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Editors' note...

Welcome to the new issue of Cloverleaf which incredibly takes us all the way up to Easter on March 31st.

We have a great article from the new bellringers at

St Nicholas Church who also feature on our front cover. We hope you'll enjoy reading about their experience. If any of our readers have a passion for something which they feel the community would be keen to know more about, do please get in touch.

Also, don't miss reading about the exciting new ventures in the Village Hall.

For those of you who follow Weather Watch, we are looking for a new volunteer to take over monitoring the rainfall. This is not a huge task and may appeal to a family with children who are interested in the environment.

Please email **csncloverleaf@gmail.com** if you might be interested and we can provide more details.

Chrissie and Sue

CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE GREEN

Many thanks to everyone who helped create a lovely scene on The Green and then helped to take it down later! Also thanks to the brilliant Chard Concert Brass for playing to accompany the carols, John Gudge for supplying his micro-phones, etc., Victoria and Paul for allowing their electricity to be used for the lights, and all the people supplying the mulled wine and mince pies. See you all next year!

Anne Hunt

www.combestnicholas.org.uk

Keep informed with the Combe Village Website



Front Cover Photo: Combe's fantastic Bell Ringing Team L to R: Chris Jones, Mike Simm, Lynne Smith (Tower Captain), Paul Simmons, Stephen Hopkins, Benedict Protheroe, Simon Goode, Sue Pargeter and Ian Jones

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Combe St Nicholas Parish Council

The Resilience Group in Combe Parish has been busy arranging help and advice – some 'Hydrosnakes' have been purchased to help stop flooding into property – similar to the flood/sand bags but more durable. The public meeting on Friday 26th January has probably been held by the time you read this report – but please see the next issue of Cloverleaf Magazine for more information re: all types of possible events, not just flooding. Thanks to the Committee for all their work.

Investigations into the use of Combe Wood Recreation Field for possible cricket nets/other sports/community use are continuing, depending on whether residents support the idea before committing funds. Please let me know – details below.

Dogs mess – bags – please don't pick it up and then throw into bushes, etc. They do not look good as decoration! Take it to the dog bin/home, but do please pick any mess up particularly where people walk. If you own a dog it is part of your responsibility.

If any leaves, etc. are covering the drains near you and it is safe to do so, please help future flooding problems by keeping those drains clear. Similarly with ditches/gullies. Everyone needs to assist with reduction in flooding.

With the darker evenings still here please consider when out – can you (or your dog/s) be seen by vehicle drivers? Please wear brighter clothes if possible, fluorescent strips/jackets, carry a torch so that you can see (and to clear up after your dog)!! and similarly use fluorescent coats/collars for any dogs/horses too. Keep safe!

The next Parish Council meetings are on Monday 26th February and 25th March 2024.

Anne Hunt, Parish Clerk 01460 61296 combestnicholaspc@gmail.com www.combestnicholas.org.uk



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Combe Open Gardens 2024



Following the great success of our Combe Open Gardens in 2022, the Village Hall Committee is planning another Open Gardens Day for Sunday **2nd June 2024**, from 11.00am to 5.00pm, and we need your help to make it as successful as it was 2 years ago.

Would you be up for sharing the pleasure of your garden or allotment with others and raising some funds for the Village Hall at the same time? We will do all the organising, advertising and selling of tickets, and will give you a sign saying "Garden Open" for you to display at the entrance to your garden. We will also provide refreshments in various venues – probably Pimm's and teas in two of the gardens, and light lunches in the hall.

You can choose whether you are present or not for your garden visitors. Fellow gardeners love to buy plants, so you might like to have a plant stall in your garden or to add your surplus to the table outside the village hall.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Wendy Shorey on 01460 68881 or email alexshorey533@btinternet.com.text



Life as a New Bell Ringer by a newcomer!

Nestled in the heart of Somerset lies our tranquil village of Combe St. Nicholas, where tradition and community intertwine. One of the lesser-known yet cherished traditions here is Bell Ringing - a practice that's been part of village life for centuries.

For newcomers like ourselves (Benedict, Elfriede, Karen, Mike, Simon and Stephen) the village's charm wasn't just in its scenic landscapes but in its sense of community. We each wanted to get involved and meet people and Bell Ringing seemed like a unique way to do that.

It's a friendly group and the camaraderie among the ringers made us all feel at home quicker than we expected.

"How hard can it be?" we thought to ourselves ... but learning to ring the bells wasn't quite as straightforward as we'd thought. It is physical, you need some physical strength, but timing and coordination are the absolute keys - it can even be quite dangerous; which is why you need the experienced Ringers there to help you and step in if necessary (thanks to Paul, Chris and Sue for saving us from ourselves on more than one occasion).

