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Overview

As I write this introduction, someone on the radio in the background is telling me that there are just 34 days to Christmas! Unless there is any bureaucratic intervention at the last minute, this one should be a little more relaxed and family friendly than in 2020.

Hopefully we'll all enjoy lighting the Christmas tree on The Green with Chard Concert Brass and **Carols** on 4th December plus the services roster on page 38 show that we can look forward to actual **Carol services** in our Churches too!

The months leading up the Christmas haven't been happy ones for everyone. The torrential rain that fell some time ago, causing floods, soon subsided but left a trail of destruction and misery for those affected. The Parish Council is anxious to do what it can and, on page 15 is appealing for all of us to do our bit to help too. That may not satisfy an anonymous contributor who has put all his frustrations into verse on page 18.

After only being able to provide online entertainment in 2021, it will soon be panto time again for Cloverleaf Productions, (page 18), so be ready to book your tickets in the New Year.

While not all our clubs, societies and organisations are back to 'full working order' and sending in reports, this issue of Cloverleaf is back to its former size. We have items from a wide range of contributors, including new ones.

If you have wondered why there is kitchen equipment in Underway Meade, just turn to page 5 and find out more about Combe Critters! Take the opportunity to learn about World Dance on page 27. On the previous page John Phillips takes us back in time with the second part of the legendary Combe Auction. And take a look at our colourful centre spread featuring the wonderful world of moths with expert Rob Grimmond.

Once again we are able to provide every home in our three parishes with a FREE copy of the Cloverleaf magazine thanks to our many advertisers, who value the business that they get from you. Thanks also go those good souls who send in their contributions for each issue—and to printer Neil at Rapid Print for his keen prices and great service. A thank you must go to the many distributors who collect and deliver their copies to your homes so promptly. —and to the many readers who say nice things about the magazine!

A very happy and peaceful Christmas and a much better New Year to you all.

Lesley Cole
Editor

In the Garden..

with Claire Pearce of Combe Dingle Nursery

As if November isn't busy enough with getting plants put away for winter, change is a foot at Combe Dingle. We are looking forward to our new neighbours. I am sure many have wondered, and now I can say, that replacing most of the farm buildings will be the new Valtra tractor dealership for C J Cox. They are already proving a pleasure (and useful!) to have around.

This made me realise I had to stop thinking about it and get on with the new shop, in the shed next to the original shop. I apologise to all those that had to wait for me to get off a scaffold tower to serve them, we've been rather busy. The new shop will be in full use before Christmas; **tree sales start on 1st December.**

Consequently, I am a little behind. But haven't we been saying that all year. With the late cold spring, frost in mid-May to now, a mild dry November. We have had some frosts, but the trees are only just changing colour and falling. Leaves should be raked off the lawn (they weaken the grass), swept off paths (slip hazard) and cleared around the house. Keep and compost the leaves to use as a mulch. Leave some leaves in corners and under heads for hedgehogs to hide.

As you probably know, I don't agree with "putting the garden to bed." We should enjoy our gardens all year round. Or agree with being too tidy. Our little patches can hold a lot of winter feed, such as seed heads and fruit, and shelter for wildlife. So maybe leave that cutting back or hedge cutting until spring.

In the vegetable garden onion, shallots, garlic, and broad beans are in. Sprouts and kallettes still need staking and I still want to experiment with autumn situ sown peas. We are picking cauliflowers and kale.

The bean poles need to be taken down and stored in the dry. I had a disappointing amount of beans this year and very few to store as pulses.

I will continue with bulb planting. There is still plenty of time. I have even planted in January, and they catch up. Maybe an idea for Christmas presents. What greater joy to look forward to than watching bees visiting early flowering bulbs in the spring sunshine.

Village Hall

By the time you receive this, we will have held our saxophone concert raising funds for the hall and our 60s evening in aid of the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Hospital, but we can't report back as at the time of writing they haven't yet taken place! Our next planned event is the Open Gardens on Sunday 26th June next year, about which you will find a separate article by Amanda Acland in this edition of Cloverleaf.

We now have a good quality working sound system in the hall, for which we are currently drawing up some simple instructions, and our heating is controlled remotely via mobile phones. Our next planned improvements are:

- (1) Replacing the main doors with a single wider double-glazed door, which will allow better disabled access and have a more secure multi-locking system. The key will be kept in a safe outside the door and the access code will be issued to users.
- (2) Installing an overhead projector to which laptops and mobile phones as well as microphones will be able to connect. This will be capable of linking to the sound system, and as well as being available for visiting speakers, will enable us to offer film nights again as the cost of running them would be significantly less than the Moviola system.

