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August - September 2021



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Overview

It's a well-known fact that talking about the weather is a mainstay of British conversation, and this is little wonder after the wide variety of conditions that we experience in the space of just a few weeks. A drought in April, a washout in May, thunderstorms with giant hail in June and finally - the deluge!

Over 100mm of rain fell in less than an hour, with the resultant flooding causing such damage in some homes. The pictures on page 21 illustrate what happened locally, though when compared to the devastation and loss of life in Germany and Belgium, our downpour pales into insignificance.

Although the various village clubs, societies and organisations are not yet fully up and running, some of you will note that the magazine has returned to its former size. This is largely due to a record number of contributions.

It's good to see activities returning to Combe Village Hall - Wadeford Charity Book Club will be holding a sale again soon, a free taster session of World Dance is on offer and live theatre is returning with Cloverleaf Production's Late Summer Show. Hopefully we will all feel confident enough to get back to some semblance of 'normality', by giving these events our full support.

Next year will be the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Whether you are a royalist or a republican it is still an historical occasion to be celebrated and on page 19 our Parish Clerk calls for ideas, expertise and enthusiasm from the community.

In spite of the challenging times, all at Combe School have been busy with a wide range of activities including a rather delayed, but much anticipated, May Day celebration; the picture shows this year's May Queen and her attendants!



Further on in the magazine you can discover more about the Wilder

Churches initiative in which both Combe and Whitestaunton churches are taking part. And, on page 32, John Phillips give us insight into local history with another Moment in Time.

Finally, thanks to Nick Stuparyk for this month's cover picture. of a roe deer.

Lesley Cole

Editor

In the Garden with Claire Pearce of Combe Dingle Nursery

I'm Hooked! I've got that gardening bug. I think it is something that waxes and wanes depending on many factors such as the weather or what is happening in our lives. There is so much going on in the garden.

For July it is green and lush and full of colour. Some flowers are fading and need deadheading regularly. This should be done by cutting cleanly to a bud or leaf, Roses should be cut back by at least 3 leaves. Then there are all the late flowering plants just waiting to steal the show. The weeds are also prevailing, but this has a lot to do with my evolving method of gardening. Our tastes change, but also our desire to garden alongside nature. To accept weeds in the gravel knowing that the garden's ecosystem is so much healthier without the use of sprays. It is, however, a lot more work pulling or cutting back weeds before they can self-seed.

Being able to get out and see other people's gardens again gives huge inspiration. Whether it be large gardens or village open gardens with people proud to show off their own take on gardening. Then the cake while we discuss what we have seen. Or just popping to a friend's mother in laws to pick up some sweet potato plants and marvel at all her pots. There are always ideas to take away with you. This week's great idea is that my weedy gravel should be a gravel garden! (We will see).

I am sure many of you are by now reaping the benefits of your vegetable garden. I hear quite a lot about battling with slugs (warm and wet, great for slugs) and rabbits. We must just keep going and try not to get too disheartened by it.

Onions, garlic and shallots are ready to harvest when the foliage goes yellow. I am digging new potatoes. They are best young and fresh, so get on and start digging. I will not be picking beans for quite some time yet but there are so many other delights ready. It wasn't until I was in the walnut tree raising the crown that I noticed the sunniest bit of the vegetable garden was taken up by daffodils. That was last week. I have since dug them up, limed and composted the area and planted it up with PSB, Cauliflowers, WSB and sprouts. Genius. But now I have a lot of daffodils to plant! Preserving pans are coming out of the cupboards. I have bowls of blackcurrants waiting for my attention.



Sunday School Wood

First and foremost, a very big thank you to the Art Group for a donation from the proceeds of a raffle they held at one of their functions. We will be buying more annual flower seeds out of this for Brian's patch (and other areas) later in the year.

While on the subject of Brian's patch, the results this year have been a bit disappointing so far. We suffered from a long dry spell just after sowing the seed this year, (it is too far to hand carry cans of water!!). However, just recently it has been showing some improvement with a lot of yellow toadflax, and some poppies, together with a few other varieties. So, keep hoping.

As compensation, we have had a profusion of poppies in the central flower bed of the three on the right hand side as you walk from the churchyard to Green Lane. The vibrant display has been further enhanced by a combination of various yellow, white and mauve other flowers. This bed was rotovated at the start of the season and several packets of wild flower seeds scattered around, but we believe the poppies are the result of disturbing seed already in the ground.

