

Dear Friends

This time of year many people are coming together with their children, families and friends looking very much for a change to the normal pressures that every day life can bring. So often we can be sucked into the routine of life, losing the vision and commitment for the future.

The story recently of Ladan and Laleh Bijani, the Iranian twins joined at the head since birth, has touched the hearts and minds of many. The restricted life they had was so difficult, yet they hoped and prayed that one day they might be able to live normal separate lives. In such adversity the news media captured such lovely smiles, which they could only see with a mirror. They believed in God who must have suffered with them in such a mountainous challenge for medical science. The surgeons called it Operation Hope. The death of the two smiling women sent a ripple of sadness and grief around the world, for their vision and hope for the future lay in their separation.

I have a video called Restoring Hope in our Church. Yes, we need, very much, to look at ourselves. What is our vision and hope for the future? There needs to be change in our attitudes to each other, and our approach to God. So often I feel we are looking after the material things and neglecting the spiritual. Buildings are on thing but more important is our serving each other and the community.

Like many of you, I enjoy the work our choirs achieve; like bell ringing and playing the organ it means commitment to practice. Chiming the bells is another skill and four people under Mrs Jill Stone are receiving training. There is a set of hand bells at Thorncombe that are on loan to St Mary's CE VC Primary School and hopefully we shall hear them ringing soon. There is another set at Winsham that in the future, hopefully, we shall hear in use.

The church has recently been rocked by the proposed appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as Bishop of Reading. After long talks with Archbishop Rowan Williams, he has withdrawn. It is a very difficult situation but Jeffery John is a well-educated theologian and I think much prayer and compassion is needed.

A happy holiday to you all.

*Ernie Chivers*



#### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

WEDDING 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2003. Charles Peter Goodall and Diana Jane Wicks at St Mary's, Thorncombe  
WEDDING 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2003. Anthony Keith Guppy and Carla Jane Slade at St Stephen's, Winsham  
WEDDING 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2003 . Stuart Michael Coleman and Sara-Jane Boyland at St Stephen's, Winsham  
FUNERAL 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2003. Florence Evelyn Steed burial at St Mary's, Thorncombe



#### **ST STEPHEN'S IN THE OPEN AIR**

On Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup> 41 parishioners of all denominations gathered in the lower recreation ground to join together in songs of praise, prayers and readings.

On a blustery but sunny afternoon, with children playing on the swings, we sat under the oak tree with 13 members of the Winsham band playing for the hymns. Rev Ernie Chivers lead us in a short but meaningful service, which was enjoyed by all.

Many of the hymns were written either in Cornwall, Dorset or Scotland but none in Somerset; to redress the balance Ernie read us a poem in the 'Zummerzet' dialect, which was written by a Somerset person. He did very well but gave up before the end!



## **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WINSHAM**

**Minister** – Revd John McMinn – 01935 872105      **Hon Secretary** – Michael Hebditch – 01460 30201

**Sunday services at 10.30am.** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, tea and biscuits after the service. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 12.15-1.30 monthly Soup & Cheese Lunch at the Sports Club



## **THORNCOMBE CHAPEL**

**Normal Sunday Services:** 11am and 6.30pm. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11am is a Family Service.  
A welcome to everyone.

**Ladies Bright Hour:** Alternate Wednesdays – 2.30pm. A welcome is extended to all ladies to join in this special hour followed by tea and biscuits and a chat.

**Saturday Club for Boys & Girls:** 11am to 12.15pm every Saturday. This is an exciting club for boys and girls of 4 years and over. It has a mixed programme of bible stories, quizzes and many other activities.

Enquiries 01460 30267



## **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CHARD**

**Priest:** Canon James O'Brien – 01460 62197

**Services:** Sunday Mass - 8am and 11am. Weekdays – 9.30am. Holy Days – 9.30am

Confessions – Saturdays 11am – 12 noon.



## **THANKS**

We should like to thank all our friends in Winsham, Thorncombe and Chard for the overwhelming love and support that has been showering upon us, following the unexpected death of our daughter, Clare. It is at times like this that we have appreciated living in such a caring community. Thank you and God bless you all.

