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February - March 2022



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Overview

The day is seasonally cold but with bright sunny skies as this magazine is put to bed, which makes a welcome change to the miserable wet weather we experienced over Christmas and at the beginning of January.

Much seems to now be getting back to some semblance of normal. Many more of the regular village activities are taking place, albeit with some provisos. Combe Café's Sunday is returning each month at the Village Hall; Coffee Mornings and club meetings are taking place more often and Panto returns to the stage on 15th February for 6 performances, with Snow White and as many Dwarfs as COVID will allow - 5 at the last count!

More activity means more information to carry in Cloverleaf. However, one of our regular contributions is missing this time! Unfortunately the author of the local history series 'A Moment in Time', John Phillips, is in hospital and we send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Village Hall Committee have been hard at work during the recent period of reduced hall usage, making all kinds of improvements - see page 3 - and there are fund raising activities planned to cover the costs.

There's a new activity for our younger villagers too. The Combe Lego and Duplo Club will meet at the Methodist Church Rooms for the first time on 26th February - for more information see page 8.

There's an update from the Save The Dragon campaign on page 13, with information on the fund-raising events in February.

After a break of several years, due to really bad weather as well as the problems of the pandemic, Combe 10K, 5K and 2K Fun Run is back for 2022. Organised by Combe School's PFA, the event will take place in May, but the initial appeal for volunteers to help on the day is carried on page 23.

If you're looking for exercise but feel that 10K is a bit too far, you may be interested in the Combe Folk Dance Club (page 27) which meets at the Village Hall on alternate Thursdays.

Finally, thank you to Chris Pickering for allowing us to use his early morning photograph of a wintery Combe landscape as our cover picture.

Lesley Cole
Editor

In the Garden..with Claire at Combe Dingle Nursery

January can be the most important time to get out into the garden, if only to lift the spirits. It is never as grey as looks from indoors. Sure, it feels easier when it is bright and crisp than on these mild, damp, muddy days. I'd love to cut the lawn and tidy around the edges but there is a lot more winter to be had yet and who knows what it will bring. While I'm sat here, I have seen a Wren hopping in and out of the leaves left along a hedge and a Great Tit feeding from a camelia flower. It all seems rather confused. Bulbs are starting to push through and yet I have only recently put away some of my less-hardy plants, whether this is into the house or my cold glasshouse. Plants grown quite hard but healthy will withstand a lot more cold than soft weak plants. I don't like to waste resources on heating a glasshouse when there are plenty of plants to be had that are hardy and no less beautiful or interesting.

If you really don't want to go out why not repot house plants. I like to use a mixture of peat free compost, soil-based compost for substance and some perlite to hold air and moisture.

Now is a great time to get stuck into the compost heap. I am lucky enough to have 3 bays. Yesterday I removed perennial weeds from an area of the vegetable garden where I could then empty one bay. After a few repairs to the compost bin, I could then turn the compost from the second bin into the first and the third into the second. The asparagus bed still needs weeding and mulching. For years I have pruned 6 large old gooseberry bushes and always been disappointed. I don't know where they came from or the variety. This year I was ruthless and have removed them. Once my bareroot fruit bushes are here I will replace them with reliable named varieties such as Invicta and Hinnonmaki.

When it is dryer underfoot, I look forward to clearing the flower beds. I still have a lot of bulbs that I haven't got round to planting yet. They are better planted late and given a chance than not at all. They might flower late but should catch up for next year. There is pruning to be done. The rose hedge can be cut back now that the hips have gone. The wisteria will be cut back a neat framework with all the long shoots back to 2 buds. My climbing roses need tying back in and their flowering stems cut back by 2 thirds. Fruit trees should be pruned. Remembering that stone fruit trees such as plum should be pruned in leaf.

Spring is the time to think about the health of your garden. Weeding, mulching and pruning done now will pay dividends in the year ahead.