Village Hall Committee

Wadeford Charity Book Club

November 14th 2021 produced our biggest, best and most productive book sale EVER! In the two hours of that Sunday afternoon that we were open we collected £150. The usual thanks go out to everybody concerned of course, but once again to the team's mystery tea lady (Sue), for keeping us fully hydrated.



Fortunately, we had some extra helpers to cope with the deluge of donations, and then with the sorting and ultimately packing it all way afterwards - thanks to you all folk. It was very much a "many hands make light work" scenario.

Our next sale will be on **SATURDAY 29th January, 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 et al

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Combe Critters Baby and Toddlers

After a stop being put to the sessions run in the village hall due to COVID 19 back in early 2019, we have been pleased to re-start Combe Critters in September this year. We have had a great first two months, meeting lots of young families from the parish and surrounding areas, providing the much-needed peer support which we have all very much missed through the pandemic. We also ran an open morning in half-term, an opportunity to meet the wider community, share cake, and raise some money for the upkeep of the Meade.

We are arranging a magical Christmas event to be held in December, with some twinkly lights and lanterns planned - look out for more information on the event closer to the time.

Aimed at babies, toddlers and parents, we run the group from in the Wild Play Area at Underway Meade, courtesy of Underway Meade and Combe St Nicholas Parochial Trust. We meet outdoors all year round, making the most of the wild setting and celebrating the seasons. Inspired by the natural setting and wildlife, there are a variety of wild play activities seeking to stimulate and develop young minds, and provide a good hour of muddy, wet, messy play! This gives little ones a chance to meet others, let off some steam outdoors and have an explore of the various stations, in turn allowing parents to get out, have a chat with others, a hot drink and most importantly a piece of homemade cake!

We were lucky enough to receive some funding from the parish council to get us up and running and a grant from Somerset Community Fund to purchase the equipment required to run outdoors. Run by a group of local volunteers led by Sarah Packham, a schoolteacher who oversees organising the various play stations, we are a not-for-profit Unincorporated Association, with any profits from the group going back into the play stations and equipment, the upkeep of the Wild Play Area and the wider Underway Meade.

We meet every Wednesday apart from the first Wednesday in the month, 10.15a.m.-11.30 a.m. Find us on Facebook @combecritters for booking.

Tamsyn Froom
Combe Critters Secretary



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Underway Meade

As planned, in October, we finally managed to hold our AGM covering 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. All of the current trustees were re-elected, with the exception of Bobbie Boud who stepped down. Thanks were given to Bobbie for her hard work and support over the last few years. In her place we welcomed Stuart James.

The Combe Critters Baby and Toddlers Group held a well-attended village open event in the Meade with coffee, cake and fun activities. It was lovely to see a wide range of village residents both young and not so young meeting and enjoying themselves on a lovely sunny autumn morning. Thanks to Sarah and her hard-working team for arranging this and providing the coffee and cakes. The group has generously donated the income from the event to Underway Meade to help towards our running costs.

By the time you read this issue of Cloverleaf we hope to have completed the construction of a more wheelchair accessible path with less of a gradient that avoids the steps on the current path adjacent to the sheep field leading towards the woodland. We are pleased that the Neroche Volunteers agreed to join us to help us carry out the necessary work and hope that it will be of benefit to Meade users old and new.

On the subject of paths, you may noticed there have been some white markers sprayed onto the hard surface path near the middle gate which has been severely eroded by the regular flooding that we have suffered in the last couple of years. As I write this article, we are awaiting the delivery of some road planings which we will use to repair the surface and fill in the dips. We will also be considering how best to improve the drainage to try and prevent a repeat of the damage in future years.

As many of you will know, for the last few years we have acted as a collection point for recycled Christmas trees. Usually, the District Council staff have come and collected them or even chipped them on site for us to use. Unfortunately, due to the Covid restrictions last year they couldn't collect the trees and we attempted, unsuccessfully, to chip them ourselves. It is with regret therefore that, unless the District Council can collect this year, we won't be able to accept recycled trees this year. Watch out for posters in the Meade if the situation changes.