Whatever the reason, we are just grateful, because initially the area was almost covered in speedwell and scarlet pimpernel. (Nice, but not what we were trying for)

The trial of not resowing yellow rattle in the first of the three beds was successful, with good growth from seed dropped last year, so we were very relieved. We will try this again.

We were further relieved recently to find that the shed survived the recent horrendous storm, with very little water ingress. This was probably due to us having cleaned out the guttering a bit earlier in the year.

Back to the wild flowers; the foxgloves were not the roaring success we were hoping for, but neither were they an unmitigated failure. Sufficient to keep trying. The purple cranesbill is now flowering in profusion in various regions of the wood, showing that persistence is sometimes rewarded.

Frank Warriner (67407)

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Village Hall

At I write this article and as you read it, it seems likely that we will have returned to normal operation and our usual capacity. Assuming this is the case it will then be up to event organisers and individual users whether to wear masks and / or to observe social distancing, and whether to wipe down surfaces before bookings begin.

Some groups may prefer the extra security of such precautions, and we will leave the hand gel in the foyer and the supplies of wet wipes and antiviral spray for you to use. We will also leave the Covid first aid station in the disabled toilet just in case someone is taken ill with potential Covid symptoms while in the hall. We would encourage you to ventilate the hall as much as you can as it seems that this is an important way of discouraging the spread of the virus. Finally, it should go without saying that we still ask you not to enter the hall if you have possible Covid symptoms or have been in touch with someone else who has.

Just a reminder: we now have Wifi set up in the hall, with the password on display in the entrance lobby.

If you want to hire the hall, please contact Ian Croucher (Tel **01460 64098**, email **csnvillagehall@hotmail.com**).

Village Hall Committee

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Underway Meade

You may well have spotted the error in the last Cloverleaf: we sent in a previous year's article! Our fault, not Lesley's. Sorry! So this report covers the last 4 months not 2.

We had planned a formal launch of the Wild Play in Underway project at our Underway Meade Community Picnic on Saturday 3rd July, but with the Covid restrictions prolonged, we had to cancel this – probably just as well as it rained all day! We are now hoping to hold the launch in September, so watch out for posters and Facebook posts with more details nearer the time.

Meanwhile, we have noticed greatly increased use of the Meade by families and child minders and the children in their care, who have seen the exciting developments mentioned on Facebook. They have visited not just from Combe, but from Chard, Ilminster, Tatworth, Taunton and Yeovil to mention just the few we have engaged in conversations with.



Unlike the text, the pictures in the last Cloverleaf were correct, and showed some beautiful wooden bird carvings which were made by the late Bob Cleal and donated by his family for everyone to enjoy. There are now bird hunt posters in the play area to help identify the species.

We were also thrilled to receive some equally beautiful felted wildlife creatures and bird roosting pouches made by Sheila Cordell. These have proved popular not only with children and adults, but also with the birds, who think they

make excellent nest lining material, so we have offered them a supply of dog fur as an alternative (thanks, Spock!), next to the bird feeder at the woodland entrance.

Thank you also to Green Ilminster Tree Project for donating the fruit trees that have been planted in the play area by Sally Nex, to Anita Heale for the apple tree, to Sue Pargeter for one of the cherry trees, and to Alan and Marj Johnston for their donation of an ornamental cherry tree planted by the new picnic area to commemorate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We are also grateful to Martin Symes (Wheelwright and Woodturner) for kindly re-oiling Betty's bench.

Even more good news: with support from the trustees, Sarah Packham put forward a successful bid on behalf of Combe Critters to the Somerset

Community Fund for funding for further equipment and for activities in the Meade, so watch out for more to come!

The rest of the Meade continues to be popular with visitors and wildlife, including our moorhen who has again produced chicks. The recent popularity of the stream area by the top bridge, which is being much enjoyed by children (and dogs) paddling, meant that we needed to carry out some essential maintenance work to prevent further erosion of the banks. This was done by the Neroche Volunteers, who also rebuilt the steps by the far entrance to the wood, built a new bench on the mound where you can sit and admire the fantastic view from there, and fitted a grid to hold back some of the debris that was getting washed into and blocking the pipes to the pond.

On a more negative note, we were very disappointed to find that the new bench on the mound had been vandalised and a fire built in front of it. Fortunately it is still usable but its beauty has been marred and the fire could easily have caused very serious damage.

