



Dear Friends

I am pleased to be with you again. Many thanks for all your cards, good wishes and prayers; and especially the help and assistance given to Margaret.

I thought this month I would say a few words about power. Seldom, I imagine, do we ever sit down and consider the power that each one of us has. The power to speak and influence others about the causes we hold dear. The power to do good or evil, to love or hate. Every day the press, radio and television exercise a tremendous amount of power, which affects the lives of many people. Governments and politicians also exercise power, as we all know, which needs to be used wisely for the good of all people, especially for the less fortunate and disadvantaged in the world.

This month the whole idea of power – its use and abuse – is brought home forcibly for us all on Remembrance Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. For as we recall the tremendous losses that families and whole nations throughout the world have suffered as a result of war, so we recall the responsibility that each of us exercises, the power we are to wield, as forces for good in our communities. It's interesting isn't it, that phrase 'force for good', the way it brings together those conflicting ideas of fighting and stability, forcefulness and gentleness. And it's that 'bringing together' about which Remembrance Sunday so powerfully reminds us. For we are to tame aggression by love, the ultimate 'force' and 'power' which is 'weakness in the world's eyes', but 'the power of ultimate good', as St Paul reminds us.

For 'evil power flourishes when good men do nothing', a truth we need to take to heart as we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

We will, indeed, remember them, and our remembrance will come alive, it will be remembering, putting back together, when we understand the power for good that lies within each one of us, and use it.

In these troubled times we can do nothing less than that.

Blessings to you all.

*Ernie Chivers*



**From The Revd. M. Stephen Kivett, B.A., M.Div. Team Rector of Chard & District Team Ministry**

Dear Friends,

I feel very blessed to have been Vicar of St Mary's for just over 15 years and to have played a part in the formation of the Chard & District Team Ministry, serving as your first Team Rector. Chard is the place where, in the main, Jennifer, Fiona and James have grown up. It is the place Ann and I have called home for much longer than any other in our married life. It is the place where, as a family, we have felt valued, supported and loved.

However, it is now time for us to leave this place, and for the Team Ministry to have a new leader with new vision.

It appears that I have been called into a new and different ministry in Taunton. The Bishop has asked me to go to Staplegrove and Norton Fitzwarren as Rector and I have accepted. I ask for your prayers as I begin to disengage from Christian ministry here and begin to prepare for a new challenge. As of yet I do not know exactly when we shall be leaving Chard. However, indications are that the move will take place sometime in the New Year.

With very many thanks and every blessing to you all.

*Stephen*



## **STOP PRESS**

Rev Stephen Kivett will leave Chard St Mary's in January after 15 years loyal and demanding service. His licensing at Staplegrove will be on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January at 11am.

*EC*

## 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 -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.



## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS	20 <sup>th</sup> September	Mrs Lilian Rosina Banks	St Mary's Church, Thorncombe
	10 <sup>th</sup> October	Mrs Vera Evelyn Amy Blomfield	St Mary's Church, Thorncombe
BAPTISMS	5 <sup>th</sup> October	Louise Elizabeth Marjorie Shakespeare	St Stephen's Church, Winsham
		Carenza Alexandra Shakespeare	St Stephen's Church, Winsham
		Octavia Imogen Shakespeare	St Stephen's Church, Winsham



**PLEASE NOTE** – the 30<sup>th</sup> November is the fifth Sunday of the month, which will be a United Service at 10.30am at Thorncombe. It is also Advent Sunday and the beginning of Common Worship Liturgy for Year C. It is very much the time to prepare ourselves for the great festival of Christmas. The celebration of St Andrew is transferred to Monday. *EC*



## THANK YOU

To everyone who helped in any way to decorate St Mary's for the Harvest Festival services, thank you. The church looked beautiful, and so welcoming to all who visited. Also a special thank you to the children and staff of St Mary's Primary School for all their gifts of various provisions etc., which were taken to the Nightshelter for the Homeless at Yeovil, and were so much appreciated.

*MC*



## WELCOME TO

Malcolm and Jean Howard to 2, Broadenham Farm Cottages, Winsham



## SUFFERING CHURCH SUNDAY - 16th November

This is the day we are asked to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. It is estimated that around 250 million Christian believers across the world are persecuted for their faith. The very least that we in the "safe" west can do for them is to pray, putting ourselves in their shoes.

In many countries meeting with other Christians is forbidden, churches are destroyed and people are often fined or even imprisoned for meeting in their own homes. In some countries, if a member of a family becomes a Christian they are often rejected, and may lose their home and their job.

In some parts of the world the law makes it easy for a neighbour with a grudge to accuse someone of blasphemy. If he is convicted, he faces a death penalty. In one country some Christians are on death row, awaiting the outcome of their appeals; some

have been there for several years. In another country it is illegal to mention God; in yet another they have their villages burnt down, their men killed or taken for forced labour, their women are raped and their children forced to live in the jungle, where they are often hunted like animals by the military and suffer from malnutrition and disease.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide is one of the charities that try to help persecuted Christians. This year there will be a conference on Saturday 29th November at Kings Church, Unit 6, Sylvan Road, Wellington, Somerset, between 11.30 am - 5.30 pm. Tickets at the door will be £4 (concessions £2.50.)

MRM



### DEANERY CONFIRMATION SERVICE

This will be held on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2004 at St Mary's Church, Thorncombe.

Those wishing to be confirmed at this time should hand their names to me at St Mary's Vicarage, Thorncombe.

EC



### A MESSAGE FROM COLIN AND MARGARET BAYLIS

We have decided that this Christmas we shall do the same as last year re Christmas Cards; that is, we shall give or send cards only to those whom we are not able to greet personally in the days before Christmas. In the same way some of those who read this may like to forego the sending of cards to us.

