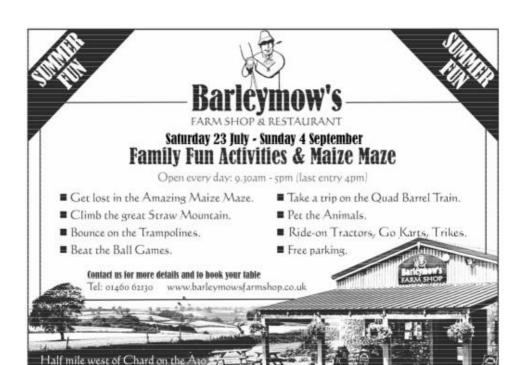
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August - September 2023





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Overview

How time flies! It really doesn't see 5 minutes since I was putting the last magazine together. After the earlier Spring heatwave we seem to be back to generally unsettled conditions - at least the grass appreciates that.

Combe Film Nights have proved to be very popular and there are two more being promoted in this issue - see page 5.

After a gap of four years it's great to be welcoming the return of the Combe St. Nicholas Show. August 5th will see the opening of the 47th show. A lot of things have changed over those years but the organisers hope everyone will come together to make this a bumper event by entering a class or going along to support on the day. And, if you fancy some more outside entertainment you could go along to Yarcombe Terrier Races later on that day.

A small community like ours relies heavily on volunteers to organise clubs, societies, events and opportunities. Some may charge for classes, but they still have to put in a lot of work and commitment to make life interesting and rewarding for others. Here are just a few that might attract your attention:

Singing for Fun - turn to page 5 to find out more

World Circle Dance - lots of information on page 15

Combe Art Group - details on page 25

Coffee Morning at Combe Church - page 6

There's plenty happening in Whitestaunton too. You'll find details of a Summer Concert, Songs of Praise and a Craft Fair on page 17!

On page 22, John Phillips gives us part 2 of his account of the Monmouth Rebellion which led to the Battle of Sedgemoor. He mentions Judge Jefferies, who held courts in Chard - in the upper rooms of the fine building which now houses West Country Meats!

Finally, on page 29 there are invitations to visit The Blackdown Food and Craft Fayre on August 27th and Derek Northfield and Gill Wright, who are opening their ceramics studio at Lucas Corner as part of Somerset Open Studios.

Lesley Cole

Editor

What can I do about climate change in my garden?

However small or large your garden is, there's lots you can do to help combat the causes and effects of climate breakdown. Gardens are great for human health and wellbeing, they can help maintain biodiversity and they can even remove carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere. As the impacts of climate change make themselves ever more apparent, the positive impacts of gardens will become ever more important. Here are ways you can maximise the benefits.

Green up your outside space: Trees and plants help tackle climate change by removing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere. They can reduce the risk of flooding by slowing down rainwater runoff.

Plant a diverse range of plants in your garden: Growing a range of different plants in your garden is great for building resilience. If extreme weather such as flooding or drought damages some plants, others will be fine. As weather patterns shift, some insects that depend on particular flowers might suffer, so plant a diverse variety of pollinator friendly plants with different flowering times.

Be water-wise: Water butts are a brilliant solution to some of the problems being created by climate change. They help prevent flooding by reducing the load on drains during rainstorms, and help conserve water during droughts. Look for water butts with a larger than standard capacity to ensure a sufficient water supply over the summer. Select plants and design strategies better suited to your local conditions.

Avoid peat-based composts: Peatlands store huge amounts of carbon. Harvesting the peat to use for composts is an environmental disaster, both for the biodiversity of the area which is harvested and on a global climate scale. Look, ask for and use peat–free composts.

Compost your garden and kitchen waste: Compost as much garden and kitchen waste as you can. Adding home-made compost to your soil improves its structure and provides excellent nutrients for the garden.

