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APRIL/MAY 2024



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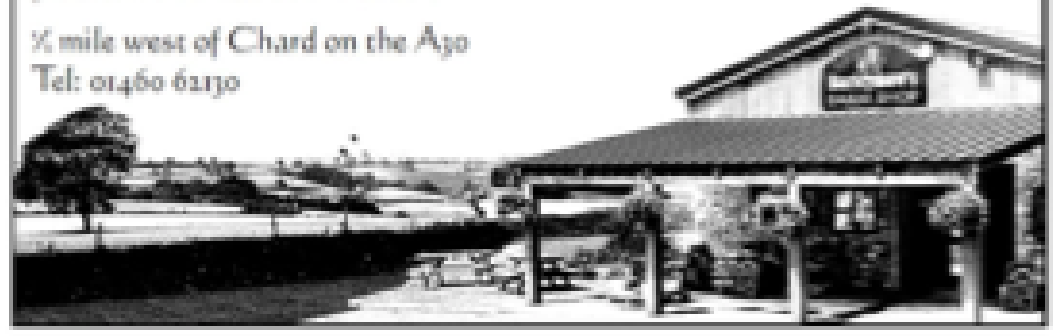


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Editors' note...

Welcome to the latest issue of the Cloverleaf.

The wonderful photo of the children dancing around the Maypole on the front cover is a great reminder of just one of the many celebrations that were a central part of village life in the past, and which is now being resurrected on The Lawns in Combe.

The event will take place this year on Friday May 24th.

All are welcome and there will be cream teas!

For those who haven't heard, Deborah Perreau is our new Vicar for the Cloverleaf Churches covering CSN & Ham, Whitestaunton and Wambrook Parish. We bring you a short interview with her in this issue.

If you have any ideas for a feature item in a future issue of the Cloverleaf please email csncloverleaf@gmail.com; we would love to hear from you.

Finally a big thank you to Greg Hoare for stepping up and offering to provide the rainfall figures for the Cloverleaf ... and to a couple of eagle-eyed readers who have pointed out that the conversion to gallons in past issues was incorrect. It has been wet ... but not that wet!

Sue and Chrissie



A Couple of Dates for your Diary

Firstly a reminder that **Combe Open Gardens** is on **Sunday 2nd June**.

If you would be willing to open your garden from 11.00am to 5.00pm, please contact Wendy Shorey on 01460 68881 or email alexshorey533@btinternet.com

We will do all the organising, so all you need to take care of is your garden! *Sue Pargeter*

And, after the great turnout last summer, the

Combe St Nicholas 48th Annual Show

will be held this year in the church on **Saturday 3rd August**.

With a wide range of classes why not have a go at entering, or simply come and admire the entries on the day. Schedules will be available shortly and look out for the posters with further details.



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Combe St Nicholas Parish Council

Hopefully by the time you read this report the road will be open again at Crimchard, and the 99 bus running again at its normal times and normal route. It has certainly been rather disruptive for some and, despite many contacts made to the Bus Company to date, we have been unable to persuade them to allow more buses to come down Stoopers Hill to allow access to The Green at least.

It has made people aware of how good it is to have this service normally and everyone is urged to use it to get to Chard or Taunton as often as possible. If you do not have a bus pass, the reduced fare is still operational at the moment of £2 a journey. Much cheaper than paying petrol and carpark costs to Taunton, or hospital visits.

Luckily very few flooding problems to houses occurred during this last month or so, during the times of such a lot of rain. Hopefully the precautions taken earlier have been this reward. The Resilience Plan is nearly ready for public information, and a couple more volunteers came forward at the public meeting held on 26th January.

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.

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

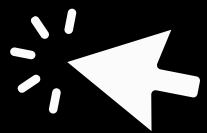
It seems that every report has to contain complaints about dogs mess and bags – please don't pick it up and then throw into bushes, etc. They do not look good as decoration! Take it to the dog bin/home, but do please pick any mess up particularly where people walk and around the School area. If you own a dog it is part of your responsibility to clear up.

The Parish Precept was increased by £2000 for the year April 2024 – 30th March 2025 to cover some of the extra responsibilities we will have to cover as a result of Somerset Council cuts – i.e. possible verge clearance, etc.

The next Parish Council meetings are on Monday 22nd April and Thursday 30th May.

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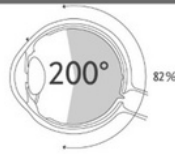


ROBERT FRITH OPTOMETRISTS

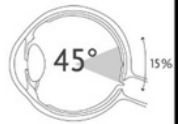
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Village Hall News

The Hub Café is now opening every Wednesday at 9am, so if you've just dropped your children off to school, why not call in on your way home, bringing any toddlers with you?

