



5ALIVE!

April 2025

**READY, STEADY,
ROLL! MELLS
ANNUAL EASTER
EGG CONTEST**

See page 11

**News from
Buckland Dinham, Chantry,
Great Elm, Mells with Vobster and
Whatley**

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FROM THE EDITOR

THE WEATHER'S ODD, ISN'T IT? One day it's warm, next day it's cold. One day it's wet, next day I'm having to water the flowers in their pots and tubs. By the time this issue of 5Alive is distributed around the communities in our patch the clocks will have gone forward and we will be "enjoying" British summer time, if "enjoying" is the right word.

I've already mowed the lawn, picked out a huge number of weeds, cut back border geraniums, pruned the roses but on another day when I went to plant some alpiners in the two old sinks which were to be their home the earth was rock solid and the rain water in the bucket I hadn't put away was like the iceberg that sank the Titanic. As someone once said to me, if it wasn't for the weather what would we Brits have to talk about? Let's hope that now we're in April (well, almost) the weather gets back to normal. No, wait a minute. It's been unpredictable since I was a little boy in the Forties, so what's normal? See you in May, unless global warming arrives early and the double deckers that have been running through Buckland while the A36 has been closed in Limpley Stoke turn into big heavy wooden boats steered by an old man aided by pairs of animals of all shaped and sizes. Hey ho! *Peter*

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

FIRST, I MUST SAY an enormous THANK YOU to all the kind well-wishers who have thoughtfully taken time and trouble to send cards and messages to speed my recovery. All these lovely kind thoughts and prayers – some from people I have never even met – have been a great source of comfort and encouragement. I am recovering well but what a slow process it is. I scoffed at the idea that it could take up to six months to recover my former health, but it certainly does take a tremendous effort to achieve every tiny bit of progress.

The recent weeks of sunshine have been blissful and I have sat outside my door wrapped in a rug, soaking up the sounds, sights and smells of spring.

Wasn't that a super photo on the March cover of 5Alive? And I gather from Ellie, our local galanthophile, that she has bought and planted a number of different

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

Advertising: Peter Corbett, 01373 466536, mellsmag@hotmail.com

Deadline for MAY 2025 is APRIL 18th but do check!

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CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy. For any enquiries please contact the church warden in your parish. For weddings contact the benefice administrator, Mrs Catherine Brown, email catmellsgroup@gmail.com. She works on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks
<p>Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller, 07887 556936</p> <p>Chantry Hazel Tovey 836384 David Rawlins 836252</p> <p>Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947</p> <p>Mells/ Vobster Hilary Ingram 01373 311073</p> <p>Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175</p>	<p>John Reckless 01373 461841 Diane Sleight 07907 156735 clerk@bucklanddinham-pc.gov.uk</p> <p>John Earl 01373 812450 Joy Book 07704 584953</p> <p>Andrew Bramston 01373 836513 Rachel Nash clerk.whatleyparishcouncil@gmail.com</p>

Roman Catholic Services

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am Frome: Saturdays 5.30pm.
 Wednesdays 11.30am Sundays 10.00am

Somerset Councillor: Philip Ham 01373 812152

Others to be confirmed

Chantry and Whatley Francis Hayden 07970 839532

species of snowdrops, funded by the grant she obtained which was mentioned earlier. These are apparently clearly labelled and our thanks must go to Ellie and her team of volunteer clearers and planters.

This year I have had the great joy of seeing all my accumulated hellebores flowering for the first time. Each year I buy one or two more but in spite of a firm “talking to” in recent springs I have seen only the odd flower. This year, I was prepared to give the usual admonitory “pep talk” but - BINGO! A mass of huge flowers, pink, dark purple, spotted, cream and pure white. What a welcome home and boost to recovery!

Also the tiny jewel bright cyclamen coum are illuminating the ground beneath the old apple tree. And the first of the camellias are in full flowers – Martin Cachet, the double red February bloomer, and Mary Christian, the huge single pink, whose pendulous branches hung with their pale lanterns of blossom, weave under and over the adjoining apple tree and the magnolia.