Lastly, special thanks to Bill for all his hard work in the last few months. He has created a new rustic bench from the ash tree branches which has been



much appreciated by regular Meade users and apparently is good for both those who are of tall and short people! He has made a great start in clearing the pond of the false watercress and leaving the debris on the edges so that any water creatures are able to safely get back into the water. He has also been preparing for the path work already mentioned above by marking out the areas we will be working on.

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

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Combe St Nicholas and Wadeford Gala Association

I am pleased to announce that this year once again we shall have our Christmas Tree on the Green, with the switching on of the lights being **Saturday December 4th at 6pm.**



Chard Concert Brass will also be in attendance, so we want you all joining in with the carols. Hopefully it will get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Donations for mince pies and mulled wine help pay for the tree and the band.

Pamela Hodge

Sunday School Wood

Regular activity has ceased for the winter, except for a watching brief. If grass cutting is needed, we will have a special session. When leaves have finished falling, we will also arrange to clear the shed roof, the guttering, and the down pipe. We may also have to have a session clearing ivy from the West wall.

We had a bit of a problem prior to the last grass cut. The Snapper mower started ok, but refused to pick up speed and run. However, this was sorted by Axminster Garden Machinery who called in to have a look at the machine, and cleared the main fuel jet. Very grateful thanks.

The weed killing exercise we carried out earlier on Brian's patch was very successful, and that area is now ready for rotavating in the Spring ready for seed sowing. Looking forward to the snowdrops!

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 January 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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Combe Open Gardens 2022

Did you discover the joys of gardening during lock down? Maybe you grew some vegetables, or created a colourful patch of flowers, or a pond. Would you be up for sharing the pleasure of your garden or allotment with others and raising some funds for the village hall at the same time?

The village hall committee would like to repeat Combe Open Gardens next year on **Sunday June 26th 11.00 – 17.00** and needs your help to make it as successful as it was 2 years ago. It's not too early to start planning what to grow in the spring. Maybe you could share some seeds with friends or family, or ask if anyone has some plants they can let you have via the community Facebook page. Underway Meade Wild Play team created a brilliant display in their raised beds with donated plants this summer.

There will be breakfast and lunch available at the village hall (prebooked), and cream teas at Alterhay House in the afternoon. We do all the organising, advertising and selling of tickets. We give you a sign saying "Garden Open" for you to display at the entrance to your garden. You choose whether you are present or not to your garden visitors. Please let me know if you are interested in taking part.

Amanda Acland (01460 65981) email: amandaacland@gmail.com

Country Fare Catering

I am pleased to announce that we will be opening Combe Café on the last Sunday of each month, starting on **30th January 2022**, for a Sunday Roast Lunch with a choice of two meats and a selection of homemade desserts - £10 for 2 courses. Advanced booking only.

I am still delivering a freshly cooked hot meal with a dessert every Wednesday lunchtime - £8 for courses; £5.50 mail meal - £2.50 dessert – to anyone who would like it.

We also offer a Friday evening delivery of freshly cooked Cod & Chips to your door. £6.00 Cod & Chips or £3.50 Jumbo Sausage & Chips; Mushy Peas, Curry Sauce - £1.00.

I am also continuing to deliver a Sunday Roast lunch with dessert for £10 for 2 courses. Please see Country Fare Catering's Facebook page or Combe St. Nicholas Community Facebook page to see weekly menus or please give me a call on 07450 829169 for any details.

Heather Margetts



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Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

If you have any suggestions/comments re the Bus service please contact me, as each Parish now has a representative member to the Somerset Bus Partnership as Somerset County Council is applying for Govt. funding to upgrade services

The Lawns, Play Area. New equipment is being looked into, namely a climbing frame and a 'skywire' but at the time of writing this report, our grant application to SSDC has been refused. Other possibilities are now being checked into. The copper beech tree also needs some remedial work.

Adopt a Drain or a Ditch The recent downpours and flooding that have inundated a number of parishioners properties and some more than once, are terrible. More than a months' worth of rain in an evening is difficult to comprehend and in many ways we all feel powerless to defeat such a deluge.

