

# VILLAGE BUZZ



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR VILLAGES NESTLING IN THE NADDER VALLEY

APRIL 2022

BARFORD ST MARTIN, BAVERSTOCK, BURCOMBE, CHICKSGROVE, COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE, DINTON,  
FOVANT, SUTTON ROW, TEFFONT EVIAS, TEFFONT MAGNA, UGFORD

## The Nadder, our river and its water mills

Paul Cordle - Page 8

## Tardigrades

Peter Thompson

- Page 18



Bet you can't spot  
10 Easter bunnies  
throughout the  
magazine?

These two  
don't count.





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*Mophead Mildred*

At long last, those light, warm summer evenings are almost within reach.

If you, dear green-fingered reader, have any gardening questions or need any advice, email me on: [mopheadmildred@village-buzz.co.uk](mailto:mopheadmildred@village-buzz.co.uk) and I will do my best to help you.

THE CLOCKS HAVE CHANGED TO SUMMER TIME and everything seems brighter and more joyful. The garden is an exciting place to be now that plants are popping up on a daily basis and the bare earth is slowly disappearing under fresh green growth. Every year spring is a surprise as I inevitably forget about some of the perennials that I've planted and when they reappear it's wonderful and makes me smile. I always try to tell them they are beautiful and am convinced they stand more proudly afterwards!

If you don't have one, do invest in a skimmia – well two actually as you need a male and female to produce berries. This hardy shrub prefers light or full shade as sun will bleach the leaves. It is evergreen and produces delightful fragrant flowers in spring. *Skimmia* 'White Globe' (male) has greenish buds (see right), white flowers and is a compact variety. *Skimmia japonica* 'Red Riding Hood' (female) has pink buds, white starry flowers followed by red berries.



This is the best bit! Start to choose your colour scheme and container bedding plants ready to buy and then plant up in May. If you are feeling bold, in late April you could even start to plant up hanging baskets (if you have a greenhouse to protect them on chilly nights). Sit each one on top of a large, empty plant pot then fill. It's much easier than trying to control a basket that is rolling around on a table or bench. So we look forward to summer with hope and the gardener's eternal optimism that this year will be warm, sunny and full of exuberant flowers all enjoying their 15 minutes of glory. Remember to find some time to admire them all... — wwwMM

Tulips are still a strong presence in the garden and will continue to flower into June, depending on the variety. Orange tulips would look superb next to lime green euphorbia, both shown below. Late narcissus too, will look good later this month, particularly *n. poeticus* (the poet's daffodil) which will have scented white flowers with orange cups in late spring/early summer. As ever, don't forget to spray your hostas even before their tips show above the ground. The slugs and snails will be very happy if you forget and will munch gaily through the new leaves before you can shout STOP!! It can help too to spray new iris leaves as in my garden they also seem to be fair game for the darling molluscs.



**Plant of the Month: Magnolia**  
A truly stunning shrub or tree depending on the variety you choose, the flowers are breathtaking in their beauty. *Magnolia stellata*, as its name suggests, has delicate starry white blossoms with floppy slim petals and will eventually reach a height of around 3m (10 feet). However, they are all relatively slow-growing so will not eat you out of house and home overnight! *Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Rustica Rubra' has the classic waxy goblet-shaped flowers in mid-pink and can be trained against a wall. It is larger and will reach 6m (20 feet) in maturity.

## County Councillor's Quarterly Report



**It has certainly been a busy start to 2022 at Wiltshire Council and I am continuing to work hard to deliver on my promises from last year's election – tackling speeding and road safety, supporting my communities and residents, and lobbying for more funding for Fovant and the Chalke Valley.**

I'll start this report by expressing my relief that the waste collection strike has come to an end – I know this was an inconvenience for everyone, and I know I'm looking forward to seeing the mountain of recycling that has accumulated in my shed finally being removed. Thank you all for your patience while we worked through this issue with the unions and our contractor.

In more positive news, we were able to secure Wiltshire Council funding for a whole host of projects across my villages. This was the result of a lot of work at my end, and a huge amount of work done by parish councils across the division, and I would like to thank them all for their support.

**We secured funding for new speed indicator devices in Barford St Martin, and Berwick St John, in addition to the three SIDs we funded for Fovant last year, which will go a long way towards improving road safety and tackling speeding through these villages.**

**We secured £5,000 for a new playground in Barford St Martin, helping the village develop lasting assets for the community, and we delivered a further £4,000 for the Chalke Valley Sports Centre to help them expand their offering and grow their membership. I know this money will be well spent.**

**We were also able to provide funding for new pedestrian gates in Sutton Mandeville, footpath improvements in Fovant, and financial support for the Summer Concert in Compton Chamberlayne.**

These are just some examples of how I am working to ensure that my villages receive their fair share of Wiltshire Council funding.

Alongside this, I am developing a creative solution to address speeding and road safety more widely in our area.

I formed the Chalke Valley Speed and Flood Working

Group, bringing together representatives from all 15 of my parishes to help develop a holistic solution for the whole area.

I recently invited our Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Mark McClelland, and John Derryman from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to help us develop these plans, to ensure we make our roads and communities safer.

More broadly, I continue to engage proactively with our major stakeholders, such as the Cranborne Chase AONB, and I was delighted that Wiltshire Council has continued its current funding levels for the AONB, despite budgetary pressures.

I continue to work with communities to ensure that contentious planning applications are addressed openly and transparently, and I worked with the community at Heath Farm Park to help voice their concerns about proposed developments in their area.

