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October - November 2022



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Overview

What a contrast in mood between the July/August magazine and this one. In the last issue we were reporting on the joyous celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Little did we think that by the time the following magazine was delivered we would have mourned her death and welcomed the new King to the throne. Rev Georgina's letter on page 33 is a poignant reminder of the late Queen's service to this nation.

In this magazine we bring you more information on the fantastic Film Nights coming up in the Village Hall (p3) as well as news of a Public Meeting about the proposed Community Emergency Plan (p6).

Combe Art Group will be holding an exhibition of their work in the Village Hall on November 26th (p7). This day will obviously see the village full of people as the Parish Church and Combe School have their Christmas Fayres at the same time on the same date!

Sharandys Birds of Prey are going on tour and one of their venues will be Combe Village Hall. Complete with real live Owls and Hawks it is not to be missed. You can find out more on page 13.

We welcome news from our Primary School on page 14 and on the following page our Village Hall Treasurer, Ian Croucher, gives us the low down on his latest scheme to raise funds for the hall. And, on page 17 there information about the Home Library Service, which is open to those who find it difficult to get out.

Last February more than half the cast and crew of Cloverleaf Productions were struck down by COVID-19 and, under the regulations in force at that time, had no option but to cancel the performances. The first dates that they could (a) book the Village Hall and (b) muster all the cast and crew proved to be Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th October - so that's when you can use those tickets you purchased long ago to come and enjoy Snow White and the Five??? Dwarfs.

If you didn't purchase a ticket first time round, then here's your opportunity to put things right and support your local - and award winning - panto group. The matinee is already sold out but there still are some tickets for evening performances. See page 18 for details. If you had a Tuesday ticket I'm afraid that you will have to rebook for another night - email combepanto@btinternet.com or call 01460 61896.

Finally, for his 'Moment in Time' (p,27) John Phillips takes us back to the 1700s when one of the biggest concerns for many folk in this area was the state of the roads. Ah well, nothing changes!

Lesley Cole

Editor

*In the Garden..*with Claire Stenhouse at Combe Dingle Nursery

With the arrival of September, the change of season could be felt. As if overnight the heatwaves of this summer were over. One morning the world just felt different, smelt, and sounded different. The summer had been glorious but there were decisions about watering to make. In the nursery plants were grouped close together to reduce water use and some were moved out of the glare of the sun. Established plants and lawns usually recover. If not then it could be the wrong plant in the wrong place and that a more drought tolerant plant should be chosen. Lawns that looked brown and singed now need mowing again.

With the warm, wet September the garden has been given a new lease of life. Now is a great time for planting. Herbaceous perennials can be lifted and divided while the soil is still warm. The splitting keeps the plant renewed and healthy. They will then have the winter to settle in and have a head start for the year ahead.

The full range of bulbs will now be in the shops. Get in early to get the best selection and to pick out the best quality. Bulbs are so easy and give such joy. Some are great for naturalising in grass and multiply every year. Some are unlikely to come back the next year but put on such a show that they are worth redoing every autumn. Some provide crucial nectar for insects in the early spring sunshine. At Combe Dingle we are happy to advise, just ask.

I was pleased to get all the potatoes harvested and stored before the rain started. Good crops of garlic, onions and shallots have been stored. The vegetable garden may have been more productive if I watered more, but I don't and our first Combe Dingle sheep escaping into the garden didn't help matters.

Now is time to plant garlic, autumn onion and shallot sets and broad beans. Spring cabbage plug plants will be here by the last week of September. Planted any earlier and you run the risk of them bolting. The climbing borlotti beans on the no dig are doing well. I look forward to harvesting them at the end of the season. Still not enough for a year's supply but we all need something to aspire to. In gardening there will always be 'that was good, but next year I will do better.' It's what keeps us interested.



Village Hall

Not a lot to report this time. Jackie has taken advantage of the autumn lull to do a deep clean of the hall, with help from Artur, one of our lovely Ukrainian refugees, who did a brilliant job tackling all the outside areas etc.

The film "House of Gucci" attracted a moderately good audience, but "Operation Mincemeat" was very well attended, and although we only ask for donations, the films are making a useful contribution to our hall funds.

