



Ashlands Meadow  
Crewkerne

Dear Friends

January here again – so called after Janus the Roman God who looked both ways – let us then look back, review the past year. Successes, failures, broken resolution, kept resolutions. How did it all add up? In what ways have we grown in the last year – maybe not physically (except round the waist maybe,) but spiritually? Is all OK in this department?

Then turn around to the future, what is next in 2003? The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coronation to celebrate – many concerts will mark this event. War perhaps in the Middle East, we pray not so. We look forward to sanity and peace at last having a chance. What of the countryside - hunting banned or not; laws challenged and maybe broken by angry country folk. We pray for peace and sanity here as well.

Wake up you towns people to our realities in the country that you have needed to supply your food in the past. How much damage have you done to us by your choices. We need reconciliation as well as sanity and peace here close to home.

Church wise there is the feast of the Epiphany on the 6<sup>th</sup> – Christ progressively revealed in his world as these Sundays go by, through the successive stages of his life’s work. On the 28<sup>th</sup> the Conversion of St Paul. A significant event indeed. Close by there will be a week of prayer for Christian Unity.

But let us all hope for continued growth in spiritual depth and maturity. The world needs us to be the bread around the madness of the filling of this time sandwich.

Remember the past is past – has gone, the future is yet to be, we only have the present as a gift to use from God as best we may. Perhaps this is why it is call the PRESENT.

God bless us all in the coming days.

*David Savill*



The confirmation service will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at St John the Evangelist, Tatworth and will be celebrated by the Bishop Andrew of Taunton. There are a number of candidates from Thorncombe to be confirmed.



We welcome the Rev Colin Furness as the team vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Furnham on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2003 at 7.00pm. The Institution and Licensing will be by Bishop Peter, the Bishop of Bath and Wells. We also look forward to meeting and welcoming Colin’s wife Georgina.



**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

<b>BAPTISMS</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Ria Alice Major	St Stephen’s Winsham
	8 <sup>th</sup> December	Emma Lucinda Paterson	Forde Abbey Chapel
		Emily Grace Paterson	Forde Abbey Chapel
<b>WEDDING</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Elizabeth Eva Kallaway and Troy Luck	St Mary’s Thorncombe
<b>FUNERALS</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Clifford Charles Arthur Quick.	Cremation and interment of ashes at Thorncombe
	25 <sup>th</sup> November	Olive May Parsons	Cremation at Yeovil
	16 <sup>th</sup> December	Jean McDonagh	St Mary’s Thorncombe



## 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

Bible Study: **Wednesdays – 7.30pm** Ladies Bright Hour: **Alternate Wednesdays – 2.30pm**

**Saturday Club for Boys & Girls:** Two age groups 5-8 years & 11-15 years. 11am to 12 noon every Saturday



## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CHARD

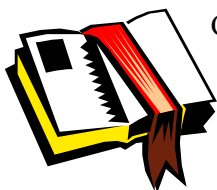
**Priest:** Canon James O'Brien – 01460 62197

**Services:** Sunday Mass 8am and 11am. Weekdays – 9.30am. Holy Days – 9am and 7pm.

Confessions – Saturdays 11am – 12 noon.



## FROM THE BRF NEW DAYLIGHT NOTES



Christine Chapman writing on Galatians 5 v22-26 “The Fruit of the Spirit”  
(Some thoughts for the New Year perhaps?)

“As our love for Jesus grows, as we acquire the will to love our neighbours, ask the Spirit to come into more of our lives, we find that this fruit slowly becomes part of our nature. The love of Christ flows out of us to other people; his peace – which is not of this world - under girds our minds; his joy – the joy of knowing the Father – lights up our lives.....

However, the fruit of the Spirit does not just grow and flourish automatically. Life is not easy for long, as we know only too well. We have to pray for and be willing to practice these qualities, especially when life is unfair, when we feel depressed or troubled, when temptations come our way. Then we shall find that the Spirit strengthens us, the flame within us will burn more brightly and we will grow even closer to Jesus.