Our oldest bell was cast around 1550, that's the year Elizabeth I was crowned

Oh, and there's a new language to learn, coined "Bellvish" (©Benedict) - Back-stroke, Hand-stroke, Cut-in, Plain Hunting. It's endless and made even more confusing by the fact that there are often multiple words to describe the same action!

There are six bells in the tower of St Nicholas, our heaviest weighing almost 700kg, right above someone's head! Our oldest bell was cast around 1550, that's the year Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

Thanks to Ian Jones for keeping the bells and structure so well maintained,

and us safe.



The new boys L to R: Mike, Stephen, Benedict & Simon

Despite the initial challenges, the practice sessions have become moments of shared effort and laughter often followed by a walk down to the Green Dragon.

In a world where things are always changing, the village's tradition of Bell Ringing remains a steady constant.

Joining the team of Bell Ringers at St. Nicholas Church wasn't just about learning a new skill; it was about becoming part of something bigger; the moments it creates for the village. The bells mark different occasions, ringing for weddings, church services, coronations and even to mark the passing of someone in the village. It's a way that the village speaks, one ring at a time.

In a world where things are always changing, the village's tradition of Bell Ringing remains a steady constant. It's a slice of history we get to be a part of. And just when you think you're getting the hang of it, Tower Captain Lynne calls out "Go Bob Doubles!" and it's back to the drawing board again.

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Exciting New Community Ventures in the Village Hall

We are delighted to introduce **three** new community led projects taking place in the Village Hall.

First, Jackie Cobbledick has launched **THE WEDNESDAY CHATTERBOX CAFÉ** every Wednesday morning. This light style community café for all ages opens from 10–12:30pm serving tea, coffee and biscuits along with homemade soup and crusty bread. All profits go to repairing our church ceiling, so do come along and support her new venture.

Then, following the great success of our monthly Film Night we thought about our younger community members and will be starting a **SATURDAY KIDS' CINEMA** on the first Saturday of each month from 10:30-12:30 *approx*. showing a range of classic cartoons and "U" films. At least one adult must stay and enjoy the film; there is no entry fee, but a donation to help cover costs would be appreciated.

This will be starting mid February so look out for more info.

Interested? Got some ideas for what to show? Let us know. Call Ian 64098

And finally, we have **THE MONDAY GAMES CLUB**. Come and join us for a cuppa and some fun with our table-top/board games club on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month. Running from 10:30 until about 12:30pm. All games are provided but do bring along your own if you wish.

Entry is free but a donation for refreshments would be appreciated. Come and have a laugh - the Doctors say it's good for your health!

Village Hall Committee

I'm A WINNER!

Results of the latest draw of the Village Hall 100+ Lottery are:

December 2023

1st: **Patricia Minson** 2nd: **Collette Boyle** 3rd **Sally Ryall-Fletcher** January 2024

1st: Marion Edwards 2nd: Penny Croucher 3rd: Jackie Cobbledick

With over 120 Numbers drawn each month now, the prize pot is going up and up! If you'd like to join in the fun and help raise funds for our Village Hall please call Ian on **01460 64098** or email **csnvillagehall@hotmail.com**

A Moment in Time - Chard Reservoir with John Phillips

Chard Reservoir was constructed in 1841. It was built solely for the provision of water for the operation of the Chard to Taunton canal which was completed the following year. The canal joined the Bridgewater to Taunton canal at Creech St Michael and ran 13.5 miles to its terminus near the reservoir 213 feet higher. Additional water was brought to the reservoir from the River Isle above Nimmer to ensure sufficient water even in times of drought. The difficulties facing the Panama Canal today illustrate why.

In 1834 an Act of Parliament authorised its construction, the raising of £57,000 in shares and borrowings of £20,000. James Green was appointed chief designer and engineer. He was at that time responsible for constructing the eastern section of the Grand Western canal (Taunton - Tiverton) and for a canal near Swansea. He was a pioneer in building canals in hilly terrain where water supply was limited in the upper reaches of the system. Born in the Midlands of an engineering family he moved to Exeter in 1818 when appointed surveyor of Devon's bridges. He used "inclined planes" and "vertical lifts" rather than locks. The barges "tub boats" (2m x 7m) used on such a system were relatively small and carried about 6 or 7 tons. "Vertical lifts" were two vertical shafts whereby one heavier water filled tank went down connected to a lighter tank containing the barge went up and vice versa. He was dismissed from all three projects when a vertical lift on the Grand Western left the barge 3ft above the lower canal water level. Sydney Hall took over the Chard canal. "Inclined planes" were ramps with rails on them. On double tracked inclines barges were floated into wheeled water tight tanks – caissons. They were pulled up by another heavier water filled caisson coming down the other track by attached ropes going around a drum at the top of the incline.

The Chard canal used 3 inclines of this nature, at Thornfalcon, Wrantage and Ilminster. The fourth incline at Chard Common was single tracked. The barge was floated onto a wheeled cradle and pulled up by a water powered turbine which required 5000 gallons/minute to operate. These inclines achieved the same elevation as about 25 locks. Only one 7ft lock at Bere Mills was required.