The recent floods carried stones onto the grass which we will have to remove before the next mowing and gouged out the surface of the path by the pond, so take care if you walk there. The rain also brought a large branch of the big ash down, damaging the sheep fencing and blocking the path. Thanks to Bill for quickly clearing it from the path.

Once again, I would like to thank the Trustees and the brilliant volunteers who have helped with all the work that has been carried out in recent months.

If you want to support the Meade, remember you can become a Friend of Underway Meade for £10 a year or you can now scan this QR code with your smartphone to and donate via our new Just Giving page that Sarah Packham has set up, so that people can make donations when they visit (donations will be shared between the Meade and Combe Critters).



Lynn Osborne, Chair, Combe St. Nicholas Parochial Trust.
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Flower Arranging

It's been a long time, but the road to all things flowery starts here, with hints and tips to follow. Workshops are back... and it's starting to feel good!

Coming to a workshop is the perfect taste of what flower arranging is all about. Those that get the "flower bug" become regular visitors to our school and at the same time, find fabulous flowery friends.

By the time you read this, we will have made a modern interpretation of a traditional basket arrangement with a "just picked" floral design. Using seasonal flowers and foliage, it had a natural country garden feel. Many ladies kept theirs as a well-deserved present to themselves after such a ghastly year.

Moving into Autumn, it's a season with strong colours everywhere from the vibrant pinks of nerines, golden Solidago, bright orange Chinese lanterns, red berries and the changing colours of autumn foliage – green through to red, gold and brown. Amongst the most popular flowers are chrysanthemums. Here are some hints and tips for you on how to look after them.

When buying, check there is no sign of browning at the centre of the flower or the base. If there is, the flower is likely to shatter. The leaves show ageing way before the flowers, so check these have a fresh appearance. The ends of all stems that have been out of water, however briefly, seal up.

In order to allow a supply of water to enter the stem, cut them at a sharp angle using clean, sharp scissors, secateurs or a knife. Take off 1-2 inches and any foliage below the water line. Place the stems immediately in a clean container with fresh, tepid water that has flower food added to it. Chrysanthemums are extremely good value for money and if cared for correctly, will last you for weeks. See you soon!



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

Wadeford Charity Book Club

Greetings from the team of the Wadeford Charity Book Club, eager to get back our bi-monthly Sunday afternoon sessions. Like many organisations we have had a lot of time lately to consider whether we should continue with our sales and we hope the community agree that we should.



For those new to the area, or for anyone unsure just what the Book Club is about, let me briefly explain. Moira started the book sales, from her kitchen, several years ago, before moving them to the Village Hall. The aim then, as indeed now, was to re-home unwanted books and by so doing raise money for charity. Many of us simply run out of shelf space at home and need to dispose of reading material occasionally, if only to make room for yet more! By running the book sales we are able to find new homes for such material, raising hundreds of pounds in the process.

Our chosen charities remain Prostate Cancer UK and the Coeliac Society. The usual asking price is only fifty pence per book, but it all adds up and goes down well with the buyers too!

Public library services have suffered severely from financial cutbacks in recent years, causing difficulties for many people in getting their regular reading. In many ways our book sales have become a service for the community, helping to fill that gap. With the co-operation of the Village Hall Committee we have been able to store our stock of over a thousand books at the hall between sales. It simply would not be possible to continue if we had to move them elsewhere. Additionally we have enjoyed a reduced rate for the hall hire as ALL takings go to charity – Moira chooses to pay that hire fee from her own purse.

So, if we continue to receive book donations, if people return to the Sunday afternoon sales, if the Village Hall people remain helpful, we will give it ago. Next sale will be on August 15th, 2-4pm as ever, free entry of course. Your book donations on the day to the hall please, or during the week before to us in Wadeford. Any questions, or if you'd like us to collect your books, call Moira on 01460 261950.

The team - Moira and Bob, June and Frank.

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The Village Shop

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for adhering to the rules and wearing face coverings in the shop over the past months. It has not been an easy time for anyone but it certainly made us all feel a little safer during these worrying times.

However, we do know that not everyone is comfortable wearing a face coverings and, following the change in government guidelines, we feel that the time has come to begin moving towards more normal times.

Therefore, with restrictions being eased in many areas, we wanted you to know we are quite happy for our customers to make their own decisions on whether to continue wearing face coverings when coming to The Village Shop.