On **30th September** (a week early because of the pantomime), we will be showing "**Phantom of the Open**", a brilliant comedy based on the true story of Englishman Maurice Flitcroft, a crane operator and optimistic dreamer who somehow gets an entry into the 1976 British Open Golf Tournament, despite never having played golf before in his life!

On **4th November** is a very moving film simply called "**Lancaster**", the story of the war winning Lancaster bomber but much more importantly their flying crews, all of whom were volunteers to the man! These really were the unsung heroes of World War 2. Please don't miss this brilliant, hugely poignant, timely, resonant and powerful film (PG).

2nd December is a Christmas treat for us all, as we will be showing the new 2022 Film, "**Downton Abbey a new era**". Hope to see you there.

All Film Nights the doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

Another helpful source of income is our produce table, which has raised £98 so far this year. Thanks to all who contribute and to all who buy!

The village hall will be hosting an evening visit from Sharandys Birds of Prey on 21st October – details to follow on the village Facebook page and on posters.

Please see Ian Croucher's separate article in this magazine for news of the new Village Hall 50/50 club or email him on csnvillagehall@hotmail.com for more information.

Village Hall Committee



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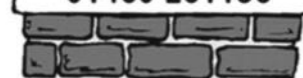
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Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

The very sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II has affected many residents, and some events may have been cancelled. A minutes silence was held at the start of the September Parish Council meeting.

The Lawns, Play Area. After requesting a visit from the playgrounds inspector, adjustments have now been made to the Skyrail and it now runs slightly slower.

The new **Speed Indicator Devices** should be in position shortly. Even when not visibly showing the speed of vehicles they will still be recording that data. Hopefully the speed of vehicles will be kept down to safer levels. A trained person is required to change/move these devices – if you are interested, training will be provided, or have a highways licence, please get in touch. Thanks to the 'Save the Dragon' committee for donating some funds towards the cost.

Flood Warden Training/Community Contingency Plan – Work is still progressing to try and alleviate problems especially concerning the water courses and ditches, as well as schemes to enable better drainage possibly through planting more trees.

A Community Contingency Plan is also being drawn up to consider any type of circumstance/emergency event that could impact the Parish community .

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Monday 24th October and, Monday 28th November 2022. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Parish Emergency Plan – Public Meeting

The last issue reported that the Parish Council was working on developing a general emergency plan for our community. On **Monday 7th November**, at 7.30 pm, there will be an open public meeting in the Village Hall about the plan. We will set out the benefits of planning ahead and how the community would cope in an emergency and invite people to set out their concerns and provide assistance where appropriate.

This will be an opportunity to engage with the Parish Council in the development of the plan. Refreshments will be available.

Rob Grimmond

Sunday School Wood

Activity lately has been limited by weather, from too hot to too wet. Brian's patch has become overgrown with unwanted vegetation, so we have completely strimmed it ready for rotavating. Optimistically, we have sourced wild flower seeds for next year. One of the big problems is watering if we have dry spells - it is too far to carry much, so we have to trust to luck.

We have tried planting more foxgloves, these being biennial, but following the hot dry spell, the ground was more like concrete. We are just hoping that the more recent wet weather will have helped.

Alan has repaired a couple of nest boxes. One of these, for blue tits, has a brass plate for the entry hole, and a woodpecker had sat there and made a new way in! This has now been blocked off. He is also in the process of modifying the owl box. So far, it has not been used by owls, but something overwinters there.

The first flower bed on the right, after entry from the churchyard, became overgrown with grass earlier this year, so that area was strimmed and mown. and now shows lots of Tansy and Cranesbill. so flowers still to come. We have also obtained some yellow rattle seed to sow there in late autumn. The idea is that, being semi parasitic, and using grass roots for its own growth, it will inhibit new grass growth. (That is the theory!)

Frank Warriner : Tel 67407

Combe Art Group

The art classes resume on September 16th, 2022, at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall, at 10.00pm to 12.00 midday. They will continue each Friday until December 16th, 2022, with a break on Friday October 14th 2022, when the hall will be the venue for the pantomime. Please support the production, which based on the past, will be a bundle of fun!

The art group intend putting on an exhibition at the Village Hall on Saturday, November 26th 2022, commencing at 10.00am until 4.00pm. A nominal charge of 50p (adult) will be made towards covering costs. Any "profit" will be donated towards Village Hall funds. Further details of the exhibition will be posted on the web site, so keep watching.