In my role as the Council's Portfolio Holder for Arts, Heritage, and Tourism, I continue to promote the importance of our fantastic natural, historic, and cultural assets across the county, making sure they are the heart of our economic regeneration, and the future of our market towns. I have some very exciting plans for our High Streets, and a potentially game-changing programme called What's On In Wiltshire, on which I hope to release more details soon.

I was also delighted to have been given additional responsibility for the Environment within my portfolio, and I will be working with colleagues across the county to encourage and promote sustainability, biodiversity, protection of landscapes and habitats, as well as celebrating everything great we are doing at Wiltshire Council to support the environment.

It has now been almost a year since I was elected as your County Councillor, and the experience has been thoroughly enjoyable, albeit challenging at times. I am committed to delivering on my election promises, and I hope that this update reflects the progress that we have made to date.

As always, if you'd like to get in touch, please feel free to email me on [nabil.najjar@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:nabil.najjar@wiltshire.gov.uk). I look forward to hearing from you.

**Councillor Nabil Najjar**



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## Our river and its watermills

Each of us see the Nadder differently: its eddying water, its banks covered with lush grasses and wild flowers, its overhanging trees and birdlife engage us in different ways. What we might overlook is the wealth-generating power of its water, the driving force of powered machinery for most of the last millennium.

Watermills almost certainly originated in Greece in 1st century BC. The Romans introduced them to Britain and it is possible that some of them survived to Saxon times. It is clear, however, that there were many watermills in England at the time of the Norman conquest. Research undertaken in the late 20th century shows that there had been at least twenty-eight water mill sites on

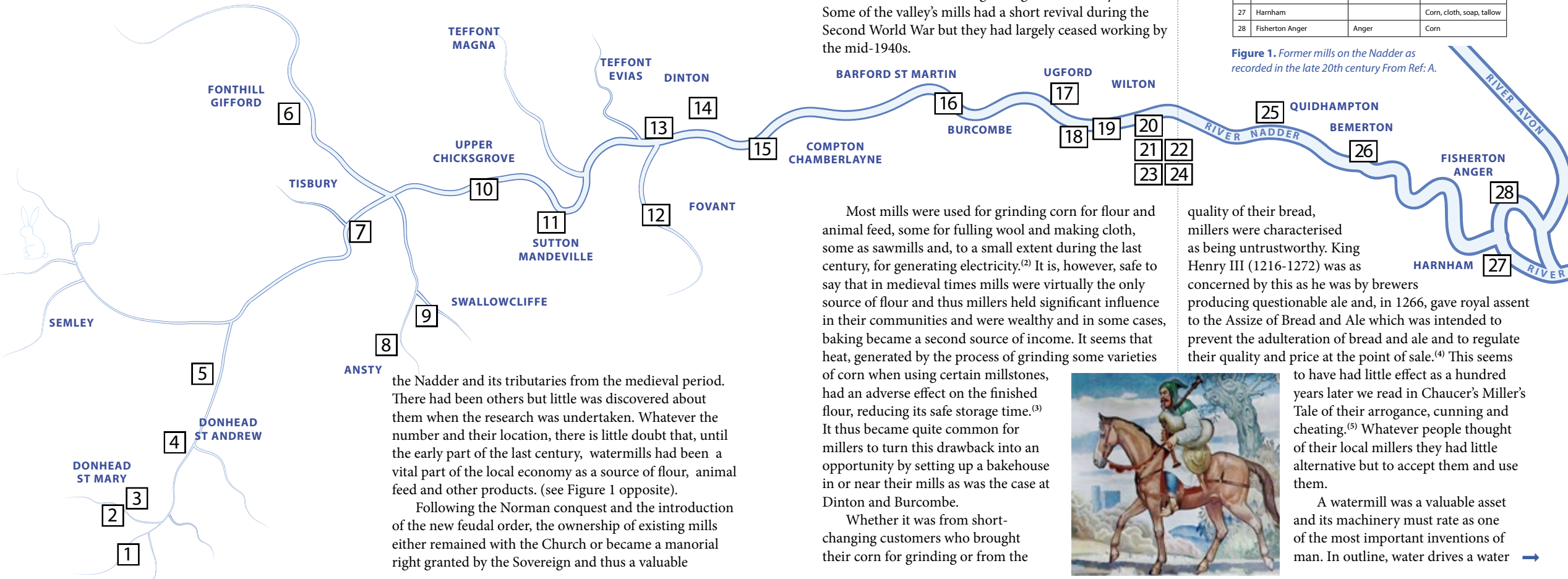


Harnham Mill straddles the Nadder to the south of Harnham island.

asset for the lord of the manor. Details of them, their production and value, were recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086.<sup>(1)</sup> After the breakdown of the feudal order in the 15th century and, later at the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s, mill ownership became more broadly based, some were bought and others rented from landowners and, for the first time, many millers were able to make their own business decisions based on market forces and the need for different products. There was a small decline in the number of local mills during the 16th century on the occasions when a miller, by increasing his capacity, forced neighbouring mills out of business. The final decline started when large mills were set up at ports to process corn imported from America during the last half of 19th century and later, after the First World War, with the introduction of motor lorries which allowed for the centralisation of milling in large, local factory mills. Some of the valley's mills had a short revival during the Second World War but they had largely ceased working by the mid-1940s.

