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April - May 2021



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Overview

Twelve months on and, as someone famous once said - it's déjà vu all over again!

Restrictions on getting together still apply, therefore copy for the magazine is limited, so I am very grateful to all who have contributed to this issue.

On the next pages, Claire Pearce has tips for getting the best from your plug plants and there's the good news that the Village Hall will soon re-open. And, it's panto time again on page 5 (Oh, yes it is!) with information on how you can watch and, hopefully, enjoy Cloverleaf's on-line performance.

While most activities have been halted, reports from our two wonderful outdoor sites - Underway Meade and Sunday School Wood - have been forthcoming throughout, as there is always work going on. This time is no exception, with lots of news and pictures. There's a reminder about the presence on social media of Chard Gardening Club,, some useful information on a suite of websites for walkers, plus an Easter recipe on page 15.

Unfortunately, the Combe 10k, 5K and Fun Run, has been postponed , but there's hope for later in the year. This event has been a major fund-raiser for Combe PFA, so fingers crossed for a happy outcome.

Jackie Nicholls has a tip for keeping your flowers looking good for longer, and while her flower school can't open immediately, Combe Football Club is able to resume some games and would love to see more people attending.

Along with the latest report from Yarcombe YFC, there's an update on plans to 'Save The Dragon' with news about a range of fund-raising events. John Phillips is taking us back in local history again with a tale of rebellion against the King!

Details of the Holy Week services on Zoom and how to join in plus times of actual church services can be found on the Parish Pages section from page 32.

Finally, there's a message in the Parish Council report that needs emphasising. We all know that dogs often have to 'poo' when they're out for a walk, but most owners behave responsibly and pick it up. A while ago, Ed Cockburn told us how dangerous dog poo can be for farm animals - and it can be just as perilous for us. Living on an unmade lane makes you realise that quite a few people don't bother to bag as they're in the 'countryside', but allowing your dog to foul the pavements outside the school - or in the children's play area - is totally unacceptable! If you are one of offending dog owners please buy some poo bags and change your ways!

Lesley Cole

Editor

In the Garden with Claire Pearce of Combe Dingle Nursery

I am glad it is not just the draw of complimentary tea and cake that brings people out for plug plants, though it was sorely missed this year. Having sold flower plug plants on the 2nd weekend of March for several years, people tell me it is a date that says Spring is here. It is always a pleasure to see so many new and familiar faces, for the most part, enjoying the sun. Having spread it over the week and with enough outside space, everyone could distance safely and still share in each other's enthusiasm. At one point I found 3 women all on their knees choosing plants, not knowing each other, they were brought together by the joy of gardening.

What to do with these pesky plugs now you have them? They can be left in the plug tray for a week or so, taking care that they do not dry out. Ideally pot up into 9cm pots and no bigger. These plants are not hardy. Some will tolerate lower temperatures than others. As a rule, 3C or below and they will need protecting against frost damage. This could just be to cover them in fleece. Other than that, I don't give them any heat. Grown long and slow produces stronger plants that keep flowering for longer. Once big enough they can be used to make up baskets or tubs and put outside once risk of frost has passed. Usually by Mid May.



Vegetable plug plants will be here Mid-April through to August. These have also grown in popularity every year. The extensive range of vegetable plants are listed on a blackboard and updated almost weekly. Many of us have already chitted potatoes and planted them along with onions and broad beans. Before long, the ground will be warm enough to start seed sowing on mass. I will be liming my garden this year. Vegetables prefer a higher PH. This is lowered by the constant adding of homemade compost and manure. I am sure my leafy veg will benefit greatly.

As we look forward to the world returning to some sense of normality, it is obvious that it will again be a difficult year to get hold of some stock. Many seed companies are struggling to keep up with demand. The compost industry seems chaotic with the move towards reducing peat. The subject of how to garden in the best way for the environment is so vast and interesting that we will look into it more in the next Cloverleaf.