Thank you all for your support, encouragement and cooperation throughout the last fifteen plus months.

Elsbeth & Brian

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Cloverleaf Productions

Cloverleaf Productions are BACK!

Join us for our '**Late Summer Show**' which will take place on the **10th and 11th of September at 7:30 pm** in the Combe St Nicholas Village Hall.

The evening will consist of two one act plays followed by our usual brand of second half madness with a mix of sketches, songs and sing-a-longs - hopefully something for everyone.

The plays:

'Three Brothers' by Paul Toolan

Reverend Morpeth is being moved on... again! Can his new housekeeper, Kitty, lift him out of his glums and reunite him with his long lost brother, and where does the "mangled rabbit in a sewage of marrow" fit in?

'The Home Audience Experience' by Benedict Henderson

What if you could have your very own audience installed in your home... would you use it? Be prepared for some panto-esque audience participation in this unusual, but hilarious, comedy.

Seating will be 'cabaret' style with tables of 6, please bring your own refreshments.

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Dave Goodall

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Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

Monthly Meetings have returned to the Village Hall, with a Zoom connection if members of the public do not wish to attend in person.

Following the torrential rain in June and unprecedented flooding, particularly in Scampton Lane, Wadeford bends, Court Mill Lane and Pudleigh Lane, a great deal of work has been carried out by residents, Highways and farmers helping to clear debris, etc. etc. Many sympathies to all residents who have suffered, and many thanks extended to everyone who has helped. There is a lot of damage now to repair - homes, along the river courses and road surfaces. The public footpath along the river bank between Court Mill Lane and Pudleigh Mill will be closed for at least a month for repairs. Residents who were flooded were invited to the July PC meeting but that is after the final day for this magazine.

The Play Day organized for August on The Lawns has now been cancelled unfortunately, due to Covid uncertainty and booking helpers in time. 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. Some extra new equipment is being considered and investigations into costs, type, etc. Thanks to Councillor Sauer for repairing the cradle swings which developed a fault.

Due to concern about dogs mess being left around in places again, a new poster campaign has been launched to hopefully make the owners aware and check when walking around. Dogs are not allowed in the play area of The Lawns, or the School Fields. PLEASE CLEAR IT UP wherever it occurs. Thank you It is most offensive, especially when children get it on their shoes and then walk it into homes and school. School children are helping us by designing some posters too.

Just a reminder – there are 2 public Defibrillators in the Parish. In Combe Village it is situated on the wall, church site of the School, and in Wadeford it is in the old telephone box outside The Haymaker. If anyone is suspected of having a heart attack firstly, ring 999 to call an ambulance and ask for the code number of the defibrillator in our Parish. Send someone to the Box and follow verbal instructions, and keep up CPR until the paramedics arrive. Help to save a life.

Thanks to Robin Cloke for clearing the newly re-instated bridleway – Sixteen Acre Lane. This, and some others on the Ham side of the A303 have been investigated by SCC and have now been modified as bridleways. Unfortunately, Sixteen Acre Lane's most northerly point ends at the A.303

which, of course, would be extremely dangerous for horse-riders. The Southern point starts in Priddles Lane, Sticklepath.

Next scheduled Parish Council meetings – Monday 23rd August and Monday 27th September – 7.30pm Combe St. Nicholas Village Hall.

Anne Hunt – Parish Clerk, Tel. 01460 61296
combestnicholaspg@gmail.com website – www.combestnicholas.org.uk

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The celebrations for this event are due to take place on 2-5 June in 2022 and we are sure that the village would like mark this momentous occasion in some way. So, put your thinking caps on and perhaps we can come up with some innovative ideas!

In order to co-ordinate the event an organising committee will be needed and we are looking for volunteers.

If you have any suggestions or would like to be part of the Jubilee Committee, please contact Anne Hunt—Parish Clerk

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Dates for your diary

August

Sun	1		See Church Services
Sun	8		See Church Services
Sun	15		See Church Services
		2-4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale - Village Hall
Sun	22		See Church Services
Mon	23	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Sun	29		See Church Services

September

Sun	5		See Church Services
Mon	6		Cut-off date for Oil Co-operative
		2.00pm	World Dance Taster Session - Village Hall
Fri	11	7.30pm	Cloverleaf Productions Late Summer Show
Sat	12	7.30pm	at Combe Village Hall
Sun	13		See Church Services
Sun	19		See Church Services
Sun	26		See Church Services
Mon	27	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall

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Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2001-2010	10 Yr Ave 2011-2020
May	285.	17	85	62
June	156	81	55	94
Jan—April	338	471	394	372
TOTAL	779	569	534	528

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

After the driest April on record, May gave us the wettest ever recorded here, with only six days with no precipitation! June started well with light rainfall on just a few days - until the 29th. The deluge produced 107mm in just over an hour and the level of devastation can be seen in the pictures below.