Village Hall

Following our very successful Sax 22 concert, which as you may have read in the last Cloverleaf raised £330 for the village hall, our 60s evening was great fun and raised £640 for SURE, friends of the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Hospital. Thanks to Martin Wale for organising this, to "The Locals" (Martin, Mac Wheadon and Francis Veale) for their fantastic music, and to Heather Margetts for masterminding the refreshments; also to Brian and Elspeth at the shop for selling tickets for both events.

The sound system in the hall is now available for anyone to use, following the simple instructions on the window ledge alongside the system. Please note that you do have to follow the instructions to the letter, but so long as you do, it works really well! Thanks to Steve Osborne, Dave Goodall and Dave Cobbledick for getting this up and running. The new main door has been fitted and the key is in the key safe on the outside of the door. The code to access the safe has been issued to hirers and will be changed from time to time (and hirers informed, of course!) to maintain security.

Forthcoming events:

- The overhead projector is due to be installed on 31st January; thanks to Ian Croucher for organising this. Making use of this and our wifi connection, we plan to broadcast the Buckingham Palace Jubilee concert in the hall on Saturday 4th June – no charge, just come along and bring your own refreshments if you wish.
- We will be holding to an Easter Sale in the hall on Saturday 2nd April from 10 am – 4 pm. £5 a table to sell your own goods and you keep all the profits. To book a table please contact Ian Croucher via email **csnvillagehall@hotmail.com** – first come, first served!
- Don't forget to save the date for the Open Gardens on Sunday 26th June.
- The Village Hall café resumes on the last Sunday of the month from 30th January, and Heather is taking bookings now.

We'd love to hold some more concerts to raise money for the hall funds, so if there are any musicians (solo or groups) who would like to put on an event in the hall, please get in touch.

Village Hall Committee

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Underway Meade

As mentioned in the last issue, we have now completed work on repairing the hard surface path with road planings and also improved the upper path and approach to the bridge. Thanks to Bill and Luke for doing this and also for removing an unsafe tree in the woodland. The Neroche Volunteers have created wheelchair access to the top path and in due course, when we have more wood chippings available, we will complete this work. The Volunteers also helped to install an extra drainage pipe near the rubbish bin, which will hopefully prevent some of the flooding that occurs in that area. More work to address the flooding issues will be undertaken in the future.

We will soon be welcoming a team of Wessex Water volunteers to help us with some general maintenance work, and we would very much appreciate some more chippings for them to spread. If anyone is having any trees felled and their contractor wants to dispose of the chippings, please contact me to arrange drop off.

We have recently been testing out the new pump for lowering the water level in the pond and are pleased to report that it is working well. We are planning to hold another community volunteer morning to tackle various tasks, including pond clearance, and will be looking for some brave, strong folk to venture into the pond (waders can be provided!) to help. Watch out for posters and Facebook notices for further details.

Thanks to those who alerted us to the Thatcher's Community Orchard Project. We are applying for five apple trees to add to our collection, so wish us luck.



Lynn Osborne, Chair, Combe St. Nicholas Parochial Trust.
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A view from the District

Like everyone else, times haven't been easy for your District Councillor during the last year! Every enquiry was met with difficulties mainly due to lack of staff for the various services due to COVID.

Add to this the terrible effects of the flooding last year and our services were really stretched particularly Highways who are still working on damage at Whitestaunton . We are still waiting for the overdue report from Somerset Emergency flooding Authority to see what measure may be put in place in our Parish!

I have liaised with the Parish Council on many occasions, mainly in relation to Planning and Grants, and will continue to assist them as much as possible.

As you may know the current system of District and County Councils will cease in May 2023 and be replaced with One Council for all of Somerset. There will be an election in May this year to elect the Councillors who will represent you. Combe St Nicholas will be part of Chard North Ward and elect two Councillors.

I have become a Governor of the School and was pleased to be able to help facilitate a Grant from the District Council for a running/walking track to be put in the School Playing field. This for the use of the School and outside school hours by the community.

Let's hope that encouraging signs of a lessening of the Pandemic continue and we can get back to having a healthy and Happy 2023.