Reduce - Reuse - Recycle - Reinvest: Adopt the 4R's. Reduce – the use of resources in your garden wherever possible, Reuse – household materials and seasonal items year on year, Recycle – your garden waste, plastic, glass and metals and Reinvest – help stimulate demand for recycled products by buying recycled items.

© RHS

Village Hall

Our Hallmark inspection took place on 13th June and we're delighted to report that we passed again with flying colours. As well as approval of our management, record keeping and financial controls, the inspectors commented on how clean and tidy the hall is and on the good working relations with the many groups that use it. They concluded that "this is a popular and attractive Village Hall, well managed by a capable, enthusiastic and forward-looking committee, and we have no hesitation in recommending renewal of its Hallmark 1 status".

The roof work is still on schedule to start at the end of July. Donations towards the cost if this have now reached £4503.84. Many thanks to all who have contributed.

Please see separate articles about the forthcoming films and the recent concert success.

Village Hall Committee

Sunday School Wood

Recent activity has principally consisted of general mowing and strimming. This includes two or three graves that had become overgrown, and Green Lane, to maintain accessibility.

Brian's patch has not been the riot of colour we had



hoped for, but there has been a lot of toadflax, and bird's foot trefoil is apparent. We also have poppies, and some small blue flowers a bit like forgetme- nots, so maybe we are being a bit impatient.

Toad flax

Bird's foot trefoil

By the time you read this, there will be a new seat in memory of Audrey and Ken Miller. This will replace the old one which had become unsafe to sit on, despite repair work having been caried out by team members. Eventually, wood rot gained the upper hand, so it is great to see this new one. It will be an excellent addition to the Wood. A plaque has also been added to the other recent seat in memory of Ken and Doris Wheadon.

Frank Warriner

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Sunday 17 September 2023

10am to 12 noon with a break for tea and coffee at Combe St Nicholas Village Hall

A relaxed, friendly and accessible workshop for people 18+ and for all ability levels who either enjoy group harmony singing or would like to learn. Singing songs from a variety of cultures and styles by ear, so there is no need to read music.

We will just be having fun with our voices!

For further information and to book tickets contact Jane Harris: janeharris334@gmail.com or 01460 239113

Early Bird Tickets (Book before the workshop): £10.00 Pay On the Day: £12.00 (Cash only)

Film Nights for June & July

August 4th: A Man Called Otto.

The latest Tom Hanks film in which he plays Otto; a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.



September 1st: Death At A Funeral

Directed by Frank Oz, chaos ensues in this black comedy when a man tries to expose a dark secret regarding a recently deceased patriarch of a dysfunctional British family.

Our Village Hall Film Shows are not to be missed

Doors open at 6:30pm with ice-creams on sale and the film starts at 7pm.

It Started With A Bang!

Picture the scene, it's a Saturday evening in early June, it's a hot sultry night, the village hall is almost bursting at the seams with a capacity crowd, the audience is seated, but not quite sure what to expect!

On stage is the Ilminster Ukulele Club, their leader starts to explain that we might be playing some Brahms or Chopin, perhaps some light jazz, when someone shouts out 1 2 3 4 GO!

And the Ukuleles spring into action with a loud rendition of the 60's group The Monkeys and their song, I Thought Love Was All About Fairy Tales. BANG, BANG, go the groups feet and a load "OI" ring's out!

The audience is taken aghast, this is not George Formby leaning on a lamppost as so many of us suspected, oh no this is your modern Ukulele Club sound, and that is how the night started, the audience clapped and cheered and the songs kept on coming. After the interval we had The Merchant Men, 5 young good-looking lads who could certainly sing a sea shanty or two and charm the ladies in the audience as well, and so the night went on, brilliant, just brilliant.

£734 was raised that night for the VH Roof Appeal, a great sum from a great evening. Since then, we have lots of requests asking if we will be doing it again, I think it's safe to say "YES". We will be doing it again, and sometime later next year. A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make this great evening happen, it simply would not have been possible without your help and support, you know who you are, so a very big, **THANK YOU!**

Ian Croucher.