Local News

Village Hall

We are poised to reopen the hall but, not surprisingly, what can start when is quite complicated. The guidance is only conditional, subject to the virus being considered sufficiently under control, so all dates are “no earlier than” and the Government is expected to confirm a week beforehand. So while we can start to accept some bookings, it will only be on a provisional basis. And of course hirers will still have to comply with all the Covid precautions which we already have in place.

The full details of what can start when are too lengthy to detail here, but in essence:

- 8 March:** school and childcare use can resume.
- 29 March:** out of school children’s settings will be able to accept all children.
- 12 April:** subject to strict limits on numbers, funerals, weddings and children’s activities can resume, as can indoor markets as these are classed as retail. Other activities such as art classes, clubs, craft groups, Parish Council meetings, or exercise classes are not yet permitted.
- 6 May:** local elections can take place.
- 17 May:** controlled indoor activities can resume but only at 50% capacity. This includes cafés, coffee mornings and social clubs, and up to 30 people can attend weddings, receptions and funerals.
- 21 June:** legal limits on social contact are removed, as are restrictions on numbers at weddings and funerals, and dancing is permitted.

If you want to make a booking, please contact Ian Croucher (**tel 01460 64098, email: csnvillagehall@hotmail.com**) and he will send you the necessary details and booking forms. If you aren’t sure whether your activity is allowed to take place, Ian will be happy to advise (if necessary, seeking clarification from the powers-that-be first, as there are still lots of grey areas!).

Village Hall Committee

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Cloverleaf Productions

We were very thankful that our 2020 pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, took place before COVID-19 closed down the country. We all hoped that the problem would be over by the Summer; few of us thought that we would still be in a lockdown situation a whole year later!

The closure of halls and the severe restrictions on any sort of public performance put paid to producing a 2021 pantomime on stage. But there was a way to keep our members acting and – possibly – provide some entertainment for our loyal audiences.

Philippa Glastonvill encouraged Cloverleaf members young and not so young to come together to produce a short panto online. Although they were able to hold a few socially distanced actual rehearsals, recurring lockdowns meant that most took place via Zoom (what would we have done without it??)

By the magic of fairy dust and wonder techie Brian Eastell's considerable skill, everyone's individual video, shot mainly in their own homes, was carefully knitted together to produce Cloverleaf's version of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Huge thanks must go to Philippa and all who took part, especially our young actors.

The panto premiered to Cloverleaf members a couple of weeks ago, but now you can watch this marvel of modern technology on YouTube – simply search for Cloverleaf Panto.

We hope that you enjoy the experience and we all hope to be back on the stage with a Late Summer Show later in the year.

Combe St Nicholas Parish Oil Co-Operative

The oil co-operative enables residents of the Parish to obtain heating oil at bulk discount prices. The minimum order will be 500 litres. There will be deliveries every two months. **Cut-off date for May will be Monday 10th.**

Please check subsequent issues of Cloverleaf or the Parish website (**www.combestnicholas.org.uk**) for the following months. For more information, please ring the number below. Please note there is no fee for membership or placing an order.

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Underway Meade

I hope you enjoyed seeing the splendid display of snowdrops in the woodland and near the Symes' gate during February. Primroses and Celandines are out now around Gerry's bench and on the mound and the Marsh marigolds are making a nice splash of colour in the pond. Do watch out for the bluebells that are coming up in the woodland and should be in bloom during April and May. All of these flowers are welcomed by bees and butterflies, some of which have already been seen on the wing in the few warm days in late February.



Marsh Marigolds are flowering by the pond

Despite the restrictions, and following all the Covid guidance, good progress has been made with the "Wild Play in Underway" Project and you can now see the new raised beds, a mud kitchen, willow tunnel, igloo and plant



supports. Topsoil for the beds, (some of it kindly donated by Dearden's), play bark for the tunnel and children's seating area, and a music wall utilising the old climbing frame, are soon to follow. Thanks to everyone who has donated items to support this project, including the splendid table and bench set from Nick Stuparyk, which we have placed with another picnic bench just outside the play area for anyone to use, including those with dogs! Well done to Sarah and her team for achieving so much in what has been a challenging time!

In the rest of the Meade you may have seen the new weatherproof noticeboards we have installed at the entrances and around the site. These will mean we no longer have to rely on laminating and stapling and so will be greener and time saving too.