There are toys for them to play with while you enjoy a cup of fresh brewed real coffee or hot chocolate or tea, with a homemade cake. No charge, just donations which go towards the church ceiling appeal. The hub closes at 12.30pm.

The Monday Games Club is up and running on the second Monday of the month, offering hot drinks while you chat and play a board game of your choice. Also no charge, just voluntary donations.

Our first **Saturday Kids Cinema**, launched after the excellent Panto had finished, received some lovely comments of support from attendees.

With lots going on in the village hall for the older members of our community and with the great success of our monthly Friday Night Film Shows (see below), we thought why not do a film show for our young ones with a mixture of classic cartoons and a main film (PG). We went for the **1st Saturday of each month** which works well as we have everything set up from the previous night's Friday nights film show. So, bring your young ones/grandchildren along and join in the fun.

VILLAGE HALL FILM SHOWS 2024

April 5th **Castles in the Sky**

Eddy Izzard (playing the part of Robert Watson Watt) stars in this funny but moving and inspiring, factual drama about the pioneering work on Radar by a little-known team of scientists in the run up to the second world war which proved absolutely pivotal in winning the Battle of Britain.

May 3rd **Scrapper**

Lola Campbell plays Georgie, a resourceful 12-year-old girl in this vibrant and inventive father-daughter comedy with *Harris Dickinson, Alin Uzun & Cary Crankson*. Winner of a Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, *Scrapper* is full of spirit, humour, and formal inventiveness that sets it apart from much of British working-class cinema.

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.

Why not ask to join our mailing list at csnvillagehall@hotmail.com



Reverend Deborah Perreau

The new Vicar for the Cloverleaf Parishes

Q: Deborah, please tell our readers a little more about yourself.

A: For those of you who don't know me, I come from Cornwall & I've lived in Combe for nearly 40 years. My children went to school in Combe. I'm the one with the donkeys; Brian the Braveheart and Onkey Donkey is the one with the very loud bray heard a mile or so away.

Q: Tell us a little about how you came to live in Combe?

A: Mike and I met while we were both studying and got married in 1978 whilst we were still students. I originally trained as a Specialist ITU Nurse. We came to live in Combe because of Mike's business. Mike needed to be close to an airport for his work and I needed to be close to the West Country.



Q: How did you come to be in this role and what lead you to it?

A: I think life is full of challenges and surprises and I, like many of us, have had to face many adversities and grow through them. My faith has always been a huge support to me.

It's been a journey and still is one of discovery. I came to faith as a young mum and trained as an ordained minister these last 10 yrs. I love my community and the people within it.

It's a calling and a volunteer role and one of service, journeying and discovering together.

Q: And what should we call you now?

A: I was still Deborah the last time I checked!

Q: What can we expect from our new vicar?

A: It's only my third month of being the Local Minister in the Cloverleaf. While church is about people more than about buildings, it's been great to see so many of you at various services I've led since I began.

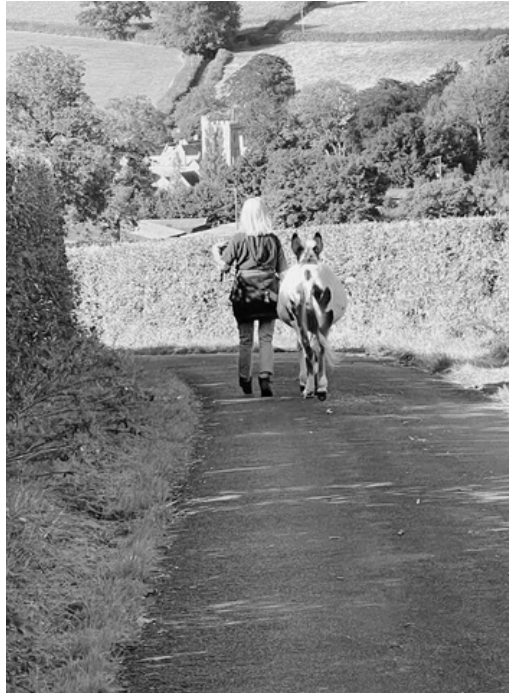
The Treasure Hunt at the Parish Church just a month ago was great fun and we learned so much about St Nicholas Church and St Andrews Whitestaunton. The 30 mins was a service of discovering our beautiful ancient buildings and their surroundings.

More to come, so watch this space!!

Just to whet your appetite look out for pop up **'Simple Church'** at our home. You'll experience a warm welcome with cake, tea, coffee and a time to listen to each other in an informal relaxed setting. Just going to try this out and see if church at home is something our community would welcome from time to time.

For now 'Talent scouts' are on the move in Combe!