I was talking to a friend the other day who said that whenever she used one of her one of her old family sayings or quoted some bit of weather related folklore her grandchildren fell about laughing and asked wherever she had “got that from”. We started comparing family sayings – so familiar because we grew up hearing them from our own grandparents. They are regional, too, as one finds if moving from one county to another. When she was tired of answering my childhood questions, my Kentish grandmother used to say, “you want to know the ins and outs of a magpie’s behind.” Local Somerset sayings, now familiar after 50 plus years here, like “the weather looks brighter over Bill’s mother’s” or the universal, with local variations, “enough blue sky to make a sailor a pair of trousers”. Local names, too, like “Peggy-dish-washer” for

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pied wagtails and “granfer gravies for woodlice”. And my late husband called bumble bees “dumbledars” decades before the arrival of Harry Potter & Co. I’m sure most people have a store of old sayings and names. What a sad thing it would be if they all died out with the loss of the present generation of grandparents. If I were younger, I would think of compiling a book of them but I lack the energy or research facilities now. Maybe someone might? Or even has done already? Enjoy the spring! See you in May. *Hazell.*

INVITATION TO A RETREAT

Over two nights May 13, 14th, a retreat is offered in the startling, beautiful landscape of Llangorse Lake, in the Brecons of South Wales. The programme comprises prayer time, a eucharist service, and led-conversational sessions on four great Christian personalities of recent decades, (A Schweitzer, A Bojaxhiu, D Tutu and C Saunders). There is also time for the garden area, walking or a drive further afield. The centre provides good, simple hospitality.

Shared transport to Llangasty retreat house (LD3 7PX) is arranged by combining cars spaces with individuals. Full board is £220. Please make your interest known to 01985-300025 or weymontmartin@gmail.com. This is a great chance for spiritual resources for the year ahead.

Martin Weymont

BUCKLAND DINHAM

CHURCH NEWS

The Services in St. Michael & All Angels for this month as per rota. As mentioned in last month’s magazine there will be two services on Easter Sunday, April 20th. The first at 6.00 am a Sunrise service in the Memorial Gardens at the Village Hall and the second at 11.00 am in St. Michael’s Church. This will be taken by the Reverend Pauline Reid.

We have been very fortunate that Pauline has been taking our communion services this year and this will be the first time she has been with us for Easter.

COFFEE MORNING The coffee morning in March was well attended and new visitors were amazed at the wonderful selection of homemade cakes, so do come along on April 19th from 10.00 to 12.00 to see what is on offer this month. It is a lovely opportunity to meet friends and make new ones.

VILLAGE NEWS The Annual Village Gathering on March 6th reaffirmed what a lovely village we live in.

So many new groups and things to do, something for everyone, so I do hope if you have not joined at least one you will consider doing so, that all the activities on offer can prosper!

NEW WEBSITE

Buckland Dinham is excited to announce the new look website has launched under its original banner of www.bucklanddinham.org. It includes latest news, forthcoming events, village amenities, groups and classes and much more. Check it out!

CHANTRY

We will be holding a Stations of The Cross Service at 10.30 on Good Friday, the service will be led by Barry, all welcome.

We will be meeting on Saturday April 19th at 2.00pm to prepare the church for the Easter Service which will be at 11.00 as usual.

We would appreciate as much help as possible plus flowers and greenery especially daffodils, if there are any still growing, as Easter is very late this year.

Hope to see as many as possible at the lovely Easter Service.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday April 23rd in the Church at 2 30pm. This is an open meeting so if you wish to attend you are welcome.

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CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL AND MAY

	6 th April	13 th April	18 th April	20 th April	27 th April	4 th May	11 th May	18 th May	25 th May	1 st June
	5th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide begins	Palm Sunday	Good Friday	Easter Day	Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter
Chantry		11.00am Matins Barry Davies		11am Holy Communion Barry Davies	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins		11.00am Matins Barry Davies	11am Holy Communion Martin Weymont	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins	10.00am Group Service; Holy Communion Martin Weymont
Great Elm				9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	
Mells	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Gatliffe		10.00 am Outdoor Service - <i>between the river and the shop/cafe where the 'penny-forthings' are.</i> Richard King	Joining with Great Elm	9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell	
Whatley		9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King		Joining with Chantry		10.00am Group Service: Matins Richard King	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	



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Hardington Vale Church Services – APRIL 2025