	PLACE	Name	Product(s) over time
1	Donhead	Higher	Corn
2	Donhead	Mullings/Horse Hill	Corn
3	Donhead	West End	Corn
4	Donhead	Kelloways	Corn
5	Donhead	Sharps Lower	Corn
6	Fonthill (1827-1829)	Ashley Farm	Kersey mere
7	Tisbury	Place Farm	Corn, Electricity
8	Ansty (spring water)		Corn
9	Swallowcliffe (spring water)		Corn
10	Upper Chicksgrove		Corn
11	Sutton Mandeville		Corn
12	Fovant (spring water)		Corn
13	Teffont		Corn
14	Dinton	Dalwood	Corn
15	Dinton	Coles/Dog	Corn/wood
16	Barford St Martin	Upper	Tucking, corn
17	Barford St Martin	Lower	Wool, silk, corn
18	South Burcombe		Corn
19	Ugford	Chaldwell	Corn
20	Wilton	Bulbridge	Fulling
21	Wilton	Isembards	Corn/fulfilling
22	Wilton	Washerne	Dying/fulfilling
23	Wilton	Sawmills	Wood
24	Wilton	Monastery	Fulling
25	Quidhampton	Hoke	Malt, fulling, bone
26	Bemerton		Paper
27	Harnham		Corn, cloth, soap, tallow
28	Fisherton Anger	Anger	Corn

Figure 1. Former mills on the Nadder as recorded in the late 20th century From Ref: A.



the Nadder and its tributaries from the medieval period. There had been others but little was discovered about them when the research was undertaken. Whatever the number and their location, there is little doubt that, until the early part of the last century, watermills had been a vital part of the local economy as a source of flour, animal feed and other products. (see Figure 1 opposite).

Following the Norman conquest and the introduction of the new feudal order, the ownership of existing mills either remained with the Church or became a manorial right granted by the Sovereign and thus a valuable

Most mills were used for grinding corn for flour and animal feed, some for fulling wool and making cloth, some as sawmills and, to a small extent during the last century, for generating electricity.<sup>(2)</sup> It is, however, safe to say that in medieval times mills were virtually the only source of flour and thus millers held significant influence in their communities and were wealthy and in some cases, baking became a second source of income. It seems that heat, generated by the process of grinding some varieties of corn when using certain millstones, had an adverse effect on the finished flour, reducing its safe storage time.<sup>(3)</sup> It thus became quite common for millers to turn this drawback into an opportunity by setting up a bakehouse in or near their mills as was the case at Dinton and Burcombe.

Whether it was from short-changing customers who brought their corn for grinding or from the

quality of their bread, millers were characterised as being untrustworthy. King Henry III (1216-1272) was as concerned by this as he was by brewers producing questionable ale and, in 1266, gave royal assent to the Assize of Bread and Ale which was intended to prevent the adulteration of bread and ale and to regulate their quality and price at the point of sale.<sup>(4)</sup> This seems to have had little effect as a hundred years later we read in Chaucer's Miller's Tale of their arrogance, cunning and cheating.<sup>(5)</sup> Whatever people thought of their local millers they had little alternative but to accept them and use them.

A watermill was a valuable asset and its machinery must rate as one of the most important inventions of man. In outline, water drives a water →



Chaucer's miller with bagpipe.

wheel which, by a series of toothed cogs and wheels, turns a vertical central axle which, at different levels in the mill building, powers the millstones to grind corn and other wheels and hoists to fill sacks of flour and lift them to an upper level for storage. The process can be followed in Figure 2. Details of design and materials were improved over time yet broadly speaking, mill machinery used commercially until the last century and still used by artisan millers today, retains the same basic features unchanged through the centuries. There was one, perhaps unsurprising drawback: even well constructed mill machinery generated strong vibration which weakened the structure of mill buildings, limiting them to an average life of about 200 years. Fire, too, was another common hazard due to the combustible nature of flour, dust and grease. Millers were understandably protective of their property.

The skill of those who built mills and their machinery was found not only in construction but also in achieving

the maximum power from the water when it hit the water wheel. This required careful siting of the mill, precision in planning and led to significant work and costs. The water's power would depend on the lie of the land, the level of the water above or below the centre of the water wheel and the amount of water in the river which was dependent on its source and recent rainfall (see Figure 3). When the power of the water was permanently inadequate, for instance, at spring-water mills, or it fluctuated, its force would be increased by raising the water level above the mill. This would be achieved either by closing a weir on the river to back water up before releasing it, or by having a mill pond (optimum depth about 3 feet) or by diverting water from upstream and channelling it along a higher water course (leat) (see Figure 4). All this is obvious you might say, but nonetheless, it needed experience to get the most from what was available.

The mills along the thirty-three miles of the Nadder were well spaced out and the volume and flow of water sufficiently strong that its use at one mill did not adversely affect the volume of water at the next mill below it. It is also of note that the widespread development of the sheep-corn economy in the valley (1600–1900) which required the diversion of water onto water meadows by farmers, led to no recorded disputes between them and millers.