However - we can all help a little. If you have a gully or drain nearby your house or on your daily walk please keep an eye on it and clear the leaves and twigs when you see it covered over – only of course, if it is safe to do so. If it is blocked and not flowing then either report it on the blocked drain web site

Report a problem on the road to; somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road_or_County_Highways Somerset County Council on countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk or report to Anne our Parish Clerk. If there is a ditch nearby that is preventing the flow of water and causing flooding then let our Parish Clerk know the details/location and we will contact the land owner. Please do **not put grass cuttings/hedge clippings/ garden waste into any ditch.**

Information is still being obtained about help with clearing the leat/stream as so much silt/gravel has built up over the years, plus the intense rain washing it down. The responsibility for the clearing does fall on the adjoining landowner, as this part is not considered 'main river' That starts on the other side of the A358 which it joins with the river coming from Chard reservoir

Now the evenings are getting darker earlier, please don't forget to take a **torch** with you when taking the dog out, so that all **dogs mess can be cleared up please**. A fluorescent coat/strip is also a good safety precaution for you and another one for your dog/horse.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24th January 2022, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. No meeting in December.

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

A Great Evening, was had by all.

The **Sax22** Village Hall Fundraiser evening proved a great success with well over 40 guests sitting down to a fun toe tapping evening, of mixed music and styles coming from this very talented saxophone and Bass Guitar Group. With the combined ticket sales and the ubiquitous interval Raffle, the evening raised £330 for the village hall which was fantastic. With the recent high winds and very heavy rain causing a few roofing issues at the hall, the money from this fundraiser, was well timed.

A very big thank you goes to Sax22 for giving us such a brilliant night out and to The Village Shop for once again kindly agreeing to selling the tickets for us. With the 60's meets Country evening on the 27th November, it's great to see the hall back in full use after months and months of Covid closure, well done all.

Combe St Nicholas Art Group

Venue: Combe St Nicholas Village Hall.

Fridays during term time 10.00am to 12.00 midday.

The art group continues to flourish, with our new members bringing their own skills to our Friday sessions. We continue to work from an interesting and varied programme of subjects, ranging from abstract to portraits, using a variety of mediums except oils.

The group does not have a tutor but operates under the guidance of David and Ian, who appreciate the support of members. Ideas and techniques are discussed adding to an overall, sociable approach to art.

Our current term ends on December 17th, recommencing on January 14th 2022, continuing then until April 8th, with a break on February 18th. We are considering holding an exhibition in 2022. Watch the parish website page and this publication for details.

You are welcome to call in to the hall on a Friday morning, to see us in action!

David Selley

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A Cry from the Heart!

I don't like hairy spiders; some don't like to see a mouse
But of all the things that come inside, you don't want water in your house

My carpet once was red, now it's covered up with mud
Or maybe it was blue, I can't remember since the flood

I'm cleaning up the chaos, in wellies dusk to dawn
And it makes me pretty angry to see my belongings on the lawn

I look at all my furniture, and in my throat there comes a lump;
What was precious to me once is now going down the dump

It would have been so nice to have had a little bit of luck
If once in a blue moon I'd seen a gulley sucking truck

It's not good for my blood pressure and probably not my health
When after paying all my taxes, I have to clear the drains myself

Well anyway, now I'm homeless I'll probably stay with my grown-up daughter
And relax with a Scotch and soda—I couldn't face a Scotch and **WATER!**

'Wadeford Willy'

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Dates for your diary

December

Sat	4	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm 6.00pm	Flower Workshops - Village Hall Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols —The Green
Sun	5		See Church Services
Fri	10	7.30pm	CLOKS Christmas Show - Combe Church
Sat	11	7.30pm	<i>'When Sasha Got Swept Up The Chimney'</i>
Sun	12		See Church Services
Mon	13	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm	Flower Workshops —Village Hall
Wed	15	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship —Methodist Church <i>Advent Service</i>
Sun	19		See Church Services
Fri	24	5.00pm 11.30pm	Christingle Service —Combe Church Midnight Service —Combe Church
Sat	25		CHRISTMAS DAY —See Church Services
Sun	26		See Church Services

January

Sun	2		See Church Services
Sun	9		See Church Services
Mon	10		Cut-off date for Oil Co-operative
Sun	16		See Church Services
Mon	17	7.30pm	Local Ladies —Village Hall <i>AGM & Supper</i>
Wed	19	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship —Methodist Rooms <i>Members' Meeting</i>
Sun	23		See Church Services
Mon	24	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Sat	29	2-4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale - Village Hall
Sun	30		See Church Services

CLOKS present their Christmas Show:

When Sasha Got Swept Up The Chimney

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th December,

7.30pm at St Nicholas' Church, Combe

Free admission, donations welcome, refreshments

Geoff and a Drinker in the Garden — really?