A varied programme of subjects for members to paint or draw, varying from hands and feet to fireworks, has been arranged for the term. At the present time our group is fully subscribed, however if you wish to call in on a Friday for a chat and see the work being undertaken on the day, you will be very welcome.

David Selley

Wadeford Charity Book Club

Since my last report we have held two sales, one in July and another in early September. Each has been a great success and we have been able to send cheques to Prostate Cancer UK and Coeliac UK for £125 in each case. Not bad for a few hours recycling "old" books we think. We are blessed with having ever increasing numbers of books donated, constantly refreshing our stocks, though we sometimes wonder whether we will become overwhelmed – not yet we haven't, almost! With most of the team carrying injuries or recovering from the infamous virus, we needed everyone involved to go the extra mile – no problem! Thanks everyone, again.



Our next sale will be on Sunday November 6th, at the Village Hall as ever, free entry of course. If you'd need us to collect your book donations, please call **Maira on 01460 261950**. Otherwise bring them along on the day please.

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Flower Arranging Workshops

It's time to look forward to our Autumn and Christmas workshops – doesn't time fly? Here's what's coming up, hope to see you soon:

Rustic Milk Churn

Saturday 22 October 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £28

Come and relax making a large rustic countryside design in a beautiful vintage milk churn. This natural arrangement has a "just picked" feel.

Festive Frame

Saturday 12 November 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

And now for something completely different. Learn how to create this brand-new box frame design.

Heavenly Handbag

Saturday 3 December 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £25

A very classy festive gift - or just for you? Create a unique design inside a recyclable, full-sized rustic handbag that's oh so stylish!

Sensational Centrepiece

Saturday 17 December 2022, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm £35

A real festive showstopper! This fabulous large, tall and slender design made in a heavy pot includes willow twigs, sisal, snow spray and twinkly lights.

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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We are going on a mini tour and taking our birds for evening talks at a few of the local village halls. It will be a 2 hour talk the first hour on Owls and the second on Hawks, Falcons and Eagles. We will be bringing some of our wonderful birds to show you and there will also be a flying display. The dates and Venues are as follows:



Fri 14th October at Chardstock Village Hall 6.30pm

Fri 21st October at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall 6.30pm

Fri 28th October at The David Hall, South Petherton 6.30pm

Fri 4th November at The Ilminster Parish Hall 6.30pm

The tickets are only available at the door on the night and there will be a Raffle for an **Ultimate Owl Experience worth £130.**

This will be drawn at the end of the evening.

ADULTS - £8 CHILDREN UNDER 12 - £4

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served at the interval.

For further details please call **01460 65445** - hope to see you there!!

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Combe St Nicholas C of E Primary School

We are delighted to be back at school with what we hope will be a normal school year! The children have settled well into their new classes and we have been delighted to welcome Miss Eloise Spence as class teacher for Owls' Class.

At the end of term we were very sad to say goodbye to Mr Parrington and Mrs Nichols. Mr Parrington had been with us for 5 years. Whilst with us he completed the training to be a Special Needs Coordinator and he has moved to a new school to perform that role.

It is very sad that Mrs Nichols was not able to come back after the break for a big send off to thank her for the 25 years that she has supported the school as a parent, Teaching Assistant, Office support, Higher Level Teaching Assistant, PE Coordinator and Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA). We are very grateful for all that Mrs Nichols has done for our school and are still working on a 'Thank You' that will be most appropriate.

This term the children are working on a local history project charting the history of our school. If anyone has any information or would be prepared to share their memories with the children, we would be most grateful.

Finally, we will be holding our Christmas Fayre on the same day as the Church so do remember to visit both venues on Saturday 26th November.

With all good wishes,

Christine Maxwell, Head Teacher

Combe St Nicholas CofE VA Primary School

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

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You may have read or heard that the Village Hall Committee is launching a 100 Club Lottery. We originally planned to do this back in the summer of 2020 but a little thing called Covid sort of curtailed that plan; then the Save The Green Dragon started doing it, so we decided rather than compete, we would just shelve it for a while. Well, guess what, the time has come!

Many of you are keen supporters of our little village hall and for that we really are most grateful, but we need to bolster that support to help keep the lights glowing and the heating on. If we can do this and have it a bit of fun at the same time, that sounds like a good idea to me.