Calling all you social media gurus,
you web builders,
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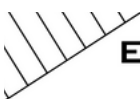
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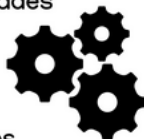
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Yarcombe & District Young Farmers' Club

'Deeds not Words' - What an amazing performance!

Well done to the Drama cast of 2024 for coming 3rd in in the East Devon performance round at Exeter Barnfield theatre on Saturday 3rd February.

Congratulations to Natalie Sampson for being nominated for Best Actress and Andrew Stanbury and Will Vining for being nominated for Best Actor. The team put in lots of hard work and time learning lines, creating and painting scenery and putting the performance together. Many thanks to all those who helped and supported us along the way, especially our producers James Burrough and Sarah Broom, we couldn't have done it without you all.

On Sunday 25th February over 140 tractors turned out for the **Yarcombe and District Young Farmers Annual Tractor Run** collecting money for this years charity "Yellow Wellies" a charity close to many hearts. The route took the tractors around a number of parishes surrounding Yarcombe before ending up at Barleymows Farm Shop.



Date for Your Diary: 19th April Yarcombe and District YFC Spring Disco



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Combe Art Group

Recent wet weather has not led to dreary paintings with our weekly optional subject matter including Well Known Landmarks, Industry, Fantasy, Spring Flowers and Possessions.

We have also been leading up to our exhibition on Saturday, 16 March when the variety of our work and talents went on display. Quite a lot of work went into setting up the exhibition and it was generally felt that it had been a thoroughly worthwhile and enjoyable occasion. Group members and our sixty visitors not only enjoyed looking at the paintings but also socialising over their cuppas and cakes. The proceeds of the event will enable us to make our usual donations to good causes within our village community and our thanks go to all those who made the event possible and to all of you who supported us.

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



The Art Group Committee at the recent exhibition.

Back L to R: Peter Turner, Rhian Antony, Gerry Smith, Sarah Thacker-Pugsley

Front L to R: Patricia Kidd, Heather Margetts, Audrey Ketcher, Rose Turner

PAWS 4 THOUGHT FUN DOG SHOW



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Full Schedule from: lornadogzpal@gmail.com

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WELLBEING

A word that seems to have become much more common in our everyday language in recent years. It refers to us 'being well' both physically and emotionally, and there are a number of simple things that we can do to boost our levels of happiness and life satisfaction.

One of these things is to simply **Take Notice**. We need to regularly take time to enjoy the environment around us and avoid living on *auto pilot*. This helps to boost our *spiritual wellbeing* which includes our sense of meaning and purpose in life and is crucial for maintaining good mental health.

For many of us though, taking time out from our busy schedules often feels indulgent or comes with feelings of guilt. Yet not allowing ourselves ample time and opportunity to truly rest, recuperate and regenerate runs the real risk of burning out and crashing. It is time to free ourselves from the notion that we should be busy, productive or plugged in all of the time.

Spring is the perfect time of year to start including pauses in our day, especially in this rural idyll we call home. Notice the world around us unfurling from its slumber, listen to the birds singing, see the buds opening, enjoy the colours returning as flowers open and start savouring these little moments of being truly present in life; it's good for you!

Gilly Eaton



Chard Tennis Club Open Day - Saturday 18th May



10.00 to 11.30am Juniors 11.30 to 1.00pm Adults

Come and play tennis for FREE at our Open Day, whatever your age or ability! Our coach will be providing taster coaching sessions for both Juniors and Adults, or just come and have a game. Rackets available if you need one. Check out our courts, chat to members and find out about all our levels of tennis, both social and competitive - but always fun!

Free refreshments on the day! Membership discounts on the day!

Go to our website for more details: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/ChardTennisClub
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In the Garden - with Claire from Combe Dingle Nursery

Apparently, this was the warmest February on record. I was too busy being wet and muddy to notice but this may be the reason for my borders being so full of weeds. Or because it has been too wet to get on them.

Herbaceous plants are now bursting into life. This is a good time to do the last of the winter tidy up, cutting back and weeding. How have I only just started using a patio knife to weed the beds!? They are the perfect tool for scratching around and hooking out weeds, especially around emerging plants.

Now is also a great time for planting out hardy shrubs and herbaceous plants. I am sure many of you, like me, have plants sat in pots waiting for us to decide where to put them or for that bit of the garden to be ready. Far better to get them in and move them again if needs be. This is exactly what I did with a lot of tired looking shrubs in the nursery.

I have already done quite a lot of planting in a new shrub border that I made by putting down cardboard onto grass, covering with garden compost then planting through. Then I run out of time. The left-over shrubs got planted straight in the grass. I will mow around them and see how they get on. I might cardboard and mulch around them when I get the chance.