There was one mill in the valley like no other, it was at Ashley Wood Farm by the dam at the southern end of the Fonthill lake (No. 6 in Figure 1). It was built between 1825 and 1827 and was operated by about 200 people brought in from Gloucestershire and housed in cottages built on the site. It was a six storey structure, far larger than any riverside mill, and represented a visionary enterprise typical of the Industrial Revolution. It was the investment of successful business man George Mortimer who had inherited the Fonthill Estate from the previous owner John Farquhar. Driven by three waterwheels, the mill and other large ancillary

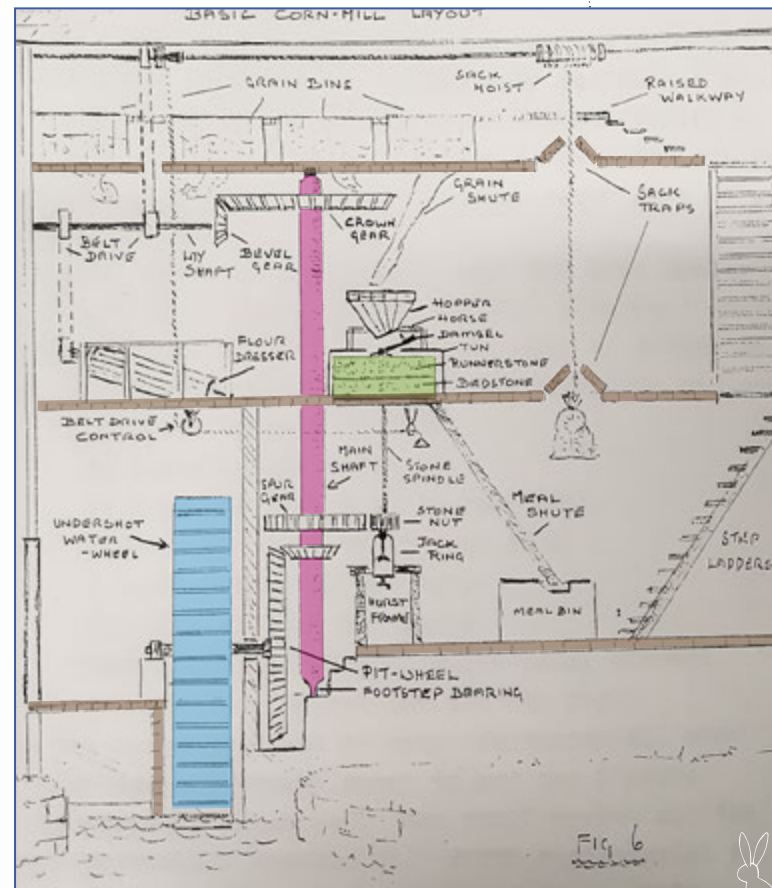


Figure 2. Basic corn mill design over 3 levels showing the waterwheel (blue), central axle (red), millstones (green). From Ref A.

buildings were designed to undertake all the processes of making superfine woollen cloth and kerseymer. It was not a profitable venture and was sold with the estate in 1829 to London haberdasher James Morrison. The mill and its buildings were soon closed and demolished.<sup>(6)</sup>

Only a few mills in the valley continue to have working machinery today, most have been converted into attractive homes whilst some have vanished completely leaving only their stone watercourses as evidence of their earlier existence. Whatever their condition they continue to intrigue us and, although no longer used for their original purpose, pique our curiosity about the people who worked in them and those who depended on them. — PC

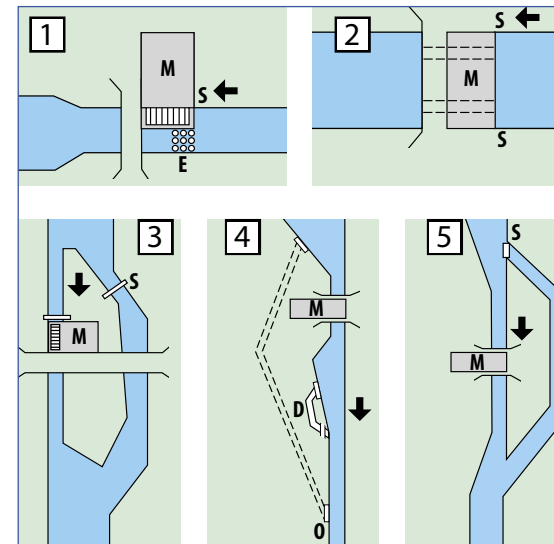
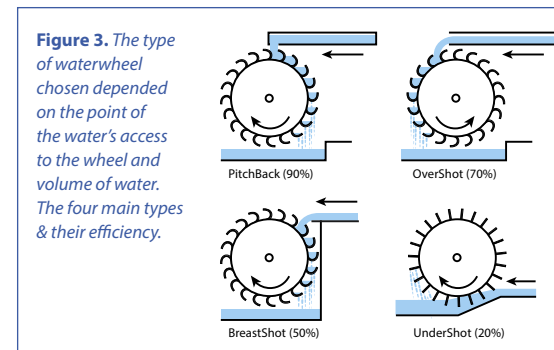


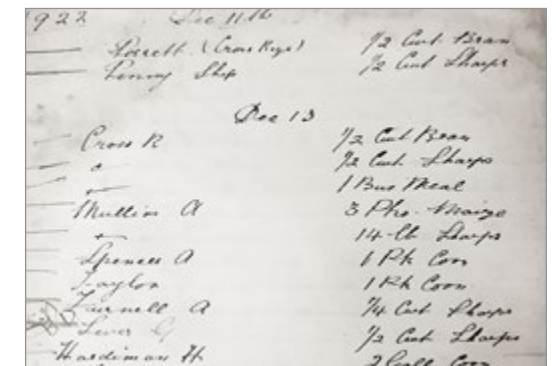
Figure 4. Design of mill and watercourse. 1. Mill with outside wheel 2. Bridge mill with two inside wheels. 3. Mill with outside wheel on island with bypass water course. 4. Mill with underground bypass water course. 5. Mill with bypass water course Key: M – mill, S – sluice to control flow and height of water, D – sheep dip, E – eel trap, O – outfall. From Ref C.