*Roger & Pam Barrett*



## **FRIEND OF SOMERSET CHURCHES & CHAPELS BIKE RIDE – 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

The nation-wide sponsored bike-ride (and walk) produces welcome funds to help churches and chapels faced with daunting expenses. Since Somerset first took part in the ride in 1997 it has raised a total of £81,000. Half the money you raise goes to the church of your nomination.

You are sponsored for the number of churches you visit. In Chard you can notch up a good score without having to ride very far! Churches are asked to be open, with a register for you to sign, and to provide refreshment. Let's have a good turn out from Winsham and Thorncombe this year. Last year it was really good fun (except for getting back up the hill to Hewood! This year I think I shall get a lift from the bottom.)

Sponsor forms will be in the churches. If you want more information ring Mary Rose Mangles on 01460 220235.



## **HAND RAILS NOW INSTALLED IN ST STEPHEN'S**

After a long period of gestation the new hand rails at the top of the three steps under the tower arch have been installed. If you have not yet seen them do go and have a look and admire a real craftsmen's work, something that enhances St Stephen's and will be there for many, many years to come.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July the Venerable John Reed, Archdeacon of Taunton, led our Family Service in front of a large congregation, which included sixteen children, and in a delightfully relaxed atmosphere dedicated the rails to the service of God.

He spoke of the dedication of those who designed and created the wrought iron rails. John Bucknall, the architect who produced the working drawings; James Blunt, master blacksmith, who crafted them into the finished product; Ben Sabran, the stone mason who so carefully set them into the delicate flag stone and Hugh Playfair, chairman of the Diocesan Advisory Committee who was instrumental in steering our faculty application through the various stages of approval. They had been invited and were present at the dedication service.

The rails have been linked to the loving memory of John Jeffery, who died in June 2001 and of Clare Barrett who died just fourteen days before the dedication. Members of both families were present for the proceedings.

Winsham PCC is inviting contributions towards the cost of this installation. At the time of writing some 50% has already been forthcoming. Please contact the Treasurer for further information, particularly regarding donations via Gift Aid, which can enhance your giving by 28%. *RB*



### **HOLIDAY FUN 4<sup>TH</sup>- 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 10AM – 12.30**

If you are between 5 and 11 years old come to the Village Hall at Thorncombe and join in the games, painting, singing, face painting and construction of Noah's Ark.

St Mary's church is planning a week of fun for children. Under 5's will be most welcome as long as they bring a parent. On Friday we plan to act out the Noah's Ark story for parents and friends. This will be followed by a barbeque lunch for parents and children.

Application forms from Mrs Meg Terrett, Pippins, Chard Street, Thorncombe. *MRM*



### **WEDDING – 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Alan and I will be getting married at St Mary's Church, Thorncombe on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. We would be pleased to see any of the children, parents or friends of the school at the church to share our special day. *Jenny Mather*



### **RUSSICUM – ST MARY'S THORNCOMBE**

The much-loved Russicum Russian singers are making a return visit to St Mary's on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. The performance will be free, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of the singers who take the opportunity of singing in the UK to boost their very small salaries in Russia. Refreshments will be on sale during the interval in aid of St Mary's church. *MRM*



### **WINSHAM W.I.**

June 12<sup>th</sup> was party time for us, celebrating 53 years since the Winsham W.I. was restarted after the war.

A delicious supper was supplied for about 30 including representatives from 6 other W.I's, which form our Cerdic group. We were delighted to welcome our County Chairman, Mrs Margaret Biggs.

Mrs dives entertained us with songs and anecdotes, and Mrs M Long, earning herself 10 points, won the competition – a flower arrangement in a thimble. *PP*



### **SUMMER BARN DANCE**

There will be a family barn dance in Thorncombe Village Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August from 7.30 to 11pm.

This is a combined "talents" effort. Sheila, Gwen and June will be providing a delicious ploughman's supper and home made cakes, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Elsie and Bert will be running a raffle. Friends from Long Odds and Short Straws will be playing the music with Olive calling the dances. Even if you're not fond of dancing, do come along and enjoy the music, and supper in the company of friends.