Tony Cole (61896)



These pictures illustrate the severity of the damage, (clockwise l to r), from the flood waiting to burst into the Haymaker Inn, to the total destruction of roads in Combe and Whitestaunton,.



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Combe St Nicholas C of E Primary School

We had thought that last year was the most disrupted we could have been, but in fact this year has been even more challenging. The children have been organised into 'bubbles' and we have staggered comings and goings and separate lunch and play times. This has helped to keep the school safe and open but has impacted on the life of the school. Our youngest children have not celebrated a whole school worship in person or been to the church. They have barely been into some parts of the building and they do not know the Year 6 children who we will be saying goodbye to in a few weeks. In spite of it all, we have tried to keep as many activities and traditions going as we could.

We have participated in the Ilminster Literary Festival Poetry Competition, which was held via Zoom. We have also made videos of Easter songs and readings for the church service. Revd Georgina came into school to film the children who had prepared prayers and readings for Father's Day and this was shared with the church congregation too.

We launched our summer project Take One Picture at Underway Meade. The National Gallery have chosen The Finding of Moses as the focus painting this year and so the children 'found' Moses in a basket in the water. As part of that project we have also taken part in a willow weaving day and made our own Moses Basket!



We delayed our May Celebration so that we could gather outside and invite the Year 6 parents. So May became June! We also held sports events in group bubbles. The Year 6 production was held outside in the Sunday School Wood. This year the performance was Peter Pan. The setting of the woods was a lovely backdrop.

Ms Kierstan and Mr Parrington have planned a local camping trip which we hope will go some way to compensate for not going on a residential trip.

We say a sad farewell to Ms Kierstan this year. Sophie has been with us for 7 years and so has taught all of the children at some point. We will miss Sophie but hope she keeps in touch with us.

We are all hoping that things will be back to normal for the children in September and are planning accordingly. Thank you for your continued support,

Christine Maxwell
Headteacher



Combe St Nicholas

Here in Combe, we've joined a new initiative between the Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Bath and Wells called Wilder Churches, which supports communities to recognise and value the wildlife in their churchyards, and work together to increase the biodiversity there.

Churchyards are often the oldest piece of enclosed land in a parish and may still support a wide variety of flora and fauna. With the catastrophic loss of habitat and species across the country due to intensive land management practices, these areas are becoming increasingly valuable to help recovery.

In our churchyard, as you go through the main gates, we've left an area unmown for the season, to see what flowers there, given the chance, and we'll cut and remove the growth much later in the year. We've left margins around some of the hedge boundaries to encourage wildlife habitat and next year we'll probably leave a bit more. Along the new fence against the school playground, we intend to plant a new low hedge with shrubby species which will provide flowers fruits and berries for insects and birds.

If anyone would like to contribute a plant towards this, please pay for something from Claire Pearce at Combe Dingle Nursery who will advise on the best variety. We will then plant whatever we've got in the autumn and gradually build up a lovely flowering hedge there, which will attract all sorts of pollinators next summer, for all to enjoy.

Perhaps you might consider being a bit wilder in your own garden, nature doesn't really like 'neat and tidy' everywhere. It's good to leave some rough areas and corners to do their own thing; you'll be surprised at what might be thriving there. If you can refrain from cutting your lawn or part of it in the month of May, then so much the better. 'No Mow May' is taking off across the country to give our wildlife a boost at a crucial time of year, we all love.

Jonathan Farey

Whitestaunton

At Whitestaunton Church we are also taking part in this exciting initiative, which is providing free online training and support to help communities take action for wildlife in their churchyard (or other church land or burial ground).

We are starting by getting to know what wildlife the churchyard already supports by doing a survey of the wildlife in the churchyard. So plants can grow and attract wildlife to the churchyard, we are leaving a small plot of grass on the bank at the back of the churchyard unmown between May and August.

