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October - November 2021

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Overview

On Friday 10th September we went to see Cloverleaf Productions Late Summer Show. We were expecting, as usual, to be entertained and amused, but - and possibly more importantly - hoping that the evening would feel the way it used to. IT DID! We chatted to our neighbours, met up with friends we hadn't seen for ages laughed a lot and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The Friday show drew a good audience - Saturday was a sell-out! Let's hope that augurs well for the future. Thanks to my fellow members of Cloverleaf Productions for bringing some fun and normality to Combe. Roll on the 2022 panto!

I sincerely hope that the next issue of Cloverleaf, which will take us in 2022, will also be a bit nearer to normal, with news from more local clubs and organisations and the return of regular activities.

However, fewer reports have given space to other contributors. This time on page 8 we have a remembrance of Ivor Hyde, who many of you will have known. Page 9 carries a plea from the Parish Council for more ideas for new play activities on the Lawns.

If the lockdowns have given you the gardening bug and you'd like more space, then take a look at page 13. And on page 17 you can find full information about this year's Blythwood Shoebox Appeal.

Turn to page 24 and you'll find some interesting facts about hedges and a little further on John Phillips transports us back to times gone by with the first part of an important event in the history of Combe.

Christmas last year was a strange time with virtually none of the seasonal activities taking place. We all missed the Christingle, the Carol Services and the Nativity. Some things couldn't be replaced, but Combe's Village Nativity was so popular that it looks as if it could become an annual event. More ideas are wanted, so take a look at page 32 and see how you can help.

Many of us may have got used to keeping in touch via social media, contact groups or one of the video meeting platforms, but some of our residents still appreciate their local news in this traditional form. So a big thank you to all the people who have contributed over the past months to keep the magazine filled with interesting articles, when very little was happening around us. .

Lesley Cole

Editor

In the Garden

with Claire Pearce of Combe Dingle Nursery
will be back in the next edition of Cloverleaf. She'd like you to
know that a wide range of sizes and types of Christmas Trees will
be available from November 29th.

Village Hall

We can't say that the hall is fully back to normal, but as you can see if you look at the calendar online, bookings are looking pretty good!

Various bits of necessary maintenance have been carried out, including new cooker rings, replacing the leaking kitchen water heater and the pressure valve on the water system, and fitting a permanent limescale protection system which will remove all the limescale in the kitchen pipework and appliances and protect them from further hard water damage. We also hope to replace the main doors soon.

On the evening of Saturday 13th November, the "Sax 22" saxophone group which practices in the hall is kindly doing a concert to raise funds for us. They are very talented, and they promise a varied selection of music. Further details to follow via the village website, Facebook pages and posters.

Village Hall Committee

Wadeford Charity Book Club

We are delighted to report that our Book Sale on August 15th was well attended, productive too, with around ninety pounds taken for our charities in a couple of hours. The usual thanks go out to everybody concerned of course.

Mind you, the boxes of books did seem to have got heavier, which quite frankly isn't possible, but if there is anyone out there willing and able to help us move them in or out of the storage area at the hall we'd love to hear from you – 261950 and ask for Moira.

Our next sale will be on November 14th, 2-4pm, at the Village Hall as ever, free entry of course; all proceeds to Prostate Cancer UK and Coeliac UK.

Bob, Moira, June & Frank

Underway Meade

We are back to autumn already; where did the summer go? As usual, the grass grew, along with nettles, brambles and thistles, so many thanks to Jack and his team and Chris and Bill for keeping it under control!

Talking of control, we will soon be welcoming back the sheep in their role as natural mowers, so please don't take your dogs onto the mound when you see the posters announcing their presence.

Bill Hodge phoned me one evening to tell me he had noticed that Gerry's bench had got a loose arm.

He then kindly volunteered to repair it and give it some TLC so when it was returned it looked just like new! Thanks to Bill for his hard work and to Jack for transporting it. How lucky we are to have such a supportive community,



The refurbished Gerry's bench

Our plans to hold a proper launch for the Wild Play area were not possible after all, but Combe Critters, the village mothers and toddlers group, will be holding their outdoor play sessions there on Wednesday mornings from 10.15 to 11.30, so watch out for posters and Facebook for details on how to book. If you and your little ones just want to visit the Wild Play area without joining the Combe Critters session you may prefer to come at a different time.

