 4th 11am is our Family Harvest Festival Service and an opportunity to think away from our own needs with a Food Bank gift or donation for Ripple Effect, supporting African farmers.

All our summer reports and inspections have come back with just one item (to do with the electrical check) that can easily be corrected, good news! Simon is ready to start on the church gates imminently, Anthony is doing a great job on sanding and repainting the outside church doors. The churchyard looks good and, as always, we are so grateful and fortunate in having a group of people who each do their own 'bit' to make everything work.

The final Cream Tea figure for the General Fund is £2215, a fantastic amount. Thank you Margaret and Di for heading up these afternoons again throughout the summer and to absolutely everyone who helped in any way at all.

Finally to everyone who is going through a difficult time - grief and loss, health worries, anxiety, financial worries, life changes or just feeling the weight of the world on your shoulders, be assured of a quiet and safe space inside that ancient building. Even if any kind of faith isn't part of you, you are quite likely to experience some kind of peace and a calmness within those walls. Try it.

Judy Seward and Sue Thomas



New Church Treasurer Needed

Are you an accountant or have financial skills? Maybe recently retired and have 3-4 hours a month to spare. Then this volunteer role could be for you. Yatton Moor Parish consisting of 3 churches and a Pre-School, needs a new treasurer to oversee a small financial team - (book-keeper, planned giving officer, pre-school administrator), monthly reconciliations. chair the Finance Committee's 2 meetings per year, prepare accounts, oversee the pay-roll and other ad hoc tasks.

If you are interested in the role, or know of anyone who might be, and would like a full job description, or would like to speak to the current Treasurer, please contact Karen on: yattonmoortreasurer@gmail.com Or speak with Judy Seward or Sue Thomas initially if you would prefer.



Yatton Local History Society

Tuesday October 6th

A talk by Clive Burlton on History Writing

7 30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW. Contact

Tuesday November 3rd

talk by Tony Lewis on Environmental Health through the ages

7 30pm Yatton Methodist Church BS49 4DW.

Contact yattonlocalhistorysoc@gmail.com

Our Land, Our Story

*A Festival for Harvest in flowers and displays,
celebrating the land that sustains us*

**Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th October
in Church and around the centre of the Village**

Friday and Saturday: Church open 10am - 4pm
Coffee, cake, tea, scones and lunch with a pint.

Sunday: Church open 2pm - 4pm
Coffee, cake, tea and scones

Decorated Wheelbarrows in the churchyard
Scarecrow Trail from the Church

Demonstrations at various times:

Orchards

Bees

Spinning and Weaving

Wood craft

Felting

Music and Musicians:

Hand Bells

Piano

Organ

Bon Accord

Visiting Ringers

Friday 6pm

Family Pub Night at the Village Hall

Skittles

Games

Bring and Share Supper for 7pm

Village History Display

Saturday 7pm - Concert in Church

'Our Land, Our Story in Music and Verse'

From young performers to the more experienced and fun items to the more serious - something for everyone. Concert will be about an hour, then drinks and refreshments and a time to chat.

No ticket required, Donation Boxes available instead.

Sunday 11am Family Harvest Festival Service

All Together in Church

A service of about 45 minutes
not just to be thankful for all we have,
but an opportunity to support
a worldwide need and the
local Food Bank with a tin or
packet for the collection box.

Everything raised from the weekend is towards the final payment for the Porch Roof

Thank you for the wonderful donations received already.



Kingston Seymour Parish Council

On the Triangle I hope you like the new look of the fingerpost on the Triangle! This month's "*Cover Star*".

It was expertly refurbished by a firm called *Somerset Forge* who did everything they said they were going to do when they said they would do it. Great to experience this, for a very competitive price.

Before the parish council commissioned the work, I had referred to the "*Somerset Fingerpost Group*" on Facebook, a group of 4,000 aficionados who love to see these elements of Somerset's heritage maintained. Since I've posted the "after" photo, we have had nothing but praise for the result, together with hundreds of "likes".

Sharing the area inside the railings at the Triangle is our War Memorial. You may be aware that this is a Grade II listed structure and is listed on the Imperial War Museum's records. A charity called the War Memorials Trust (WMT) also has our memorial listed and provides us with advice about its care and the Parish Council takes its responsibility for care of the memorial very seriously. The WMT have reviewed its current condition and consider it is currently in very good condition for its age (the central stone is believed to date from the 15th century) and we will maintain a careful watch on it over the winter months.

The Parish Council met on the 21st of September and discussed the following matters.

Roads. Not long after the New Cut Bow barricades were installed, they were ruined once again and now, they've been replaced once more. We are now monitoring how the barriers fair and if there is further damage whether they are better removed and some form of sprung poles installed so the edge is clearly marked but not readily damaged by traffic.

There have been some improvements to the road surfaces in our area, but we will be talking to NSC about the declining state of Back Lane which, as you know, carries some heavy traffic from the treatment works.

Councillors also discussed the large volume of road works all over the surrounding area and how difficult it is to get around at certain times. Not only are these works created to repair potholes, but utility companies also have the right to access their services, grants for bus service improvements need to be spent and National Highways are doing a lot of

work on the M5! We will continue to push NSC to co-ordinate all this work effectively so that we can all access the services we need.