The Spirit is given to us not just to make up nicer people, but for the purpose of building up the kingdom of God in the world around us and giving glory to him through our own personalities and lives.  
*OMM*



## THANKS

I would like to convey my grateful thanks to all who sent me cards, flowers and letters of support following Clifford's untimely death. Also my appreciation the Thorncombe First Responders who made every effort to save his life.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words and thoughts at this sad time.  
*Betty Quick*

I would like to thank all my friends in the village for all the cards, get well messages, flowers and prayers while I was in hospital, it is so comforting to know so many people care. Also for the support given to Derek.  
*Margaret Wickett*

Having just returned home from a 10day stay in hospital I would very much like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, fruit and for the visits during my stay there. All the prayers also brought me great comfort. Special thanks to Marina and Barry for making sure Dave ate whilst I was away!  
*MaryMarsh*



## CHURCH FLOWERS AT ST MARY'S THORNCOMBE

There is a new flower-arranging rota for 2003 at the back of the church. Please feel free to put you name against any vacant space if you would like to arrange the flowers, on perhaps, a special occasion – birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Vases and oasis provided and help willingly given if needed.  
*MC*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

A very big **THANK YOU** to you all for your help with the shoebox appeal. I was able to hand over the magnificent sum of 112 boxes. This total included 26 boxes from the Methodist Church in Chard and the remaining 86 from Winsham, Holditch and Thorncombe. I am just delighted with this splendid effort and would like to say again – a huge thank you.



*Margaret Chivers*



## PROFILE OF COLIN AND GEORGINA FURNESS



Colin and Georgina, Essex boy and Essex girl though we actually met in Sheffield.

We have three children – Mark 27 who lives in Bournemouth, Clare 23 and Rachael 21 who both at present live at home but are setting up homes in the Plymouth area when we move. My parents (in their nineties) live in Sidmouth and Georgina's father lives in Harlow.

I was ordained in 1968 at Sheffield Cathedral and served with the Company of Mission Priests for 7 years.

When I met George I decided the celibate life was not for me!

After a further incumbency in Sheffield Diocese I moved down to Heavitree Team Ministry in Exeter where I served for 13 years before moving on to my present post where I have been for 13 years. During my ministry I have had experience in both urban and rural situations, and in hospital chaplaincy work. I have been involved in the Church's healing ministry and both Georgina and I have been involved with

children's work over a long period. For many years now I have been governor at our local Community Primary School as well as taking weekly assemblies.

Along side my Forward in Faith convictions is a concern for unity in the Church as a primary desire of our Lord and I therefore believe that we have to find ways of working together despite our differences – a process which can be painful but very much of the Holy Spirit. This is one of the challenges which attracted me to the post at The Good Shepherd. I also believe that Churches have to find ways of being more accessible and user friendly as well as being community centred, something, which I hope we can explore together.

Georgina is at present working full time as a care assistant in a nursing home, previously working in school catering, and although she will be working full time in Chard, she is leaving her options open as to what that work will be – (perhaps something totally different!)

Interests: We are keen campers and usually spend our holidays in France. Gardening is one of my enthusiasms as well as jogging and computer graphics. Georgina enjoys reading. We both enjoy cooking and walking.



## ST MARY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The plans for re-establishing the Sunday school in Thorncombe are well underway. Our first session will be held on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January from 10.30 to 11.30am and every Sunday thereafter. It will be open to children of all ages although we do ask that an adult accompany any child under 3.

So that the children get used to the church we would like to meet there at the beginning of each service at 10.30am. After the blessing we will then take them to the village hall. They would need to be collected from there at 11.30.

On the fourth Sunday of every month the Sunday school will take place in the church as part of the Family Service.

Like all these things, although we have a core committee we still need your support in order to be successful. This, both from the numbers of children attending and also from volunteers willing to help out with some sessions. If you think you would have a free hour once a month or more then please contact Karen Hannaford on 30456 or 30692.