You can find all the details on "How it works" along with an application form on the village website under COMMUNITY INFORMATION / OUR COMMUNITY / VILLAGE HALL or just email me at csnvillagehall@hotmail.com and I will send you all the information. You can also pick up an application form in the Village Hall foyer; just look for the yellow sheets of paper on the wall by the noticeboard.

Many thanks for taking the time to read through this and I hope we can welcome you to our 100 Club village hall fund raiser very soon.

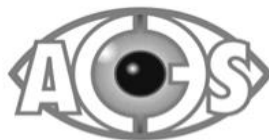
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Underway Meade

This summer has presented us with something of a challenge in terms of controlling the vegetation in the Meade, and special thanks are due to Bill, Stuart, Chris, Gill and the Combe Critters team for keeping on top of it. Following a ragwort removal onslaught by Lynn, Gill and Pat, our seven woolly lawnmowers are now back on the mound, and although there's plenty of grass for them to eat, they come rushing down for their breakfast every morning, and baa loudly to make their views known if we're late feeding them! Thanks to Emma and Owen for helping with this task.

The weather was kind to us for our moth trapping event in July, and Rob Grimmond did a great job identifying the wide range of moths that we captured as well as giving us some fascinating information about moths in general. The moorhens on the pond have raised two broods this year, and one of the teenagers from the first brood has been very good at helping mum with feeding and even apparently playing with the younger ones. Bill has filled in the old well near the pond after we checked that this would cause no problems, and he has also put up a rustic handrail alongside the wheelchair detour alongside the mound.



We have some concerns about the condition of the large ash tree, which may be affected by ash dieback, so we have commissioned a professional survey, and are now awaiting the report.

There is always more work to be done maintaining the Meade, and we will be pleased to welcome back the Wessex Water Volunteers and the Neroche Volunteers this autumn. Jobs which we aim to tackle ourselves include trimming the trees overhanging the road and clearing some more of the reeds and sludge from the pond. We will be looking for help with the pond clearance session, so watch out for posters advertising this in due course!

Finally, it's time we thanked all our wonderful Friends of the Meade, without whose financial support we couldn't continue. If you would like to become a Friend, please take a form from beside the Symes gate or download one from the village website or contact me or Sue Pargeter (tel:01460 63445, email: suemavispargeter@gmail.co). An annual donation of £10 is all we ask to help preserve this lovely spot for current and future generations to enjoy.

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

Jean Hine

The family of Jean Hine would like to thank everyone who ensured the smooth running of her final journey at St Andrew's Church on August 15th.

Jean was born in 1945 and moved to Howley after her marriage to Philip Hine in 1967. The family grew up in Northay and played an active part in village life and Whitestaunton Church - Philip as bellringer, Jean as organist and the children were all in the choir. Michael and David and their families still live in Northay, and Catherine & Nicola live close by.

Thank you to Rev'd Georgina for a beautiful service; to the team who tidied the churchyard; to Herb Dyer for the parking; to Beanie and Pippa for cleaning the church and the flowers; to the bellringers for the muffled peel; to Marion for the note-perfect organ playing; to Barry Gibbs Funeral Services and to Nancy Rowe and her sisters for the catering afterwards at Bishopswood Hall.

Finally, the family took great comfort from everyone that attended the service - thank you all for your kind words about our mother, sister, granny and great-granny.

Home Library Service

Did you know that there's a Home Library Service that's available to anyone who is unable to visit their local library. This includes people who may be housebound, living in long term care, carers, or people who are vulnerable due to long term conditions or disabilities and it's open to people of all ages.

When you contact us, we will arrange for a volunteer to visit you. You can discuss what you like to read and the best times to visit you, usually on fortnightly or monthly basis. The volunteer will then go to the library to choose your books and deliver them to you.