Tickets are £4 for adults, £2 for children of 16 years and under, and £10 for a family ticket for 2 adults and children. They are available in advance (please 'phone 01460 30539 or 30744) or at the door. All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church. *OMM*



*Many people will walk in and out of your life. But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.*

*To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.*

*Anger is only one letter short of danger. If someone betrays you once, it is his fault; if he betrays you twice, it is your fault.*

*Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.*

*He who loses money, loses much; he who loses a friend, loses much more; he who loses faith, loses all.*

*Beautiful young people are accidents of nature. Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.*

*Friends, you and me...you brought another friend and then there were three...we started our group...our circle of friends... there is no beginning or end...*

*Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift*

## **WINSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME**

From 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2003 Mr Edward Lycett-Green of Laurel Cottage, Ammerham, Winsham, telephone 01460 30071, has most willingly agreed to become the coordinator for the Winsham N.W. scheme. This means that the Winsham scheme can remain listed with the Neighbourhood Watch Administration in Yeovil as a registered scheme. Household holders with home insurance premium discounts must therefore feel greatly relieved to receive this very welcome piece of good news.

For wider reassurance however, there is still a real need to fill the Contact Person Vacancy for Davies Close. Anyone wishing to become the contact person for this area should get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Mr Frank Vaughan, May Cottage, 3, Fore Street, telephone 01460 30310.

Finally sincere recognition throughout Winsham is due to everyone for their interest in the scheme and their sustained support. The communication and commitment provided by the contact persons ensures the effective operation of the scheme.

It must pass my most sincere thanks to all concerned for their very willing support during my time as coordinator.

*Guy Crowden*



## **ST MARY'S GUITARS & FRIENDS – CONCERT**

As our contribution to the St Mary's 'talents' fund-raising initiative the guitar group are planning a concert on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm in the church. We would like to sing songs that you would like to hear, so there will be a list for anyone to write down a special request, at the back of the church, during August. David will also be playing a few folk/classical guitar pieces and we hope to have a 'spot' from the talented members of the Gibbins family of the "Generation Gap" band.

During the interval refreshments will be served with tea, coffee and soft drinks, cakes and biscuits. Entrance is free, but donations are invited!

We look forward to welcoming you there.

*OMM*



## **WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Clerk Writes: -

At the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July the agenda item 'Highways' was predominant.

Thanks to Councillor Mr Keith Marsh the Parish Council are able to keep tabs on highway issues. Keith produces a spreadsheet of all known highway problems, noting the date when the problem was identified, the date the County Council promises to address the problem and the date the issue is resolved. Take white lining as a case in question.

The Parish Council has been urging the County Council to rejuvenate the white lines around the village. County Councillor David Gordon offered to help. I received a call from the bureau asking what needed to be done. I asked for all the white lines in the village to be repainted. Unfortunately, so far only the white line down the centre of the B3162 has been completed. This has been noted and the issue passed back to the highways department. Keith has arranged a meeting with Colin Fletcher to agree improvements to road signs. Today, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July we have been promised 'bend' and 'slow' signs approaching the crossroads and signs indicating 'junctions emerging' at Bakersfield and Davies Close, plus white lining throughout the village. Keith's plan is to keep up the pressure, keep passing forward the problems and record everything.

Dorset has delivered with our request for signing at the river Axe Bridge. Let's hope the floods aren't 6ft deep above the road! At least we will have an idea how high the water is when the Axe floods this winter. Keith arranged a meeting with Dorset Highways because of concerns over the safety of the Axe Bridge. Dorset promised action and delivered.

What should you do if you see a dangerous pothole or an overhanging tree in Win sham? Report it in the first instance to: - Anthony Shire. Area Highways Manager, Mead Avenue, Hound stone Business Park, Yeovil, BA22 8RT. Telephone 01935 845800.

Your call will end up at a call centre. If you are not happy with the response please contact: - Geoff Dight, Highways Service Manager on the same number as above or e-mail him - [Gdight@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Gdight@somerset.gov.uk) Please give things a little time, if there is no action contact your County Councillor David Gordon. [dghgordon@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dghgordon@somerset.gov.uk) The County Council are responsible for highway matters.

If all things still fail you can get your issue onto the Parish Council's long list of 'highway issues' by contacting the Parish Clerk.