St Nicholas Church

Coffee Mornings

Saturday 12th August 2023 & Saturday 9th September 2023 10 am – 12.00 noon

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Everyone welcome



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Underway Meade

Our Silver Anniversary picnic on Saturday 24th June was a great success, with perfect weather, picnicking families of all ages, musical entertainment, visiting sheep and tea and cakes! During the afternoon we dedicated a new bench to commemorate 25 years of Underway Meade as a local amenity and it now sits proudly in the picnic area, just outside the Wild Play area, with a plaque encouraging everyone to "Relax and Enjoy". Here's to the next 25 years!

The event would not have been such a success though without the loan of the marquee from the Gala Association, all the helpers who prepared the



Music at the Meade

site, put up and took down the marquee, baked cakes, played music, helped us to clear up afterwards and of course, all who attended. Thanks everyone!

Whilst regular maintenance by our trustees and local volunteers will continue



Enjoying the new Silver Anniversary bench

and meadow browns.

special place.

through the summer, in late August we will be pleased to welcome back again a team from Wessex Water. They are all staff who are given time each year to volunteer to help out in the local community and choose to come here so we feel very fortunate.

looking forward to the return of our friendly sheep. This summer they have had 7 lambs between them so we may see some new faces when they arrive for the autumn to do their usual job of munching through the grass on the mound. It is largely down to them that the mound has had a good array of wildflowers which in turn has encouraged the butterflies, including small skippers, marbled whites

Have a great summer everyone and do spend some time in the Meade, whether sitting peacefully watching the wildlife, playing in the Wild Play area or walking the dog and if you enjoy yourselves and are not already a Friend of the Meade, please consider joining (forms at the Symes Gate or from the Combe website https://combestnicholas.org.uk/underway-meade/) and help us to maintain this

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



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Village Hall Latest Winners!

With the 2 draws taking place recently, the Village Hall Lottery is very pleased to announce the following prize winners:

June 2023

July 2023

1st Place was Collette Boyle. (72) 2nd place was Jackie Nicholls. (16) 3rd place was Jackie Tovey. (27) 1st Place was 45. (Jackie Walker) 2nd place was 103. (Ian Croucher) 3rd place was 54. (Mel Cook)

A very big congratulations to them and an even bigger THANK YOU for your support.

If you haven't joined to help raise money for your village hall, then please call Ian on **01460 64098** or email **csnvillagehall@hotmail.com** to get your application form and start joining in the fun and you could become a WINNER! as well.

Wadeford Charity Book Club

The July Book Sale was the quietest we've had for some time. There were plenty of fresh donations, thank you for those, but possibly fewer people attending overall? Remember, if you want us to continue providing regular book sales, whereby you can acquire your reading material for a mere fifty pence per volume, then we need your support.



The next two sales are scheduled for Sundays **September 3rd** and **November 5th** – yes, that's only two book sales left before Christmas. (Sorry about that!)

Our policy "to never say no" to offers of books remains, but if you do have a full Transit load, or need collection, please give us a call on **01460 261950** beforehand.

Free entry, remember, and we are open 2pm – 4pm, with a request you get there by 3.30pm – we still have a lot of tidying up after our visitors have left. Thanks all !!!!!!!

Keep in touch with the Combe village website - visit www.combestnicholas.org.uk



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Combe St. Nicholas 47th Annual Show

This is a reminder that the 47th Annual Show will take place in Combe St. Nicholas Parish Church on Saturday 5th August.

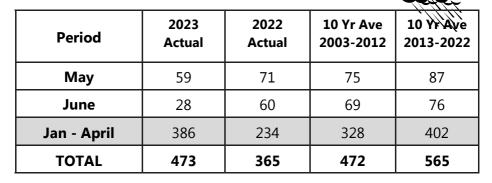
Show Schedules and Entry Forms are available at the Village Shop and Combe Dingle Nursery. They can also be found on the Parish website at https://combestnicholas.org.uk/combe-st-nicholas-47th-annual-show/

This will be the first show for four years, so please give us your support. Let's make it a bumper show!