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**For more information about this service contact Kirsty Jenssen –
email: kjenssen@somerset.gov.uk or Tel: 07814 079831**

October

Sun	2		See Church Services
Wed	5	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	6	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	7	10am-12noon 2pm-4pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	8	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning - Combe Parish Church
Sun	9		See Church Services
Wed	12 to	7.30pm	Snow White & the Five dwarfs
Fri	14	nightly	Cloverleaf Productions pantomime
Sat	15	2.30pm & 6.30pm	Combe Village Hall
Sun	16		See Church Services
Mon	17	7.30pm	Combe Community Group - Village Hall
Wed	19	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Fri	21	10am-12noon 2pm-4pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	22	10-12.30 pm & 2-4pm	Flower Arranging Workshop - Village Hall
Sun	23		See Church Services
Mon	24	7.30pm	Combe Parish Council - Village Hall
Wed	26	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Fri	28	10am-12noon 2pm-4pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sun	30		See Church Services
		12pm-2pm	Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall

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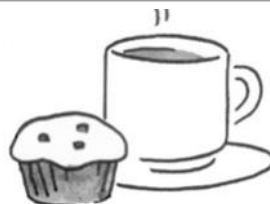
your diary

November

Thu	3	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	4	10am-12noon 2pm-4pm 6.30 for 7.00pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall Film Night - Village Hall
Sun	6		See Church Services
Mon	7	10am & 2pm 7.30pm	World Circle Dance - Village Hall Public Meeting - Village Hall
Wed	9	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	10	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	11	10am-12noon 2pm-4pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	12	10-12.30 pm & 2-4pm	Flower Arranging Workshop - Village Hall
Sun	13		See Church Services
Wed	16	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	17	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	18	10.00am 2pm-4pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sun	20		See Church Services
Mon	21	10am & 2pm 7.30pm	World Circle Dance - Village Hall Combe Community Group - Village Hall
Wed	23	2.30pm 7pm-9.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Methodist Rooms Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Thu	24	7.30pm	Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall
Fri	25	10.00am 2pm-4pm	Art Group - Village Hall Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall
Sat	26	10am-4pm	Christmas Fayre - Combe School and Combe Church
Sun	27		See Church Services
		12-2pm	Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall
Mon	28	7.30pm	Parish Council - Village Hall
Wed	30	7pm-9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall

Coffee Morning

Do join us for coffee, cake and a friendly chat on Saturday 8th October in Combe Parish Church 10am to 12 noon. There will also be a raffle, sale and produce table.



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Clubs and Societies

Combe Community Group

A large number of people turned up for the walk around the centre of Combe hearing about the historical changes over the years, so we had to divide up into 2 groups. Everyone appeared to enjoy it, and information was passed back and forth. We have been asked if we can do it again as some were unable to come on that date. We certainly can, but date unknown at this particular time. If anyone wants the various bits of information, please let me know I can send a copy of the sheets.

Following on from the History Exhibition held during the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, another exhibition was held on the weekend of 17th/18th Sept in the Church as part of Heritage Day.

The September Flower Show was cancelled as it was the day of the Queen's funeral

Local resident Helen Rose is coming to the Village Hall on Monday 18th October at 7.30pm to talk about Furniture Upholstery. Helen used to hold classes in the village and this will be a very interesting evening. Everyone welcome.

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Combe St Nicholas Football Club



And just like that, a new season starts. It hasn't felt like much of a break and we are all back in and at the time of writing, we are firing from all cylinders! Those who followed us last season will have seen our men's teams all perform well in their respective leagues, bringing all three sides promotions! This is fantastic for the club where we now have our Firsts in the Somerset County League Division 2, our Reserves in the Perry Street District League Premier Division and our Thirds in the PSDL Division 2. The season has started strongly for the firsts who after 4 games are top of the league and remain unbeaten! Whilst our Reserves are yet to start as I write this, our Thirds won 5-2 against Winsham; All in all, a good start!

It isn't only the men's sides doing well however, the Ladies have come off the back of an excellent pre-season to win their first league game of their Somerset Women's County League Division 2 North game 5-2. The Ladies have seen a recent boost from several new players joining, both with experience, or ladies looking to try something new. This will probably have something to do with the excellent performance of the England Lionesses in the recent Euro 2022 win which went down very well with our Ladies side!

Off the pitch, we have just relaunched our player sponsorship scheme where businesses can support the club by sponsoring one player, with the raised money helping us to maintain our wonderful facilities and equipment. If you have any interest in sponsoring a player as a business, or even just someone who wants to support their local players, you can find further information by messaging the club's Facebook page or emailing combefc@live.co.uk. Any support is hugely appreciated and is regularly celebrated on our social media pages.