Two aqueducts were required, over the River Tone and at Thornfalcon. In total one tenth of its route had to be tunneled, at Lillesdon, Crimson Hill (a mile long) and Ilminster, under part of Herne Hill.

The canal was a remarkable civil engineering achievement but a financial disaster for the original investors. It cost £140,000, twice the estimate. Freight carried was less than hoped but over 20,000 tons of S. Wales coal was transported each year markedly reducing its cost to those living and working near its route.

The canal's construction triggered a rapid response from the Parrett Navigation Company which rapidly improved navigation on that river and the constructed a canal to Westport. The expansion of the railways completely undercut Chard canal's commercial viability and the canal went into receivership in 1853 and closed in 1868.







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Combe St Nicholas Football Club

Happy New Year from Combe St Nicholas FC! After what has been a tough first half of the season, we are hoping to have new years resolutions of more goals, more wins, and more celebrations. From what it seems so far, we are doing just that! Last week our First Team shocked third in the league Saltford 2-1 to help us towards our goal of staying in Division 1. The Reserves have just picked up their first point of the season against a strong Barrington side after a nailbiting 0-0 draw, and the Colts beat Yetminster Reserves 4-2 to get their second win of the season.

Whilst it has been a tough second part of 2023 after most of our 2023/23 season First Team players moved to Ilminster for the 2023/24 season, meaning our players have all had to step up a gear in higher leagues than they have in the past, I am a very proud Chairman. Games have been tough; we have certainly had our fair share of losses already across the teams, but what I am delighted with is the strong culture we have. Players who play for Combe St Nicholas FC have done so with pride and our men's sides are yet to cancel a game for a lack of players, no mean feat at all for a team with three sides. Alongside this, we have now developed our ties with Avishayes Combe Youth, who now play all of their football at Combe. We have got a great core of players who are under 18 and the future looks very bright indeed. Every Combe player is putting effort in to keep Combe St Nicholas FC a great place to play football and I look forward to seeing what the rest of 2024 holds as we move on.

The Ladies have also had their fair share of challenges since their emphatic Chairman's Cup win in September, but again, the team ethic looks strong and the core of Ladies are working their socks off to ensure they finish 203/24 strong. Likewise Combe Vets have won 2/3 of their games in what looks an incredibly difficult division.

Off the pitch, a huge thank you to all who supported us in our Green Dragon Christmas Bingo and Draw event, and thank you to Heather and Alan for hosting us. We raised a total of £1200 which is much needed for the renovations of our dated shower facilities. We look forward to our next events as the year progresses. Please follow our Facebook page to see what the club is up to.

We hope to see you at the club soon!

James Gilbert Combe St Nicholas FC Chairman

Wildlife in Your Garden with Colin Ryall

February and March see wildlife become more active as the weather warms and days lengthen, but it remains a difficult time with weather changing unpredictably - warm snaps encouraging emergence and breeding interrupted by a sudden freeze, to catch wildlife out. What's more, berries and nuts are mostly gone, invertebrates (insects, slugs, worms etc) may still be hiding and so natural food may be in short supply. But there are signs of spring if you look.

What to look out for

Native flowers showing now include Lesser Celandines, Blackthorn blossom, Willow catkins/pussy willow, Primroses, Violets, Wood Anemones, bulbs are all coming up and Ivy berries are ripening to black. Hellebores, Lungwort (Pulmonaria), Winter



Honeysuckle and Crocuses are providing for pollinators in the garden.

On warm days we might see Brimstone butterflies seeking their favoured yellow spring flowers, having come out of hibernation (along with Peacocks). These beauties are exceptionally long-lived and are about until early summer, despite only having one generation per year.

Various species of moth active now include March Moth and Early Grey, various Chestnut and Quaker species. Herald Moths are unusual amongst moths in overwintering as adults rather than a pupae or eggs.

Primroses or Violets in sheltered sun patches might attract Dark-edged



Bee-flies. These fantastic furry brown flies, with long proboscis out front for sipping nectar, are one of the best hoverers in the garden.



Buff-tailed Bumblebee queens are joined by Early Bumblebees now, and beautiful little long-tongued Hairy-footed Flower Bees visit flowers of Lungwort and Campion, like tiny speeded up bumblebees. Males of these solitary bees are furry brown and females velvety black.

Listen for frogs and toads in ponds and torch for newts at night. Frogs are well through spawning but newts and toads are a bit later. If you're really lucky you might see a grass snake or slowworm sunbathing on a warm bank in a sheltered corner of the garden.