Rob Grimmond 01460 261234

Combe St Nicholas 47th Annual Show Saturday 5th August Combe St Nicholas Parish Church Open to the public from 2.00pm Refreshments

Weather watch - local rainfall report



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

The rain in May came within a 10 day period, with the rest of the month remaining dry. There were only 5 days when rain fell in June and those were all within the one week. Relatively small amounts on those days, together with the scorched grass, reinforced the notion that we were experiencing drought conditions.

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Round The World In Dance And Music

Combe World Circle Dance group will be starting its third year in September, and we invite you for a free taster session to find out why we enjoy it so much!

The dances and music come from all over the World. It's an excellent way of keeping our minds and body well whilst making friends and having a laugh in a friendly relaxed group. We also celebrate the seasons and World's events through dance and music. In June we celebrated the King's birthday with a medieval English court dance and a dance to a Bristol folk group.

In September and October we'll be celebrating the harvest – with a dance to Sting's 'Fields of Gold', Neil Young's 'Harvest Moon 'and a dance called 'Sow and Reap' played by a Ukrainian band. Then for United Nations Day we'll dance 'Hallelujah to the Whole World', which comes from Finland.

We're lucky to have WORLD CIRCLE DANCE groups in Combe St Nicholas – on Mondays twice a month – 2 classes on offer, either 10am or 2pm. You don't need a partner or any experience, just a bit of a sense of rhythm. The classes are friendly, non-competitive, and the motto is 'there are no mistakes, only variations'.

What do the dancers most enjoy about their classes? "I love the 'no pressure' atmosphere", "Lilly teaches very clearly and makes it all seem so easy" "I forget all my day-to-day cares and problems".

Newcomers (AGE 50+) are invited to join the group for a FREE TRIAL SESSION on either MONDAY September 5^{4h} or 18th – choose the best time for you – 10am or 2pm. Combe St Nicholas Village Hall. For more information or to say you're coming along call Lilly on 07711 702460 or email: lilly@newhaven4.co.uk

Combe St. Nicholas and Wadeford Gala Association

An extra-ordinary AGM of the Gala Association will be held on **Monday 11th September** at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Apart from the annual Christmas Tree on The Green things have been rather quiet from the Gala since Covid interrupted usual events.

Would you like to see other events happening in the Parish for the benefit of the Community – If so please come along and share your views. If not, we need to decide about the future, and where the funds held should go.

The Gala Committee

(ring 61296 if you have any views but can't come to the meeting)

Combe St. Nicholas Parish Council

New volunteers for Speed Watch are nearly at the end of their training, and may be seen shortly at Chardleigh Green. Thanks extended to them.

Some verge cutting for visibility at road junctions has been carried out by local farmers, and the general verge cutting programme should occur in this Parish shortly. Please keep all ditches, drains, etc. free of cuttings or grass clippings.

The telephone box and post box look smart now, thanks to one of our residents. The seats on The Lawns have also been repainted and the play equipment and Victorian lamp-post will be done as weather permits.

The Green gets spoilt though by people who put household waste, dog bags, in the dog bin and still try to put things in when overflowing. Please – if the dog bin is full, take your bag home, double wrap it and put in your black bin. Similarly, any household waste or rubbish from your car. Thank you

Unfortunately, the time old problem of dogs mess is still around. If you own a dog it is your responsibility. Please ensure you clear up after it – it is so unpleasant for other people, especially in children's play areas.

Some footpaths repairs at the bottom of Bonds Hill – Court Mill Lane, Wadeford, will be carried out shortly.