The rest of the churchyard will continue to be mown as usual by our voluntary mowing team (to whom we are very grateful).

We will give you updates on our progress and please do let Jane (details below) know if you spot any interesting wildlife when you are visiting the churchyard.

So far in the grassy bank we have spotted: ribwort plantain, common ragwort, dandelion, lords and ladies, lesser celandine, hogweed, common cleavers and germander speedwell.

We have also spotted honeybees and red-tailed mason bees near the path.

Please do get in touch if you have questions or queries by contacting

Whitestaunton's Wilder Churches Champion: Jane Harris at
janeharris334@gmail.com

Find out more about Wilder Churches at
www.somersetwildlife.org/wilder-churches
where you can also watch recordings of the
online events held so far.





Yarcombe and District YFC

Both May and June were busier in the YFC calendar, as guidelines and restrictions surrounding Covid-19 begun to ease in respect of what clubs/organisations, such as YFC, were permitted to do.

At the beginning of May on the bank holiday, the club held a group bike ride, which started at the Sidmouth Arms in Upottery and ended at the York Inn in Churchinford. Well done to those who came along, it was a very enjoyable day.

We also held an outside social BBQ on the 19th May, thank you to our Club Leader, Roger Patch, for kindly allowing the event to take place.

As June approached, competitions such as the East Devon Stockjudging were underway. Yarcombe YFC were placed third in terms of the club with the most overall points. We are very proud of our member, Henry Pearse, who participated and did very well in the competition. Henry was placed first in the Dairy Linear and was awarded fourth place in Dairy, along with being awarded fourth place for the overall Junior Stockjudging competition. Preparations for the Devon County Show also begun, in terms of both club and individual entries. Thank you to those members who took the time to enter individual classes at Devon County Show.

As the restrictions started to ease surrounding weddings, we also had a couple of YFC members tie the knot! Congratulations and best wishes to Becca & Adam Pulman on their special day back at the end of April and also Dean & Claire Parris, who recently married in June.

It is a particularly exciting and encouraging time, with prospective club events in the very near future. Club meetings are able to be held in person, as opposed to ZOOM, and it has been wonderful to be reunited with our friends and members at long last. Further club meetings are in the pipeline and we will look to be discussing and arranging summer social events very soon- we look forward to being able to share details with you all, when we can.

As always, we encourage all members to stay actively involved and connected with Young Farmers.

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.

We hope you all stay safe and well.

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Save the Dragon Update

Dear Community,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the progress we have made to date on the Save the Dragon campaign and request your help and support to build momentum in order to get the pub open and thriving once again.

We have now drafted a Business Plan for CSN Community Pub Limited and intend to circulate this document shortly for your review and comment.

We have now agreed on our operating model for the community pub. Once we have acquired the pub, completed refurbishment, and restocked, we will be recruiting a tenant with a publican background to run the business on behalf of the Management Committee and local community. This model of installing a tenant will provide a steady income to the Society to reinvest for the community to benefit and will ensure we have a motivated and experienced professional in place to build a profitable business by allowing them to lead product sourcing, pricing, and running the pub.

Now that COVID restrictions have been eased, we have been able to organise a number of fundraising events due to take place over the coming months. We are also hosting some drop in sessions on the village green each Saturday morning to update the local community on progress and to attract more support. The Management Committee are open to ideas on ways to improve communication, fundraising, gathering support etc.

We have raised circa £90,000 in shares (from 80 pledgers), £2,000 in donations and approx. £8,000 from fundraising to date during the last couple of lockdowns which is a really strong start given the circumstances we have to deal with. Given the latest news from the Government with regards to the Budget 2021 announcement, launching the Community Ownership Fund (still awaiting formal launch – due in July 2021), which offers matched grant funding up to £250,000, we believe we need to raise a total of £215,000 in order to be in a position to secure £215,000 from the Community Ownership Fund and acquire the pub. Therefore, we are nearly halfway to our target!!

We still have work to do to hit our target and we need more volunteers and more of the local community to pledge their commitment to this initiative so please offer help and support where you can. We are particularly interested in sourcing an accountant local to the village that can help us with the running of the Community Benefit Society. If you know of anyone suitable, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Dave Crossman, CSN Community Pub Limited Chairman

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- The training that you receive and the skills that you learn will help build your CV and will benefit you generally in your every-day life.
- Volunteering has been shown to have immense benefits for the health and wellbeing of the volunteer.
- This could be your opportunity to make a real difference to your local community - knowing you have contributed to helping a client family gain hope for a better life and a better future.