Martin Wale
Councillor Blackdown and Tatworth Ward

You are invited to GET CREATIVE at the Combe Lego & Duplo Club!

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Sunday School Wood

Very little to report on at the present time. We did manage to clear the roof of fallen leaves before Christmas. We also took ivy off the West wall before it started to grow into cracks and fissures, which could then cause serious damage. It is always a compromise, because the seed heads are great for birds. It is an ongoing watching brief.

When removing the leaves, we found that the downpipe from the gutter was becoming clogged, so that had to be taken off and cleaned.

As with most home lawns, the grass has continued growing due to the generally mild and wet weather, so we will have to mow it before long.

South Somerset District Council are running an initiative to provide wild flower seeds to organisations that qualify, so we have made our application to be included, and are very hopeful of being successful, so watch this space.

As mentioned last time remember to keep a lookout for the first snowdrops, and later on, other various flowers.

Frank Warriner - Tel 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 March will be Monday 7th.

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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The Green Dragon Update

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 are finalising our Business Plan and will soon be sending off for Community Shares Standard Mark assessment and approval by the Co-operative and Community Capital Committee, a member group of Co-operatives UK with representatives from across the sector. The Community Shares Standard Mark is awarded to community share offers that meet national standards of good practice.

We have a number of activities taking place at the Village Hall on 26th February 2022, starting with a Coffee Morning at 11:00am, then with a Tabletop sale later in the afternoon, and culminating with a Cheese and Wine Evening Ticket Event at 7:00pm. Tickets available from any Committee member, or the Village Shop, and cost just £10 per person.

The Management Committee will be there throughout the day, to answer any of your questions, and will be open to ideas on ways to improve communication, fundraising, gathering support etc.

So far, 86 people have either pledged circa £105,000 in shares, £6,750 in donations and approx. £13,000 from fundraising and grants to date which is a great progress given the circumstances we have had to deal with. Given the Governments 2021 announcement and launching of the Community Ownership Fund last year which offers matched grant funding up to £250,000, we believe we need to raise a total of £175,000 in order to be in a position to secure £175,000 from the Community Ownership Fund and acquire the pub. This means that we are looking to raise a further £55,000 to meet this target. We are aware though that we will need to undertake some work on the pub before it can be re-opened, so ideally, we need to exceed this £55,000 by an additional £30,000 for renovations.

So, whilst we are close, 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. The Management Committee appreciate the support you have provided to date, but to make this work we need more support from each of you to help raise awareness, help attract new pledgers, or even consider increasing your own personal pledge amount.

If you would like to offer more help, in whatever way you can, please get in contact.

Dave Crossman
CSN Community Pub Limited Chairman



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POPPY CORNER



Unfortunately, once again this edition of Poppy Corner is later than I would have liked as the deadline for the Cloverleaf Christmas edition falls just two days after Remembrance Sunday, and there is not enough time to collect and count all the monies raised across the Parish in such a short time. By waiting I can publish the actual total raised rather than just give an estimate.

Covid-19 did rear its ugly head at times during the year but did not bother the 2021 Poppy Appeal as it did in 2020 and the normal house-to-house collections were able to go ahead as usual. However, the weather did have some adverse effects. We had planned to hold a garden party in July of last year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the British Legion but unfortunately that was scuppered when our garden was flooded. Many thanks to all those who had bought tickets in advance and then refused to accept the refunds offered. On a more positive note, our annual British Legion Coffee Morning should be back on next October a week or two before the 2022 Poppy Appeal.

Back to the present, this year's Poppy Appeal was most successful yet, helped by some lovely weather at the start of the Appeal. Overall, the 2021 Poppy Appeal raised a total of **£2805.31**, which is the highest amount we have ever achieved. My thanks go to all the people of the local community who gave so generously and to St Nicholas Church, the Methodist Church and the Parish Council who all gave substantial donations. I must also thank my team of collectors: Bev Gibson, Pat Hamilton, Sue & Peter Key, Stephen & Peta Melling, John Nicholls, Colin & Gilly Stagg, the Wallbridge family, Frank & June Warriner, Ian & Edna Whitehead, Jenny Wiggins and John & Jenny Wright, who braved the sun and rain for this worthy cause.