Our aim is to make each session fun and to encourage the youngsters to learn about their religion in a

relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. By doing it this way we hope that we will encourage as many children as possible to attend.



## COMPOST CORNER.



Out with the old and in with the new! What goes out and what you should replace is up to you. My 'new' is that I intend to bore you with a plant of the month feature this year, just a paragraph about any old plant that comes into my head.

However, I wish to start off with a topic that I have raised before but is now actually (well apparently) becoming reality for head gardeners of large estates where the public visit. As head gardener of my large estate, lord of all I survey, certainly on a very dark night anyhow, I feel obliged to alert you all to "Global Warming". It's a funny old term 'cos our summers aren't any hotter but apparently they are dryer, as opposed to our now much milder, wetter winters. There is talk of seeking out grasses that can stay green in periods of dry weather and live. Plus they are talking of all sorts of subtropical species that will now survive over here. Subtropical gardens are not a new phenomena in our part of the country, take Abbotsbury for example. But I do warn you, not that long ago when I was at school; there was serious talk of a new ice age. Whilst an apprentice the factory's oil tanks froze and the wind chill factor on one day was 32°C. My advice with your grand estates is to carry on much as before, we'll have some serious frost yet (maybe not this year or the next) you mark my words.

I have herbaceous perennials reappearing and buds on my magnolia stellata. Trying to choose a plant that will definitely be flowering in January is awkward, because this January I feel there may be roses in bloom.

I have, however, chosen the common snowdrop, galanthus nivalis, it's the common species, very dainty and pretty. The generic name, Galanthus, is Greek in its origin and signifies milk flower. There are many related species but they have a dark side to them as well, they are very promiscuous and not only breed rapidly but also cross breed very well with other types of snowdrop. Until recently I was unaware of how many varieties there are, all beginning with Galanthus. You need to keep individual species completely separate. If you want to grow your own species you would normally lift and

separate your bulbs whilst they still have their foliage, put together a selection of different bulbs and wait for about 10 years, you may have helped produce Galanthus Winshamae or Galanthus Thorcombeis (sorry for any incorrect Latin) the limitations are endless really, so how many varieties could we produce between us?

Just a few routine reminders. If you have some heat and a propagator you can get started now by sowing such seeds as begonia and pelargonium, early tomatoes and onions. Leeks and cauliflower can be sown provided you can maintain reasonable temperatures night and day, it is still early though.

What ever your plans are for this years' gardening, how about checking to see if you still have what you think you have stored away. Our memories are often more unreliable than we wish to admit or be reminded of.

If the wet weather continues then I am afraid there's not much to say but "Keep Off" the garden, especially the vegetable plot, it will dry up later on, around September I reckon.

Best wishes to you all for the New Year  
*Stephen Rowsell*



## THORNCOMBE ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Children from years 5 and 6 took part in Tam Lin, a musical theatre production, over half term. This was staged at The Woodroffe School in conjunction with the primary schools in the Lyme Regis pyramid. 85 children took part in the production, which was led by three artistic directors from the National Youth Music Theatre group. The children designed and made their own costumes in school, songs were learnt and moves practised. It was tremendous to see the precision with which the children managed to interact with the other five previously unseen groups. The finished production was very professional and much enjoyed.

This contribution is being written as the school is busy preparing for our own Christmas production, the village Carol Service and the Christmas coffee morning. Our tree, courtesy of Julian Kennard of Forde Abbey, is once again in the hall, the post box is in operation and everywhere you look in school there are people busily making costumes and props.



We would like to add a very special thank you to Julian for his contribution of 45 Christmas trees, which have been sold by the PFA to raise funds. The PFA members have potted each mini tree and they sold like hot cakes.

We have decided to become involved in Initial Teacher Training and will be having students working with us throughout the year. This is proving beneficial to both the students and the school.

The computer club is continuing to flourish and we welcome new members from 3.00 – 4.30 p.m each Wednesday.