For more information about becoming a Y4F mentor contact Andrew:

Email: andrew.dunningham@yeovil4family.org.uk

Tel: 07970 952653

Website: www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/



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The Commutation of Tythes Act 1836.

Tythes were a tax paid to the Rector or Vicar of a parish. It was one tenth -a tythe - of the produce of that parish and in essence a tax on agricultural produce.

Until the passing of the Act the tax was paid in kind and gave rise to the great tythe barns used to store the tythe of wheat barley and oats. The 1836 Act made most of these wonderful medieval barns redundant as it replaced payment in kind with payment in money. Combe's tythe barn was later demolished.

As with all tax, tax avoidance was commonplace. The Rev. William Holland, Rector of Overstowey in the Quantocks, complains that "a farmer's fields were covered with sheep and the outhouses full of them and yet he pays me little tythe."

The process by which the Act was implemented involved a detailed survey of every field and plot in the parish and each were assessed according to its average production over the preceding 3 years.

The average tythe paid in the area was between 25p and 30p per acre. Rough pasture yielded 6p an acre, whilst orchards 50p or the equivalent of a weeks wage of an agricultural worker.

Every farmer, small holder, cottager with a garden were noted, be they freeholder or tenant, and the size of their holdings recorded. The tythe maps are a great source for field names, which were often so redolent of place and people in history that I cannot resist giving a short list.

Places:

Furzy Ground, Oxenway Mead, Honeysuck Field, Swanscombe, Fawns Close, Castle Moor (which had a small medieval farm house in it.

People:

Palmers Orchard, Manning's Ground, Trouts Plot, Nobody's Field.

Use:

Football, Rack Mead, which at some point had been used for stretching and drying cloth.

The history of tythes abounds in disputes and legal wrangling. One enduring argument was over the potato. Were they tythable or not? Custom varied from parish to parish and county to county. Elderly parishioners gave evidence on oath of what their fathers or grandfathers had said. Usually this was to establish that "from time immemorial" they had never been tythed.

Tythes were divided into two parts. The great tythe was the tax on grain - wheat, barley and oats and went to the Rector. Lesser tythes was the tax on produce, pasture, orchard and garden and went to the Vicar if there was one otherwise to the Rector.

Interestingly the lesser tythe included the grain straw, which was worth about a fifth of the value of the grain and used for animal bedding, thatching and fodder.

The vicar of Combe received £400 from the lesser tythes. The Rectorship of Combe was held by the Dean and chapter of Wells Cathedral and they received £750 per annum. The Rectors of the smaller parish of Whitestaunton received, I believe, somewhat less than the vicar of Combe.



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Now I become myself.
It's taken time, many years and places.
I've been dissolved and shaken,
Worn other people's faces....

This poem by May Sarton was really instrumental for me as I was listening to God and discerning the vocation to which I was being drawn. It was the realisation that throughout my life I had always been what others thought I should be, rather than who God intended me to be. Perhaps this isn't something that only affects me but maybe we all play those parts that society expects.

It must be about 6 years from the time that I started to feel that God had other plans for me, and probably 4 years since I accepted the path that had been chosen for me. It has not been easy and there have been times that I doubted that I was really suitable for this and somehow God had made some terrible mistake and got the wrong person. But having journeyed through these doubts, survived the numerous assignments, essays, assessments and relentless Zoom meetings, perhaps now I become myself!

On July 1st I was licensed as a Lay Curate at the Bishop's palace in Wells together with 15 others who have been going through a similar process. Unfortunately, because of the current restriction and the limited size of the Bishop's chapel only those who were being licensed could attend. However, it was a lovely service where each of us had to make our declarations affirming our loyalty to the Anglican inheritance of faith and our obedience to the Bishop. It might all sound a bit legalistic, and I guess it is, in as much as licensing is an administrative requirement, but this declaration of loyalty to my faith is the inspiration and guidance under God that enables me to bring the grace and truth of Christ to those I meet and to those in my care.

This step of licensing before ordination has been introduced as it gives all the candidates who have just finished college, who may be moving to new parishes and perhaps have children in school a chance to 'catch their breath' before ordination and the responsibility that that holds. I am delighted to say that I will not be moving, that I will have the honour of serving you and the communities of Chard St Mary with Combe St Nicholas, Wambrook and Whitestaunton as Assistant Curate, and once I have completed my curacy, my intention is to remain in this benefice. However, one thing that I have learned in all this is that my intention and God's will may not always be the same, although I expect my wife Dee may have something to say about that!