Finally, I continue to be impressed by the energy and enthusiasm shown by the collectors and by the generous spirit throughout our area. My grateful thanks to one and all for your support for the Royal British Legion.

David Hamilton
Poppy Appeal Organiser (Tel 61707)

Blythswood Care Christmas Shoeboxes 2021

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed in any way to this year's appeal. I have received shoeboxes, wrapping paper, wool, beautifully knitted hats, scarves and gloves, stationery, fillers including cuddly toys, small toys and everything else to make up a lovely box.

I have also received monetary donations which has allowed me to buy goods which are included as 'essential items' on the checklist this year such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, underwear and sweets. If you imagine toothpaste in every box it takes rather a lot!

I have been beavering away at home in my own mini warehouse. I filled 65 shoeboxes which along with the boxes from the Parish Church and School, (who have already received their certificates of thanks), went to the main warehouse. The children will have a book placed inside their box in their own language and the adults a colourful 2022 calendar. Their destination will be Ukraine this year.

The final total of how many boxes we have managed to send from the TA postal area to such needy families in Ukraine was 5848. Once again, a big THANK YOU.

Pamela Hodge

Combe St. Nicholas and Wadeford Gala Association

Thanks very much to Daragh and everyone who helped with the lovely Christmas tree and lights for The Green. Also Chard Concert Brass who played in the evening to accompany the carols after the switch-on. All the residents of Combe Parish and those driving through the village really appreciated seeing the lovely tree in those dark days.

Gala Committee

The Queen's 70th Jubilee From the 2nd to 5th June the country will be celebrating this wonderful Jubilee of the Queens reign. Helpers will be needed to think up ideas, events, etc. etc. Is that you? Please contact Anne Hunt (Parish Clerk) or any members of the Village Hall Committee or any Organisation in the Parish so that we can make this a weekend to remember. The Big Lunch or Parish Picnic – where? – Exhibition? – etc. Your input is needed please. One event that is earmarked will be at Combe Football Club, with the local Morris Dancing team and other stalls etc.

Anne Hunt – Tel. 61296 or email combestnicholaspc@gmail.com

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Dates for your diary

February

Thu	3	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Sat	5	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm	Flower Workshops - Village Hall
Sun	6		See Church Services
Sun	13		See Church Services
Tue	15	7.30pm	Cloverleaf Productions Panto —Village Hall
Wed	16	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Methodist Rooms
		7.30pm	Cloverleaf Productions Panto —Village Hall
Thu	17	7.30pm	Cloverleaf Productions Panto —Village Hall
Fri	18	7.30pm	Cloverleaf Productions Panto —Village Hall
Sat	19	2.30 & 6.30pm	Cloverleaf Productions Panto —Village Hall
Sun	20		See Church Services
Sun	19		See Church Services
Sat	26	10-11am	Combe Lego & Duplo Club - Methodist Rooms
		11am	Save the Dragon Coffee Morning - Village Hall
		pm	+ Save the Dragon Table Top Sale
		7.00pm	+ Save the Dragon Cheese & Wine Evening
Sun	27		See Church Services
		12-2pm	Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall
Mon	28	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall

March

Thu	3	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Sat	5	10-12.30 & 2-4.30pm	Flower Workshops —Village Hall
Sun	6		See Church Services
Mon	7		Cut-off date for Oil Co-operative
Sun	13		See Church Services
		2-4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale - Village Hall
Wed	16	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Methodist Rooms
			<i>Ian Williamson—Hadrian's Wall</i>
Thu	17	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Sun	20		See Church Services
Mon	21	7.30pm	Local Ladies —Village Hall
Sat	26	10-11am	Combe Lego & Duplo Club - Methodist Rooms
Sun	27		Mothering Sunday - See Church Services
		12-2pm	Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall
Mon	28	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall

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Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

The Lawns, Play Area.: New equipment is being looked into, namely a climbing frame and a `skywire` which probably will be erected in the Spring. The copper beech tree also needs some remedial work.