Meetings continue to be held to sort out the problems re possible future flooding, or other emergency situations. More equipment will be purchased soon, but more residents to become Flood Wardens would be very welcome. A lot of work continues to be carried out at Pudleigh creating a flood alleviation area some dredging of the leat.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on **Thursday** 24th August, (due to Bank Holiday Monday) and Monday 25th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Whitestaunton News

New Church Gates at Whitestaunton Church

Whitestaunton Church is delighted to share with you that the new church gates have been installed and look fantastic. We would like to say a huge thank you to Bob Dunn from Chardstock Joinery for making the gates. He made them as a replica of the old gates and used as much of the original iron work as he could. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Tim Parsons from Crickleaze who made us two missing



trefoils on the bottom of the gate free of charge. We would also like to say how grateful we are to everyone who helped to pay for the gates by kindly donating money to the Fabric Gate Fund including The Hines Family and Joan White, who opened her garden and held some of her famous cream teas.

Whitestaunton Church What's On All Welcome to Join Us!

Summer Afternoon Concert
Performed by local talented young musicians
Followed by Refreshments and Cake
Sat 12 August 4pm - Whitestaunton Church
Retiring Collection in aid of Whitestaunton Fabric Fund

Summer Evening Songs of Praise

With In Ecclesia Choir and Local Church Choirs Readings, prayers, songs and favourite hymns

13 August 2023 6pm - Followed by Cake and PIMMS

Craft Fair and Coffee Sat 23 September - 11am to 3.30pm

At Buckland St Mary Village Hall Free Entry

Proceeds to go towards Whitestaunton Church Fabric Fund

If you would like to book a stall at the Fair please contact Jane Harris

janeharris334@gmail.com

August

| Fri | 4 | 6.30pm | Film Night - Village Hall |
|-----|----|------------|--|
| | | | A Man Called Otto |
| Sat | 5 | 2.00pm | Combe St Nicholas 47th Show - Combe Church |
| Sun | 6 | | See Church Services |
| Wed | 9 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Fri | 11 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sun | 13 | | See Church Services |
| Wed | 16 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Fri | 18 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sun | 20 | | See Church Services |
| Wed | 23 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Thu | 24 | 7.30pm | Combe Parish Council - Village Hall |
| Fri | 25 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sat | 26 | 10am-11am | Combe Duplo & Duplo Club - Methodist Rooms |
| Sun | 27 | | See Church Services |
| | | 12-2pm | Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall |
| Wed | 30 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |

STOP PRESS!

A CONCERT By THE FAREY FAMILY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD In Combe Church

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Tickets on sale soon - see posters/social media for details

In aid of the church ceiling fund

your diary

September

| Fri | 1 | 6.30 for 7.00pm | Film Night - Village Hall Death At A Funeral |
|-----|----|------------------------------|---|
| Sun | 3 | | See Church Services |
| | | 2pm-4pm Last entry 3.30pm | Wadeford Charity Book Sale - Village Hall |
| Mon | 4 | 10am & 2pm | World Circle Dance - Village Hall FREE taster session for newcomers See p15 for details |
| Wed | 6 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Thu | 7 | 7.30pm | Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall |
| Fri | 8 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sun | 10 | | See Church Services |
| Mon | 11 | 7.30pm | Combe & Wadeford Gala Assn - Village Hall EAGM |
| Wed | 13 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Fri | 15 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sun | 17 | | See Church Services |
| Mon | 18 | 10am & 2pm | World Circle Dance - Village Hall |
| | | | FREE taster session for newcomers See p15 for details |
| | | 7.30pm | Combe Community Group - Village Hall |
| Wed | 20 | 2.30pm | Women's Fellowship |
| | | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Fri | 22 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sun | 24 | | See Church Services |
| | | 12-2pm | Combe Café Sunday Lunches - Village Hall |
| Mon | 25 | 7.30pm | Combe Parish Council - Village Hall |
| Wed | 27 | 7pm-9.30pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Thu | 28 | 7.30pm | Combe Folk Dance Club - Village Hall |
| Fri | 29 | 2pm-4pm | Short Mat Bowls - Village Hall |
| Sat | 30 | 10 - 11am | Combe Duplo & Lego Club - Methodist Rooms |