Birds are establishing territories and courting – the singing Song Thrush, Robin, Wren, Blackbird, Chaffinches, later Chiffchaff and drumming Greater Spotted Woodpecker. Bramblings often put in an appearance, preparing to return to breed in forests in Scandinavia and Russia, and Siskins and Lesser Redpolls might come to sunflower kernel and peanut feeders. Look out for hedgehogs and even bats when the weather warms up.

Things to do (and not do)

Keep feeding fats to birds particularly during cold spells but stop by the end of March as breeding starts – you wouldn't feed your baby on lard would you? Don't feed whole peanuts; chicks can choke on these. Growing chicks need protein rich food especially mealworms, sunflower chips or peanuts in a feeder. Why not provide oyster grit for strong eggshell and dog hair for nest-lining. What luxury!

It's the best time for removing last year's dead growth and mulching the borders; good for wildlife and protection in case of drought later. Minimise disturbance to hibernating areas like composts and leafpiles, and don't disturb ponds as amphibia are mating and spawning now. Plant nectar and pollen sources for bees, hoverflies and other pollinators.

Wildlife Plant of the Month - Willow

There are about 15 native species of willow in the UK. A 1984 study found that Willows support more wildlife than any other native tree: 450 species of insect and mite, plus innumerable other invertebrates, fungi, slime moulds etc. Grey and Goat Willows are smallish fast-growing garden-sized trees and are the food plants for caterpillars of a profusion of wonderful moths including Eyed Hawkmoth, Puss Moth, Herald and Red Underwing, among many others.

Underway Meade

It is always lovely to see so many people from the community enjoying themselves in the Meade, whether they be walking their dogs, bringing the children to let off steam or just spending time in this beautiful and tranquil space. Unfortunately, in recent weeks it seems that not everyone has been acting in a community spirited way and we have received reports of people not picking up after their dogs; of rubbish, including drink bottles being left next to benches and even evidence of fires being lit in the woods. We rarely complain about problems occurring in the Meade, so PLEASE, PLEASE pick up after your dog and deposit the bags in the dog bin just outside the middle gate near the pond, take your rubbish home and do not light



fires. All these things are unpleasant for those of us who have to go and clear up the mess but can also be dangerous and spoil the amenity for responsible users.

On a more positive note, if you have visited the Meade recently you may have noticed a new tree has been planted in the picnic area near the entrance to the Wild Play area.

This is a flowering cherry which has been kindly donated by local resident Jackie Fearon and has been positioned to give some shade eventually next to anniversary bench.

We look forward to it coming into blossom in the spring.

After a mild and very wet start to the year, the temperature finally dropped to below freezing in the second week of January, just as the snowdrops began to make their welcome appearance in the woods at the Meade. This will probably prolong the snowdrop season though as they have their own built in anti-freeze which helps them survive low temperatures, so do come and see them soon.



I am pleased to say that once again we will be welcoming the Neroche Volunteers, who, weather permitting, on 7th February will help us replace the wooden sleepers which have begun to deteriorate on the bridge beside Gerry's bench. Please bear with us as we will have to close the bridge whilst the work is being carried out, but hopefully it should all be completed on the day.

We will also be holding another hedge laying training day in mid to late February, so keep an eye out for posters if you want to try your hand at this valuable skill and benefit the Meade too.

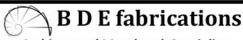
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Combe Art Group

We are back for another year with an interesting programme of suggested topics to draw or paint starting with A Landmark - Natural or Manmade, An Illustration of Industry and Myths and Legends.

We will be preparing for a **SPRING EXHIBITION** in the Village Hall on **Saturday**, **16 March** accompanied by refreshments so please make a note of this in your diary. There will be further details on Facebook and the Noticeboard.

If you would like to join our friendly group, please contact

David Selley Tel: 61527 email: davidselley6@gmail.com

Audrey Ketcher Tel: 261628 email: audiek18@gmail.com

Sax-22 Musical Evening A Resounding Success

Sax-22 very kindly put on a Christmas Fundraiser back in December. The Village Hall was full of people foot-tapping away to a whole range of Christmassy music, all expertly performed by our local saxophone group. That night we raised **over £450** towards our recent roof work.

So a **massive Thank You to Sax-22** for a really brilliant night! *Ian Croucher Treasurer*

VILLAGE HALL FILM SHOW 2024

February 2nd Saving Grace - Brenda Blethyn and Craig Ferguson

March 1st Castles In The Sky - Eddy Izzard,

Robert Watson-Watt, Alex Jennings, Henry Tizard

April 5th The Secret Agent

Toby Jones, Vicky McClure, Stephen Graham & Ian Hart.

May 3rd My Grandparents War

Kristen Scott Thomas, Mark Rylance, Helena Bonham Carter

June 7th Six Minutes to Midnight

Judi Dench, Jim Broadbent, James D'Arcy, Eddie Izzard, Carla Juri

All welcome, no need to buy a ticket, just make a donation when you come in. Doors open at 6:30pm and the film show starts at 7pm.