We are all feeling a little behind this year especially with seed sowing and in the vegetable garden. But don't panic everything will catch up and seeds sown later can often do better than earlier sowings. The weather will soon improve and there will be no stopping us!



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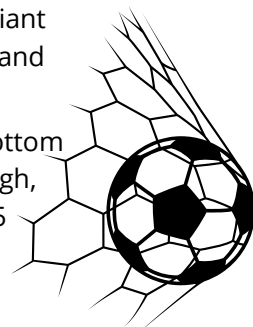
Combe St Nicholas Football Club

I write this as I look outside and see beautiful sunshine... oh how we have missed it! Sadly, the football club has little to report over the last couple months after what has been torrid conditions and multiple match postponements. Our grounds team have worked hard to keep the pitches in a fit condition but the sheer amount of rainfall has spoiled the party.

In what will likely be the final Cloverleaf edition before the season ends, I look back relatively pleased with how the season has gone. Nobody in the local football sphere expected Combe St Nicholas to compete this year and many thought we were a "sinking ship" after losing the vast majority of a First Team in pre season – who had brought us two promotions and a league title in two years. Whilst we have had struggles in our respective leagues, I am delighted with the positive team spirit we have maintained.

I feel very strongly that we are the best football club around. For a village club we have maintained three Men's teams including one in the Somerset County Division 1, a Ladies team, Veteran's team, and our growing relationship with the incredible Avishayes Combe Youth setup. We have had a brilliant crop of young players come through over the past few years and players who genuinely love the club for what it offers them.

The end of the season is approaching with all teams in the bottom three of their leagues, but we hope to end the season on a high, and the ingredients are all there for a very promising 2024/25 season.



James Gilbert Combe St Nicholas FC Chairman

I'm A WINNER!

Results of the latest draw of the Village Hall 100+ Lottery are:
February 2024

1st: **Sue Pargeter** 2nd: **Katie Trevelyan** 3rd **Catherine Corfield**

March 2024

1st: **Sue Pargeter** 2nd: **Carol & Alan Robinson** 3rd: **Marion Edwards**

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 to get your application form then you too can start joining in the fun and you could become a WINNER! as well.



WHAT'S ON IN APRIL ...

Tue 2	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class (<i>Village Hall - VH</i>)
Wed 3	10 - 12 noon	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i>
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Fri 5	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
	6.30 for 7pm	Film Night <i>VH</i>
Sat 6	10 - 12noon	Saturday Kids Cinema <i>VH</i>
Mon 8	10.30 - 12.30	Monday Games Club <i>VH</i>
Tue 9	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 10	10 - 12noon	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i>
	10 - 11.15am	Combe Critters <i>at Underway Meade</i>
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Thurs 11	6.30 - 10.30pm	Folk Dance Club <i>VH</i>
Fri 12	10am - 1pm	Art Group <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
	4 - 5pm	Lego & Duplo Club <i>The Methodist Rooms</i>
Sat 13	10 - 12 noon	St Nicholas Church Coffee Morning
Mon 15	10.30am - 12.30	World Circle Dance <i>VH</i>
	All Day	Combe Community Grp Visit
Tues 16	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 17	10am - 12noon	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i>
	7 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Fri 19	10am - 1pm	Art Group <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Mon 22	7.30 - 9.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>VH</i>
Tues 23	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 24	10 - 12noon	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i>
	7.30 - 9.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Thu 25	6.30 - 10.30pm	Fold Dance Club <i>VH</i>
Fri 26	10am - 1pm	Art Club <i>VH</i>
	2 - 4.30pm	Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Sat 27	10 - 11am	Lego & Dulo Club <i>The Methodist Rooms</i>
Sun 28	12 - 2.30pm	Country Fare Sunday Lunch * <i>VH</i>
Mon 29	10.30 - 12noon	World Circle Dance <i>VH</i>
Tue 30	2 - 3 pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>