Village Facilities & Footpaths. Replacement of the bus shelter is still in plan but the extremely hot weather we experienced until recently caused the “summer” plan to be delayed.

We have lodged a report to NSC about an issue on one of our footpaths and we also intend to fix the bridge behind the village hall. NSC have 532 miles of public rights of way for which they are responsible but a very small amount of funding to do this with so, as a parish council we do make repairs where we can to help maintain access around the village.

NSC is also responsible for building the Coastal Path using funding given to them by Natural England. Despite having been authorised by Government in May 2024, NSC have only just been given some funding to employ a consultant to specify the infrastructure (fences, gates etc.) that will be needed, we do not expect this to happen quickly and will continue to monitor the whole coastal footpath situation.

Police Report. Our Police team regularly update their own Avon & Somerset Constabulary website and that is open to view should you wish to do so. In July, there was one reported crime in our village. Locally, I'd like to thank Kate Gillam and her network of “*Neighbourhood Watchers*” for keeping a close eye on our patch.

Finance. We currently have £12.9k (we now have all the annual precept income) in general funds and £7.2K saved for specialist work on the War Memorial in the future. We are financially secure and can deliver our plans until the end of the financial year in March 2027.

District and Parish Elections in May 2027. You are probably aware that elections for our District councillors (we have two and the area covers us, Kenn, Yatton and Claverham) will take place in May next year and NSC are offering two information sessions should you be interested. Please see our website for details.

Locally, there will also be Parish Council elections in May. There are seven “seats” on your parish council and, if you are interested in standing and serving your community, please talk to me or to one of your current councillors for more information and perspectives.

As always, you are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council and the agendas and minutes of all the Council's meetings together with other community news and information are carried on our website kingstonseymourparish.gov.uk . Please contact one of your Councillors or me if you have any comments, questions or would like more information about anything relating to the village or council business.

Steve Dixon, Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@kingstonseymourparish.gov.uk Phone: 07902 798162

Website: <https://kingstonseymourparish.gov.uk>



The Mobile Library

This is such a valuable asset as you will have read in Ana's article Please try and support it if you can.

Visits **Kingston Seymour** fortnightly on **Tuesdays**:

2026 / 2027	Tuesday
August	11, 25
September	8, 22
October	6, 20
November	3, 17
December	1, 15, 29
January	12, 26
February	9, 23
March	9, 23

Stops at:

Kingston Seymour	Village Hall	11:40am – 12:40pm
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Please note that stops and timings may be subject to change during the currency of this timetable.

Trick or Treat



We are soon coming to that time of year again where our children will dress up and hunt for treats in the village. Anyone happy to give sweets on Halloween, please can you make sure you have some sort of decoration (like a pumpkin) near your door so the kids know which homes to approach.

The young children are always accompanied by adults, and we do our best to respect the wishes of those not wanting to take part in the evening.

Elaine Avery



Many in the village will be sad to hear that Elaine Avery passed away on 23rd September. The Avery family moved into the Old Byre in the early 80s. After Bryn's death, Elaine lived there alone until recent years when illness meant a move to St Monica's at Sandford.

Elaine was always an active member of our community. She was very sociable and could always be called on to help with village events always willing to lend a hand.

She was employed in Market Research going around asking people to test all sorts of products. I remember various excess boxes of cereal coming our way.

A very kind person who will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with Fiona and Helen at this sad time.

A few Animals from the Village Show!





Tessa Munt, MP for Kingston Seymour - sends her Apologies

No message this month as she is at the Annual Party Conference

Contact details:

Call: 01934 440639
(answerphone out of office hours)

Email: tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk

Post: Tessa Munt Freepost (you won't need a stamp!)

Website: www.tessamunt.co.uk

If you can't make one of my surgeries, I am happy to come to you.

Also to see my MP work try Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn

Memories of a long hot summer and a Strawberry Tea





Sunday Services at:

St. John's Kenn and All Saints' Kingston Seymour

October 4th

8.30am St John's

Holy Communion

11am All Saints'

All Together in Church celebrating Harvest

October 11th

8.30am All Saints'

Holy Communion

11am St John's

All Together in Church

October 18th

11am All Saints'

Holy Communion

October 25th

11am St John's

Holy Communion

November 1st

8.30am St John's

Holy Communion

11am All Saints'

All Together in Church for the Patronal Service

November 8th

11.45am St John's

Remembrance Service

3pm All Saints'

Act of Remembrance. (Starting at the War Memorial)

November 15th

11am All Saints'

Holy Communion

Every Tuesday and Wednesday 8.15am Team Morning Prayer on Zoom.

MURDER.
ON
GUILLEMOT ISLAND

*Come and join us for an
Interactive Murder Mystery Evening*

*It is the 1920s and you are invited to
a very special celebration.*

*Coming dressed for the era is optional
but encouraged*

Sat 14th November 7 for 7.30pm
£20 per head supper included
Teams of up to 8

Tickets available from:
Trudy Harris 07904 988109
Sue Thomas 0776 674395

The Friends of All Saints
Charity No, 1056781