You will be aware that we have struggled to keep the pond under control, trying various ways of lowering the water level to be able to dig out the silt which is accumulating and causing the area to gradually dry out. We can't use a mechanical digger as the pond is



neoprene lined so we were advised to try using a pump. We are delighted to be able to report that we have been successful in applying for a grant to the Wessex Water Recovery Fund and will be buying a small pump which will be used later in the year so that the moorhens and amphibians are not unduly disturbed.

After a year of on and off lockdowns and many restrictions as to what we can do, where and with whom, we are at last beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully in the next few months we will be able to return to a more normal existence. This will make it much easier for work to be carried out in the Meade and for events such as moth trapping demonstrations, bat detection evenings and even picnics to be held. Watch out for the posters on the new boards for details!

Lynn Osborne,
Chair, Combe St. Nicholas Parochial Trust.
Tel: 01460 62015 Email: lynnosborne99@gmail.com



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Sunday School Wood

Once again, the snowdrops excelled, complemented by those in the Churchyard. These were followed by a striking display of wild daffodils which have lasted for a long period. Bluebells are coming through in profusion and promise to keep up an ongoing display of spring flowers, wild primroses keep coming, and with cowslips, wood anemones and various garlics still to appear, well worth a regular walk through. We are hopeful that the recent foxglove plantings will do well. There are also a lot of self sown plants growing near the shed, and these look very healthy (self sown always seem to do best). We have been given some seeds of the rare Deptford pink, and some white verbascum, which have just recently been sown, but these are both perennials, so it may be next year before we see these in flower.

We have sprayed the weed growth in Brian's Patch prior to sowing with wild flower annuals. Before we do this, the ground needs rotovating to improve the tilth of the soil. Despite regular starting up the rotovator during the winter, recently it failed to start, so we are hoping that Phil Roper of AGM can again work his magic.

We have had our first grass cut of the season (early March). Not really necessary yet, but it improved the general appearance. We have also started to pile up the bonfire heap in an attempt to tidy up after the two and a bit trees were felled last year, these having been considered to be unsafe. If anyone wants any of it for kindling, feel free, but please leave the heap tidy.

Frank Warriner (67407)

Combe St Nicholas Gardening Club

This is a reminder about the Club's new Facebook Group, called Combe Gardening Group.

We now have almost 60 members. The Group encourage residents of Combe St. Nicholas Parish and surrounding areas to ask and answer questions on gardening matters, post photos of their gardens and plants, share gardening experiences and knowledge and raise any other matters of interest relating to gardens and gardening. No experience or education is needed – just an interest in the subject. Nor do you have to be a member of Combe Gardening Club to join the Group.

Just go to Facebook Groups and search for **Combe Gardening Group**.

Combe St.Nicholas Parish Council

Monthly Meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Decisions on planning applications and other issues are discussed and agreed by show of hands.

21st March was Census Day. Forms could be completed on-line but if you do not have a computer/laptop there is a telephone number on the letter sent out to all premises so that written information can be sent. If you have not received any census information please contact **0800 141 2021** as it is unlawful not to complete the information which is needed for planning future services such as transport, healthcare and education.

The play area on The Lawns is open, although it is **not** cleaned. Please use your own sanitisers, and wash hands as soon as possible. Keep safe distances, and 1 child and 1 adult per piece of equipment.

Reports about dog mess being found in the Play area are of high concern. **Dogs are NOT allowed** in this area. Also some was not picked up outside the school gates area. – one of the bins is only across the road ! This is so inconsiderate and potentially very harmful. If you own a dog you **must** be responsible for clearing up any mess left when out walking anywhere around the Parish. **CLEAR IT UP.** Thank you.

The next Parish Council meetings are due on Monday 22nd March, Monday 26th April (which includes the Annual Parish Meeting prior to the Council meeting, and Monday 24th May, either remotely by Zoom or, possibly, in the Village Hall if restrictions are lifted.