On Friday 22nd October at 7.30pm we will be holding our AGM in the village hall, which everyone is welcome to attend, so we look forward to meeting you there.

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

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Flower Arranging Workshops

I'm excited as our workshops are finally back! Here's what's coming up... plus your sneak peek at our Christmas programme:

It's a Corker!

Saturday 2nd October 2021, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

Now is the time for a gorgeous autumnal design in stunning jewel colours, using a natural cork container with a rustic texture. Filled with seasonal flowers and foliage it's a perfect eco-friendly gift.

Christmas Chic

Saturday 6th November 2021, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

A very classy festive gift - or just for you? This unique design is recyclable, biodegradable... and oh, so stylish. Add flowers, foliage - even a surprise little treat - and you won't want to part with it.

Victorian Christmas Berry Pot

Monday 22 November 2021, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

A traditional design ideal for anywhere in your home, or as a gift. Bursting joyously from the twine-bound container you'll make, this Christmas cornucopia of pine cones, faux berries, a few flowers and evergreen foliage will be loved by all.

Christmas Mantelpiece

Saturday 4th December 2021, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

This fabulous long-lasting low design has fresh deep green foliage, natural wintry textures of lichen branches, fir cones, berries, a few flowers and accessories. It's also perfect for a deep windowsill, sideboard or table. A real show-stopper!

Let It Snow!

Monday 13th December 2020, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

Put magic in the air with a trio of fabulously fresh Scandinavian designs for your festive table. Bringing the outside in is key to creating a Nordic feel for Christmas - so think sparkly twigs, snow, a few flowers, faux berries and freshly picked foliage.

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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Ivor Hyde 7/11/1926 - 13/8/2021

Ivor was born at Cricket St. Thomas, the second child and only son of Frederick and Mary Hyde. He spent his childhood with his two sisters on the estate where his father was employed as head carpenter. When Ivor was about eight years old, he learnt to play a small melodeon that his aunt had bought for him. By the age of thirteen he was playing accordion in a local dance band. He also had piano lessons with music theory and became a fine pianist.

Ivor worked for Wilts United Dairies and Phoenix Engineering before being called up for National Service. He joined the Royal Signals serving in Kenya and Palestine. Ivor married Jean Beale at Combe St. Nicholas church on the 9th December 1950. They had first met at Wadeford Youth Club. After living at Cricket St. Thomas for two years they moved to Jean's home village of Wadeford where Anne, Steve and Phil were born. They later went from Pudleigh Hill to a house Ivor's sister Helen and family had vacated at the other end of the village. It was here that Ivor started his accordion repair business which continued when they moved to Scrapton Lane in 1980 to live at the family home where Jean's grandparents had farmed from the late 1800's. Ivor certainly had no desire to take up farming but did continue the family tradition of cider making.

During his 68 years living in Wadeford, Ivor was called upon numerous times to play at concerts, sing a longs and other fundraising events within the parish. Along with Jean, he was one of the founder members of Chard Folk Dance Club, which eventually moved to Combe Parish Hall.



Ivor in his workshop

When violinist Holly Chapman came to live at the Old Post Office in Wadeford, she joined Ivor in providing the music for the dances and at various other functions. This year they raised £500 for the RNLI when busking at Lyme Regis for lifeboat week.

At the age of ninety-four Ivor was happy to be still playing and repairing accordions and generally enjoying life.

Steve Hyde

Help Needed for The Lawns Playground in the village

With the 1st stage of the playground improvements completed, the installing of the goalposts has proved to be an absolute winner judging by the number of games of footy going on now. So, what is happening next, we hear you ask? Well some of that's down to you the playground users; we want to hear your ideas (*within the realms of feasibility anyway*)

We are currently looking at possibly installing a Zipwire, let me know what you think of that idea, possibly a Pavilion type shelter for use by all age groups, or a Tree Spider Nest, or Disc Swing Net! Can you work out what those are? **But we need more ideas.**

So come on kids, put your play caps on and tell us what would you like to see installed next, what gives you a buzz, what's really FUN to play on, BUT a word of caution! Let's not forget The Lawns is not a massive playground, so it's got to fit in and leave some open space for running around playing football or whatever! Send us your ideas and we will see what we can do within our Parish Council budget and whatever grants we can squeeze out of SSDC.