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A Moment in Time with John Phillips: Part 2

On Sunday July 5th 1685 shortly before midnight the 5,000 men and 500 horses of Monmouth's rebel army left their camp at Castle Fields outside Bridgewater. They marched in complete silence 6 miles by a circuitous route to carry out an audacious surprise attack on the Royal Army camped at Westonzoyland. Within 12 hours over a quarter of these men would be dead killed, in the battle of Sedgemoor. Within 3 months another quarter of these men were sentenced



by "Bloody" Judge Jeffries to be "hung, drawn and quartered" or to be transported to the West Indies.

The rebel army had returned to Bridgewater 2 weeks after leaving it. They were weary and footsore having marched to Bath and retreated via Frome back to Bridgewater. However, they were still a very organised and determined body of men. They outnumbered the royal army by 2:1 but were very weak in trained cavalry and artillery.

Monmouth was informed, that the artillery of the royal army camped 3 miles away at Westonzoyland was some distance from the infantry. If he captured or disabled them victory could be his. It was a high risk but high reward plan. It very nearly paid off. Amazingly none of the royal pickets spotted the silent 2-mile-long column of men and 500 horses until a single musket shot raised the alarm. The royal army was alerted just in time to thwart Monmouth's desperate last throw of the dice.

The Bishop of Winchester, whose nickname was "Old Patch", was at Westonzoyland. He had arrived there with his coach and horses to watch the

"pernicious rebels" get what he felt they richly deserved - utter defeat. On hearing the musket shot he immediately ordered his horses be harnessed to the royal cannon and helped to move them rapidly to where they could fire on the rebels. Once there they soon knocked out the rebel cannon. Then using cannister (grape) shot cut great swathes of death and injury in the ranks of the rebel pikemen and musketeers. Monmouth was defeated and 9 days later beheaded at Tower Hill London.

How many of the 50 or so men from our 3 parishes died in the battle will never be known. All the rebels slain were buried in mass graves, dug by villagers of Westonzoyland and Chedzoy. One might suggest, on the law of averages that 12 were buried in the pits dug by the villagers of Westonzoyland and Chedzoy. But the fortunes of war do not deal in averages.

We do however know the names of the c.1300 men sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered or transported to the West Indies as virtual slaves. Thus, we know the fate of 8 men from our parishes so sentenced of which more in the next issue.

Historical Blackdowns

A significant proportion of the Blackdown Hills landscape has been identified as Medieval in origin. Key sites of the Medieval period include Castle Neroche, Dunkeswell Abbey and Hemyock Castle. All three sites are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Castle Neroche is in a striking location on the northern escarpment overlooking the Vale of Taunton. It is an early Norman earthwork castle built on an earlier Saxon and possibly Iron Age defended site. Hemyock Castle is a good example of a fortified manor house of the later Medieval period.

Dunkeswell Abbey was founded in the 13th century. It is likely to have had a significant influence on the wider landscape through its grange farms and probable involvement in iron production.

The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is exceptional because of the large number of Medieval houses still intact. Examples include Membury Court, Whitestaunton Manor and Lower Lye at Stockland. Many are Grade II* listed buildings. They contain particularly fine woodwork in the form of screens, ceilings and jetties – evidence of the transition from open hall houses to more modern forms. A particularly large number of Medieval houses can be seen in Broadhembury.

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Clubs and Societies

Combe Art Group.

Since the beginning of the year we have had a variety of interesting ideas to paint or draw. Among many other subjects, we have tackled Trees in Winter, Boats at Sea, My Happy Place, an Aircraft in Flight, Waterfalls and Marine Life. We have had the privilege of practising our life-drawing skills with a very patient sitter as a fully clothed model, and some rather more quirky subject matter such as Creating a Pub Sign and Illustrating a Nursery Rhyme. As usual all subjects were approached with varying degrees of success but always with good humour.