Anne Hunt – Parish Clerk
Tel: 61296 or email combestnicholaspc@gmail.com
website : www.combestnicholas.org.uk

An election for a Police and Crime Commissioner for the Avon & Somerset area is to be held in addition to the local elections on May 6th, if the post is contested.

New applications to register to vote must be made to the Elections Registration Office at South Somerset District Council by midnight on Monday 19th April and new applications for a postal or proxy vote by 5pm on Tuesday 20th April.

Full details, including the relevant addresses, websites and email information can be found on the Village website - www.combestnicholas.org.uk

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John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk)– one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

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Easter Biscuits

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Ingredients

75 g (3oz) butter, softened
75 g (3oz) caster sugar
1 egg separated
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
65 g (2½oz) currants
175 g (6oz) plain flour
3 tbsp milk
Granulated sugar to sprinkle



Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan)/350°F/gas mark 4.
 2. Beat the softened butter and caster sugar together until light and fluffy, then beat in the egg yolk.
 3. Add a pinch of mixed spice with the currants and mix to combine, then beat in the milk.
 4. Add the flour and mix to a stiff dough. Roll out the dough to 6mm (¼in) thick then use a 7cm (3in) round cookie cutter cut out biscuits and transfer to a baking sheet. Gather up the trimmings, roll and repeat.
 5. Lightly beat the egg white and brush the surface of the biscuits with the egg white, then sprinkle with a little granulated sugar.
 6. Bake for 15 – 18 minutes until pale golden.
- Makes 10-11 biscuits.

Combe10k, 5k and Fun Run Postponed.

After due consideration for the safety of volunteers and participants, we have decided to postpone the event which was provisionally scheduled for 16th May. We are considering whether to hold an event later in this year. Please watch this space and our Facebook page for more details. Thanks to those who have already volunteered, I'll remember you for next time!

Andy Toyne

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Flower Arranging Workshops

I hope you are all still safe and well. Sadly, my flower school is still closed due to Government restrictions - but there is now hope on the horizon with the vaccine programme and life - albeit slowly - returning to normal.

In April last year, I was very busy with our Spring workshops. One of these was learning how to arrange Spring flowers in a vase. For most people, that's always proved not to be as easy as it sounds - but with a little help and patience, there were outstanding results from everyone who attended. Here are a few of those gorgeous, uplifting designs for you:

During this quiet time, I've been experimenting with numerous spring flowers. I was recently the recipient of some beautiful scented

daffodils from the Isles of Scilly and decided to try out a new method which I hoped could make them last longer. I refreshed the water **every day** making sure it was very cold, pouring only about an inch into the vase. **Two weeks later**, they finally went in the bin - which is amazing, considering scented flowers never last as long as non-scented. So, this is definitely worth a try for your daffs, tulips and cut hyacinths. Why not give it a go?

Hopefully, by the next edition of Cloverleaf, I will be able to announce a new and exciting workshop programme for the rest of the year. In the meantime, for up-to-date details, please either visit my website, email or telephone.

All events held at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall. For more workshops and further information contact Jackie Nicholls, Ashville Design on **01460 67795** or **07906 259 683** or email ashvilledesign@outlook.com - www.ashvilledesign.co.uk - www.facebook.com/ashvilledesign



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Clubs and Societies

Combe Football Club



The men's Somerset county league and Perry Street leagues have decided to null and void the seasons but will replace with some mini leagues. The Somerset county veterans league will continue as they only have monthly matches and I am pleased to report Combe are top of their division. We are waiting to hear from Somerset county ladies league on the future. Lastly all Avishayes Combe youth football is back on from April. So in summary you can expect to see some Saturday and Sunday football starting in April up Combe and possibly going into June.

I am pleased to announce that the community bar and restaurant at Combe Football Club will open its doors again from Friday 16th April for outside service only to start with. With lighter evenings coming, beautiful views and a well-lit outside area we hope this will be as popular with locals as it was before lockdown.

Children are welcome to play on the pitches and dogs welcome on leads. Keep an eye on www.combefc.co.uk and Facebook for updates.

Lastly is a plea to locals who use the facilities to walk around. On both fields we are noticing hedges damaged due to people walking through them which is really quite unnecessary. The football pitches are private property and the committee has always allowed locals access as long as they respect the grounds.