Ian Croucher (iancroucher@hotmail.com or 07780 081081)

Local Ladies

We decided to start again on 20th September in the Village hall with a get-together of members as a chance for those who felt able to meet again for a social chit-chat! We are using that meeting as an idea of interest as to whether to start up regular meetings with speakers, etc. but as this has not happened by the time this Cloverleaf report is being made, I can't give you an answer !! So, look out for posters to see if we are starting more meetings, when all Ladies will be very welcome to join us. We are a very friendly group and meet usually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm usually in the Village Hall.

Anne Hunt (61296)

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Sunday School Wood

Unfortunately, we have to join the increasing calls for dog owners to be more responsible, and to clear up after them. The wood area is a wild life sanctuary, and technically dogs are not allowed, (except guide dogs), but if you do take your dog through, please keep it on a lead, and when necessary, clear away any mess. If we get into it with the mowers, you can imagine the problem! Also, remember that the school use the area for outside activities with the children.

We have noticed that a very large ash tree in almost the furthest south corner, on the bank with the churchyard, appears to have ash die back. This is being followed up by the PCC. The main danger is from falling dead branches.

We have checked with AGM about the use of the newly introduced E10 petrol. They have advised that it is ok to use this in all of our equipment provided we also use an additive called Fuel Fit.

Our regular activities still include grass mowing and general strimming because growth has not yet slowed down (unlike us!). Whilst doing this , we have come across several slow worms. On the nature front, Rob Grimmond ran a moth survey and count recently one evening, so if you saw this activity, it was not an alien invasion. Rob is going to try and build up a picture of moth activity, so you may see him with his moth trap again.

We have noticed that some of the foxgloves we introduced a while ago are re-growing, or new ones emerging. We will be trying to add a few more in the near future. Regarding Brian's patch, we will soon clear the area using weed killer and try again next spring. We already have new seed, so here is hoping we have better results than this year.

Frank Warriner (67407)

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 November will be Monday 8th.

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.

To place an order, please contact Kay on 01460 261234 or by email to motcombe@btinternet.com (stating contact details and amount required).

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We are also offering 8 different milkshake flavours: 4 core flavours - banana, strawberry, chocolate and vanilla, and 4 guest flavours - white chocolate, cappuccino, raspberry and salted caramel. The guest flavours will change regularly, while the core flavours will remain at all times.

We have opted for glass only bottles (500ml and 1L), which are washed after each use and can be reused countless times, significantly reducing the number of plastic milk bottles ending up in household recycling.

In addition we are stocking eggs from another farm in Yarcombe and are looking to add a few more products in the near future.

Our contact numbers are displayed in our milk vending shed, near the paper towel holder, and one of us is never far away if assistance is required.

Lorna, Jim, Christina and Reg

Combe Parish Allotment Association

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Blythwood Care 'Shoebox Appeal' 2021

Once again the *TA postal area* will be supporting Blythwood Care with shoeboxes for children, women, men and elderly women.

This annual shoebox project enables caring individuals, families, schools, churches, businesses and other organisations to fill ordinary shoeboxes with small toys, toiletries, school equipment, kitchen utensils, household tools, hats and scarves and other useful gifts for vulnerable children **and adults** in Eastern Europe caught in the midst of wars, natural disasters and extreme poverty.



If you have anything of the above to **donate towards a shoebox** or if you have **empty shoeboxes** waiting to be covered with Christmas paper, please do not hesitate to contact me. (Thank you to those people who have already given me empty boxes.) If you feel you can fill a whole box, I also have **leaflets** available giving full details of 'How to

pack your shoebox'. I shall also put '**ready-wrapped shoeboxes**' into the Parish Church as I have done in the past.

If you are **unable to put together a whole shoebox** but would like to help, then I should be very grateful for any **fillers** which you know will be useful to be used in a shoebox, as I shall be running my own mini warehouse at home completing shoeboxes. Last year I sent **79 filled boxes** from my house to the main warehouse.

Donations of empty shoeboxes, wrapping paper and wool for knitting would be most welcome. Thank you so much for your support.

Pamela Hodge
Shoebox District TA postal area
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Dates for your diary

October

Sat	2	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm	Flower Workshops —Village Hall
Sun	3		See Church Services
Sun	10		See Church Services
Sat	16	11.00am	Green Dragon Plans —Village Hall
Sun	17		See Church Services
		2-4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale - Village Hall
Sun	24		See Church Services
Mon	25	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Sun	31		See Church Services

November

Sat	6	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm	Flower Workshops —Village Hall
Sun	7		See Church Services
Mon	8		Cut-off date for Oil Co-operative
Sun	14		See Church Services
		2-4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Club —Village Hall
Sun	21		See Church Services
Mon	22	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm	Flower Workshops —Village Hall
		7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Sun	28		See Church Services

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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.