The public drop-in meeting following on from the **Flooding event** that occurred on **29th June** was hopefully held in The Guildhall, Chard, on Monday 24th January. (This report has been sent in prior to this event). Many of the SCC Flooding teams / Environment Departments and Highways were there, as well as an information table for this Parish. The community drop-in enabled local residents to speak with representatives from various organisations to discuss the recent flood events in Chard and the surrounding villages in June and October 2021.. Our own Parish follow-on information will be discussed in February/March. There may be another drop-in meeting on 28th February, but details not yet known – watch out for posters or emails.

Report a problem on the roads to; someset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road or County Highways Somerset County Council on **countyyroads-southsom@someset.gov.uk** or report to Anne our Parish Clerk.

Request to landowners//farmers – please clear the roads of mud etc if this occurs when exiting fields for road safety sake.

Although the evenings and mornings are gradually getting lighter, 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**. Far too much still gets left in places. A fluorescent coat/strip is also a good safety precaution for you and another one for your dog/horse.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on **28th February** and **Monday 28th March 2022**. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Award for Volunteers/Service to the Community

I was very honoured to accept an award from the Chairman of Somerset County Council on behalf of all the Volunteers who help in so many ways in the Parish and for Services to the Community. So thank you everyone for all your work.

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Combe St Nicholas PFA 10k, 5k and Fun Run.

We are putting plans in place to run the 10km, the 5km and 2km Fun Run this year subject to COVID restrictions at the time.

This year's event will be held on Sunday **May 15th**.

You will find more information at:

www.combe10k.org.uk. You can register with us via runABC South, **www.runabc.co.uk**



Combe PFA has received many accolades from runners over the years, particularly about the level of stewarding. This is largely down to the assistance we receive from the local community and we would like to ask for that help again.

If you are willing to enjoy a couple of hours in the fresh air for good cause, then please give me a ring on **07768 055517** or email **combe10k@gmail.com**

More details to follow in the next edition of Cloverleaf.

Andy Toyne

Combe Parish Allotment Association

ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Combe Allotments have some allotments available, on a quiet relaxing countryside plot.

Now is a great time to start planning for the new year!

Some plots have a shed, on-site parking, water & shared resources available (COVID permitting)

Contact Elaine or Claire for more information and a plot visit:

Elaine johnelaine_33@outlook.com

M: 07806 506411

Claire: claire_eggle@hotmail.com

M: 07748 590937

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Clubs and Societies

Combe Football Club

Happy New Year from all at Combe Football Club! It has been a quiet few weeks up the club but after a period of eating and drinking far too much, our players are already back in, ready to get on the pitch (as long as rain doesn't stop play)!



At the time of writing, our teams are in a fantastic position. Our Firsts are now finally top of Division 3 after missing a few games early on in the season, with the lads two clear points of second place, having played four less games! Our Reserves and Third team sides are both third in their leagues as well, with regular success up at Slade's Cross for our men's sides.

Our Veteran side is also having success, currently sitting in second place of the Somerset FA Legends League. Our Ladies team are working hard on the pitch but are still chasing their first win of their campaign. As always, if you have any interest in joining our Ladies team, we are welcoming all players!

It has been great to see a busy and active clubhouse on game days with people coming to support. Please do come and see what everyone is raving about; Combe FC is the club on everyone's lips in the local area at the moment!

As always, we are continuing to try and be active off the pitch as well as on it. A few hardened players turned out early on New Year's Day for the annual Combe FC 10k. A few didn't turn up, not sure why...! You may have seen the lads around the area, you could probably tell which ones wish they hadn't shown up on the day!

We have had interest in a few private events to be held in our clubhouse across the next few months. Please remember if you would like to hire our clubhouse and or pitches, you can message our Facebook page or email combefc@live.co.uk for more details.