## Notes

1. The Domesday Book listed 6000 mills at 3000 locations across the country for example Tisseberie (Tisbury) had 4 mills valued at 35 shillings (35/-), Fovant 2 mills at seventeen shillings and sixpence (17/6).
2. Hydro-electric schemes were in their infancy just before and soon after the First World War. Place Farm (Tisbury), stopped grinding corn in 1919, generated electricity from 1921 and was absorbed into the National Grid in 1938. Salisbury's power initially came from the Town Mill at Fisherton Bridge.
3. Millstones were made from seven different types of stone, some sourced in this country, others from Northern Europe. For example, Derbyshire Peak stones made in a single piece or French Burr, the best, imported from the Marne Valley in Northern France, made in sections and held together with iron bands. Latterly some artificial stones (a compound of stone and cement mounted on a cast backing plate) were made. Whatever their source, they had to be precision made, carefully fitted and balanced as they weighed over a ton.
4. When discovered, adding chalk to bread, too much water to ale and short-measuring led to severe punishments.
5. Geoffrey Chaucer (1342-1400) wrote a pen-picture of 24 fellow pilgrims on their way to Canterbury in 1390; the work is known as the Canterbury Tales. Chaucer was England's greatest poet until William Shakespeare and said to be the father of written English.
6. The location of the mill can be seen just below the dam on which there is an information board giving details of the mill and the current Fonthill hydro-electric scheme.

## Further Reading

- A. Mills in Wilton & the Surrounding Area compiled by Winifred M. Perrett 1986.
- B. The Victorian History of Wiltshire Vol XIII (page 234) published by Oxford University Press.
- C. Discovering Watermills by John Vince. Part of the 'Discovering' series published by British Library Publication Data 1993.
- D. Fonthill Recovered edited by Dr Caroline Dakers publ. by UCL Press.



Extract from Sutton Mandeville Mills sales book, showing work done on 11th & 12 December 1922. Note some products are for domestic use e.g. Spencer A – 1 packet of corn, others for animal feed e.g. Cross R – 1/2 cwt bean. Sharps, a by product of maize, were used for animal feed.

## Addendum – Water meadows from March's The Nadder Valley (2)

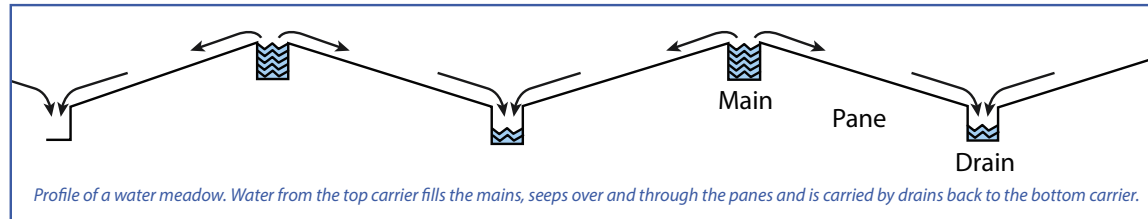
Limited by space when writing my piece on water meadows (March edition) I did not give sufficient emphasis to the warmth of the water flowing over the meadows. I am grateful to a reader for asking me to expand on this.

The water borne oxygen and minerals enriched the soil as the water seeped into the ground. What I should have emphasised was that the constant flow and warmth of the water reduced the possibility of the ground freezing during prolonged cold snaps. The water temperature, consistently higher than that of the air, was typically 10-11 degrees celsius in the river and tended to reach the panes

on the meadows at 5 degrees celsius which was needed to stimulate grass growth.

I should also have emphasised that the moment chosen to start and stop drowning a meadow made the difference between an early or late bite for the sheep; hence a drowner's skill and experience were of paramount importance. A good drowner could have meadows ready for sheep two weeks ahead of another's. You may recall the old Wiltshire saying which I quoted "The drowner is half of the meadow; the shepherd is half of the flock".

Paul Cordle



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Fovant	08.00	HC02T	GS	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.00		GS	09.30	PC	GS	09.30	PC Patronal	MH
Sutton Mandeville	18.00	EBCP	GS	09.30	PC02T	MH	-	-	-	-	-	-	18.00	PC02T	GS	-	-	-
Swallowcliffe	11.15	PC <sub>T</sub>	MH	18.00	EBCP	GS	-	-	-	09.30		MH	11.15	PC <sub>T</sub>	GS	11.15	MBCP	LAY
NORTHERN AREA																		
Barford St Martin	11.15	AAC	EB	09.30	McW	LAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	TF	09.30	AAC	EB
Baverstock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	EB	18.00	Anzac Service	EB
Chilmark	16.00	EBCP	EB	09.30	AAS	EB	-	-	-	16.00		EB	11.15	AAC	CF	11.15	McW +APCM	EB
Dinton	09.30	AAC	EB	-	-	-	08.00	HC	EB	14.00		EB	09.30	AAC	MH	09.30	McW	GS
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Fonthill Bishop	17.00	EBCP	JMH	08.00	HCBCP	EB	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	CbE	JA	-	-	-
Fonthill Gifford	08.00	HCBCP	MH	11.15	MBCP	JMH	-	-	-	11.15		JMH/+AR	11.15	PCBCP	JMH	11.15	MBCP	SE
Tisbury	09.30	AAS	JA	09.00	PC	JMH/JA	-	-	-	-	-	-	09.30	PC	JMH	08.00	HCBCP	GS
										13.30		JMH/+AR				09.30	PC	MG
							19.30	PC & Vigil until 22.00	JMH									



Do you need a little quiet time?  
...and space to find

## Healing and Wholeness



We would like to invite you to join us for a time of quiet prayer and contemplation - For yourself and for those whom you care about when times are difficult

**6.00pm**

Wednesday April 13th  
St Andrew's Chapel,  
St John the Baptist, Tisbury

Including a reading, a song, meditation and prayers for all the needs of your world.