32 residents attended the July Parish Council meeting, and information was collected regarding the many flooding issues that occurred, following the extreme torrential rain storm that occurred on 28th June, just as the last Cloverleaf report was being printed.

2 meetings have since been arranged. Councillors took the Asst. Highways Manager around the areas affected, and we all learnt what areas are Highways responsibility and what comes under the landowner/resident responsibility, which was most helpful. Anyone can report a Highways issue to them direct – [Somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road).

The `gully gulper` was deployed along the main road through the Parish and also quite a number of minor roads, cleaning out the drains, silt pits and pipes to help with better water clearance from the roads. In flood susceptible areas this should be carried out every 2 years, with every 4 years on urban drains/gullies.

Most of the road surfaces that were ruined have now been re-tarmaced. – Scrapton Lane, Court Mill Lane, Pudleigh, etc. Ditches are the landowner/residents' responsibility and need to be kept clear please.

Another `tour` round was with Mrs. Helen Smith, from SCC Flood and Water management, and again visiting some of the locations where the leat/river caused problems, and road run-offs, in order for their investigations can be more thorough – a report will be forthcoming in 3 – 6 months.

Many thanks to all the residents we met and the information given. There was not time to meet with everyone, but those we were able to see were very helpful. Many photos of the flooding effects were forwarded to Mrs Smith.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on **Monday 25th October** and **22nd November at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

Anne Hunt – Parish Clerk, Tel. 01460 61296
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Combe FC



What a great few months we have had at Combe Football Club!

On a footballing front, we are looking strong once again this season in all teams. Our first team manager Darren Manley has recruited well, a fantastic looking squad with a core of youth and a splattering of experience. Combe Firsts have won both games played so far and those two teams we beat are now sitting at the top of the table, so after a couple weekends off we hope to build on the strong foundations we have put in! Our new Reserve team manager Gary Parsley has started with aplomb, taking our division one team to the final of the Chard Hospital Cup, hosted by Chard Town. Unfortunately the final was one step too far, losing 3-2, however it was a promising performance against a very strong and established South Petherton side who are always strong Prem competitors. Our third team have also kept hold of key players and are waiting in anticipation for their season to start this weekend (at the time of writing!). Our ladies team have also held onto many key players, with the introduction of some local youngsters who have also come through. Gary Biss' ladies squad battled hard against a very strong Bishops Lydyard side last weekend, only just losing 2-1. Our vets are also looking to start up soon so it is all go up Slade's Cross after a productive pre season!

Off of the pitch we have been very busy too; Our players across all teams are on the hunt for individual sponsors which get shared via our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter. Some players are still available to sponsor if are interested!! For more information, please contact the club via the Facebook page.

Finally, we have tried to continue to keep the community spirit thriving with our community bar. The club is open most weekends and some evenings (information on opening times on our Facebook page). Within this we have hosted some very successful Save the Dragon Campaign Events such as the Dragonball competition and the Seatrees music night! Thank you to all who came to support the event, we look forward to seeing you up again soon. Please do keep an eye out to see what games or events we have on, we have been very pleased to see the addition of more local families coming and enjoying our wonderful facilities.

James Gilbert
Combe St Nicholas FC Chairman

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Yarcombe and District YFC

August has been a very busy month with getting back into young farmers activities. It has been great to see members having fun and socialising with friends again.

At the start of the month we played rounders & had a BBQ night against Axminster YFC on the 3rd August, 9 members played. A good time was had by all and it was nice to be socialising with other clubs again.

Honiton show was held 5th & 6th August, where members entered various club classes. It was fantastic to see a brilliant display of entries showcasing members talents. Well done to all those who helped with entries and setting up (including members parents). We did very good with our entries gaining 2 firsts, 1 second, 4 thirds and 3 fourths, all competing against 5 other clubs in East Devon YFC. Classes included club promotion board, club cubicle, hamper of British produce and many other various entries. A few members then went to the Honiton show after disco held by Honiton young farmers in the show-ground members marquee on the Friday night.