*Booking essential, please ring or text 07450 829169

... AND MAY

Wed 1	10 - 12 noon 7 - 9.30pm	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>vh</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Fri 3	10am -1pm 2 - 4.30pm 6.30 for 7pm	Art Group <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i> Film Night <i>VH</i>
Sat 4	10 - 12noon	Saturday Kids Cinema <i>VH</i>
Sun 5	2 - 4pm	Wadeford Charity Book Sale <i>VH</i>
Mon 6	11.30am	PAWS 4 THOUGHT DOG SHOW <i>Stoopers Hill</i>
Tue 7	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 8	10 - 12 noon 7 - 9.30pm	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Thu 9	6.30 - 10.30pm	Folk Dance Club <i>VH</i>
Fri 10	10am - 1pm 2 - 4.30pm 4 - 5pm	Art Group <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i> Lego & Duplo Club <i>The Methodist Rooms</i>
Sat 11	10am - 12noon	St Nicholas Church Coffee Morning
Mon 13	10.30 - 12.30	Monday Games Club <i>VH</i>
Tue 14	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 15	10 - 12noon 10 - 11.15am 7 - 9.30pm	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i> Combe Critters <i>at Underway Meade</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Fri 17	10am - 1pm 2 - 4.30pm	Art Group <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Mon 20	10.30 - 12noon 7.30pm	World Circle Dance <i>VH</i> Combe Community Group <i>VH</i>
Tue 21	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 22	10 - 12noon 7 - 9.30pm	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Thu 23	6.30 - 10.30pm	Folk Dance Club <i>VH</i>
Fri 24	10am - 1pm 2 - 4.30pm	Art Group <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Sat 25	10 - 11am 7pm	Lego & Duplo Club <i>The Methodist Rooms</i> Fundraising Concert <i>Whitestaunton Church</i>
Sun 26	12 - 2.30pm	Country Fare Sunday Lunch * <i>VH</i>
Tue 28	2 - 3pm	Pilates Class <i>VH</i>
Wed 29	10 - 12noon 7 - 9.30pm	Wednesday Hub Cafe <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>
Thur 30	7.30 - 9.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>VH</i>
Fri 31	10am - 1pm 2 - 4.30pm	Art Club <i>VH</i> Short Mat Bowls <i>VH</i>

A Moment in Time - *with John Phillips*

For millennia people in rural areas had to get their water by their own efforts. In 1895 Rural District Councils were created with duty, amongst others, to improve the supply of clean water in their area. The regular cholera epidemics, in London, had been proved to be caused by sewage contaminated water. In 1854 Dr John Snow carried out a thorough investigation into a cholera outbreak in Soho. He concluded that all those infected had drunk water from a pump in Broad Street. The simple expedient of removing the pump's handle brought the cholera epidemic to a halt. The government started the great Victorian engineering works to improve the sanitation and water supply systems in the cities and towns.

By 1895 it turned its attention to matters in rural areas. Until then any major improvements were dependent on the charity of wealthy individuals. In 1250 Isabella Countess of Devon paid for the construction of a 5 ½ mile leat to bring plentiful and relatively clean water to Tiverton. The anniversary of its completion was vigorously celebrated by Tivertonians for centuries and probably still is.

Nearer us in space and time Reverend Lance, Rector of Buckland, in the 1860's piped water to a public tap which he housed in a purpose-built stone shelter. Incidentally he also built the school, an enormous new rectory and rebuilt/improved the church. He was a man of considerable private means.

By 1928 some sixty villages in Somerset had piped water to all or most households thanks to the benefaction of 34 private individuals. Their names are a virtual roll call of the upper echelons of Somerset landed families including the Portmans, Lutterals, Acklands and Fynnes.

Most of the other Somerset villages were supplied by their R.D.C's by that date.

In Whitestaunton St. Agnes dipping well, reputed to be healing of sprains and limb injuries, was no longer needed for more mundane household purposes. The water shute on Knightshute Lane in Combe became a quaint reminder of times past. The source of the water at Knightshute now provides water for some 23,000 people in the Chard and Ilminster area. Wessex water pumps 3.2 million liters daily from a chalk aquifer from two bore holes just to the north of Knightshute near Pole Rue Farm.

Due to geological folding and faulting the underlying chalk layer/strata was raised to form Stoppers Hill between Coombe and the Eagle Cross. This could be the most western chalk hill in England. The chalk was created during the Cretaceous (chalk!) Period 40-65 million years ago.

Temperatures were higher then and the warm seas up to 4 or 5 hundred feet higher (Wambrook on Sea). Life abounded in these waters including giant fish-eating reptiles and ammonites. Apparently, there was much more life in the sea than now. The shells and skeletons of these creatures became over time crushed into chalk and limestone. Chalk and limestone have a different crystalline structure possibly due to variances in the proportion of coral in the deposits. At the start of the Cretaceous period the continents were 2 large land masses. By its end the continents were pretty much as they are now. The end was triggered by a massive asteroid strike in the Caribbean, causing a short period of intense heat followed by a marked cooling. Many species became extinct, dinosaurs, giant marine reptiles and ammonites. The ammonites were related to the octopus. As the creature grew it created a larger segment of shell into which it moved sealing of its former home. As it grew to maturity it formed the familiar coiled form with its ever-increasing large homes. Downsizing was an alien concept for the Ammonite. They lived nearer the surface of the sea than the octopuses who survived the asteroid apocalypse.

And there you have it – from water supply today to dinosaurs and ammonites!



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Combe Critters 🐛 of Underway Meade

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month,
10am - 11:15am

(With the exception of our April Session,
10th April to coincide with the Easter Holidays!)