**Come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest.**

### SERVICES

- AAC All Age Communion
- AAS All Age Service
- BCP Book of Common Prayer
- CbE Communion by Extension
- CW Common Worship
- E Evensong or Evening Prayer
- FC All Age Family Communion
- HC Holy Communion (said)
- HC02T/C Order 2 Communion, traditional/contemporary
- M Mattins or Morning Prayer

- MPr Morning Praise
- PC Order 1 Communion (with hymns)
- PC<sub>T</sub> Order 1 Communion, traditional language (with hymns)
- PC02T Order 2 Communion, traditional language (with hymns)
- PC02T/C Order 2 Communion, traditional/contemporary
- RS Reflective Service
- SoW Service of the Word

### CLERGY

- +AR Bishop of Ramsbury
- CF Colin Fox
- EB Elaine Brightwell
- GS Graham Southgate
- JA Judy Anderson
- JMH Juliette Hulme
- JN Jo Naish
- MG Michael Goater
- MH Mark Hayter
- SE Simon Evans
- TF Tina Fox

## Children's Easter Holiday Workshop

**Wednesday 13th April, 2pm – 4pm**  
**St John the Baptist church Hindon**

An afternoon exploring the Easter story with lots of craft, games, music, treasure hunt, inventive makes and edible treats, with the Nadder Valley Team.

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL as numbers are limited!!**

Contact Revd Jo Naish on 01747871820 or email – [revdjoannanaish@gmail.com](mailto:revdjoannanaish@gmail.com) to book your spot. All children will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

**Come and join us exploring the Easter story together in new and unexpected ways.**





## Being an Easter people

More than seventeen centuries ago Saint Augustine of Hippo said of the Church, "We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song." This is a phrase that has become so ingrained in me ever since the late Pope Saint John Paul II quoted it: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and 'Hallelujah' is our song!"

This phrase has a wonderful celebratory feeling, capturing something of what Christians experience on Easter Day (17th April this year). Christ is risen, our life is changed forever and a natural response is to rejoice and praise God for this gift – new life undreamt of.

Yet what happens in the weeks as Easter passes? A friend rings to tell you of a close family bereavement, your child has to go into hospital, you hear that a neighbour has been burgled, the cost of fuel and energy increases even more. What does Resurrection mean in daily life, the mixed bag of our existence with its crises, joys, and sorrows?

This was true from the earliest days. The apostle Thomas, doubting; the Church being persecuted and having to go into hiding; the martyrdom of early Christians for their faith; disputes between Christians about the way forward, doctrine and behaviour.

One of the most important aspects of Christianity is that it has a strong focus on hope; not a sort of blind optimism or the empty smile designed to smooth over even the most difficult situation with a flourish. Rather it is something that might only be a tiny grain, a seed, but with God it is a distinct promise to us from an eternal future. The light of Resurrection shines in the world, however dimly it might be in some places. Our sense that God's love for creation goes to unfathomable depths makes it possible that human love can multiply like ripples across a pool.

Challenging and emotionally draining life may be, but where there is Resurrection hope there is also new life. And there are many signs of hope in our world; our hope this year for a new future for the people of Ukraine, Tonga, and Afghanistan; our hope for fairer trade at home and abroad; our hope that fear will become a thing of the past. We may feel insignificant in the face of such need, but the message of Resurrection is that we are not. We can be bearers of hope, with others lighting beacons that will not go out. In the reality of our world, Christ has died for us and been raised for us: "We are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song."

**Graham Southgate (Team Rector)**

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Species of the month

# TARDIGRADES

Peter Thompson, Barford St. Martin

## APRIL FOOL OR NOT?

**If I asked you ‘what beastie can be desiccated, irradiated, asphyxiated, poisoned, put in a vacuum, frozen solid and yet survive’ – what would be your answer? (I know that this edition of Village Buzz may well land on your doorstep on April the 1st!)**

To survive all of the above treatments, this species will curl up and withdraw its legs, while its skin becomes impermeable and its metabolism stops; it is then impervious to almost anything. In fact, it is, to all intents and purposes, dead. However, believe it or not this is a reversible death, as when favourable conditions return, it reanimates.

The first person to note this remarkable species was a clergyman called Johan Eichhorn. In 1767 he was looking through his microscope at some water he had taken from a pond, when he spotted a strange creature that he had not seen before. He illustrated the animal in his book, but also wrote that it had ‘nothing which might have made it attractive to the eye’. A rather damning start for a newly discovered creature!

A few years later, another vicar, Johan Goeze,

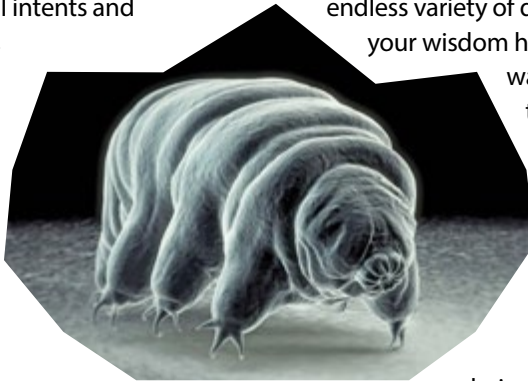
also came across this little animal and was altogether more smitten. He wrote, ‘Creator of the elephants and atoms, of whales and small living points in water! I am astonished by the endless variety of designs, according to which your wisdom has formed in a different way the body of each animal, the bird, the frog, the insect and the worm’ (He thought that this creature was a type of worm).