We held a club meeting on the 9th August at Yarcombe village hall and a meeting at the Sidmouth Arms on the 23rd August. These meetings where both well attended seeing some new faces, and lots of things discussed including the busy social events that are going on and being planned.

We finished the month off with the most enjoyable day, a raft race from Whitford bridge to Colyford. Yarcombe YFC held the race on bank holiday Monday 30th August with 3 teams entered. Well done to the team of 6 girls who completed the race in the quickest time and winning the best fancy dress element. A good afternoon was had by all, and it was lovely to see families out watching the race.

Further club meetings are in the pipeline, and we will look to be discussing and arranging more social events.

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.

Natalie Sampson, Secretary

Cherish Our Hedges

Hedges have been with us for thousands of years as boundary markers, but have a multitude of other purposes and benefits which we so often overlook.

Before the advent of machinery, hedges were of course cut and trimmed by hand which was labour intensive, when labour was plentiful and cheap. Through rotational management, when a hedge was cut and laid every ten to twenty years, a crop of firewood, bean sticks, hazel spars for thatching, sticks for hurdles and stakes and rails for fencing would be harvested. Thus, there would always be a variety of hedges in different stages of growth across the farm with lots of ample cover for wildlife, with flowers, fruits and berries providing a food source.

With the advent of the flail hedge trimmer, it became easy to manage hedges from the seat of a tractor, the flail beat the trimmings into tiny bits so there was no more clearing up to do by hand. A lot of our hedgerow trees and shrubs produce flowers, fruits and berries on the previous year's growth, so annual trimming might look neat and tidy to some, but actually vastly reduces the food source and habitat of a huge array of our native wildlife. We wonder why our state of nature report is so catastrophic, with so many species in serious decline.

Well, our hedgerows can be part of the solution if we change our ways. Grant money is available to incentivise farmers to reduce their cutting to two or three year rotations, to raise the height of their hedges by several inches a year and ultimately let them grow up to be laid. If a hedge is managed properly and laid well it becomes a stock proof barrier in itself, although a post and wire fence is often put up for guaranteed protection. I generally find a temporary electric fence does the trick for a year or two.

Hedges provide a valuable wildlife corridor, connecting areas of habitat, whilst providing shelter and shade to stock, which they fail to do if flailed down low and tight every year.

They help soil conservation, reduce pollution and flooding and contribute to pest and disease control. Hedges also have a great capacity to sequester carbon, which we desperately need to do, to mitigate climate change. They create a great opportunity to let saplings grow up into mature trees. An Oak tree for example is host to over two hundred and eighty species. On the roadside and for various obvious health and safety reasons,

it is understandably important to trim annually but, farmers and gardeners alike, we could employ a much lighter touch across our landscape, in terms of both height and width and enjoy the multitude of benefits that would bring to all creatures great and small, and the planet.

Jonathan Farey

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A moment in time with John Phillips

At 1.30 in the afternoon of July 25th 1912 at the George Inn in Chard (now the Phoenix) the great auction of Combe commenced. At 1.35pm the gavel came down. Lot No 1 "2 Stone built slated cottages near the (old) post office with frontage to Stoooper's Hill each containing Front Sitting Room, Living Room or Kitchen, Pantry and Outbuildings of Wash-house with boiler and WC". Rented £6.50 and £5.80 per year. Tythes 6p each. Sold to Mr Hopkins for £375.

Lot No 2 "All those 3 thatched cottages with gardens (one with wash house) with frontage to the square containing Living Room, Back Kitchen and two bedrooms". The gavel came down again, sold to Mr Jeffrey for £175.

Thus the auction of all the remaining church owned land and property in Combe St. Nicholas got underway and continued for the rest of that afternoon, and the afternoon of the next day. In total 84 lots were offered for sale consisting of 15 cottages and houses, 6 farms and 2 dairy houses, 7 cottages and 770 acres attached to those farms.

By late afternoon 1000 acres and all the properties had been sold for £2,100. 140 acres had been withdrawn as the £2,750 offered had not reached the reserve price for these various fields.