Last year I published a couple of items in Cloverleaf, one on wildlife in the community and another on moths. As we approach the end of 2021, perhaps a follow-up is in order.

It's been a good year for moths, despite the poor spring, with 285 species recorded at home; the most since 2015. As for moth of the year, it's a question of "little and large".

The former is the wonderful *Alabonia geofrella*, known to moth-ers as "Geoff", a tiny, multicoloured gem that frequents hedgerows and

woodlands and flies during the day during May and June. It has a wingspan of 17-21 mm and its larvae feed under bark on rotting wood. I was lucky enough to find one on the outside window one morning.



The large moth is *Convolvulus Hawk-moth*, a late summer and autumn migrant from Europe, with a wingspan of 10 centimetres. I've long wanted to find this species and was delighted when one turned up on the front door one morning. Other delights this year include Puss Moth, Maiden's Blush, Cream-spot Tiger and Drinker.

This summer I did some limited trapping at Otterhead Lakes, and at Underway Meade and Sunday School Wood with the help of Lyn Osborne and Colin Ryall. Hopefully we can increase the number of sessions next year and show some of the results to the public.

Apart from a good showing of butterflies, hoverflies and bumblebees, another star insect this year was Wool Carder Bee, a small bumblebee. It's one of the few species where the male is





larger than the female and is the only territorial bumblebee in the UK. Males will patrol favoured plants, and will chase, head-butt and wrestle rival males, sometimes even crushing them against spikes on their abdomen! Females strip woolly fibres from plants such as Lambs-ear for their nests. They are easy to identify by the yellow spots down the side of their abdomen. Well worth looking out for!



This year we acquired a trail-cam, which has been a revelation. Hedgehogs have been around all summer (right up to the time of writing); it's been quite something to see some of their behaviour, including eating, scratching and pooing!



It seems to have been a good breeding year for some of our struggling bird species; both Starling and House Sparrow have produced lots of young locally, so there have been good-size flocks around (certainly around our feeders).

House Martin numbers have been down in recent years but we were lucky enough to have a nesting pair that fledged young again in one of our artificial nest-boxes, which are well worth installing to help the species.

The star bird in the garden has been Stock Dove, a delightful dove, mid-way in size between Wood-pigeon and Collared Dove, which has been regular this year. They are very wary but can be seen with patience.

Rob Grimmond (261234)



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Yarcombe and District YFC

October has certainly been a very busy month for young farmers. The start of the month we had our new officers meeting, thanking the past years officers and welcoming in the new officers for the year. We have had several meetings in village halls, discussing upcoming events.

Competitions have started back again, two teams from the club participated in the Brainstrust speaking competition on the 7th of October. An intermediate and senior team was entered, well done to the Senior team who came 4th and the intermediate team coming 6th. Some members participating in their first speaking competition. Will Vining, Moly David and Adam Burrough went onto the county round on the 29th October to represent in the East Devon team, coming first, congratulations.

We held our new members meeting on the 18th October at Yarcombe village hall where 55 people turned up. It was fantastic to see a busy hall again for a meeting and getting back to normal times and young farmers doing what they do best. A great evening was had by all meeting new members, learning about young farmers, and having fun playing games, a lot of laughs was had by all.

Sports competitions have started back again. On the 26th October the club took two teams to the county ten-pin bowling competition, at Exeter. A fun and competitive evening was had by all and well done to those who took part. Also, on the 7th November two teams played sports girls team playing netball and boys team playing football, well done to all those who took part. The next couple of months are looking to be busy months again, we are busy practising for pantomime, several balls coming up and other social events and competitions to all get involved with as a club.

If anyone has any further questions and would like to become involved with Young Farmers, please contact our Chairman Jack Tomlinson on 07712 479384, or our Secretary Emily Dunster on 07368 654447. We have our club meetings every other week in either Yarcombe or Upottery Village hall 8pm start.

Natalie Sampson, Press Secretary



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Combe Football Club



It continues to be all go as we head towards Christmas here at the Football Club. I would like to say a massive thank you to the committee who have tirelessly helped make it a successful start to the season both on and off the pitch, and also a thank you to those of you in the community who have come up to support our teams at any point so far this season. It is great to see the community enjoying our teams and facilities!

On the pitch we are having great success within the men's teams with our firsts still unbeaten in the league and it doesn't look like stopping just yet! They are just two points off the top with a massive 3 games in hand as they look towards their 9th game of the season this weekend.