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A New Name for the Blackdown Hills

The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has a new name – in November, along with other designated AONB in England, it became the **Blackdown Hills National Landscape.**

The new name reflects the national importance of the landscapes and the vital contribution we are making to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis.

The name change will also help us to create greater understanding and awareness for the work that we do. It reflects a step change in our work to protect and regenerate our landscape, with a focus on nature, climate, heritage, culture, and people.

The care of the Blackdown Hills Natural Landscape is entrusted to local authorities, organisations, community groups and the people who live and work within them. We help bring these people together, working collaboratively to conserve and enhance these special landscapes.

Visit www.blackdownhills.co.uk for more information.

Lisa Turner, Blackdown Hills National Landscape Planning Officer

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Fri 2	6.30 - 10.30pm 10am -1pm	
ΓΙΙ Z	2 - 4.30pm	Art Group <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
	6.30 for 7pm	Film Night VH
Tue 6 - Sat 10	Various times	Cloverleaf Productions Pantomime VH
146 0 346 10	various times	'Red Riding Hoods'
Fri 9	4-5pm	Lego & Duplo Club The Methodist Rooms
Sat 10	10am - 12noon	St Nicholas Church Coffee Morning
Mon 12	10.30 - 12noon	World Circle Dance VH
	1.30 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls Competition VH
Tue 13	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class VH
Wed 14	10 - 12noon	Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls VH
Thu 15	6.30 - 10.30pm	Folk Dance Club <i>VH</i>
Fri 16	10am - 1pm	Art Group <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls VH
Mon 19	10.30am - 12.30	The Monday Club <i>VH</i>
	7.30pm	Combe Community Grp Talk on Recycling VH
Tues 20	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class VH
Wed 21	10am - 12noon	Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Fri 23	10am - 1pm	Art Group <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Sat 24	10 - 12noon (TBC)	Saturday Kids Cinema <i>VH</i>
	10-11am	Lego & Duplo Club <i>The Methodist Rooms</i>
Sun 25	12noon - 2pm	Country Fayre Sunday Lunch * VH
Mon 26	10.30 - 12noon	World Circle Dance <i>VH</i>
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Parish Council Meeting VH
Tue 27	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class VH
Wed 28	10 - 12noon	Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls VH
Thu 29	6.30 - 10.30	Folk Dance Club <i>VH</i>

^{*}Booking essential, please ring or text 07450 829169

... AND MARCH

Fri 1	10am -1pm 2 - 4.30pm	Art Group <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
	6.30 for 7pm	Film Night <i>VH</i>
Sat 2	10 - 12noon TBC	Saturday Kids Cinema <i>VH</i>
Sun 3	2 - 4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale VH
Tue 5	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class VH
Wed 6	10 - 12 noon	Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls VH
Fri 8	10am - 1pm	Art Group <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls VH
	4-5pm	Lego & Duplo Club The Methodist Rooms
Sat 9	10am - 12noon	St Nicholas Church Coffee Morning
Mon 11	10.30am - 12.30	The Monday Club VH
Tue 12	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class VH
Wed 13	10am - 12noon	Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Thu 14	6.30 - 10.30pm	Folk Dance Club <i>VH</i>
Fri 15	10am - 1pm	Art Group <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Sat 16	All Day (TBC)	Art Group Exhibition VH
Sat 16	All Day (TBC) 7.00 for 7.30pm	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo
	7.00 for 7.30pm	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH
Sat 16 Mon 18	7.00 for 7.30pm 10.30 - 12noon	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH World Circle Dance VH
Mon 18	7.00 for 7.30pm 10.30 - 12noon 7.30pm	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH World Circle Dance VH Combe Community Group Quiz & AGM VH
Mon 18 Tues 19	7.00 for 7.30pm 10.30 - 12noon 7.30pm 2 - 3pm	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH World Circle Dance VH Combe Community Group Quiz & AGM VH Pilates Class VH
Mon 18	7.00 for 7.30pm 10.30 - 12noon 7.30pm 2 - 3pm 10 - 12noon	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH World Circle Dance VH Combe Community Group Quiz & AGM VH Pilates Class VH Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH
Mon 18 Tues 19 Wed 20	7.00 for 7.30pm 10.30 - 12noon 7.30pm 2 - 3pm 10 - 12noon 7 - 9.30pm	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH World Circle Dance VH Combe Community Group Quiz & AGM VH Pilates Class VH Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH Short Mat Bowls VH
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Mon 18 Tues 19 Wed 20 Fri 22 Mon 25 Tues 26 Wed 27 Thu 28 Fri 29	7.00 for 7.30pm 10.30 - 12noon 7.30pm 2 - 3pm 10 - 12noon 7 - 9.30pm 10am - 1pm 2 - 4.30pm 10.30am - 12.30 7.30 - 9.30pm 2 - 3pm 10 - 12noon 7 - 9.30pm 6.30 - 10.30pm 2 - 4.30pm	Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo Buckland St Mary VH World Circle Dance VH Combe Community Group Quiz & AGM VH Pilates Class VH Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH Short Mat Bowls VH Art Group VH Short Mat Bowls VH The Monday Club VH Parish Council Meeting VH Pilates Class VH Wednesday Chatterbox Cafe VH Short Mat Bowls VH Folk Dance Club VH Short Mat Bowls VH Folk Dance Club VH
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Short Mat Bowls Club