If anyone sees any form of disrespect to the grounds or property please help us to police it because if we cannot control it we may have to take a view on allowing locals access. This would be a real shame as I know the vast majority are very respectful.

I hope soon to see you up watching football at the club or having a drink; either way come and support your local club.

Luc Logan
Chairman, Combe Football Club

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visit www.combestnicholas.org.uk**



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Yarcombe & District Young Farmers

February seemed another quiet month given the current circumstances around Covid-19 and lockdown. However, we find ourselves in March already, the months are passing very quickly and we seem to be flying through the young farmers calendar.

We continue to host our regular club meetings via Zoom, where recently a discussion was held in regards to our chosen charities for the current year. We are very pleased to confirm that we will be continuing to fundraise and support the two nominated charities from last year; Mardon House (Neurological Rehabilitation) and The Farming Community Network.

The future months in the young farmers calendar certainly appear to be more promising and brighter for all. We are very much all looking forward to the better months ahead and being able to fundraise as much as we can for the two above- mentioned charities. It is also very encouraging and pleasing to begin having discussions as a club, surrounding potential future events and fundraisers, what with the restrictions starting to ease, albeit gradually.

As the restrictions do start to ease and normality appears to be in sight, we hope to be able to share with you details of our events in the near future.

We encourage all members to stay actively involved and connected with Young Farmers and we will be looking to continue with a variety of online activities to keep you busy in the short-term, with the view of hoping to see you all in person again, when we can, soon!

If anyone would like to become involved in Young Farmers, we would love you to join our club and encourage you to contact our Chairman or Secretary for more information. If anyone has any further questions please contact our Chairman Dan Olive on 07811744714, or our Secretary Natalie Sampson on 07775591324.

Once again, may we express our huge appreciation to all key workers, be it farming, NHS, health-care (to name a few) for seeing us all through this pandemic.

We hope you all stay safe and well.

**Katie Trevelyan, Press Secretary
Yarcombe and District Young Farmers**



Save the Dragon Update

After several months of focused effort and determination from the CSN Community Pub team, I am delighted to inform you that we have raised nearly £100,000 in pledges and donations from the local community and we have received our first business donation from Minster Vets in Ilminster & Chard.

We are currently exploring available grants that we can access to supplement the community funding raised so far. Recently, our society was invited to talk about the impact of potential grant funding live on BBC Radio Somerset on the morning of the Budget 2021 ahead of the launch on a new Government initiative, 'The Community Ownership Fund'. Chancellor Rishi Sunak, announced a £150m pot that will allow communities to take over their local pubs that have been hit hard by the pandemic.

The Community Ownership Fund will give local people the chance to buy into endangered pubs like The Green Dragon as the Government recognise that pubs "are the heart and soul of our local towns and villages – they're the glue that keeps us together."

Under the fund, which will open in the summer, community groups will be able to bid for up to £250,000 matched-funding to help them to buy local assets to run as community-owned businesses. Bids are to open later in the year and we will clearly be keeping a very close eye on this new fund as it develops over the next few months.

As a reminder, we need to raise close to £400,000 to secure the pub, renovate and stock it ready for opening so still have some way to go financially although with the match funding we are already half way to our target! Significant grant funding will help make this project viable and provide long term sustainability for our village pub. The funding, if we are successful, will help us to get our village pub back open serving the local community much sooner than we had feared.

April will see our first community fundraising event as COVID-19 restrictions ease. We are running an Easter Dragon Egg Hunt, running over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend with a goody bag for each entry and entry into our prize draw for a spectacular Easter egg. Please visit the Village Shop or Lorna Davis at Meadow Rise on Stoooper's Hill for your entry forms. £2 per entry. A special thanks goes out to our generous sponsors who have helped make this event possible; Build Management Solutions, Combe Wood Computers, Country

Fare Catering, Glasper's Wider Format Printing, Razooks Hair & Beauty, RBL Mobile Tyres, Revive Hair & Beauty, Sarah Helliker and Tesco.