We are delighted to announce that the school was placed third in the National Performance tables for the county. The tables are based on the results of the 2002 National Curriculum tests for 11-year-old pupils in English, mathematics and science.  
*Jenny Mather - Headteacher*



### ST STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Our Christmas bazaar in aid of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance raised a magnificent total of £426.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us and gave so generously. To those who donated cakes, prizes for the raffle and all the other items, we couldn't do it without your support.

Thank you very much once again.  
*JMS*



### THORNCOMBE RAIL ACTIVITIES CLUB

At our November meeting we welcomed David Milton who gave us a journey from Bath to Bournemouth via the Somerset and Dorset railway illustrated with slides.

The journey started from Bath Green Park station, which is now a car park for the nearby supermarket. We saw various pictures of the station in it's heyday with shots of the engine sheds, goods facilities etc. The imaginary journey left Bath by climbing a steep bank and through two tunnels. At each of the stations on the way we explored the buildings, track layout and the area around the station as well as some of the structural items such as viaducts in between stops. Some of the stops were at very small halts and others such as Radstock, Shepton Mallet, Evercreech

Junction, Templecombe and at the end of the line at Bournemouth West, were much larger, being in keeping with the amount of business that came from that particular place.

Members were reminded that the February meeting will be on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> when David Longman will be talking about "The A-Z of World Steam".

Any inquiries please telephone Michael Sheasby on 01460 30474.



### POINSETTIAS

Do you remember, about this time last year, I wrote in reply to Compost Corner's piece on Poinsettias?



Well, my hit or miss method has worked again! Did anyone else succeed? I would love to know.

I treated my plant even more roughly this time, as it was covered in white fly. I dumped it outside at the beginning of June and ignored it. It looked so awful that I then cut it back and ignored it again.

If you look in my window in passing, you will see the result. Incidentally, I re-potted it before bringing it in.

*Jo Shaw*

### WINSHAM ART CLUB



There will be a rather important A.G.M. on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 2pm in the Jubilee Hall with ideas and dates put forward for discussion, please could everyone make a huge effort to be there.

Gwen Cabbage's classes will start on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January in the Jubilee Hall at 1.30pm to 4pm and the following Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm to 4.30pm for the Thursday Club. The tutor for the latter will be confirmed at the A.G.M.

Anyone else wishing to join either class please contact Gwen Cabbage on 30024 or Penny Pargiter on 30260. All welcome whether you think you can or cannot produce "ART" – you'll be surprised! *PP*



## POPPY APPEAL 2002 – BIRDSMOOR GATE BRANCH

On behalf of the above branch may we thank all the collectors and population of our area who donated to the cause and have achieved a total of £1,340.93. Slightly down on last year, partially due to the static points of the “Squirrel Inn” being closed for refurbishment and “Shaves Cross Inn” not being open.

Myself as chairman of our Legion branch and my wife Rosemary (Area Poppy Organiser) are extremely grateful to you all who have contributed and helped raising this magnificent sum towards so worthy a cause. Well done and thank you.

*R Chiverton*



## WINSHAM WEB MUSEUM – Where have all the bodies gone!



Judy Hodges, the person who looks after the Winsham Web Museum’s Genealogical Service (tracing your Winsham ancestors) has uncovered some interesting statistics.

While preparing a database of parish births, deaths and marriages, the number of entries has raised an interesting question.

During the period 1507 to 1837 there were 4,059 baptisms, 1,390 marriages (1568-1888), and 4,139 burials (1568-1886). There seems a close relationship between the number of baptisms and subsequent marriages and burials, bearing in mind the high levels of infant mortality in those times. The question is where have all the bodies gone? Are they all buried in the Churchyard? If not where were they interred? Does anybody have any information on this?

Missing bodies apart, work is progressing on a new gallery relating to Winsham’s agricultural past. Extracts from the “Book of the Axe” will also be featured soon. The background history of events surrounding the lives of the people of Winsham is also being extended to cover the post- Norman medieval times. Further work is also being done on the Winsham at War Gallery with research into the circumstances leading to the untimely deaths of the Winsham victims of the wars in the twentieth century.