The Club which meets in the Village Hall each Wednesday evening (7pm to 9.30pm) and Friday afternoon (2pm to 4.30pm) is enjoying a very successful period. Membership has grown over the last year and there are usually over ten players at Club meetings. The standard of play is improving as well not least because, according to our visitors, the Village Hall provides the best floor in our league to play on.

At the end of last winter's season we won Division 2 of the East Devon league and, because of an influx of both new and experienced bowlers, we accepted promotion to Division 1. We have also entered a second team in Division 2. We expected the playing standard in Division 1 to be significantly higher than we were accustomed to - and we were not wrong! Nevertheless, our team has won two of the four matches played so far. Our target for the season is to avoid relegation! It is still too early to be confident that we will achieve this but we have made a fair start. Furthermore, even though only one member of the Division 2 team has played league bowls previously, we have also made a promising start in this division winning all four games in our only home match to date and winning games (if not the matches) on the notoriously difficult mats at Hemyock and Awliscombe.

Everyone is encouraged to play in these league matches and/or in the 'friendlies' arranged with local Clubs such as Bishopswood, Yarcombe and Chard. Alternatively, members can opt to only play at our twice weekly Club meetings.

If you are interested in having a go at short mat bowls then please contact our match secretary, **Peter Avery** (peteravery0909@gmail.com) to make the necessary arrangements. We will provide a warm welcome, tuition and bowls to get you started; you only need flat-soled shoes.



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Yarcombe & District Young Farmers' Club



Firstly Yarcombe and District Young Farmers hope you had a lovely Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year! Everyone's diary is busy over Christmas and ours are no exception! Here's a small insight into some of the exciting events our group enjoyed!

In November we visited Complete Meats, Axminster to see behind the scenes the preparation of their meat and other products to a high standard. Learning to make sausages was very entertaining! Many thanks to the Vining family for this opportunity.

Early December, a group of girls got creative Christmas wreath making with some beautiful results to show off to their friends and families. Thank you to 'Sarah Broom Floral Design' who offers this opportunity each year.

There was a warm atmosphere at the Sidmouth Arms for our Christmas meal on December 8th; delicious food and friendly faces made it a lovely evening.

The following night dancing shoes were on for the annual Marshwood Ball at Freshwater Holiday Park and, after after a few drinks, everyone made their way to the dance floor!

With no time to rest their feet, members then supported a local family helping with some good old turkey plucking. Thank you to the family for their support of Yarcombe YFC throughout the year and to members who came, what a festive fun packed weekend for our club! Then on the 12th December a chance to get competitive on the skittle alley with a member's skittles throw off with some close results at the end, everyone who attended enjoyed a sociable night.

After all these activities Yarcombe YFC decided to spread their festive cheer, blessing local pubs with tuneful carol singing and raising £440 for our charity of the year 'Yellow Wellies'. Thank you to all at La Campagna, The Candlelight Inn, The York and The Sidmouth Arms for making us feel so welcome and for all the generous donations.

Finally on 30th December over 75 members and friends wrapped up warm for a windy days racing at Taunton racecourse. It's been so nice to see so many of our club members, friends, family and local supporters come together over the Christmas period to enjoy each other's company.

Lorna-Jayne

Upcoming Events:

11th February - **Drama Re-run** - Axminster Guild Hall - Come to see how hard our members have been working on their drama performance.

25th February - Tractor Run

It's great to have the local community join us in tractors or spectating.

Weather Watch - local rainfall report				
Period	2023 / Actual	2022 Actual	10 Yr Aye 2003-2012	10 Yr Ave 2013-2022
November	165	/210	133/	128
December	136/	103	///1/22///	745
Jan - Oct	890	// /518	836	903 //
TOTAL	///11/97////	831/"/	1091	/// 1/177///

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

Although the annual rainfall figures for 2023 are similar to the averages recorded in recent years, the trend is for periods of very dry weather, followed by very wet spells. Severe storms at the end of December brought high rainfall, but without the local flooding seen in previous years.





Combe Community Group

Thanks to Heather and helpers for a lovely Christmas dinner, enjoyed by all. Malcolm Smith entertained us in January with his knowledge of the Night Skies.

Monday 19th February - **Recycling** – Beth Prince from Somerset County Recycling who is the Community Engagement Campaign Officer is giving an illustrated talk about all the different categories including the new collections of soft plastic – what happens to it etc. This is a very interesting talk and affects us all.