We are currently putting plans together for a number of events over the coming months including:

- ▶ A cake sale in May
- ▶ Sponsored 40 mile bike ride called 'Ride the Dragon' in July
- ▶ Dragon Day at Wild Play in July
- ▶ Return of the Dragonball Run cross country team challenge in August
- ▶ A live music event with local band Seatrees at Combe Football Club in early September. More details to follow.

If you are interested in supporting this campaign with fundraising ideas, a pledge, donation, or to sponsor an event, please visit our website www.savethegreendragon.com for more information or send an email to savethegreendragoncsn@gmail.com

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A moment in time...with John Phillips

The goose steals the common back

It's 1643. They were all there now, well over 100 men from Combe, all had agreed to do it, and do it they did. They tore down and laid waste to the hedges enclosing 162 acres of land which had previously been common land in the Royal forest of Roche. The land in question was an oval piece which now straddles the A303 from near Somerset cottage at the foot of Ham Hill and stretches half a mile almost up to Ham.

In 1634 Charles I had disafforested Roche and authorised the enclosure of large areas including 500 acres in the parish of Combe - 1/3 going to the King, 1/3 to the Lord of the Manor and 1/3 to the commoners. In Combe's case the Lord of the Manor was the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral of Bath and Wells. The commoners, all those who farmed in the parish from the largest Yeoman farmer to the tiniest smallholder, were furious. They had lost their customary grazing rights on 12% of their Commons with no compensation. They had exercised these rights from time immemorial. Apart from complaining, they could do nothing about it, as the King and the Bishop had the power to punish severely anyone taking unlawful direct action against it. The King was ruling without parliament which had been prorogued five years before and Archbishop Laud and Bishop Peirs were the most enthusiastic of his supporters.

At this time the church was a powerful presence in every parish and the ecclesiastical courts had considerable power over many matters that would now be deemed secular. This was doubly so in Combe, as it was everybody's landlord. Henry Bonner tried to broker a compromise and arrange matters so that some benefit would go to the poor of Combe. He owned Weston Estate and was a rich wool merchant, but his efforts came to nothing and his son somehow gained control of all the land in question. However, within 10 years matters had changed dramatically.

The King had been forced to recall parliament in 1640 to pay off a Scots army that had just defeated him. Parliament was incensed by Archbishop Laud's decision to fund the King with a special relief tax earlier that year. They impeached him and Bishop Peirs and both were imprisoned in the Tower of London. Interestingly, one of the 15 articles of impeachment referred to his undermining the rights of secular patronage. In 1637 he had enraged the Popham family (Somerset gentry) when he had made his son

rector of Buckland St. Mary, which the family thought was in their gift. The King was forced to flee London and raise his standard in Nottingham in August 1642. The Archbishop was executed in 1645.

Bishop Peirs survived the interregnum but Episcopal power was now in tatters. In 1642 he writes plaintively that his efforts to sort out a patronage issue at Marston Biggot had failed because "I have heard nothing from any of them". His chancellor, the chief legal officer of the diocese, Mr Arthur Duck (what a splendid name) had been summoned as a delinquent by parliament and fined £2000, the equivalent of £2-4 million today. He still managed to gift the King £6000. His deputy, the registrar of the chief court of the diocese, a Mr Alexander Jet, appointed in 1639 was soon lamenting the fact that he had "laid out so much money in an office that is likely to come to an end"!

Therefore, the men of Combe could steal back the common for the goose with little fear of any serious repercussions. And so they did! The land remained common land for some 20 years and eventually, after considerable legal wrangling in the court of Chancery, became the property of the Forest Charity with Trustees appointed to ensure the income from the rental benefited the poor of Combe. Mr Bonner's idea finally bore fruit.



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A Local Visit

Bishopswood Meadows

Calcareous (lime rich) species such as cowslip, quaking grass and dwarf thistle thrive in the reserve's former quarry and spoil heaps. The early purple orchid is also common in some areas. One field consists of unimproved rush pasture with species such as common spotted orchid, marsh marigold and ragged robin.