Welcome to the Wild Play wonderland of Combe Critters - a place where the forecast is always fun! Rain or shine, this outdoor play area promises excitement for parents and young children alike. The group is solely volunteer led by the parents.

Picture this: kids splashing in the water play, mixing 'potions' and making delightful dinners at the banquet table, or hunting for bugs in the sunshine. No matter the weather, there's sensory magic to discover! From mud kitchens to themed tuff tray experiments, every corner is bursting with sensory adventures. With a cuppa and cake for parents/carers too, the fun never stops!

But the real treasure? The laughter and bonding moments shared between families as they explore together. So grab your boots and umbrellas, although we're hoping for more sunshine our way, and let the wild adventures begin at Combe Critters!

Find and Follow us on Facebook "Combe Critters Baby and Toddlers" to stay up to date with all the fun.

Our Easter-themed Session on 10th April will also host our MEGA Easter Raffle with prizes ranging from a new Henry Vacuum, a Ride on Tractor, plus many days out and luxury vouchers too. Please contact us on facebook to grab your last-minute tickets and chances to WIN! All funds raised go towards maintaining, and improving the Wild Play space and providing more resources for the community to thrive and enjoy.

We look forward to welcoming you at our future sessions.

Combe Critters! 🐛

Underway Meade

Spring has been emerging slowly and the Meade has been sporting different shades of yellow and gold with a lovely show of daffodils, primroses and celandines which we hope you have been able to enjoy.

We were able to hold a successful hedgelaying training day in February and you can see the results at the top left edge of the woodland area. Thanks to George our trainer and the enthusiastic trainees. Hopefully we will be able to arrange another day on a weekend for those unable to attend on a weekday at some point in the future.

Combe Critters continue to hold their well-attended regular sessions in the Wild Play area and they are planning to carry out some improvement work so are arranging a volunteer session on Saturday 20th April from 12 - 4pm. If you are able to come along and help to lay some membrane and bark to try to overcome some of the muddy areas which appear in wet weather, they would be very grateful.

You may have noticed the smart new rustic bench under the trees near the Symes entrance. This was built and installed by the Neroche Conservation Volunteers, who also replaced the sleepers on the bridge near Gerry's bench and replaced the wire netting on both bridges, as well as replacing some fencing on the mound and pruning around the pond. We really appreciate their visits and all the hard work they put in.



You may recall in the last issue of Cloverleaf that I mentioned the fact that some people have been misusing our litter bin by depositing poo bags instead of using the dog bin just outside the middle entrance, nappies, and leaving rubbish that should be taken home and recycled, such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans. Unfortunately, this has continued to

happen and so we have reluctantly decided to remove the bin and monitor the effect. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but as we have to sort it when we empty it and then take the litter home to recycle in our own bins, we feel we can't carry on.

Our thanks as usual to everyone who supports us by becoming a Friend of the Meade. Without your generous donations we would struggle to fund the ongoing expenses. We are sometimes asked by people who just visit occasionally if they can contribute, so please watch out for a QR code sign (see below) that we will be putting up near the entrances to encourage people to make a donation however small, via Just Giving, to help us with maintenance costs. Thanks to Martyn Clark for organising this and to Stuart James for arranging for the "Chairman of the Boards" to engrave the plaques free of charge.

**Lynn Osborne, Chair, Combe St. Nicholas
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Combe Community Group

On **Monday 15th April** an interesting tour of the **Avalon Archaeology Centre** (near Shapwick/Westhay) has been arranged. The guided tour starts at 10.30am and will include seeing the replicas of a Roman villa and Saxon long halls, a Viking ship, an Iron Age roundhouse, etc.

The cost of entry plus tour is £8.50 per person, which includes free entry then for the year. There is a good Café on site for all types of refreshments. Numbers are limited, so please contact Lynn Osborne ASAP on 07803 928717 to book your place, and get more details re lifts if necessary and exact location.

On **Monday 20th May** we are back in the Village Hall when **Derek Dexter** is coming to talk about **Fuchsias**. He will no doubt have plenty of plants for sale to make your summer pots and hanging baskets look lovely. Derek is a very entertaining speaker so do come along.

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



Wadeford Charity Book Club

Our March book sale went well again with well over 200 books once again finding new homes. On behalf of our chosen charities, Prostate Cancer UK and Coeliac UK, we would like to thank those that attended and contributed to a fun afternoon. Thanks also go to our helpers and Sue, who regularly keeps us going with mugs of tea!

It all happens again on **Sunday May 5th**, at **Combe Village Hall**, from 2pm till 4pm. 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 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 again.