Monday 18th March - Quiz and AGM - This is the end of our first year as the Community Group, now incorporating the Gardening Club, History Group, Gala and Christmas Tree event. As the talks/events have been much more diverse the numbers of people attending each month has gone up considerably. Come and have a listen and or let us know if you have any suggestions. This hopefully short AGM will be followed by a fun Quiz.

Everyone very welcome to all meetings. 7.30pm in the Village Hall £3 entry including refreshments.

Wadeford Charity Book Club



Having just read my report for the January 2023 book sale, it seems at least we had better weather this year. Otherwise, a goodly crowd were again coming through the door before the two o'clock start, unable to control their enthusiasm for a bargain. Actually, by three o'clock the rush had turned to more of a trickle, but nevertheless it was still a good sale with about 200 books re-homed.

If you missed out then you'll have to wait until it all happens again on **March 3rd**, which is back to our Sunday slot between 2-4pm at the Village Hall. Entry remains free and books are usually just fifty pence a go. We're happy to accept donations of books on the day, but if you happen to have shed-loads to offer, or you'd need us to collect your book donations, then please call Moira on 01460 261950 beforehand. Thanks to everyone involved and hope to see you all soon. *Bob Vaughan*

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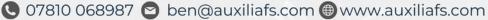
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Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed in any way to the appeal. We 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. Others have spent many hours wrapping shoeboxes for us. We have also received monetary donations to buy 'essential items' on the checklist this year such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks and sweets.

In our 'mini warehouse' at home we were able to fill and check 107 boxes which included boxes from the Parish Church. These were then collected and taken to the main warehouse in South Petherton.

A total of 6270 boxes were sent from there to Ukraine and were

Once again a big THANK YOU to all who helped. *Pamela and Bill Hodge*

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Shrub Border for Combe Churchyard

Combe PCC is planting a border of flowering shrubs in front of the new railing fence between the school and the eastern end of the church. The border replaces the degraded hedge, which was removed to enable the installation of the new railings. The shrubs that have been chosen will provide interest through the seasons, with flowers, scent, colour and berries; making the border attractive to insect pollinators, birds and small mammals. Spring bulbs can be planted along the edge of the border once the plants are established.

Should any residents of Combe Parish like to contribute a shrub or a plant or plant one in memory of a loved one, please contact one of the St Nicholas Churchwardens (Penny Croucher - 07780 081081 / Keda Horn - 07867 300795)

List of Selected Shrubs:

Choysia Ternata x2 (White scented flowers late spring, evergreen)
Osmanthus Heterophyllus Purpureus x2 (White scented flowers
October/November, purple new foliage)

Viburnum Opulus (Guelder Rose) x2 (White flowers summer, followed by red berries, deciduous)

Ribes Odoratum (Buffalo Currant) x1 (pale yellow-greenish flowers in spring, strongly scented. Black berries. Good autumn colour to leaves)

Lonicera Fragrantissima x1 (Winter flowering honeysuckle. Fragrant white flowers in winter. Black berries)

Fuchsia Magellanica Riccartonii x2 (bright red and purple fuchsia flowers July, August and September)

Cornus Alba Sibirica x 2 (Dogwood with good autumn leaf colour and bright red stems in winter) *Amanda Acland*

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CHURCHES CONTACT DETAILS

CLERGY

Reverend Deborah Perreau - Local Priest, Cloverleaf Parishes Croft House, Stantway, Combe St Nicholas TA20 3NA 07879 698920 - deborah@perreau.co

Reverend David Easton - Combe Methodist Church 07539 896618 Wed & Thurs

Reverend Georgina Vye - Associate Vicar, St Mary's, Chard The Vicarage, 57 Caraway Close, Chard TA20 1HP 01460 66159 - 07950 989916 - g.vye@btinternet.com

CHURCHWARDENS

St Nicholas: Penny Croucher 07780 081081 Keda Horn 07867 300795

St Mary's, Wambrook: Graeme Pidgeon 07807 284738

www.wambrookparishchurch.com

St Andrew's, Whitestaunton: Jane Harris (PCC Sec) 239113 **Combe Methodist Church**: Arnold Coleman (Steward) 64892 *Services: 10.30am fortnightly - as per notice board on railings*

Excerpts from the Churchwardens' Report

The Christmas season was busy and joyful, starting with the professional performances from CLOKS who filled the church with "Mr Humbug Sees the Light". CLOKS is so worthwhile for so many children, giving them the opportunity to blossom in confidence, making new friendships along the way.

Candles lit the church path for the well attended Carols by Candlelight then on Christmas Eve 210 people attended the Christingle Service. Christingle candles were lit, the lights were lowered and many of the children came forward to sing "Away in a Manager".