We hope to see you at the club soon!

James Gilbert

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Chard Folk Dance Club

Chard Folk Dance Club originated in 1969 with Ivor Hyde providing the music and John Chapman calling the dances. About 45 years ago the club moved to Combe St Nicholas Village Hall, where many jolly evenings have been had.

It is one of the few clubs that still has live music for each dance. We are also lucky enough to have a variety of callers who are willing to travel to Combe just to call for us. The emphasis has always been on having fun, rather than getting every dance right. We meet alternate Thursdays at 7.30pm. New members are always very welcome to come along and dance or just enjoy the music. It is a bargain at £3 for members or £4 for non-members (includes coffee/tea and cake or biscuits). If you would like to know more please call **Elaine 01460 65909 or Hillary and Bill on 01460 61996.**

Local Ladies

At our recent Committee Meeting it was decided to cancel our January meeting when we would normally have held our AGM. We hope to be able to hold this on the 21st February at 7.30pm in Combe St. Nicholas Village Hall if the Covid figures have reduced a bit by then. We would probably follow the AGM by a quiz rather than our usual bring and share supper. Keep a look out for notices/ Facebook messages.

The same procedure will be followed before the 21st March meeting. When we do manage to meet again, we very much welcome any ladies (and sometimes gentlemen if the talk is a more general one) who would like to come – we usually meet on the 3rd Monday at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We did have a very nice Christmas dinner in December, thanks to Heather Margetts and her helpers Sally and Sandie.

Anne Hunt (61296)



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Flower Arranging Workshops

Happy New Year! Exciting times are coming up at the flower school with some fabulous new workshops on the way. If you haven't been before, why not come and join in and learn a new skill for 2022? We have a huge amount of fun and laughs and you are guaranteed to receive a very warm welcome.

Flower Arranging Workshops:

Marvellous Miniatures

Saturday 5 February 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

Hearts and Flowers

Saturday 5 March 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday 9 April 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

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

Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2021 Actual	2020 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2001-2010	10 Yr Ave 2011-2020
November	20	121	125	139
December	116	221	108	159
Jan—Oct	1231	923	886	894
TOTAL	1367	1265	1119	1192

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

The rainfall in November was the lowest total recorded for the month since local records were commenced in 1987. In spite of this, there was some precipitation on 16 days. December only had 7 dry days, with the most rain (26mm) falling on Boxing Day. Comparing annual totals to the 10 year averages indicates our years are getting wetter!



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Yarcombe and District YFC

The past couple of months have been very busy for the Young Farmers calendar with members attending many events in the lead up to Christmas. We have had many meetings in village halls discussing events coming up.

November started off with continuing to practice weekly for our pantomime which is due to be performed at Exmouth Pavilions, on 28th January. We hope to do our re-run of the pantomime on February 6th.

On 13th November 54 members attended Somerset ball at Sedgemoor market, a great night was had by all. The following weekend members attended the re-scheduled Crealy ball, where again a great night was enjoyed by all.

At the end of November we were able to hold a successful wine and wisdom in Yarcombe Village Hall, which was well attended. We raised £275 money for our charity of the year which is the Royal Devon & Exeter Foundation trust, close to many members hearts (the amazing work the NHS is doing).

The month of December many members enjoyed attending festive activities these included a club social night ice skating in Exeter, a club skittles night at the Sidmouth arms and helping the Hines plucking turkeys. We even managed to participate in club sports competing in mixed Hockey against other clubs in East Devon, where we came 2nd. Members also competed in Netball against other clubs in East Devon, we came a respective 3rd. Other festive activities to report included Sarah Broom Floral Design kindly hosting a socially distanced wreath making workshop for a small group of our members. Thank you to Sarah for her time, our members thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and made some wonderful wreaths.

On 17th December a group of members went carol singing to many pubs in the local area. We raised £254 for our charity of the year.