Do you need to dispose of an old car? Don't dump it and risk prosecution.

Contact: Mosterton Road Body Repairs, Mosterton Road, Misterton, Crewkerne on 01460 73363 between 9am and 5pm - Monday to Friday.

There is a low cost collection and disposal scheme for unwanted cars organised by South Somerset District Council. Following the increasing problem of vehicle abandonment SSDC, in partnership with Mosterton Road Body Repairs, are operating a scheme to reduce the number of abandoned vehicles. They are offering owners of, wait for it, "end of life vehicles" the opportunity to have their car collected and disposed of at a cost of £20+VAT.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday **3rd September at 8 p.m.** in the Jubilee Hall. If you can please come along.



## **THORNCOMBE VILLAGE PLAYGROUND**

The sponsored cycle ride, which took place on 31<sup>st</sup> May raised in excess of £700. Many congratulations and thanks to those who participated, the sponsors and to the organisers of the event.

The money raised will be used to re-build the barbeque, which will incorporate a storage cabinet and have a drinking water tap for the playground users. Work should have started and hopefully finished by the time you read this. Later in the year it is planned to refurbish the skateboard ramp and try to reduce some of the 'rumble' associated with it.

*John Dalziel*



## **THE DAY HUMPTY DUMPTY VISITED [www.wisnahm.org.uk](http://www.wisnahm.org.uk)**

Although the Parish Web site is an interesting project in which to be involved, it is not without its problems! The other day I carried out a little housekeeping on the site and disaster struck. Many of the links (the glue that holds the site together) just disappeared. As a result the site became inoperable and could not be accessed by visitors.

It was analogous to Humpty Dumpty's fall from his wall. There were pieces everywhere. What's more there were no king's men or their horses to help me put it together again. I was not a happy bunny - Easter or otherwise! It took me half a day of fiddling about trying to stick it back together before I remembered that I had backed-up the web site only a few days previously! The problem was solved, and a couple of hours later Humpty Dumpty was back on the wall. **Let that be a lesson to us - regular back up is very important, and we ignore it at our peril.**

The site has got off to a good start, and at the time of writing it would seem that about a third of on-line Winsham residents have visited the site at least once. What's more, the feedback has been pretty encouraging and favourable. A number have experienced difficulty in finding the site. When questioned, apart from one or two who have been confused and thought that the Winsham Web Museum and the Winsham Parish Web Site is the same thing; the more common problem was that they were trying to access it through a search engine, i.e. Google or Alta Vista, with no success. It will probably be some months before the search engines will find the site, due to the vast quantities of new sites pouring on to the net everyday.

To help people remember [www.winsham.org.uk](http://www.winsham.org.uk) every one in the parish will by now have received a card giving the site address through their letterbox. To make sure you do not then forget it, place the address on your 'favourites' list or even make it your 'home page.' Regular visits will be worthwhile. The notice board is constantly changing; almost every day new pages are appearing, and are likely to continue to do so for some time to come.

We are still experiencing server problems with the Web Museum, so the long heralded updates have still not taken place. Hopefully by the time you are reading this new items will be online, so go and have a look

[www.winshamwebmuseum.co.uk](http://www.winshamwebmuseum.co.uk) Now, before you forget!

*John Sullivan*



### **WINSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S FLOWER SHOW**

The society's annual flower show is on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August. It was a good one last year with a considerable increase in entries, which we look forward to exceeding this year. Schedules are available in the village shop or ring Bon Cook on 30473 if you can't get in to pick one up.

Don't forget the hanging basket and container class to be judged at end July/early August. If you've forgotten to get your entry in – forms in the village shop as before.

Happy gardening, may the sun continue to shine.

*JS*



### **THORNCOMBE SWIMMING POOL**

Thank you for your support in buying membership keys. We are delighted to have broken our record for key sales before we've reached the summer holidays!

Please may we remind you that for safety reasons there is a maximum limit of 20 persons in the pool at one time.

Pool keys from Sue 30203 or Wilna 30797

*WH*



### **WINSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Art has been very much on the agenda at school this month.