The reserves are holding their own in a very competitive Division 1 League and our third team are also in the top 3 of Division 3 after a great run of five wins on the bounce whilst our Veterans are top of the league!

The Ladies are growing in confidence with a few new faces coming into the squad recently and hopefully the results for Bissy's team will soon come! If you have any interest in playing for the Ladies team please get in touch, we are always on the lookout for extra faces for the ladies team for those with the enthusiasm, whatever your ability!

Off the pitch, we have sadly had to end our community bar on Friday evenings for now, however we hope to bring that back if demand is high as we head towards Christmas!

Our team of volunteers are in the process of getting that back for you very soon. Please keep an eye out for any updates as well as news on player signings and sponsors information via our Facebook page 'Combe St Nicholas FC: Events & Activities'.

Finally, our fantastic clubhouse is available for booking for parties with our bar and kitchen options available if required. Please contact the club via Facebook or email **combefc@live.co.uk** for any queries.

James Gilbert

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A Moment in Time by John Phillips

Combe Auction Part 2

At 2.45pm on July 26th 1912 the Clayhanger Cliffhanger was resolved. The gavel came down! Clayhanger Farm Lot No 63 was sold to Mr Hopkins for £2,700. Clayhanger "that desirable Dairy Farm with a stone built 4 stall stable with loft over, a range of stone built cow houses to tie 14 cows, a Wagon House Barn, Chaff and Root House etc". The Farm had 111 acres and was let to Mr JL Gooding for £127 rent plus tythes of £28 per year. The slated Farmhouse had 4-6 bedrooms and nearby an old cottage was used as Cider House to process the apples of 4½ acres of apples into cider.

Minutes before the sale of Clayhanger the gavel came down! Lot number 62 Eleigh Water Farm sold to Mr John Madge for £3,300. The Farmhouse and numerous out buildings were very comparable to Clayhanger, and the acreage 111 acres was identical. It was rented at £167/year plus tythes of 23 to a Mr O Showers.

A further 4 farms were sold at the auction:

46 acres Lower Beetham Farm sold for £770 to Mr Wm Hurford

- Rent £36 Tythes £8.

55 acres (Higher) Beetham Farm sold for £1,250 to Mr Taylor

- Rent £54 Tythes £9.50.

190 acres Combe Hill Farm sold for £5,700 to ?

- Rent £276 Tythes £36

A study of the figures are revealing. Each Farm sold for virtually exactly a multiple of 20 times the annual rent.

The change between the tythes due – fixed in the 1830s relative to the rent due in 1912 is evidence of the change in value over that period of the 6 farms sold.

For example, for Eleigh Water Farm the tythes equated to about 13% of the rent, but for Clayhanger Farm they equated to 22% of the rented value. So, for the owners, now the Ecclesiastical Commission, with a legal duty to maximise the income of the C of E, the value of Clayhanger Farm was 10% less and Eleigh Water 35% more than 75 years earlier.

Those farms, Eleigh Water and Combe Hill most suitable for Dairy Farming

with water meadows in the valley of the Isle had increased in value whilst the other 4 had barely held their value. The figures in the sale document indicate a significant reduction of arable and increase in pasture over 75 years. This reflects the national trend of an increase in specialization in farming brought about by better transport especially the steam train. The east of England increased its arable whilst the west became more pastoral.

Thus the 6 Farmhouses, 2 modern 5 bed dairy houses, 6 modern cottages, 1 old style cottage with 770 acres of land sold for £18,270 on those two late July afternoons in 1912.

The remaining fields and smaller blocks of land sold for between £15 and £30 per acre apart from those desirable as potential building plots in or near Combe Village which sold for £50-£90.

Correction:

My last article in the Cloverleaf stated the sale raised £2,100. Clerical error led to a vital 4 going missing. It should have read £24,100. Sorry.

WORLD DANCE – come and try it for free!

Combe Village Hall – Monday January 10th or 24th 2022

After successful taster sessions in September, there were so many enthusiastic people wanting to join the new World Dance group that there are now 2 classes – one at 10am then another at 2pm. It's a lovely friendly relaxed group, so why not come and give it a try at one of the January sessions!

WORLD DANCE is not only fun but ticks all the boxes for health, enhancing both our physical and mental wellbeing. The variety of dance and music is endless, from ancient to modern, with music from classical, through folk and jazz to contemporary, and there are often fascinating stories about the dance and music along the way.