Many members enjoyed dressing up in their ball gowns and black-tie attire to attend Marshwood ball on the 11th December in the run up to Christmas, celebrating the season in style. Unfortunately, the very popular Devon Christmas ball which members had been looking forward to attending, was due to take place on the 18th December, has now been postponed to a later date due in 2022. Then later in the Christmas to New Year period the club enjoyed a social day out to Taunton Races on the 30th December where some were luckier than others!

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

Cloverleaf Parish Pages

Dear Friends,

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you [God].

These are the opening words of a lovely hymn by Bernadette Farrell which I have sung in the past few weeks. They seem to be so relevant for the times in which we find ourselves.

At this time of year most of us crave the sunshine, and although we've been fortunate enough to enjoy a fairly mild, albeit wet winter so far, the last couple of weeks have been a bit colder. As the cold and darkness press on, I wonder how many of us have booked, or are thinking about booking a holiday in the sun? And how many of us have continued to put our plans on hold because of the ongoing uncertainty?

Many of us are counting down the time until the days start to brighten and lengthen – albeit ever so slowly to begin with. We crave for the sunshine but we also crave for the truth! I sometimes despair at the constant negative news headlines that seem to bombard us, and the seemingly constant stand taken by some people when anything they disagree with is declared as 'fake news'. We hate being lied to, and yet all too often in our political discourse that is what confronts us.

On Christmas day, which now seems ages ago, we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, which reminds us that God, in Christ, chose to come and live among us, to share in our darkness and our pain, but also to bring light, hope, truth, and healing to our world. The joy of the incarnation is that every single person on this planet is known by name and loved by God, and He wants each of us to be in relationship with Him through Jesus who is 'the way, the truth, and the life' - 'the light of the world'.

So, in these dark and uncertain days, as we anticipate brighter days ahead, let us rejoice in knowing that the light has come into the world, so that injustice might be routed out, fears banished, pains healed, and peace lived and enjoyed by all.

May this year bring each of you peace, contentment and a little closer to God.

Yours in Christ,

John

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Bohden Megitt

Janina Hindle-Jawdoszak

Combe

Anna Denner-Smith

Olive Salter

Funerals:

Di Bishop

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Church Services across the Benefice

February	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Feb 6th 4 th before Lent	10.30am Family Service	9.15am BCP Holy Communion		8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Prayer 11.00am @St Mary's
Feb 13th 3 rd before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am CW Holy Communion	6.00pm BCP Evensong	10.00am HC
Feb 20th 2 nd before Lent	10.30am Service of the Word at the Parish Church	6.00pm BCP Evensong	9.15am Holy Communion	8.00am HC 10.00am AS
Feb 27th Sunday before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion			10.00am Breakfast Church with HC

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

March	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Wed 2nd ASH WEDNESDAY	7.00pm Holy Communion with Ashing			9.45am Holy Communion with Ashing
Mar 6th 1 st Sunday of Lent	10.30am Family Service	9.15am BCP Holy Communion		8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Prayer 11.00am @ St Mary's
Mar 13th 2 nd Sunday of Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am CW Holy Communion	6.00pm BCP Evensong	10.00am HC
Mar 20th 3 rd Sunday of Lent	10.30am Service at the Parish Church	6.00pm BCP Sung Evensong	9.15am CW Holy Communion	8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship
Mar 27th 4 th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	10.30am Informal Holy Communion			10.00am Informal Holy Communion

Wambrook Flowers and Cleaning

Altar Flowers

Cleaning

Feb 6

Jacqueline Cosby

Jessie Kuszek

Feb 13 & 20

Sue Wallace

Wendy Ffyfe

Feb 27 & Mar 6

Marjie Dorling (27 only)

Sue Stocks

Mar 13 & 20

LENT

Lesley Atkinson

Mar 27 & April 3

LENT

Vanessa Hothersall

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, Whitestاونton:** Jane Harris (PCC Secretary - 239113),

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

Copy date for April/May 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 15th March**. Please note: long articles may have to be edited and inclusion cannot always be guaranteed.*

Distributors: April/May Magazines will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Friday 25th March.

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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