A great deal of work is going on, but we are keen to attract more helpers. If you are interested in any aspect of Winsham’s history and would like to take part in our project we would like to hear from you.

*JSS*



## THORNCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Chairman writes:-

The December meeting of the council was a little shorter than usual! A speaker from Dorset Community Action, Simon Thompson, talked about the Countryside Agency’s Vital Villages grant scheme of Parish Plans and community projects. If you wish to know more about this contact the Countryside Agency or the Parish Council.

Finance – The deadline for public inspection of the 2001-02 audit has been extended to 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2003. If you wish to inspect the audit please contact the clerk.

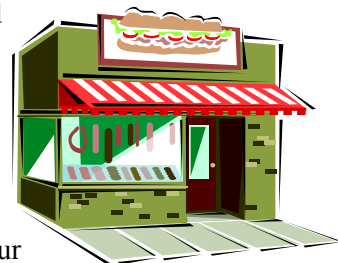
Planning – The extension to the Chard Junction quarry at Broadbridge Lane has been approved by the County Council. The Parish Council is still very concerned about the dangers of 70 tonne trucks crossing the road without any form of traffic control. Councillors attended the site meeting to make the Council’s views known.

Policing – The police are scarce enough in the parish – if crimes are not reported to the police it will be assumed they don’t happen and that we don’t need the police. Please report all crime directly to Lyme Regis Police Station (01297 442603) or of course 999.



## WINSHAM VILLAGE SHOP

It is generally believed that small village shops cannot compete for prices with the big supermarkets. This is a belief, which I shared and I was therefore surprised to analyse our



own expenditure on groceries etc before and after the transfer of ownership of the shop to the Village Association. Before September, we did most of our shopping (about 80%) at supermarkets and the rest in the shop. After September it was the other way round. When I compared our spending for the 3 months before September with the 3 months

afterwards, I found that we had reduced our spending by 20%! This was done without any drop in our standard of living. The experience of one household does not make a significant statistic, but our experience at least makes you think. I have no explanation for this phenomenon; perhaps we are simply being more selective in what we buy. I am thinking of a new advertising slogan – “Shop at Winsham Village Shop and SAVE!”

Our new range of local products is selling well, especially the Somerset apples and the Lubborn cheeses. The Food Fair on December 12<sup>th</sup> was a great success, attended by over 50 people who were able to sample these and other locally sourced products. Most of what was on show is already available in the shop but 2 lines, Rose Farm preserves and Jack & Ollie’s crisps were new to us. If the demand is there and we can agree a good price with the suppliers, we hope to stock these on a regular basis. People were particularly pleased to meet our bakers and to try their different varieties. People spoke especially well of the Rye and Oat breads – why not give them a try.

Sales continue to exceed targets, and sometimes we have difficulty in keeping up with demand. We are very keen to meet the village’s needs and are always responsive to comments and suggestions. There is now a suggestion box in the shop, please use it for comment, criticism, suggestions, or speak to any of the staff.

Customers will have noticed the smart new aprons worn by our staff. These were purchased with a grant from the Street Fair Committee – many thanks.

We have weathered the first 3 months of the new management with success and look forward to continuing that success into the New Year. We hope we will continue to meet the community’s needs and that you will continue to support us. Many thanks for your support so far.

*Robert Shearer*



Maybe all the murder mystery weekends that are hosted by Warner Hotels at Cricket are spreading to real life, because we seem to be having more than our usual share of perplexing happenings lately!!

For those thousands of you who read Cricket Croakings on a regular basis, you will, of course remember the dreadful fire that started just before

harvest festival. This strange occurrence was followed by the curious case of the mystery road rager who has been haunting the roads of Cricket. Finally, in December, the third mystery occurred.