Dances are sometimes lively and fun or gentle and reflective. The aim always is to experience the joy of dancing with others and to create a sense of well-being and community. Each dance is demonstrated and carefully taught by Lilly, a qualified and experienced dance teacher. No partner or experience needed, just a sense of rhythm and willingness to 'give it a go'. Our motto is "no mistakes, only variations"!

Want to come and give it a try? Get in touch with Lilly to let her know you're coming, or to find out more information.

Lilly Sell-Dunkley (07711 702460)

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Flower Arranging Workshops

Here are the remaining workshops for the festive season:

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.

Let It Snow!

Monday 13th December 2021, 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.

Finally, can I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and my sincere thanks for your continued support.

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

Local Ladies

We had quite a reasonable turn-out for our first proper meeting back in the Village Hall in October. 2 members of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance team came, with slides showing all the different types of work the Air Ambulance is involved with. A very interesting meeting, with lots of items to purchase from them too.

Our December meeting will be a Christmas dinner in the village hall, supplied by Heather. Lynn will be contacting everyone re dates, and menus etc.

On January 17th we will hold our quick AGM following by a bring and share supper and quiz. (wine will be supplied) Bring your own glass.

All Ladies will be very welcome to join us. We are a very friendly group and meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm usually in the Village Hall. Subs of £10 will be due in January, which covers all meetings for the year, or visitors charged at £2.

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Last Posting Dates for Christmas



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Tuesday 21 December	1st Class & Signed For 2nd
Thursday 23 December	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed

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Wednesday 1 December	Caribbean
Monday 6 December	Australia, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal
Wednesday 8 December	Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Far East and Middle East
Friday 10 December	Cyprus, Malta, Sweden
Saturday 11 December	Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia), Turkey
Monday 13 December	Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, USA
Thursday 16 December	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland

HM Forces Mail — British Forces Post Office (BFPO)

Monday 29 November	Operational HM Forces
Friday 6 December	Static HM Forces

Please note: latest recommended posting dates are correct at the time of publishing and are subject to change. Please check royalmail.com/greetings for the latest information. **With less air traffic, it's advisable to post as early as possible to ensure your Christmas letters and parcels reach their destination in good time.**



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Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2001-2010	10 Yr Ave 2011-2020
September	56	12	53	70
October	236	194	137	127
Jan—Aug	921	717	696	697
TOTAL	1213	923	886	894

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

September was fairly dry, with relatively small amounts of rain on just 7 days. During the month. By contrast, October saw rain on 18 days and while the majority of the rainfall was moderate, there were significant downpours on five of the days which accounted for virtually half of the month's total.

Tony Cole (61896)



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Cloverleaf Parish Pages

There is a saying

"We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time." --from Little Gidding by T.S. Eliot, the poem discusses time, perspective, humanity, and salvation. The story of the nativity offers for us the same narrative each year and yet there will always be something new to discover or hear in it. The experience of our Christmastide will be different after the confusion and crisis of last year, and yet it will bear familiarity. It will hold the uncertainty of whether we will be meeting up with the emotions of being with those we love. And for some there will be precious memories, treasured and held with tears for the ones who are loved and seen no more, the familiar and the unfamiliar.

Then on another level, Eliot is expressing a little about how I feel after returning from my adventures across the UK on my Sabbatical, it has been a truly restful and full-on creative time. Time to be in the moment and catch the peace, wonder and beauty of our nations, truly stunning scenery and experiences, many known for the first time.

With the New Year we will slip into a new experience of life full of all we know and all that we can not see yet. Be Blessed and ready to embrace life in all it's fulness, the rawness of pain and the elation of joy, knowing you don't walk life alone but in the grace of the vulnerability of the Christ Child and the strength of our Easter Christ.

Rev Georgina

Join us on our Angels telling the Story for Christmas Trail



Take part by putting up your Angel in your garden or window on the way around the village as we share in the story of Christmas.

Trail sheets available from the Village Shop from 6th September.

We ask only for a small donation which goes to Shelter.

Whitestaunton Church Choir

We are looking at ways to enhance our services and share them in an enjoyable way with our community and surrounding areas. As part of this we are **restarting the church Choir at Whitestaunton.**

The choir will be led by Jane Harris who is a member of our PCC. She sang in Whitestaunton Choir many years ago and has many fond memories of practices and services. The skills she learnt gave her a good grounding for her choral singing at college and the local choirs she sings in today, including The Somerset Chamber Choir. Jane studied Music and leading and conducting choirs as part of her BEd Hons Music and Education degree. She has enjoyed teaching music and leading choirs over the past 30 years.