My ordination will be taking place on September 25th at Wells Cathedral and I am very excited about this and looking forward to what I know will be a very significant and moving experience. (I have already stocked up on tissues to mop up the tears). At this stage because of the current restrictions I am limited to 10 guests, but I am hoping that by the time we reach September this will be a little easier. If that is the case it would be lovely if some of you could be there to share this next step of what has been a remarkable journey and in which so many of you have been instrumental.

With every blessing to you all, from your brother in Christ.

John

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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Combe

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

As part of our recycling together, there is now a box in the back of Church for pill blister packs to be left, these are going to raise funds for Marie Curie. We would appreciate you ensuring there are no pills, or boxes left, just the packs, as the children use the Church on a regular basis. Thank you for helping our environment.

Church Services across the Benefice

AUGUST	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestunton	Chard	Ham
August. 1st Trinity 9	10.30am Family Service	9.15am Holy Communion BCP		8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Morning Worship 12.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Covid Support Volunteers	6.00pm Evensong BCP
August. 8th Trinity 10	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion CW	6.00pm Evensong BCP	10.00am. Holy Communion	
August. 15th Trinity 11& BVM	10.30am Service of the Word with the Methodists at the Parish Church		9.15am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Service of the Word	6.00pm Evensong BCP
August. 22nd Trinity 12	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at Combe				
August 29th Trinity 13	10.00am Benefice Breakfast and Holy Communion at Chard				

BCP Communion:
Normally on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.00am at Combe

Church Services across the Benefice

SEPTEMBER	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard	Ham
Sept. 5th Trinity 14	10.30 am Family Service	9.15am Holy Communion BCP		8.00am Holy Communion 10.0 am Morning Worship	6.00pm Evensong BCP
Sept. 13th Trinity 15	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion CW	6.00pm Evensong BCP	10.00am Holy Communion	
Sept. 19th Trinity 16	10.30am with the Methodists	6.00pm Evensong BCP	9.15am Holy Communion CW	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Morning Worship	6.00pm Evensong BCP
Saturday Sept. 25th	John Rollings Ordination at Wells Cathedral Come and watch it live at St Mary's, Chard				
Sept. 26th Trinity 17	10.30am Benefice, Holy Communion and "do" for John Rollings at Combe				

Wambrook Flowers and Cleaning

Altar Flowers

<i>Aug 2 & 9</i>	<i>Penny Luther</i>
<i>Aug 16 & 23</i>	<i>Sue Wallace</i>
<i>Aug 30 & Sept 6</i>	<i>Sue Eames</i>
<i>Sept 13 & 20</i>	<i>Sue Logan</i>
<i>Sept 27 & Oct 4</i>	<i>Jacqueline Cosby</i>

Cleaning

<i>Nicola Nicholls</i>
<i>Elena Eames</i>
<i>Marie Cordwell</i>
<i>Hilary Dixon</i>
<i>Elsbeth Hunt</i>

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

Cloverleaf Churchwardens

- St Nicholas, Combe:** Keda Horn (07867300795), Penny Croucher (64098)
- St Mary's, Wambrook:** Graeme Pidgeon (07807 284738)
Visit the Wambrook website www.wambrookparishchurch.com
- St Andrew's, Whitestaunton:** Jane Harris (239113), John Barron (63716)

COMBE ST NICHOLAS METHODIST CHURCH

- Services:** No services until further notice
- Minister:** Rev Anna Flindell (01460 261766)
- Steward:** Arnold Coleman (64892)

Copy date for October/November issue of Cloverleaf

*Items for Cloverleaf should be e-mailed to csnparishmag@btinternet.com or delivered to **The Village Shop & Post Office, Combe** NO LATER THAN 12noon on **TUESDAY 14th September**. Please note: long articles may have to be edited and inclusion cannot always be guaranteed.*

Distributors: October/November Magazines will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Friday 24th September.

If you would like to advertise please call **01460 61896** or email csnparishmag@btinternet.com for availability of space and rates.

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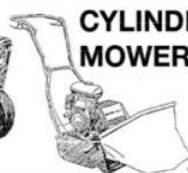
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