Anyone looking to come to the club soon will see that we have had a lick of paint in the main clubhouse thanks to Avishayes U16 player Cody Weller and his parents, Claire and Gareth. Cody is raising money with friends from Holyrood Academy who are off to Cambodia in 2023 to help support communities who are less fortunate than ours. Cody did a fantastic job, and if you would like to know more about their efforts, you can email cambodiaexp2023@gmail.com or look for "Cambodia Expedition 2023" on Facebook.

We hope to see you at the club soon

James Gilbert
Combe St Nicholas FC Chairman

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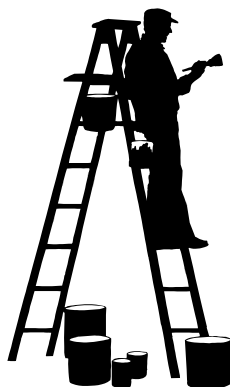
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Yarcombe & District Young Farmers

At the start of August, we entered many club and individual entries into Honiton show in the young farmers tent, where we won some respectable prizes. Well done to those who took part.

The rest of August has been very busy for young farmers as the weather has been very sunny. We have met for club meetings in halls and the pub , discussing upcoming events, including planning our harvest supper due to be held in September. Also, our foam disco due to be held on the 24th September.

Two teams have been busy practising for speaking competitions coming up; Brainstrust and Call My Bluff. The East Devon YFC round of Brainstrust competition took place on Tuesday 6th September at Awliscombe hall . Two teams entered; an intermediate and senior team. Well done to those who took part. The senior team came second with Peter Grabham being picked for the team to go through to Devon round as reserve.

The end of our YFC year is fast approaching, and our AGM is due to be held on the 26th September. It certainly has been an action-packed year getting back to normal after COVID, enjoying socialising with friends again at balls and discos and joining in competitions and events. Well done to our officers for making it a fantastic year.

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 on Mondays in either Yarcombe or Uptonery Village hall 8pm start.

Natalie Sampson, Press Secretary



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A Moment in Time with John Phillips

In the early 1700s the Rev Stukeley, the famous antiquarian, was not impressed with the state of the roads in this area. He described the main Salisbury to Exeter highway as it passed through Lower Wambrook and on to Stockland as "a very bad road of stones and sand over brooks, springheads and barren downs". Indeed, so bad was this road that most travellers turned off at Cricket St. Thomas and headed south to Axminster (using the old roman road, the Fosseway) and then to Honiton or vice-versa.

From Saxon times until the 1550's landowners were responsible for the upkeep of highways and byways passing through or by their estates. The growth of the population, commerce and manufacturing from 1500 put increasing pressure on an already creaking road network. The abolition of the monasteries in 1530's and the sale of their enormous land holdings further exacerbated matters as they were relatively conscientious in their road maintenance and bridge repair duties.

In an attempt to remedy the dreadful state of the roads a number of Highways Acts were passed in the reigns of Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I. The parish was made responsible for the maintenance of the Queen's Highways. Annually the parishes of Combe, Wambrook and Whitestaunton each elected 2 waywardens to plan, coordinate and supervise the repair of the highways passing through them. These repairs were to be carried out 6 days before the Feast of John the Baptist, 24th June. It was to be carried out by all the farmers and cottagers of the parish. Those with at least a plough, i.e. the larger farmers had to supply a cart, 2 able men and draught animals, oxen or horses 'according to the custom of the area'. Everyone else had to turn up with mattocks and shovels.

The main highway Combe was responsible for ran from Wadeford up Stoopers Hill to the Eagle Tavern, Wambrook the aforementioned highways to Honiton, and Whitestaunton for the part of the present A30 within its bounds. At the time this stretch of A30 route was known as the Whitestaunton road and was not part of the main east-west route it has now become.

The waywardens had a thankless task and the unpaid workforce were soon given the label of the King's loiterers. It was said at the time that a paid day labourer would 'do more work in one day than six or seven of the unpaid'. Writers at the time stated that during the 6 days 'scarcely 2 good days work were well performed' and that the King's Highwaymen spent 'most of their time in standing still and prating (chatting)' or asking for largesse from passing travellers. Later changing the choice of waywardens from elected to appointment by the Justices made little difference. Roads stayed in a deplorable state until the introduction of the Turn Pike Trusts, of which more next time - if you can manage the anticipation!