All of the fields in the reserve have thick hedgerows including hazel, hawthorn, field maple, ash, and holly. Dormice can be spotted amongst these hedgerows, as well a variety of butterflies. The River Yarty is also an important habitat, used by otter, kingfisher, dipper and golden-ringed dragonfly.

The lime kiln, keyhole-shaped quarry and spoil heaps can still be seen at Bishopswood Meadows to this day – evidence of the extensive lime-burning industry that grew up in the Bishopswood area in the mid 19th century. There was a huge demand for lime at the time. Farmers used lime to reduce the acidity of the Blackdown Hills' soil. Lime was also an essential resource for the local building industry, used to make mortar, putty, and whitewash. The spoil from the lime kilns has certainly left its mark on today's landscape.

Look out for:

Butterflies: marbled-white, small and large skipper, gatekeeper, silver-washed fritillary. Good site for green woodpeckers.

Plants: common-spotted and early-purple orchid, wild carrot, black knapweed, yellow rattle, common milkwort, common centaury, agrimony, cowslip, quaking grass.

Noteworthy species:

Dwarf thistle (locally uncommon),
bee orchid

Location:

Grid reference: ST252131

Nearest postcode: TA20 3HA

Parking/access:

Park in Bishopswood village and walk down past village hall. Lane off road at ST 252 129, 400 metres from Bishopswood village.



Look out for bee orchids from June to July



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Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2001-2010	10 Yr Ave 2011-2020
Jan	147	119	123	126
Feb	139	233	86	113
TOTAL	286	352	209	239

All measurements in millimetres 25mm = 1" = 45 gallons/sq yard

January was another month where we saw rain on the majority of days, but not in great amounts except on a couple of days. February was similar in total amount of rainfall but had a dry second week. As has been happening in these Winter months over recent years, the actual amounts for each month was greater than the averages for the past 20 years.

Tony Cole (61896)

Cloverleaf Parish Pages

Vicar's Letter

As I sit to write today, we have been a whole year in this changed place; our first Service on line was Mothering Sunday last year. A whole year; I wonder how we would have felt or reacted if we had been told in March 2019 that we would be mostly locked down for a whole year; how would people have coped with it? I believe there is a high chance that vastly more of us would have found that prospect completely inconceivable and unbearable. Yet as we have travelled, a little at a time, from one stepping stone to another we have made it to a new place of vision for what the future brings.

We carry in our rucksacks of life the stories so far, the experiences of community and extra-ordinary fellowship in new ways, alongside the moments when we almost slipped from the stone into the water. Our rucksacks have felt heavy and a burden, at other times light and easy to carry. Welcome to the edge of a new way of being, the new normal. The sun is shining now and as we see the flowers and tree buds blossoming, we know we are on the edge of Spring.

I am minded of the first Easter Morning, the first disciples must have been a place of lost vision too, what were they to do? Where should they go? Were they in danger after Jesus' death? From the place of despair and loss came the vision for the way forward on that first Easter morning and later in the day on the road to Emmaus as Jesus spoke first with Mary and then the disciples and life took on a new meaning filled with the light of hope.

So be blessed in the ways you desire.

Can I thank all of the ladies for the fantastic creativity that has been going on in the village, the knitting and crocheting (under Sue and Janet's encouragement); everyone has worked so hard together to create some stunning flowers, insects and bees for the spring display on the Church Railings. You have certainly brightened up the village for everyone. THANK YOU all.

A poem I would like to share with you for passing on, as it says, to the young people in your lives; it has such a positive outlook and affirms all of our young people.

Rev Georgina

In twenty years time...

People will not ask the children of 2020 if they caught up with their studies.

They will not ask them what grades they made, despite the year off school.

They will ask them with wonder 'what was it like?'

They will ask them 'how did you cope?'

'How did you feel?'

'What do you remember of those days?'

They will listen in awe to the tales of clapping on doorsteps for the medical workers.

They will sit open-mouthed to hear of daily walks being the only life we saw and how much we missed human contact and gatherings.

They will be amazed to know about empty supermarkets, online concerts, birthdays spent on a screen and a life lived inside.

They will listen, then sit back with amazement and say, 'Wow. You went through so much.'