We will meet for a few practices prior to each service and members will be asked to learn their parts independently between each one. For this reason we are looking for SATB singers who have a reasonable voice, can read music and can hold their vocal part within a small choir. We welcome singers from Whitestaunton Parish and any of our local towns and villages who are 18 years old and over. We do not audition but will ask you to have a chat with Jane before you join. If you are interested please do contact Jane and we look forward to hearing from you as we embark on this exciting relaunch of our choir.

Our first practice is on **Sunday 21 November 2021** from 10am to 12pm at Whitestaunton Church. We will decide on further rehearsal days and dates at that meeting. We rehearse within Covid-secure guidelines.

Contact details for Jane Harris:

email: janeharris334@gmail.com Tel. 01460 239113

Other Singing news

The PCC believe that singing is for everybody and everybody can sing, so as well as our more formal choir we will be running events from 2022 for all abilities and ages of singers.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship Advent service will be held in Methodist Church on Wednesday 15th of December at 2.30pm, followed by tea in the Schoolroom. All are welcome, come and join in our service as we await Christ's birth.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 19th. and will be the Member's Meeting"

Pat Poole.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Maisie Abercrombie

Iris Froom

Combe

Lillian and Eliza Taylor

Join us for Community Carol Singing



December 14th 6.00pm

at Hallfield,

Chardleigh Green

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

and

December 15th 6.00pm

at The Cotley Inn

Wambrook

Everyone welcome.



Whitestaunton Church

19th December

Community Carol Service 6.30pm

Come and join us for a
joyful celebration of Christmas
with our favourite Carols,
readings and poems.
All Welcome!

Join us for our Advent Course online.
For more information contact Rev Georgina.

Church Services across the Benefice

	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Dec. 5 th Advent 2	10.30am Family Service Celebrating St Nicholas Day	9.15am Holy Communion BCP		8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Family Time @St Mary's 3.00pm Light up a Life Service
Dec. 12 th Advent 3	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion CW 6.00pm Carol Service	6.30pm Village Carol Service	10.00am Holy Communion
Dec. 19 th Advent 4	10.30am Service of the Word 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight		9.15am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Carol Service
Dec. 26 th St Stephen's Day	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Chard			

Christmas Week across the Benefice

	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Friday Dec 24 th Christmas Eve	5.00pm Christingle Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion			4.00pm and 6pm Christingle Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Saturday Dec 25 th Christmas Day	10.30am CW Holy Communion	9.15am BCP Holy Communion	9.15 am Crib Service	8.00am HC 10.30am Holy Communion

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

January	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Jan. 2 nd Epiphany	10.30am Family Ser- vice	9.15am Holy Communion BCP		8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Family Time @St Mary's
Jan. 9 th Baptism of Christ	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion CW		10.00am Holy Communion
Jan. 16 th Epiphany 2	10.30am Service at the Methodist Church	6.00pm Evensong BCP	9.15am Holy Communion CW	8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship
Jan. 23 rd Epiphany 3	10.30am Holy Communion			10.00am Holy Communion
Jan 30 th Epiphany 4	10.30am Benefice Service at Combe			

All Services will occur subject to the national restrictions.

The Carol Service and Christingle at Combe will be live streamed for those who would prefer to take part from home.

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

Wambrook Flowers and Cleaning

Altar Flowers

Cleaning

SATURDAY 4TH or 11th DECEMBER (depending on carol services)

— ALL DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Dec 6 & 13

Janie Hurrell

Jenny Reynolds

Dec 20 & 27

Penny Luther

Anne Asquith

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),

COMBE ST NICHOLAS METHODIST CHURCH

- Services:** 10.30am fortnightly (as per plan on Noticeboard on railings)
- Minister:** Rev Anna Flindell (01460 261766)
- Steward:** Arnold Coleman (64892)

Copy date for February/March 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 18th January**. Please note: long articles may have to be edited and inclusion cannot always be guaranteed.*

Distributors: February/March Magazines will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Friday 28th January.

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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**Carrie & Jason wish all customers
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

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otherwise normal opening hours over the holiday period

Bookings now being taken for Valentine's

♥Friday 11th, Sat 12th, & Mon 14th February♥

Sunday Roast : 1 course - £9, 2 courses - £11 3 courses - £13

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