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Tuesday 1 April	11.00 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Communion
Wednesday 2 April	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 3 April	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 6 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Monday 7 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 9 April	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 10 April	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 13 April PALM SUNDAY	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Palm Procession
	12.00 pm	Norton St Philip , short Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Rode , Chapel, Meeting Place
	6.00 pm	Buckland Dinham , Evening Service
Monday 14 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
	9.00 pm	Rode chapel , Compline
	9.00 pm	Laverton , Compline
Tuesday 15 April	9.00 pm	Rode chapel , Compline
	9.00 pm	Laverton , Compline
Wednesday 16 April	9 am - 9 pm	Tellisford , Day of Prayer concluding with Compline
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	9.00 pm	Rode chapel , Compline
	9.00 pm	Laverton , Compline
Thursday 17 April MAUNDY THURSDAY	11.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion
	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
	7.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Passover Meal
Friday 18 April GOOD FRIDAY	10.00 am	Rode , March of Witness, St Lawrence
	11.00 am	short service in Rode Chapel
	2-3.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Hour at the Cross
Sunday 20 April EASTER SUNDAY	6.00 am	Norton St Philip , Vigil
	6:50 am	Buckland Dinham , Sunrise service
	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Rode , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Monday 21 April	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 23 April	8.30 am	Hemington , Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
	6.00 pm	Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 24 April	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 27 April	9.00 am	Tellisford , Holy Communion
	9.00 am	Rode . Contemplation & Coffee
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton , Matins
	6.00 pm	Buckland Dinham , Evening Service

www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

MAINTENANCE

Date	Flowers	Cleaning
05-04-25	No flowers in Lent	Sue
12-04-25		Sue
20-04-25		All hands on deck/Easter
26-04-25	Val	Dolly & Val

If anyone has any news for the magazine, such as birthdays, new babies, anniversaries etc., please ring Dolly on 836668

FRIENDS OF CHANTRY

It's been a year since our local community group was formed, and we have transformed Holy Trinity Church Chantry to a local community hub with new heating, lighting, roof repairs along with reordering the interior to create space and installing carpets and cushions.

We've been able to hold a number of community events, and many more are planned for this year. Check out the whatleyandchantry.co.uk website to find out more about what has been done so far, and our plans for the future.

In the coming months we will be having a ThirstyThirdThursdays pop-up pub, a Plant and Bake Sale on May 17th and on July 7th, as part of the Frome Festival, Holy Trinity Chantry will host a concert by the Internationally acclaimed Brodsky Quartet string ensemble.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us on our journey, and a warm welcome to everyone for our upcoming events.



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WORKING GROUP VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY – APRIL 5TH AND 6TH APRIL

Cleaning and oiling the wood in the church. The ornately carved oak pews and chairs need a good clean and painting with Osmo Oil to restore them to their original magnificence. Courtesy of Halecombe Quarry we have been given all the materials. Join us during the day on either of these dates. It's not difficult and kids are especially welcome so come and enjoy the spectacular craftsmanship of the woodwork and be part of restoring them. All welcome.

GREAT ELM


NEW ELECTORAL ROLL – Deadline for applications to be registered on the new Electoral Roll is April 14th Please contact Judy Duffus or Sally Rosa if you wish to be on the Electoral Roll either as a new member or to renew. Application forms will be available on the table inside the church. The new roll will be effective from April 23rd.

SATURDAY APRIL 12TH SPRING CHURCHYARD TIDY 10.00AM - 12NOON with coffee and cake. It's always a great way to meet fellow villagers and we hope for some spring sunshine to jolly along the team. Please bring your own gardening tools if possible.

EASTER

Friday April 18th, Observation of Good Friday at Open Air Service at Mells


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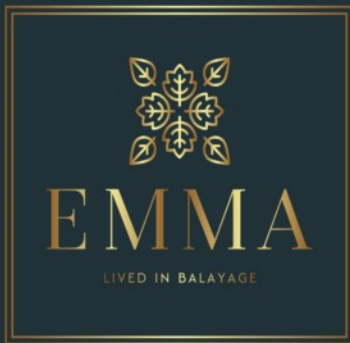
9.00am - For those that would like to walk to Mells we will be gathering on the Green by the village hall for departure at 9.15am to walk along the valley. We will be taking the route that goes down the bridle path past Elm Lodge to avoid the mud and fallen trees so it should be fairly easy going. For information about the walk to the service. Please contact Sally Rosa.

10.00am Richard King will be leading the outdoor service at Mells on the grassy area where the Penny-farthing bicycles are.

Saturday April 19th, Decoration of the church 10am. Please bring along any greenery and flowers to brighten up the church or if you have some flowers in a pot that you can loan for the weekend. Coffee and cake as usual for the working party.

Sunday April 20th, Easter Sunday. 9.30am Robin Isherwood will be taking the Holy Communion service and at the time of going to press we may be joined by the congregation from Mells.

11.00am Egg rolling from the top of the hill on Elm Lane. Last year had a wonderful turnout. Please come along.



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MELLS WITH VOBSTER

MELLS EGG ROLLING ON EASTER SUNDAY

April 20th 11.00am on Gay Street, Mells. Bring along a decorated egg to race down the hill. You can also enter the annual egg decorating competition. Paint your egg in a theme, give it a little set if you like or just sit them in an egg cup. Prizes for the winners.