What both men had seen were tardigrades.

Despite tardigrades

being tiny, never more than a millimetre in length, they have

caused taxonomists a bit of a headache over the years as it is not clear exactly what they are. They have bits that are similar to worms, but they also have legs like spiders or crustaceans and their mouthparts resemble those of nematodes. In the end they were given their own taxonomic ranking – Tardigrada.



There are nearly 1,000 described species of tardigrade (which means slow walker) and most lumber along with a gait that resembles a bear, giving rise to the nickname ‘water bear’. Most are semi-aquatic, living not only in water but also in water films within mosses, lichens and soil. They are found across the world in all suitable habitats – which is actually just about anywhere!

Finding tardigrades is fairly simple, but you do need a microscope. Take a bit of moss from a tree or off your roof and soak it for a few hours. Then squeeze out the material into a shallow dish and

scan it with your microscope. In a good sample you will find scores of protozoa, nematodes, rotifers (look them up!) and with luck, tardigrades!

So, having also looked at the picture, what do you reckon – April fool or not?

Absolutely not – all of the above is totally true!

— PT

Peter Thompson lives in Barford St. Martin and has worked in conservation and farming all his life. You might also be interested in reading his blog: ‘Fresh Air Scribblings’ <https://freshairscribblings.blogspot.com>



# Heating Oil Update



Existing members of the Nadder Oil Buying Club will already have received this information, but it might be useful to summarise the current situation for everyone.

The UK refines all its own requirements for petrol but has to import significant amounts of diesel and kerosene/heating oil. The price of heating oil has increased dramatically as a result of the Ukraine invasion. This has been caused by most countries trying to cut down on the amount of oil imported from Russia and therefore having to buy more oil from more expensive sources at a time when demand is still high. The biggest concern that the oil supplying companies have is availability. Regular delivery from their suppliers is becoming less reliable.

Because of these two issues, NOBC has agreed with Darch Oil to supply on a different basis to normal while the uncertainty continues. Firstly, instead of delivering in a two week window, this has been extended to three weeks. Secondly, with prices being so difficult to forecast members will be notified the day before delivery what the price will be.

The best advice, in the light of the uncertainty over availability is to top up your tank as soon as you have room for the supplier minimum of 500 litres, which is dictated by the amount used by Trading Standards to calibrate the tanker pumping equipment.

Thank goodness warmer weather is on the way.

Richard Willan

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www.thecrownalvediston.co.uk

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www.thecrownalvediston.co.uk

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# COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE VILLAGE HALL

IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

# QUIZ NIGHT



SAVE THE DATE

INCLUDES A DRINK ON ARRIVAL, A DELICIOUS FISH & CHIP SUPPER AND CHOCOLATE ROULADE TO FOLLOW!

FURTHER DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED DURING THE EVENING

SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2022

7.00PM  
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

£20

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT FOR A VILLAGE NIGHT OUT?

TO RESERVE TICKETS (PAY ON THE DOOR) PLEASE CONTACT

Sara Willan 785086 sarawillan@gmail.com or

Marilyn Carter 714924 marilyn.carter@btinternet.com

IF YOU PLAN TO COME AS A TEAM, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

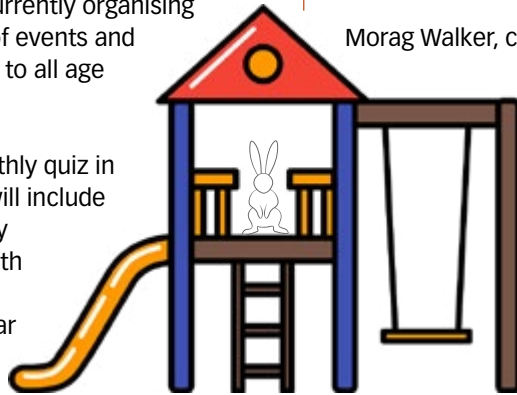
## From birdwatching to a village fête, Barford raises its game for a village playground

Barford St Martin is delighted to announce that it is organising a series of action-packed events that aim to raise funds for a fabulous children's playground in the village.

To help raise funds for this enterprising project the Barford Community Fund has been established, which is being run by an enthusiastic committee of volunteers, who are currently organising an exciting programme of events and activities that will appeal to all age groups.

As well as a regular monthly quiz in the Barford Inn, events will include activities such as an early morning stroll on May 15th with local wildlife expert Peter Thompson (a regular contributor to Village Buzz), who will help participants identify which song belongs to which bird. Other activities include an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday and a Barford Brocante on May 14th, which is an opportunity to pick up a bargain in a tabletop sale being held in the gardens of individual residents across the village. On offer will be an intriguing range of bric-a-brac, plants, and cakes as well as refreshments being made available for weary buyers. There will also be an opportunity to bid in the village auction of promises, take part in a 24-hour marathon, join in a sports weekend or visit some of the beautiful village gardens.

To help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there will be an action-packed Village Fête on Saturday 4th June in the Barford playing field.



Families will be entertained by a range of games, competitions, a bouncy castle, music, food and drink plus much more besides. The fête is guaranteed to be a fun-day experience for all the family. On the Sunday, the village will get together with the rest of the country to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in a street party being held in the playing field.

Morag Walker, chairperson of the newly formed Barford Community Fund committee said, "It is wonderful how so many people in Barford are supporting this fund-raising initiative, which aims to install a suite of playground equipment in our village playing field. This will offer a safe and secure place where children and their families can meet and socialise in a welcoming setting. We are confident that this will be a huge asset for families and means they will no longer have to travel with their children to playgrounds in other villages."