Not a dry eye in the house!

St Nicholas Church

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Please note: Long articles may have to be edited and inclusion can not always be guaranteed.

Distributors: April/May Cloverleaf will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Wednesday 27th March.

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Vicar's Letter

We are, in the Church, about to enter a time of change; it brings to my mind the saying "For everything there is a season"; nothing can stay as it is indefinitely.

You may be aware that we are going through the process of discerning and interviewing those who feel called to be our new Rector, this is since Rev Ann left us back last July. Hopefully a new Rector will be in post in the early summer. Alongside this we are going through a time of re-evaluating how our Deanery works together; this again brings some reorganisation.

As part of this reorganisation, I will be moving to a new focus of ministry in Chard until the new Rector arrives, whilst Rev Deborah Perreau will take over the care of the Cloverleaf villages and churches. Once the new Rector is settled into Chard, I shall retire probably sometime during the summer.

However, I would like to let you know that it has been a privilege to share with you in the life of your communities of Wambrook, Whitestaunton and Combe, over the last nine and a half years of my ministry here among you as your Associate Vicar, and also in Chard too.

I will hold alongside you many treasured memories, including the privilege of being part of your stories, which have been and continue to be precious. I have travelled through so many life events with you and moments of joy and sorrow; they will always be part of who I am. As well, I would like to thank you for allowing me into your lives in so many enriching ways.

Whilst you won't see me around in quite the same way, I shall still come and share a cuppa if you would like to invite me anytime.

So, change will begin, it will take us all forward into a new place, full of new dreams, ambitions, and experiences, built upon all that has gone before. The one thing I can feel sure of is that God will travel the journey with us all, he will give us the courage to try new things, the strength in moments when it feels hard, and the joy of life lived to the full. Be Blessed. **Rev Georgina**

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Whitestaunton Easter Egg Bingo

Saturday March 16th

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In aid of Whitestaunton Church



SUNDAYS	СОМВЕ	WAMBROOK
Feb 4th 2nd Sun before Lent	10.30am All Age Service	9.15am BCP Morning Prayer
Feb 11th Sunday before Lent	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am CW Holy Communion
Wed 14th Ash Weds	7.30pm Holy Communion	
Feb 18th 1st Sunday of Lent	10.30am United Morning Worship	6.00pm BCP Evensong
Wed 21st	10.00am BCP Holy Communion	
Feb 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent	10.00am at St Mary's, Chard Benefice Holy Communion	
March 3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent	10.30am All Age Service	9.15am BCP Holy Communion
March 10th Mothering Sunday	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am CW Holy Communion
March 17th 5th Sunday of Lent	10.30am at Methodist Church United Morning Worship	6.00pm BCP Evensong
March 24th Palm Sunday	10.30 Benefice Holy Communion	
Mon 25th		7.30pm Compline
Tues 26th		
Weds 27th	10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Compline	
Maundy Thurs 28th	6.00pm Agape Meal with Methodist friends	
Good Friday 29th	3.00pm Reflection at the Cross	
March 31st Easter Day	10.30am Easter Celebration Holy Communion	9.15am Holy Communion

WHITESTAUNTON	NTON CHARD		C
	FEBRUARY		
	4th	8.00am Holy Communion	Н
	1	10.00am Morning Worship	
	7th	9.45am Holy Communion	
	11th	10.00am Holy Communion	U
		with the Methodists	
	14th	9.45am Holy Communion	R
10.30am	18th	8.00am Holy Communion	
Holy Communion		10.00am Morning Worship	
	21st	9.45am Holy Communion	C
	25th	10.00am Benefice Service	
	†	4.00pm Evening Service	H
	28th	9.45am Holy Communion	
	MARC	TH THE STATE OF TH	
	3rd	8.00am Holy Communion	
	_	10.00am Morning Worship	_
	6th	9.45am Holy Communion	S
	10th	10.00am Holy Communion	S
10.30am	13th	9.45am Holy Communion	E
Spring All Age Service	17th	8.00am Holy Communion	
	1	10.00am 3rd Sunday	
	20th	9.45am Holy Communion	R
	24th	10.30am Benefice Holy	
		Communion in Combe	
11.00am Morning Prayer		4.00 Evensong	
	26th	6.30pm Taize Evening	_
	27th	9.45am Holy Communion	
	28th	6.00pm Agape Meal	
	29th	10.00am CCT Walk of Witness	C
	12	.00noon Stations of the Cross	
Fri 29th 11.00am Prayers &		2.00pm The Final Hour	
Reflection at the Cross	31st	6.49am Red Post lay-by	E
Sat 30th 3.00pm		Sunrise Service	
Easter Saturday Festival		8.30am Holy Communion	S
Service at 3pm		10.30am Holy Communion	

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<u>.</u>	Revd Georgina Vye: 07950 989916		Lodge House B&B: 455455
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