**** Please also bring £1 cash**** to enter the whole event as this helps pay for the chocolate egg prizes**

Everyone gets a small chocolate egg for entering. See you there!!

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (Full minutes available on website - mells-pc.gov.uk)

Notes of Mells Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday February 11th

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Boundary Commission Review: The deadline for phase 2 of the consultation has been extended to March 4th 2025. More information can be found here: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

Online sessions to help people understand complexities of care planning: Somerset Council is holding a series of free, online webinars to help individuals plan



Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025



Join us on 5th May
to discover and celebrate the fields and forest around our village
and the food they produce.

Talks, stalls, food and drink, bouncy castles, and so much more.

More info will be on our website soon.
www.mellsfete.com

If you would like to volunteer on the day
or to run a stall please contact:
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care and support needs for themselves or those they care for. You can register for the free events at somersex.gov.uk/news/online-sessions-to-help-people-understand-complexities-of-care-planning/

Guidance for reporting safety issues on Somerset's roads: A quick and simple online reporting service is available 24/7. It can be used to report non-urgent incidents both during hours and out of hours at the weekend somersex.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/. You can also report a hazard on the road such as rubbish, tyres or blown/displaced traffic cones. somersex.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/hazards-on-the-road/ To report an urgent out-of-hours highways issue that's a risk to public safety, please call Somerset Lifeline 0300 123 2224. Gritting/salt spreading map – somersex.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/gritting-map/

MATTERS ARISING

Barn and paddock lease: The paddock lease has been signed and is ready for submission to Land Registry which the Clerk will action. The Barn lease is continuing on a rolling basis.

Quarry noise: A meeting has been arranged with the Quarry Manager on February 28th.

Bus shelter graffiti – Vobster: Cllr Brady has quoted £110 to remove the graffiti and paint the whole shelter with masonry paint. Work to be carried out when the weather is better.



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HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Grass triangle – Bottom Lane: The memorial tree will be planted week commencing February 17th. Topsoil to level the area should be in place by the end of March.

Area in front of Vobster Inn: A small old truck on rails has been sourced which requires the approval of the inn owners before installation.

Speeding vehicles in Vobster: No response from Highways. Clerk to chase.

Damaged bridge – Vobster Cross: Works on the bridge have begun and will last approximately three weeks. Cllr Brady will speak to the Works Manager to see if a no through road sign can be placed on the junction to stop drivers continuing straight across and having to turn around.

Speeding traffic and mud on road - Lime Kiln Hill: The mud situation has improved significantly and the sweeper is out frequently. Cllr Brady has received a letter from the local MP who acknowledges there is a speeding problem around the parish and will contact the Police and respond back in due course.

Erosion of verge: Owner has assured that this will be re-instated and commented that this was due to the works taking longer than expected and the recent weather conditions.

Water seeping through tarmac – Little Green: Clerk to report that water is continuing to bubble through the tarmac. The source is assumed to be a spring. The



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road is just a patchwork of filled pot holes with Highways coming out several times a year to fill them again. A more permanent solution is required.

PLANNING

New applications: All for notification purposes only – no action required.

2025/0094/PAF: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to a distillery – Claveys Farm, Somers Hill to Mells Green

2025/0174/TCA: Thin ash tree – Mells Park House, Berry Hill

2025/0236/TCA: Fell sycamore tree – Rossendale, Top Lane

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday March 11th at 7.15pm in the Barn.

Joy Book, Clerk. Tel. 07704 584953, Email clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk

WHATLEY

INVITATION TO ALL 5ALIVE READERS!

Whatley and Chantry will be hosting this year's Plant and Bake sale Saturday May 17th from 11:00am to 4:00 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Chantry.

We very much look forward to seeing you there. We hope you might buy something and contribute plants, cakes and even books !

Contacts are Jan Bramston for Chantry, janbramston@gmail.com, and Paul Gay for Whatley, paul.littlecombe@btinternet.com .

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To find out more and to apply for community funding go to:

www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page



**Heidelberg
Materials**



As last year, please label all plants and cakes and list ingredients for allergy sufferers. We very much rely on volunteers for this event so if you think you might have an hour to spare on the day we'll need people to:-

make tea and coffee

sell cakes/plants/books

wash up and collect used crockery

set up and take down gazebos and tables.

Please let Paul or Jan know if you can help and many thanks!

Most importantly please come along with friends and family to have a great day out eating delicious cake and purchasing a stunning plant for your borders or veggie plot. Note we are selling two weeks earlier than last year for those wanting to plant out little seedlings .