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Weather watch – local rainfall report



Period	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	10 Yr Ave 2002-2011	10 Yr Ave 2012-2021
July	8	96	75	66
August	35	48	54	100
Jan-June	363	778	485	585
TOTAL	406	922	614	751

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

Although it never seemed to rain in July until the month was almost over, occasional and light overnight showers gave a total of 8mm, the second lowest sum recorded for a July since records began here in 1987- only beaten by 7mm measured in 1989.

August's total of 35mm was also on the low side when compared to the 10 year averages, with most of the rain falling in the second half of the month.

Whitestaunton Church What's On

October and November 2022

Harvest Songs of Praise

9 Oct 6.30pm

**Followed by an Auction of Harvest Produce
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Sunday 16 October 10.30am

Holy Communion

Sunday 20 November 10.30am

Holy Communion

Wednesday 30 November 9.45am

Holy Communion to celebrate St Andrews Day

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Cloverleaf Parish Pages

Vicar's Letter

I am aware that by the time you read this we will have moved out of our period of mourning for our Queen Elizabeth and bade her farewell to eternal rest. However, we cannot do so without marking the life of a quite remarkable woman here in the Cloverleaf magazine.

Her quiet work behind the scenes and the very public life she lived were held always within the vow she made to be "*devoted to your service ... God help me to make good my vow*". To the end the Queen was faithful to that promise, her servanthood was a mark of her faith and ministry as a Christian, all set within the context of her strong belief in God. At the Service in St Giles Cathedral, Nicola Sturgeon read the words from the Book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 which begins:

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

*a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot.*

Words used to reflect moments of change and quite often read at a funeral service. Some of us have not known another monarch and this is a momentous time moving from one season to another. Similarly we can't choose when to be born and usually, we have no say in when we die either. One brings delight and the other sadness, and yet without the cycle of the seasons of the year, and life its self-there would be no new life, no chance to flourish or grow.

King Charles has waited a long time to begin his servanthood; we pray for him, for strength and wisdom as he begins his reign. As for ourselves living in this beautiful part of the country we can see the maturity of the season all around us; rosehips and blackberries almost gone over, the apples beginning to fall. Soon we will move into winter - rest, recuperation, ready for the coming Spring, a new age, a new dawning, a new place.

This winter will bring anxiety for many with the current energy crisis; life is not always plain sailing is it? We are here to talk to, to help share the load when times get tough, to give what help we can for each other; remember none of us has to walk alone.

Rev Georgina

Church Services across the Benefice

OCTOBER	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
October 2nd 16 th after Trinity	10.30am Harvest Family Service	9.15am BCP Morning Prayer		8.00 HC 10.00 Harvest Festival 10.30 Family Time
October 9th 17 th after Trinity	10.30 am Holy Communion	6.00pm Harvest Festival	6.30pm Harvest Festival	10.00 HC 6.00pm Little Daffodils Service
October 16th 18 th after Trinity St Luke	10.30am Service of the Word with the Methodists at Parish Church	6.00pm BCP Evensong	10.30am CW Holy Communion	8.00 HC 10.00 Children's Society Service
October 23rd Last after Trinity Bible Sunday	10.30 am Holy Communion			10.00 HC
October 30th 4 th before Advent All Saints	10.30am Benefice Service at Combe			

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

Abraham Protheroe

Combe

Weddings:

Shaun Broom & Natasha Ives

Combe

We give thanks for the lives of:

Jean Hine

Whitestaunton

Malcolm Lewis

Combe

Heather Corder

Combe

Church Services across the Benefice

NOVEMBER	Combe	Wambrook	Whitestaunton	Chard
Nov.6th 3 rd before Advent	10.30am Family Service with Shoeboxes	9.15am BCP Morning Prayer		8.00 HC 10.00 Morning Worship 10.30 Family Time
Nov 13th Remembrance Sunday	10.45am Remembrance Service	10.45am Remembrance Service		10.45am Remembrance Service
Nov 20th Christ the King	10.30am Morning worship here with Methodist Church	6.00pm BCP Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion	8.00 HC 10.00 HC
Nov 28th Advent Sunday	10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Chard			10.00 Benefice HC at Chard 4.00pm BCP Evensong
Wednesday 30th St Andrew's Day			9.45am Benefice HC and Patronal Festival	

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

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Nov 20 & 27

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Copy date for December/January issue of Cloverleaf

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