In 1070 the church had owned all of Combe. In 1812 they still owned 90%. A hundred years later it was down to the 27% which the Ecclesiastical Commission decided to sell. For over 30 years much of British farming had been in an ever-deepening depression. Globalisation was the cause. In the early 19th century, no grain was imported. By the date of the auction 90% of the wheat consumed in Britain was imported, largely from North America. Railways, iron steam ships and the invention of the horse drawn combine harvester in the 1850's enabled the prairies to grow and export vast quantities of cheap grain. Despite the British population quadrupling over the 100 years, wheat production fell by over half. In 1800 half the male population worked on the land. By 1900 it was barely 5%.

By 1870 a smaller version of reaping machines were in use in Somerset known as trappers. "and I remember much dissatisfaction among the men all around as it sort of robbed them for before this they had always cut the wheat by hook, piece work, to earn a little more than day wages". This quote comes from Life of John Russell 1861-1946, ploughman, Chard History Group Publication a fascinating account of the impact of global change on everyday life on those labouring on the land.

At the turn of the century a Royal Commission was set up to investigate the worrying state of British agriculture and one Somerset farmer stated that "it was only the cider that kept the men on the land". John Russel writes that at 6am

"the servant girl would unlock the cellar door and fill the firkins (flagons), the boys will get a quart (2 pints) and the men 2 quarts.... 2 or 3 of these firkins will be handed round and emptied and the girl would re-fill, but when most cider was drunk it was in the hay or corn harvest.... there was no stint of it, have whatever you wanted.... so we got used to it and could drink a lot of it".

More details of the great auction of Combe in the next edition – it's a Clayhanger cliff-hanger.

(Thanks are due to Mr Stenhouse for giving me sight of the original auction document)



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The Green Dragon Update



Recent months have seen two fantastic events held in aid of the Save the Dragon campaign. In August, the first of our events, the Dragonball, hosted by Combe Football Club and organised and sponsored by Darah Poynter of Build Management Solutions, invited a number of teams to compete by throwing an 8kg ball around a 1km course. The team with the least throws, named 'Champions Elect', consisting of Graham Hunt, Kev Earnshaw and me (all entirely above board!) were named 2021 Dragonball victors.

In September, Combe Football Club kindly played host again for the Dragonanza where local band, the Seatrees played for the community and Serial Grillerz, run by Graham Hunt, provided some amazing food on the night. We were very lucky with the weather and had a great turnout at the event. It was brilliant to see so many of the local community walk up and enjoy the music and food that was put on show. The event raised over £1000 for the Save the Dragon campaign from ticket sales, a 75/25 raffle draw on the night and donations from Serial Grillerz.

August's 50/50 draw prize winner went to Lynn Osborne netting £250 and September's 50/50 draw prize winner went to Malcom Smith where he won £139.

Following feedback from the community, we have now erected the 'DRAGONMETER' on the village green to help visualise what we have raised to date through fundraising, donations, and community pledges. This will be updated as we hit each milestone.

Building on the success we have had with the community drop in sessions on the green on Saturday mornings, we will be hosting an event on October 16th at the village hall from 11am to present our plans for the Green Dragon going forwards and to answer any of your questions. More details will follow on this event so please keep an eye out around the village for posters.

Finally, it is with a sad heart that Lorna Davis has decided to step down from the Management Committee. She has been instrumental in organising the fundraising events and has played a pivotal role in helping to develop the business plan for the community pub. Thanks for all your help and support Lorna!

Dave Crossman
CSN Community Pub Limited Chairman

Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2001-2010	10 Yr Ave 2011-2020
July	95	34	88	65
August	47	114	74	104
Jan—June	779	569	534	528
TOTAL	921	717	696	697

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

There was rain on the first 10 days of July, but it was then dry until the end of the month when the last day had significant rainfall. There were more days when rain fell in August but the amounts were very small with only two days when the readings were in the low teens.

Tony Cole (61896)



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Cloverleaf Parish Pages

The Village Christmas Nativity

I can sense your raised eyebrows already, even the thought of Christmas right now seems far too early! Trust me I was just as surprised when our Rev Georgina said to me, as she was leaving on a well deserved sabbatical back in late July, of course you will have to put an article in the Cloverleaf asking for ideas and offers to help with the various parts of the Nativity around the village, because Christmas is coming!

But to be serious for a minute, last year was so successful, the real joy of seeing families and individuals walking around the village, spotting different parts of the story, made many say this must become an annual village Christmas tradition.