We began our summer break following our purely social meeting on Friday, 19th May and we shall be reconvening on Friday, 15 September, 10.00 am to 12.00. This time may be extended to 12.30 pm if members so wish. We have been sorry to lose two or three members as a result of changed circumstances but we have also welcomed several new members and there are still one or two places for more newcomers.

Although Friday meetings in the village hall ceased in May we have, since then, met on a number of days to sketch out of doors in the local area. This is an enjoyable experience and we hope to continue doing this as long as the weather is suitable.

If you would like to join our friendly group please contact

David Selley, tel: 01460 61527, email brambles7@btinternet.com, or Ian Whitehead, tel:0146064607email, iandavidwhitehead3@gmail.com.

Audrey Ketcher

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History Group

At an extra A.G.M. held on 5th June it was decided to amalgamate the History Group in with the Combe Community Group in future. It a shame to lose the specific meetings of 'just history' but they will still appear in the various programme events of the Community Group.

It was also decided to donate remaining funds to the Combe Community Group and the Village Hall

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Group over the years and enjoyed the various meetings and exhibitions – the latter can still be held as memorabilia and information is not lost!

Combe Community Group

There is no Community Group meeting in August, but we are providing the teas in the afternoon at the Annual Flower Show in the Church on Saturday 5th August. Everyone very welcome to that lovely event

Monday 18th September Aaron Baxter is sharing his experiences in the Navy, including serving on HMS Britannia, and submarines, **7.30pm in the Village Hall £3** entry including refreshments.

Everyone welcome to all meetings.

Ready to ramble?

There are collections of walks around Chard, Hemyock, Stockland and Upottery; walks in the north eastern and south western Blackdown Hills.

We also have a collection of routes for cycling and for horse riding.

Look out for guided walks in our events calendar or pick up an **Explore the Blackdown Hills** leaflet, at venues
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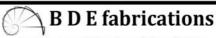
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Yarcombe and District YFC

Summer is finally here and it is nice to see the sunny weather, especially our farmers are enjoying it. During May we were busy meeting up as a club and organising our upcoming summer events and programme of social activities.

Members helped at Yarcombe village Coronation celebrations on Sunday 7th May. This was a well-attended event in which we provided the bar and organised a tug of war competition. The village raised around £700 and we raised around £250 for Hospiscare. Thank you to all members who attended and helped out on the day.

On the 10th May we helped Cathy Derryman and her family out for the NSA Sheep South West 2023. Well done to Will who came 3rd in the Overall Shepherd of the Year, Adam who came 3rd in the Student Shepherd of the Year and Andrew who competed to a very high standard.

At the annual Devon County Show this year members entered many classes and as a club. Our club cubicle came a respectable 11th place in a competition of 26 other entries. We also entered a club photo and scrapbook. Well done to Will, Peter, Oliver, Henry, Scott & Rob who participated in the tug of war competition at the show, it is great to see members getting involved. Thank you to those who made up the tag rugby team also. Lots of positive comments from those involved and potential to do even better in the future. Members continue to practice every week for tug of our, where the team will take part at many discos and shows coming up.

Continuing to help fundraise for Hospicare; we hope to raise lots of money at our charity cream tea and auction. We are helping Linda Wyatt at her upcoming event - Pimms, Picnic and Party at the Park with live music. We are helping provide the bar and alcohol for the event, which is in aid of Hospicare. With Hospicare we are also trying to organise a date to do FootGolf on the Exe.

Our upcoming summer water disco is on Friday 28th July. We are also hoping to organise a cider tour at Sheppy's cider and a raft race with Axminster YFC.

If anyone has any further questions and would like to become involved with Young Farmers, please contact our Chairman Will Vining on 07850605542. We have our club meetings every other week in either Yarcombe or Upottery Village Hall, 8pm start.