Firstly the school has been awarded **The School Extra Award**. This is a certificate of distinction for its out-of-school-hours learning and commitment to education involving members of the community. This is a nationwide scheme and Winsham is one of just seven schools given the award in the whole of Somerset.

The art club, which has been recognised as enriching children's education, has been running after school for several years now. Jacqui Weller has mainly run it with assistance from various members of the Winsham Art Club. In particular Liz Tadema and Mirabel Hunter. The club is very popular with the children and up to 20 have participated in a variety of art activities each week.

Artwork from the school was included in the recent exhibition at the Meeting House in Ilminster. All the CASS schools and Holyrood School exhibited work on the theme of landscapes. The junior class completed landscape collages and the infants made wool-winding pictures of the view through the window. Watch out for work on display in the shop.

Everyone in the school is ready for the summer break and we look forward to a fresh start on September 9<sup>th</sup>.



## **ORAHARD LANE GARDENS**

Visitors to the Orchard Lane gardens helped to raise £723.72 for charity on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Not only were the visitors generous with their cash they were equally extravagant in their praise of the gardens. Some of them had travelled from as far as Poole to be inspired by the gardens that had grown from a building site to a sense-stirring display of colour and scent in just 4 years.

The money raised is being split between Thorncombe Village Hall (£523.72) and the Youth Club (£200.) *MM*



## **WINSHAM VILLAGE SHOP**

This month has seen changes to our suppliers. We hope that we have managed the changes without disruption to our services.

Firstly, Lubborn Cheeses decided that we were too small an outlet for them and stopped supplying us. Fortunately Coombe Farm stepped into the breach and is now supplying us with the same range, and they deliver, previously we had to collect the cheese ourselves.

Secondly, our milk supplier, a one-man business, decided to give up. Again we have found another supplier who can let us have milk cheaper than before. We had already reduced the price below that charged under the old regime but are now able to sell at a staggering 21p (over 25%) per litre cheaper than under the previous management.

Finally, the baker told us that he had sol up and from September 1<sup>st</sup> we will either have to find an alternative supplier, or someone would have to go to Axminster at 6.00am every day to collect the bread! We didn't think that was a likely proposition, so are, at the time of writing, looking for a new baker. Inevitably the range of bread will be different from before, but we hope to be able to supply most people's needs without too much disruption.

Apart from all that, the shop continues to do well. Turnover is about £1,000 per week, more than this time last year. The shelves are well stocked and we hope that shopping in Winsham is a pleasant experience, not just a chore. None of this can take place without a great deal of effort from a number of people. There are never enough volunteers. If you can give a few hours a week, in whatever capacity, please do not hesitate to come forward. Your village shop needs you. *Robert Shearer*



## **THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST**

At a recent committee meeting Eve Higgs was co-opted onto the committee to take the vacancy unfilled at the AGM. Eve takes on the special responsibilities of the annual walk and meeting refreshments.

At our July meeting thirty-four members and guests attended an illustrated talk by Jeremy Powne from Dorset Wildlife Trust on the most current and interesting subject of "Stewardship and Conservation in Farming." We learnt much about hedgerow management, scrub control and the need for arable strip around field edges. All of these play a major role in the preservation of wildlife and plant species. We also heard about the overall work of the Dorset Wildlife Trust and the role it plays very often as a link between Statutory Bodies, Land Owners, Farmers, Voluntary Groups and the general public. Much has been achieved yet there still is a great deal to do in restoring and preserving the diverse nature of our countryside.

David Barrow (retired Thorncombe farmer) proposed a vote of thanks to Jeremy Powne. This was very appropriate, as the two had first met several years ago when some of David's land was being given 'site of special scientific interest' status.

If you would like to join the Dorset Wildlife Trust or to know more of their work they can be contacted in Dorchester on 01305 264620 or [www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/dorset](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/dorset)

## **A PLEA TO ALL T.V.T. MEMBERS**

Your organisation needs you! Do your bit and join Eve's T.V.T. Tea Team. Volunteers are sought to help on an 'ad hoc' basis with refreshments at members' events, including monthly talks, the annual walk, Christmas sale and the AGM. Contact: Eve Higgs 01460 30994

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th September at 7.30pm when Brian Edwards will give a talk on “Dorset Insects”. Brian is a representative of Dorset Wild Life Trust and Senior Conservation Officer Dorset County Council.