Bob Vaughan

Disclaimer: The Editors are not endorsing or recommending any services or products advertised in this publication

Wildlife in Your Garden with Colin Ryall

During April and May wildlife really gets moving. Trees and wildflowers start to bloom, birds are breeding and insects are busy.

What to look out for

Native flowers showing in April include Red Campion, Lady's Smock, Bluebells, Cow Parsley, Ramsons (Wild Garlic), Greater Stitchwort, Ground Ivy and Forget-me-nots. By May there are Red and White Clovers, Yellow Rattle, Foxgloves and various species of Buttercup too.

Brimstones, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies are now joined by Speckled Woods and Orange Tips, then Green-veined Whites and their disreputable relatives Small and Large (cabbage) Whites. Early Holly Blues, with whitish underwings, and then their cousins Common Blues and Small Coppers appear in May. The variety of garden moths is starting to increase fast with maybe 40 species being common. Keep an eye open for amazing **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** at flowers. Bumblebee species are plentiful now, along with a selection of solitary bees.



Beetles and flies are active now. Look out for handsome metallic green **Rose Chafers** eating pollen on Pyracantha, rose or elder.

Cockchafers or Maybugs are attracted to lights. St Marks Flies are so named because these common black flies appear flying low and slow over meadows and rough ground around St Marks Day. Over wildlife ponds look for **Large Red Damselflies**, earliest of the dragonfly clan. Pondskaters on the surface and water boatman below are both common predators of other insect. The Lesser Water Boatman sings an audible courtship song.



Resident birds, joined now by summer visitors, are breeding. House Martins are back from Africa from late March but Swallows and Swifts and various warblers are a couple of weeks later. Migrants spend a couple of weeks feeding up before they think about breeding.

Consider Hedgehogs, Slowworms and Toads if you are mowing or strimming, they are hunting for slugs, worms and ground insects so could be in any long grass or under bushes. A few bats showed earlier but they are really out and about now. The commonest species locally are UK largest species, the early evening Noctule and tiny Pipistrelles. Other species around here on warm nights are Serotines, Daubenton's, Natterer's and Brown-long Eared.

Things to do (and not do)

By the start of April as breeding begins stop feeding fats to birds as growing chicks need more protein. Make sure whole peanuts aren't available as parents can choke their babies.

Plant nectar and pollen sources for bees, hoverflies and other pollinators. Check out the RHS Plants for Pollinators list online. Thinking ahead, you could consider planting a few perennials that provide for pollinators later in the year when the summer profusion is waning eg. Michaelmas daisies, Salvia Amistad, Echinacea.

The Trouble with Double – Flowers like single hellebores, daisies, dahlias are brilliant pollen and nectar sources for pollinators, but double varieties are showy but useless for wildlife. Multi-petalled blooms are selectively bred so most or all the stamens have mutated into petals so double flowers contain little or no pollen and nectar. Think of the pollinators and opt for lovely single flowers.

Nettles, brambles and ivy are regarded as nuisance plants but they also happen to be important food plants for some of our most familiar butterflies, moths and other insects, so if you can spare some space why not indulge these "in your face" plants.

Wildlife Plant of the Month – PYRACANTHA

or Firethorn, isn't native but it's an asset to a wildlife garden. It has everything – clusters of creamy flowers in spring and early summer, a boon to pollinators and later a profusion of berries. As if flowers and berries weren't enough, the bushes are dense, thorny and evergreen, in other words, perfect nesting sites for various birds, which is encouraged by planting the bush against a wall or fence. And now is a good time to plant them.



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Weather Watch - Local Rainfall Report

Period	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	5 Yr Ave 2003-2012
January	100	137	96
February	183	11	92
Year to Date	283	148	655
TOTAL	566	296	843

All measurements in millimetres

25mm = 1" = 4.67 gallons/sq yard or 22.5 litres/sq metre

Rain fell on 10 days in January and 18 in February.

The wettest month in the past 5 years was October 2021 with 245 mm, the driest being April 2021 with 3 mm.

2023's total rainfall was 1316 mm compared with the 5 year average of 1095mm.

We hope to bring back the 10 year averages when the old records have been located.

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JUNE/JULY '24 Cloverleaf Magazine

Items should be emailed to csncloverleaf@gmail.com
by **Friday 10th May**.



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

Distributors: June/July Cloverleaf will be in Combe Church ready for collection after 2.30pm on Friday 24th May.

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Sunday School Wood

After a few months off over the winter we are back to our regular Tuesday morning activities.

In preparation for the year ahead the bird boxes have been checked over and repairs carried out as required. Ivy has been removed from some of the trees, bushes pruned and the mowers have been serviced.




The mild weather has brought things on early, the snowdrops were wonderful in early February and as I write this in early March the daffodils are in bloom, although the wind is knocking them about. Sadly, they will probably be over by the time you read this, being replaced by bluebells and wood anemones.