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Cloverleaf Parish Pages

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43)

This passage from Isaiah was part of a reading that I asked for in my last service on Sunday. It is one of my favourite passages from the Old Testament, and it is particularly pertinent to me as Mick and I move to Suffolk to begin new ministry and a new life there.

This passage links directly to Paul's words in 2 Corinthians So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ'.

God is the God of possibilities and he longs for our hearts to be opened to him. However, it doesn't have to be an outward change such as physically relocating, changing job or moving house. God can work within us and make small changes, in our attitudes, our assumptions or our self-knowledge.

However what we have to do is always be open to God, not to close our minds and hearts and allow God to do his new work in us. We must be prepared to forgive both ourselves and others, we must be prepared to accept others and not insist that our way is the right way, and we must always look for Christ in 'the other'.

Being stuck in our ways, doing things because we've always done them or hiding behind habit and custom is not necessarily a bad thing, but it restricts us and doesn't allow us to live life in all its fulness. Age should not be a barrier to discovering new and surprising things about ourselves and about God.

Also God will often to his best work in us when we are in our own wildernesses, when we are lost or despairing, suffering or in anguish. He will make ways in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Whatever state of mind we are in we must keep praying, studying scripture, listening to one another and searching for where God is at work in the world and always keep an open mind.

Most of all, we must trust in God and trust that he can always make things new. We can have this trust because of the work he did in Jesus Christ. God raised Christ from the dead so that now there is always the possibility of new beginnings, always the possibility of new birth and hearts made new in any situation.

As we move to Suffolk, we will be trusting in God in this new beginning, this new adventure that he is sending us on. I hope you too will always trust in God and that you will allow him to work new beginnings in you. He might just surprise you!

Rev'd Ann

Church Services across the Benefice

| AUGUST | Combe | Wambrook | Whitestaunton | Chard | Ham |
|---|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| August. 6 th Trinity 9 Transfiguration | 10.30 am Family Service | 9.15am BCP Morning Prayer | | 8.00am HC 10.00am Covenant Service at Chard Methodist Church | 6.00pm BCP Evensong |
| August. 13 th Trinity 10 | 10.30 am Holy Communion | 9.15am CW Holy Communion | 6.00pm Songs of Praise | 10.00am HC | |
| August. 20 th Trinity 11 | 10.30am Service of the Word with the Methodists at the Parish Church | 6.00pm No Service | 10.30am To join Combe for their Service | 8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship | 6.00pm BCP Evensong |
| August. 27 th Trinity 12 | 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Wambrook | | | | |

BCP Communion: 4th Wednesday of the month at 10.30am at Combe

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|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
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| Aug 13 & 20 | Sue Wallace | Elena Eames |
| Sep 3 & 10 | Susie Eames | Caroline Wakefield |
| Sep 17 & Oct 1 | Penny Luther | Hilary Owen |

Church Services across the Benefice

| SEPTEMBER | Combe | Wambrook | Whitestaunton | Chard | Ham |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Sept. 3 rd Trinity 13 | 10.30 am Songs of Praise around the Village | 9.15am BCP Morning Prayer | | 8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship | 6.00pm BCP Evensong |
| Sept. 10 th Trinity 14 | 10.30am Holy Communion | 9.15am CW Holy Communiion | 6.00pm Creation tide Service | 10.00am HC | |
| Sept. 17 th Trinity 15 | 10.30am HARVEST FESTIVAL at the Method- ist Church | 6.00pm BCP Evensong | 10.30am Holy Communion | 8.00am HC 10.00am Morning Worship | 6.00pm BCP HARVEST FESTIVAL Evensong |
| Sept. 24 th Trinity 16 | 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Chard | | | | |

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Rev Georgina

Cloverleaf Parishes Information

Clergy contact details:

Rector: Rev'd Ann Kember

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Tel: 01460 351521 Email: annkember58@gmail.com

Associate Rev'd Georgina Vye,

Vicar: The Vicarage, 57 Caraway Close, Chard, TA20 1HP

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