Did you see.....?

If our small locality is a yardstick, 2003 has been a bumper year for the successful breeding of young birds, at least of the resident species. Tits, finches, robins, sparrows, pigeons and even song thrushes seem to have done unusually well. African visitors have remained scarce except for spotted flycatchers, swallows and martins all of which have raised families. Indeed, housemartins have occupied fabricated nests on both the front and the back of our house for the first time for nearly 30 years.

There have been one or two reports of unusual raptors – a peregrine killing a local blackbird and a merlin in the Childhay area. This small falcon is especially scarce in the breeding season but occasionally un-mated birds do settle in suitable areas outside their normal breeding grounds in the western and northern moorlands. *RM*



## THE MAGDALEN PROJECT

An Educational Environmental Charity on the Somerset/Dorset Border.

An Autumn Fayre and Open Day will be held on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September from 2 – 7pm. The main event of the day will be **The Magdalen Oaks Team Challenge**, which will be three cross country miles hunting for clues, collecting the sacred **Oaks** and completing five activity challenges along the way. Each team will consist of four people; either family, friends or colleagues and you will need to raise sponsorship of £40 to enter. For more details about this fun and exciting challenge, please telephone Tony Ford on 01460 220742.

If you are not of the energetic types, spend the afternoon enjoying the live music from one of our local school bands, over a cream tea or a pint of cider (licensed bar applied for) followed by a sausage or a burger hot off the barbeque and then follow it with a locally made ice cream.

There will be lots to see and do including a guided walk, rural craft demonstrations and produce stalls, children’s and family activities, games and entertainment. Local band Charred Remains will be even putting in a special guest appearance!

Come along for a fun filled informative afternoon, and help us celebrate the installation and launch of our new solar panel system, our eco toilets and the forest garden.

If you are interested in being involved with our special day, or you would like to book a rural craft/produce stall or donate a raffle prize, please contact Catherine Rands on 01460 30144 or you can e-mail her at the following address [catherine.rands@themagdalenproject.org.uk](mailto:catherine.rands@themagdalenproject.org.uk)



## THORNCOMBE W.I.

June was a busy month for the W.I. Our president, Julia Snellock attended the A.G.M. at the Albert Hall, which, although a very long day out, was most interesting. Our meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> welcomed Mr Richard Delderfield, who spoke about the Leukaemia Research Fund. Richard’s mother died of leukaemia at the age of 39 and when his own son died of the same disease at the age of 17 Richard involved himself fully in the then newly formed Research Fund. Today he is the area chairman and serves on the main executive of the fund. He also joins in most of the fund raising activities and has walked many miles with Ian Botham and has helped with many regional bikeathons initiated by Blue Peter. He ended his talk by playing an hilarious and witty ditty by Peter Skellern and Richard Stilgoe entitled “Calendar Ladies” about those infamous W.I. ladies from Yorkshire who bared all for charity.

The winner of the competition for a locket, old or new, was Meg Terrett and the flower of the month was one by Gwen Warren.

The following week we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon on the Grand Western Canal in Tiverton, being gently towed along in a barge by a very amiable shire horse. Before departure we had partaken of an excellent lunch in a restaurant, which was kindly disposed to catering for an unexpected group of ten of us!

We were shocked when an elderly member of another party on the barge fell in the canal when disembarking for a half-time break. Three other passengers, unconnected with the victim’s group, leapt in to rescue her. We were

unimpressed with the canal company's lack of blankets or other first aid facilities; the poor lady was dried off with tea towel before being driven back to Tiverton.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> we held a very enjoyable coffee morning at Easthay, home of Gwen Warren. The sun shone and our visitors spent their time and money in glorious surroundings.

There is no meeting in August but we have been invited to Chapel Thatch, Holditch for supper on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm. MT



## THORNCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk writes:-

The Council met on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003; there was a full attendance of councillors and quite a few members of the public. The members of the public seem to grow in number each meeting! The Council are very pleased to welcome so many people who have an interest in the business of the Parish Council.