The school started the Christmas story with the angel Gabriel visiting a very young Mary, they also created QR coded signs so the technically minded amongst us were able to read each part of the story as they went around the locations and for those who were not techno's, there was also a written text to be followed and don't forget the many houses who displayed a star in their window, it all helped to make it a special magical time for one and all.

Do please email or phone me with your ideas/pledges to help to give Combe St Nicholas that special Christmas feel again. Many thanks.

Penny Croucher
pennycroucher@hotmail.com or 07780 081 081.



Wilder Churches

Whitestaunton Church Update

Last month we explained that we were taking part in the Wilder Churches initiative. As part of this project, we left an area of the churchyard unmown between May and August. We also surveyed other areas of the churchyard for plants and wildlife.

We are very pleased to report that we have seen a variety of flowers and plants growing including self-heal, willow herb, red and white clover, common forget-me-not, white and pink flowered yarrow, smooth and prickly sow thistle, lady's mantle groundsel, oxeye daisies, field speedwell and many more.

These plants have attracted Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and Large White butterflies and Silver Y moths. We also heard Meadow Grasshoppers chirping happily away, a group of ladybirds chomping greenfly on some tasty yarrow and a beautiful shiny-green Thick Thighed Flower Beetle feeding on some ragwort.

Siskins, pied wagtails, swallows and house martins were either spotted or heard singing nearby.

Jane Harris



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Tiffany Musselwhite

Combe

Imogen Musselwhite

Weddings:

Christopher Haig & Sophie Doughty

Whitestaunton

Andrew Disney & Emily Larcombe

Wambrook

Funerals:

Susan Jean Grimstead

Combe

Vida Gwendoline Dutton

Deborah Jane Phillips

Church Services across the Benefice

OCTOBER	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Oct 3rd Trinity 18	10.30am Family Service with HARVEST FESTIVAL for Parish and Methodist Church	9.15am BCP Holy Communion		8.00am HC 10.00am Harvest Festival
Oct 10th Trinity 19	10.30am Holy Communion CW	6.00pm HARVEST FESTIVAL	6.30pm HARVEST FESTIVAL	10.00am HC
Oct 17th Trinity 20 St Luke's	10.30am Service of the Word with Healing at the Methodist Church		9.15am Holy Communion CW	8.00am HC 10.00am Service with Healing
Oct 24th Last Sunday of Trinity BIBLE SUNDAY	10.00am Benefice Service for Bible Sunday at Chard			
Oct 31st 4th before Advent	10.30am Benefice Breakfast and HC Combe			8.00am HC 10.30am Benefice Breakfast and HC Combe

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

Church Services across the Benefice

NOVEMBER	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Nov 7th Third before Advent All Saints	10.30am Family Service with Shoe box blessing	9.15am BCP Holy Communion		8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship
Nov 14th Second before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10.5 am Remembrance Day Service	10.55am Remembrance Day Service	6.00pm BCP Evensong	10.50am Remembrance Day Service
Nov 21st Sunday next before Advent Christ the King	10.30am Together with Methodists at the Parish Church	6.00pm BCP Sung Evensong	9.15am joining with Chard at 10.00am	8.00am HC 10.00am Service of the Word
Nov 28th ADVENT SUNDAY St Andrew's Day	10.00am Patronal Festival of St Andrew at Whitestaunton			

Wambrook Flowers and Cleaning

Altar Flowers

Cleaning

Oct 4

Jacqueline Cosby

Elspeth Hunt

SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER—ALL DECORATE FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL

Oct 10 & 17

Ally Eames

Marjie Dorling

SATURDAY 16TH OCT—AUTUMN CLEANING & MAINTENANCE MORNING FOR ALL

Oct 24 & 31

Sue Eames

Lesley Atkinson

Nov 7 & 14

Penny Luther

Wendy Ffyfe

Nov 21 & 28

Elspeth Hunt

Tricia Barbor

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:** Penny Croucher (07780 081081)
Keda Horn (07867 300795),
- St Mary's, Wambrook:** Graeme Pidgeon (07807 284738)
Visit the Wambrook website www.wambrookparishchurch.com
- St Andrew's, Whitestaunton:** Jane Harris (PCC Secretary - 239113),

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- Minister:** Rev Anna Flindell (01460 261766)
- Steward:** Arnold Coleman (64892)

Copy date for December/January 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 16th November**. Please note: long articles may have to be edited and inclusion cannot always be guaranteed.*

Distributors: December/January Magazines will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Friday 26th November.

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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