All funds raised will help with our many community projects . Cash or card welcome. Have fun planting seeds, taking cuttings and of course baking something yummy that cant be resisted!

THANK YOU AND SEE YOU THERE!

Jan and Paul

FRIENDS OF WHATLEY NEWS

We are delighted that Friends of Whatley is now officially a Community Interest Company.

All Friends of Whatley meetings are open to all residents of Whatley, no previous attendance or long-term commitment needed. They are held at 6.15pm on the third Tuesday of the month at St George's church.

Next meeting 6.15pm Tuesday March 25th, St George's Church

Buckland Dinham Village Hall & Millennium Gardens

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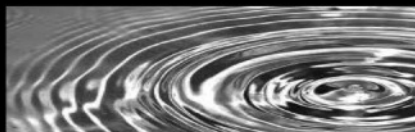
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We would also like to invite you to join one of the sub committees, see the list below and email FOW secretary.

Please let us know if you can join in with any of these:

SUB COMMITTEES

Funding sub-committee, Heating and Lighting sub-committee, Financial operations sub-committee

Coffee morning sub-committee, Social night sub-committee, Fete sub-committee, Film night sub-committee, Communications/Marketing sub-committee

Please email Secretary FOW alice.kettle@gmail.com

The electoral roll for St.George's, Whatley, has to be renewed this year. Anyone who would like to be included on it please contact Katie gay on 01373 836175

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday April 12th 10.00-12.00pm

Annual church yard clean up

And first coffee morning which will continue every 2nd Saturday of the month 10-12pm

April 18th Good Friday

Easter Egg hunt

11.30 am We invite young people and adults to hide the eggs

12.00pm We invite all younger people to come and find them

Saturday May 17th Plant sale Chantry with FOW

Point of contact for plants Paul Gay, please drop your plants off with Paul by Friday May 16th.

Please drop your cakes off with Alice Kettle at Haha house by Friday May 16th.

All cakes need to have ingredients list attached.

1st Friday of the month evening social games night

Starting Friday May 2nd, 6.00pm

Please drop into the church for a drink. There will be a bar open to purchase drinks at amazing prices.

At the first social we will be hosting a board games night, all ages welcome. Come along and join a game or bring friends and family. We will be encouraging a tween/teen playing table.

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- Telephone Box, Mells Green
- Vobster Inn, Lower Vobster, Radstock BA3 5RJ

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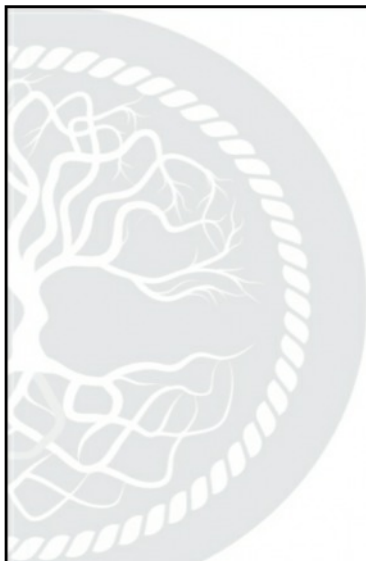
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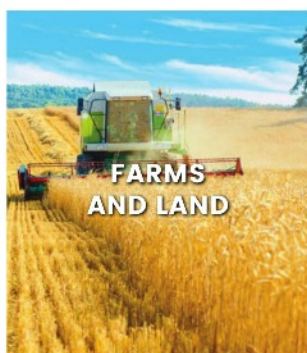
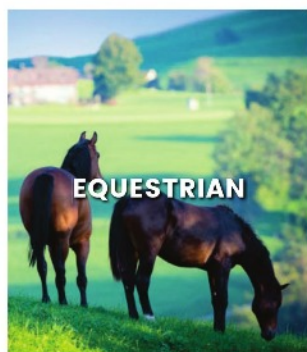
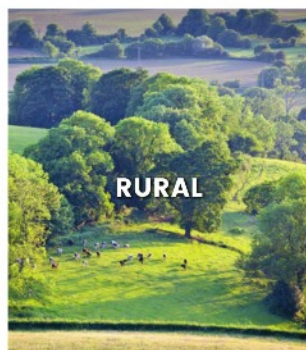
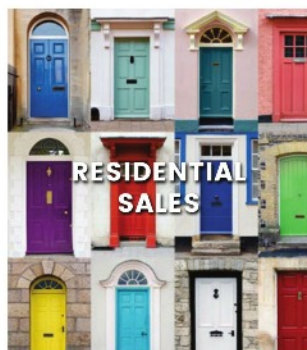
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