Regular updates on events and activities will be posted on the Barford St Martin Facebook page. Alternatively, please email Stephanie Wheatley: (stephanie.stephanian@hotmail.co.uk) for a full listing of events being organised in Barford this spring and summer.

**Morag Walker MCIPR**  
Email: [morag@moragwalkerpr.co.uk](mailto:morag@moragwalkerpr.co.uk)

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

### GRAND OPENING 'the waterside' Fovant Youth Club High Street, Fovant

2nd July 2022  
2.00pm-5.00pm

STALLS,\* GAMES FOR CHILDREN, REFRESHMENTS

#### Raffle

- ❖ £50 cash prize
- ❖ 2 kids places on a Mud & Guts adventure day [mudandguts.co.uk](http://mudandguts.co.uk)
- ❖ A 60 minute massage at Moon's Massage [Retreatmoonsmassageretreat.com](http://Retreatmoonsmassageretreat.com)
- ❖ Some Bramley products [bramleyproducts.co.uk](http://bramleyproducts.co.uk)
- ❖ A bottle of wine from **Fovant Stores**
- ❖ A set of LSA handmade Canopy tumblers x 2 from [planted-community.co.uk](http://planted-community.co.uk)
- ❖ A 50 minute Reflexology treatment from [pipzinggreflexology.co.uk](http://pipzinggreflexology.co.uk)
- ❖ An hour's dog walking around Dinton Park from **Simon Moore**
- ❖ A bottle of prosecco and a bottle of wine from [leglugwines.com](http://leglugwines.com)

If any local businesses or individuals would like to donate a prize for our raffle, please contact:  
**Pip Zingg on 07725 496579**  
or [pipzingg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pipzingg@yahoo.co.uk)

Money raised from the raffle will contribute towards buying equipment for 'the waterside' For example: a new cooker, bean bags, a gaming station, board games and a BBQ.

The Trustees of Fovant Youth Club would be delighted to welcome helpers of all ages on the day of the Grand Opening. Please call 01722 714493

\*Stalls for rent inside & outside the building are £10.00 Please call 01722 714994

JUBILEE 70 CELEBRATIONS.

Hillside Installation



### A Flaming Crown Beacon

TIN CAN FLARES ! UPDATE !  
TIN CANS AND SCRAP COTTON MATERIALS !

The collection point for materials has MOVED to the FOVANT VILLAGE HALL.

— far more convenient than at the end of muddy Brook Street —

I hope that you have managed to save some tin cans (*every little helps*)... and it would be daft to have to buy in new unused tins for the purpose. Two or three per household would be enough.

SO PLEASE TAKE ANY CLEAN STANDARD SIZE TIN CANS AND ANY COTTON MATERIAL (BAGGED TO KEEP DRY PLEASE) TO THE FOVANT VILLAGE HALL COLLECTION POINT (TISBURY ROAD SIDE).

- \* White Jumbo bag for bagged cotton cloth
- \* Green Jumbo bag for tin cans and DIY flares (bagged) without poles.

see: <https://youtu.be/2rHOKZrqofQ>

Many thanks  
Leslie Brantingham  
FBS





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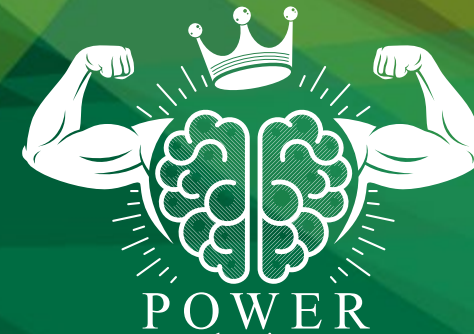
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	6	9			4			5
				8		7		
		3	1			9		
				2		4		3
2							6	
6			7		1			
	1		8				2	
8		6	2					
4							3	



## April's Brain Gym

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

The objective of the puzzle is to complete the grid so each of the rows, columns and 3 x 3 sub-grids contains the numbers 1 to 9. The challenging part of the puzzle is that each number can only appear once per row, column, or sub-grid.

SOLUTION ON PAGE 27



**WALK FOR WARDS**  
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**Sunday 3rd July 2022**

**FREE to Enter**  
(Subject to a minimum sponsorship of £20 per person)

**FREE Lunch**

**FREE Entry to the Wilton House gardens**

**CHOICE of routes: 3k, 5k or 10k**

**Walk for the Ward or Department of your choice**

Register free at  
**www.starsappeal.org**  
Limited places available - advanced registration only. Closing date 28th June

Principal sponsor: **Salisbury reds**

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**Solution to:**  
April's Brain Gym on page 27

1	6	9	3	7	4	2	8	5
5	4	2	9	8	6	7	3	1
7	8	3	1	5	2	9	4	6
9	7	1	6	2	8	4	5	3
2	3	8	4	9	5	1	6	7
6	5	4	7	3	1	8	9	2
3	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	9
8	9	6	2	1	3	5	7	4
4	2	7	5	6	9	3	1	8

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[www.village-buzz.co.uk](http://www.village-buzz.co.uk)

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Design & Production & Advertising:

Jan Kalinowski | [jan@village-buzz.co.uk](mailto:jan@village-buzz.co.uk)

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Advertising & article submission deadline

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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR VILLAGES NESTLING IN THE NADDER VALLEY

APRIL 2022

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Barford St Martin, SP3 4AR  
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