Whilst walking my dogs early one morning, a thick shroud of mist enveloped the valley. As I gazed at the sheep in my path, my eyes fell upon the strangest ‘sheep’ I had ever seen. They had no visible bodies and the head of an African antelope. I rubbed my eyes and wondered if someone had doctored my wine the previous night! I looked again, and there, stepping towards me out of the mist, were indeed three beautiful antelope. Not what one usually finds in the fields of Somerset on a cold and frosty morning. They then ran off leaving me to wonder if I was either dreaming or had, finally lost the plot. It was only some time later that day that I found out, that, most mysteriously the gate to the deer paddock had been opened to allow a mass exodus!

Bugs of a mysterious kind have hit the hotel too, not the sort we are all accustomed to, living in the country, but the other more ominous sickness kind. Amongst all the tinsel and turkey celebrations, a group travelling by coach from the north of England, came bearing gifts of an unwelcome kind and a large part of the hotel had to be fumigated to stop the illness spreading further.

Within the wildlife park, the weekends leading up to Christmas were extremely busy with an ‘express’ train direct to Santa’s grotto causing much mirth and happiness.

The health club is back to normal and seems incredibly busy. The new sauna is working brilliantly and the drinks evening before Christmas was a great success. All the members were very sad to see Ben Chubb, one of the leisure club’s longest standing assistants leave and wished him luck in his new job.

Wishing you all a very happy new year. Best wishes.  
SV



### **WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Clerk Writes: -

The “Rural Transport Interchange’ project is moving forward. South Somerset Homes have agreed the use of the land. The shelter will be sited just above the recreation ground, on their land, near the junction of Davies Close and the B3162. Atkins, as agents for the County Council, will build a bus ‘pull in’ with new curbing and disabled access. As Highway

Authority they do not need planning permission for the 'pull in' and this part of the work is scheduled to start in early January. The Parish Council has applied for planning permission to South Somerset District Council for its part of the work, the construction of the shelter. A substantial grant has been offered for the shelter from the County Council.

The District Council has appointed a 'Rural Housing Liaison Officer', Mr Mark Dillon. Mark is fully aware of the work that the Parish Council has been doing towards achieving affordable housing in the village. At the time of writing I have asked Mark if he can attend our next Parish Council meeting so that he can put forward the District Council's view on how best to achieve affordable housing.

Councillor Mr Keith Marsh met Mr Tony Shire from 'Highways' and Mr Roger Meecham, the District Council Principal Technician, as the first step in finding a way to ease the flooding problems. We are awaiting Mr Meecham's report.

There is a 'Casual Vacancy' on the Parish Council. Mr Paul Love has stood down because of an increased workload elsewhere. You probably know that the whole council is up for re-election in May. Perhaps now there is an opportunity here for someone to try out their skills and see if they enjoy the work of a Parish Councillor. They can familiarise themselves with the work, ready for a flying start in May, when everyone hopes there will be an election contest. At least ten people need to put their names forward in May for there to be an election contest. Anyone wishing to apply for the 'Casual Vacancy' should contact myself as the clerk. *(See This'n'That for advert.)*

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 8 p.m.** in the Jubilee Hall. If you can please come along.



### **GHALEGAON-THORNCOMBE - NEPAL VILLAGE LINK**

Thank you one and all for your very generous support of the concert at St Mary's on November 17<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for our link village's new school scholarship fund.

The concert raised £316 and the fund now stands at £711, less than £300 to go.

*Liz Rutter*



**ST HELENA** (an extract from a letter received from Bobby Robertson)



The boxes and the contents sent were received with much appreciation. Most of the gifts have been distributed. We are holding back on the toys until nearer Christmas.

There will be quite a few children who will not be doing so well at Christmas. We try to cover all of them. The woollen jumpers have been much appreciated. They were given out only to the elderly and already I have seen people wearing them.

Even though it is November here it is still cold. We have a heavy cloud cover, which seems to block out all the heat. When the sun gets through it is very warm, otherwise it is quite chilly. There is also a very cool breeze, which seems to be blowing continually. Summer is still a month away and we are hoping for much warmer weather.