So think about what you would like your children to take away from this whole year.

Tell them they are not behind.

Tell them they are not missing out.

Tell them they are extremely special indeed and they will be forever made stronger by this unique time.

Tell them catching up is not even a thing because they have grown so much in so many other ways.

Remind them too of the fun stuff, the family jigsaws, the window rainbows, the zoom bingo.

The feeling of safety and togetherness amidst the chaos.

Let them take that thought with them through life.

Change the narrative now and it will travel far.

Tell the children they are not behind.

They are special.

They are special.

By Donna Ashworth

Author of **History Will Remember: When The World Stopped**
and **To The Women**

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We give thanks for the lives of:

Gill Coleman

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June Burroughs

Combe St. Nicholas

For enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the clergy. If you would like us to visit you or just want a chat please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rev Georgina

Combe Church cleaning.

Can you spare some time to assist our group of volunteers who do splendid work keeping the Parish Church in good order. An hour or so a few times a year is all that is required.



If so please ring Pat Poole on 62236.
Full training given!!

Whitestaunton Church have had some opportunities ahead of the re-opening and beginning of Church Services.

They would like to recruit someone who is interested in arranging flowers to come onto the rota and join the band of happy ladies. Male or female welcomed!

Also, if someone would like to volunteer to clean the Church two or three times a year, this would be gratefully received.

The Church is often visited by ramblers as they pass by and it is so good to have a welcome respite to stop at for a moments silence.

Rev Georgina 01460 66159

Church Services across the Benefice

We are returning to "in person" Services on Easter Day, at Chard and Combe however, we are not able to return to worship in all of the Churches. Therefore, at this moment in time the rotas above are provisional. Please check Facebook and the Village Website for any changes. If you would like to receive our weekly link to recorded or Live Streamed Worship then please ask and we will add you to the email list.

Rev Georgina

HOLY WEEK—ALL SERVICES ARE ON ZOOM If you would like to join us the code is shown below				
Monday 29th	Tuesday 30th	Wednesday 31st	Thursday 1st	Friday 2nd
6.30pm BCP Evensong	6.30 pm Taizé Service	6.30pm BCP Evensong	6.30pm Agape Meal and Talk by Anne Pleded	12.00 noon Stations of the Cross outside at Combe 2.00pm Service of the Final Hour

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87294960870?pwd=VFR0RGcOUXdlcTVMbDNKZnhPU25ldz09>

Meeting ID: 872 9496 0870

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APRIL	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
April 4th Easter Day	10.30 am Holy Communion			6.20am Sunrise Service outside St. Mary's 10.30am Holy Communion Live Streamed
There will be NO more 'in person' services until May 23rd				

MAY	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
May 23rd Pentecost	10.30am Holy Communion Live Streamed			10.30am Holy Communion
May 30th Trinity Sunday	10.30am Benefice Service at Combe Outside in Sunday School Wood (weather permitting)			

Cloverleaf Parishes Information

Clergy contact details:

Rector: Rev'd Ann Kember

The Vicarage, Forton Road, Chard TA20 2HJ

Tel: 01460 351521 Email: annkember58@gmail.com

Associate Rev'd Georgina Vye,

Vicar: The Vicarage, 57 Caraway Close, Chard, TA20 1HP

01460 66159 or 07950 989916 Email: g.vye@btinternet.com

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St Nicholas, Combe: Bobbie Boud (67901), Penny Croucher (64098)

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Visit the Wambrook website www.wambrookparishchurch.com

St Andrew's, Whitestaunton: Jane Harris (239113), John Barron (63716)

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Services: No services until further notice

Minister: Rev Anna Flindell (01460 261766)

Steward: Arnold Coleman (64892)

Copy date for June/July issue of Cloverleaf

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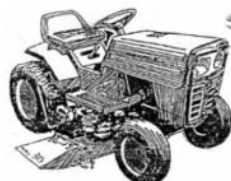
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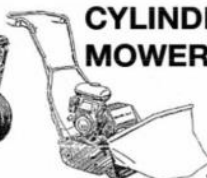
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