The children have made frequent visits to the wood as part of their project and work continues to clear the path under the back wall to allow them to gain access to the bug hotels.

Do walk through the wood and if you have time sit and enjoy the view. Better still join us on Tuesday mornings between 09.30 and 10.30 as we work to enhance the area.

Greg Hoare

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

Reverend Georgina Vye - Associate Vicar, Chard Benefice
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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

From the Registers:

Funeral of **Bridget Anne Kemp** at St Andrews, Whitestaunton.
Our thoughts are with Rob, Clare and Vicki and their family.



Concert in Aid of Whitestaunton Church Funds

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CHURCH SERVICES

	COMBE	WAMBROOK	WHITESTAUNTON	HAM
April 7th <i>Easter 2</i>	10.30am All Age Service	9.15am BCP Morning Prayer		
April 14th <i>Easter 3</i>	10.30am Holy Communion	9.15am CW Holy Communion		
April 21st <i>Easter 4</i>	10.30am United Service Methodist Church	6.00pm BCP Evensong	10.30 CW Holy Comm	6.00pm Evensong
April 28th <i>Easter 5</i>	10.30am Holy Communion Benefice Service at Whitestaunton			
May 5th <i>Easter 6/Rogation</i>	3.00pm Rogation Tea & Prayers	10.30am Rogation HC & Coffee	1.15pm Rogation Lunch & Prayers	5.00pm Rogation BCP Evensong
Thurs 9th May <i>Ascension Day</i>	7.30pm Holy Communion			
May 12th <i>Ascension 1</i>	10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Chard with Archdeacon Simon Hill			
May 19th <i>Pentecost</i>	10.30am United Service Morning Praise	9.15am Holy Communion	10.30am CW Holy Comm	6.00pm Evensong
May 26th <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	10.30am Holy Communion	6.00pm BCP Evensong		
Every Wednesday	10.30am Holy Communion			

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Carpet Cleaning	Ben's Carpet Cleaning: 07729 365846		Wakeleys: 67900 / 52576
Cars	Combe Village Cars: 07515 896095		Gibbs: 66100 / 929100
Catering/Cafes	Country Fare: 6 6743/07450 829169 The Potting Shed: 63088 Barleymow's: 62130	Furnishing Gardening etc.	Red House Furnishings: 220110 Combe Dingle Nursery: 234660 Chard Garden Centre: 63088 Wayne M Lewis: 07968 397648 D Elwood: 07849 790519
Chimney Sweeps	Alexander the Grate: 613220 Taylor Sweeps: 07814 594421		AGM: 01297 631186
Chiropody	Christian Grimminger: 30114 Stephen Waplinton: 01308 456724	Holiday Lets	Morpeth: 01367 710445
Clergy	Revd Deborah Perreau: 07879698920 Revd Georgina Vye: 07950 989916 Revd Davd Easton: 07539 896618		Pole Rue Cottages: 238542 Lodge House B&B: 455455 Smithy End: 07919 075283
Clubs	Art Group: 61527 / 261628 Combe Community Group: 61296 Combe Critters Combe Football Club: 63525 Lego & Duplo Club: 07879 698920 Yarcombe Young Farmers: 07850 605542	Logs Wellbeing Metalwork Oven Cleaning Parish Council Pest Control Piano Tuning etc	Loads of Logs: 239390 Kathy Arnold Therapies: 234693 Beauty at the Burrow: 07751 118283 BDE Fabrications: 07818 033 040 Mick at Oven Spa: 07843 998896 Anne Hunt: 61296 Smyth Pest Control: 07730 561506 William Young Pianos: 01884 906313
Computers	Combe Wood Computers: 359752 / 07984 419755 E & S Computers: 259999	Plastering	TGF Plastering: 07717 413239
Dance	Combe Folk Dance Club: 65909 World Circle Dance: 07711 702460	Printing Home Maintenance	Rapid Print: 234100 Paul Maple: 07894 032119
Decorating	R Barrett: 07759 177029 Stephen Melling: 64353 F R Veale: 68423	Resilience Group Shops	Aspect: 07741 439022 Rob Grimmond: 261234 The Village Shop: 62138 Barleymow's: 62130
Dog Care	Lorna Dogzpal: 929193 / 07703 471911	Thatcher	Jack Packham: 07929 864669
Elderly Care	Eleighwater House: 67532	Tree Care	Ashculme Ltd: 07815 146343
Electricians	Nigel Hector: 64449 Hobbs: 712320 Gordon Suggett: 07752 239083 Lucy Suggett: 07885 629884	Tyres Village Hall Hire	Retter's Garage: 07436 793158 Ian Croucher: 64098

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