Best wishes to all and a big thank you for all your gifts. Give everyone our love. Best wishes *Bobby*.



### **THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST**

Our November meeting was attended by more than fifty – members and guests. David Ramsden from the Barn Owl Trust spoke about owls, their habitat and their fight for survival. A very enjoyable and thought provoking evening. The proceeds of the raffle £40 was donated to the First Responders.



In November we had our Christmas sale with Dorset Wildlife Trust. The total raised was £360 for the TVT and £171 for Dorset Wildlife Trust. We thank all who gave so generously and all who came to support us.

The New Year brings Richard Edmonds to talk about "The Jurassic Coastline," a World Heritage Site, on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Did you see.....?

With the current very cold weather, large numbers of birds are taking advantage of bird table offerings and we have even seen a pied wagtail trying its luck with peanuts!

One observant parishioner has discovered that his small garden pond has been adopted by a water rail as its home. This rare and unusual bird – unlike its relative the moorhen – shuns observation, so much so that T.A. Coward, an exceptional ornithologist, wrote that...”owing to its secretive habits so little is known about the water rail that its real status is uncertain.” It will be fascinating indeed if, as spring approaches, the bird attracts a mate. In the meantime we should all be alert to the possible appearance of other unusual birds, especially those taking refuge from severe weather in northern Europe.



### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – WINSHAM & CRICKET ST THOMAS

A total of £713.81 was raised for the above appeal made up as follows:-

Sale of Poppies - £572.51; Wreath - £16.75; Church Service - £82.06; Donations - £42.59.

*Anne Rose – Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser*



### THORNCOMBE W.I.



Thorncombe members met for their A.G.M. President, Mrs Julia Snellock reported that the year had been busy and successful. The cream teas and lunches at Chapel Thatch, Holditch had ensured a healthy bank balance

and members were pleased to have contributed to the sound system at the village hall. The Denman bursary had not been used so it was hoped that someone would take the opportunity to go in 2003. Having confirmed that she was prepared to serve another year as president, Mrs Snellock was duly return to that office. A new committee was elected.

Mrs Elizabeth Rutter then spoke of her project to link Thorncombe with the village of Ghalegaon in Nepal. This village, high up in the foothills of the Himalayas, has been visited regularly by Elizabeth and her friends and, although very poor, the villagers ask for nothing but the gift of friendship. It is hoped, however, to help towards the cost of equipping the children for school. Members looked with interest at the slides Elizabeth had taken on her last visit in 2001. She hopes to go again in the spring of 2003.

The competition for a decorative Christmas serviette was won by Julia Snellock and the flower of the month by Rosemary MacCrimmon.

On January 14<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Sports Club for our annual skittles evening with our husbands and friends at 7.30pm.

May we wish a Happy New 2003 to all and especially to past members of our institute.  
*MT*



### STAMPS FOR LIFEBOATS

Thank you for all the stamps you collect for the R.N.L.I. Please don't forget to keep on saving, particularly all those stamps which have arrived with your Christmas cards. They really are all used and resold to collectors all over the world. The processing is done in H.M. prisons and several inshore lifeboats have been bought with the proceeds. Keep collecting!  
*MT*



### WINSHAM WALKERS

Fourteen walkers and numerous dogs enjoyed glorious sunshine for the lane walk on Thursday, 5th December.



We set off from The Bell and walked via Colham Lane to Hollowells. The route followed the bridleway to Chalkway and then left up the lane before turning right onto the footpath that passes through Lue and Midnall Farms in succession, to join the lane from the A30. We returned by way of the long hill down to Fore Street and into the village.

Our next walk is on the 9th January 2003, a week later than usual, starting from The Bell at 11.00 a.m. Why not join us! Further information from Peter Pye 01460 30751.



### YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

*If you're struggling on your own to face the challenges, then you need to know you're not alone! 'The God of all comfort is with you,'*

*2 Crointhians 1:3*