There were two vacancies for councillors; co-opting Mrs Mary Marsh onto the Council has now filled one of these. You may recall, that Mary was the previous clerk, so she will be able to bring a wealth of knowledge with her, which will be a great help to all the new councillors and me!

County Cllr. Brierley reported that there is to be review of the mobile library service. All the Parish Councils will be consulted. The review will involve looking at such things as where the library van is sited in the village, the times that the library is available, the frequency of use etc. **This is a major review and the Council wants to hear your views**, they will be very important in the future of this service. **If you have any comments or suggestions, then please make sure you pass them onto Cllr. Mary Marsh (01460 30139) who will be co-ordinating this project.** Cllr. Brierley also reported that he is currently working with the Highways Department to set up a repairs programme for potholes etc within your area. He is meeting with local representatives within his ward to get details of the repairs needed. Cllr. Mangles will be showing Councillor Brierley the problems in Thorncombe. **If you know of a problem area, then please report to Councillor Mangles, (01460 220235) who can then pass this information on.**

The Council has been sent a provisional map of Registered Common Land and Open Country; this will be of interest to any one who owns land within the parish. The map will be put on the notice board in Thorncombe along with details on how to appeal.

Finally here are the details of councillor responsibilities and how to contact the relevant person:

Rob Mangles Chairman	01460 220235	Highways, Dapct Rep, Finance & Planning Committees
Meg Terrett Vice Chair	01460 30464	Playing Field Association, Public Transport, Blackdown Trust & Finance Committee
'Bunny' Snellock	01460 30135	Village Hall Rep, Website and Newsletter, Planning Committee
Richard Peacock	01460 220334	Footpath Liaison Officer, Farm Watch & Planning Committee
Phil Gordon	01297 33048	Website and Newsletter, Planning Committee
Dick Arnold	01297 678288	Finance Committee
Mike Stead	01460 30237	Amenities
Mary Marsh	01460 30139	Mobile Library Review

If anyone wishes to have an item placed on the agenda, then please contact the clerk, Lesley Barnes or the chairman, Cllr. Rob Mangles at least seven days before the date of the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 2 September 2003 in Thorncombe Village Hall at 7.30pm.



## WINSHAM WALKERS.

The number of circular walks from Winsham is limited. As a result from time to time walks have to be repeated. Such a walk took place on the 3rd July when 9 walkers plus dogs went as far as Wayford Woods via Hey Farm, returning by way of Bere Chapel and Magdalen Farm. Once again the weather was kind to us.

Please note that there will not be a walk during August.

The next walk will be on Thursday, September 4th starting at our usual time of 11.00 a.m. from the Bell Inn.

For further details contact Peter Pye, 01460 30751



### **THORNCOMBE VILLAGE HALL**

The coffee morning in aid of the Action Bus made £125. Many thanks for your support.

Reminder dates for the Action Bus 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August. We hope on the last date to have the smaller bouncy castle for the under 8's.

Thank you to Orchard Lane Gardens Open Day for their generous donation to the car park resurfacing fund. Also another donation from Thorncombe Chapel has been received and has been put towards the car park. Thanks you.

Unfortunately the barbecue had to be cancelled but we intend to hold a 'Pudding Evening' on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August. So come along and taste a variety of puddings/desserts/afters – whatever you like to call them. Entrance £3 including a glass of wine.

Many thanks to sue and Bob Farr for their continued hard work maintaining the Village Hall garden. *VD*



### **WINSHAM PRE-SCHOOL AND TODDLERS**

We had an end of term party with an entertainer who did some magic and balloon modelling. We said goodbye to Bethan, Stuart, Ella, Matthew, Octavia and Zac who are all starting school in September. They will be missed but we wish them well.

A huge thanks goes to Julie Rowsell who is also leaving us. She has been supervisor for 2 years and has been involved with the pre-school for a long time. The committee, staff and children will miss working with her and we wish her all the best in whatever she does.

The pre-school plans to be open in September for 2 mornings, Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the hope to increase the morning sessions to more days.

We are also looking to appoint a new pre-school assistant. Anyone interested in knowing more about this ring Alison on 01460 30832.

There are places available for September, if you need a place for your child you can ring Alison on the above number. *AE*