Our many friends in the area are very dear to us, and our verbal greetings will be as sincere and loving as any found in the cards we would have sent.

We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

*Colin and Margaret*



### ST STEPHEN'S GIFT DAY APPEAL



The PCC wish to thank everybody who responded so generously to our Appeal held on 27<sup>th</sup> September. At

the time of writing (9<sup>th</sup> October) the total received has reached £1534. 66% of all receipts were donated under Gift Aid arrangements, which has enabled us to reclaim £265 from the Inland Revenue. This amount is included in the overall total.

*RCB – Hon. Treasurer*

### REV DAVID SAVILL'S LETTER – September Issue

Rev David Savill's letter has undoubtedly stimulated debate and comment.

It is well known that there are wide ranging and deeply held views on the subject of homosexuality in the Anglican Church and in society in general.

The Constitution of the Magazine, drawn up several years ago, adopted a formal position of being politically neutral and to endeavour to avoid controversy. At the time of publication Rev Savill's letter was not considered to be inflammatory or especially controversial.

Whilst not wishing to stifle debate or abdicate responsibility, the magazine committee has therefore decided that this matter should not be pursued in its pages.

*Editor*



### BATH & WELLS CHURCH KNEELERS

Katherine Goodland of Backwell, Nr Bristol, has designed a beautiful kneeler for Bath & Wells. Not only has she designed it but completed one too, which is quite fine at 7 holes per inch. I have submitted Katharin's design to Jacksons of Hebden Bridge who are happy to transfer this to canvas, but their design will be 5 holes per inch.

The design depicts two shields, one for St Peter & St Paul of Bath Abbey, and the other St Andrew for Wells Cathedral. Along the side is written 'Bath & Wells.' Between the shields is a small cross and a white swan.

I would (urgently) like to know if anyone wishes to order a kit. If there are more than 20 kits ordered at once, it brings the price down dramatically to £25.50 each. There are so many kneelers in churches in this deanery emanating from Jacksons of Hebden Bridge that I am hoping several parishes from this diocese would like to add another to their number. If you are seriously interested, I will send you a photograph of the kneeler before you order. Catherine Cavender, Dowlish Wake, Ilminster 01460 52232 or e-mail [www.absalom@amsolve.net](mailto:www.absalom@amsolve.net)



## WANTED - SOME EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE

It takes a team of about thirty people to ensure that all of our 400 plus subscribers receive their copy of the Joint Parish Magazine each month. This number includes people from all three of the parishes - area organisers, deliverers, proofreaders, somebody to keep the books, and of course the small group who prepare the copy for publication, headed up by the editor, Jill Stone.

Jill has been working with the magazine for a good many years-it might be indelicate to say how many! Sadly for us, she is retiring at the end of the year, and she will leave a big gap that will need to be filled if the magazine is to continue in 2004.

The Joint Parish Magazine's Management Committee has discussed the matter at some length, and has come to the conclusion that it would be wrong to look for a direct replacement for Jill, as it does place a heavy burden on one person. It is felt that it would be better to recruit two teams of two people each, who, between them, could prepare the magazine on a once every two months rota basis. Jan Sullivan would continue to prepare the demanding 'This 'n' That' pages, and the Yellow Page Advertisements at the end of each year.

With the work load split up in this manner, the burden of work would not be heavy on any one person, especially as most of the copy comes in by e-mail attachment, or as typescript, which can be scanned, using special software. This method of preparation by teams will also make holiday and sickness problems a thing of the past.

**We need your help! We urgently need four helpers who can type, who are on-line, and who are prepared to contribute a few hours every other month to keep our remarkable magazine going. Training together with help with computer equipment will be given as necessary. If you would like to know more, without any obligation, please call Jill Stone on 30565 as soon as possible.**

## THORNCOMBE FIRST RESPONDERS

September was a quiet month for us with only 2 emergency calls compared to 10 calls in August. We have been catching up with all our Care Line people, making sure we have all their details up to date, something we will try to do about once a year. If you have a Care Line with the Responders as first contact and we haven't yet caught you at home, we soon will.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September most of us gathered at the village hall for our 3-monthly refresher training with the Dorset Ambulance Training Officer. We emerged (some of us covered in fake blood) with renewed confidence and ready for almost anything.

Remember, situated where we are, right on the edge of Dorset, it is inevitable that sometimes 999 calls are routed to the Westcountry Ambulance Service who do not contact the Responders, which is why it is always best to say you live in Dorset. If, following a 999 call, no Responder arrives after about 5 minutes, please feel free to phone our mobile number, which is given in the back of this magazine.

*TP-B*



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – Birdsmoorgate Branch

Once again the poppy appeal is upon us. We urge you to be as generous as you have been before, to help the Legion to help those who have given, and are continuing to give, so much for our freedom and security.

The Remembrance Service this year, will take place at St Mary's Church, Thorncombe on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Members will assemble at 10.20am for the 10.30am service. Our Branch Standard will be paraded by Mr Jim Whitmore.



## COMPOST CORNER

Well it's still rather pleasant at the beginning of October and rather dry. The good thing is that any potatoes still in the ground should suffer less pest attack.

Once leaf fall has begun you can begin to do the annual prune of all summer flowering shrubs and other plants; cut roses and buddleia back only half way.

Any remaining pea or bean sticks want to be put in the dry. Some folk like to creosote the bottoms first. If treating your sticks or canes, do it now rather than next year to allow it to soak in. Fresh creosote will burn and kill young roots. Even the new creosote substitute kills off foliage that it touches, but it

doesn't seem to burn your skin like the proper stuff did.

Clear all the decaying matter from the herbaceous perennials and add to the compost heap, along with fallen leaves. A carpet of leaves can smother a lawn and you'll have to wait a long time for new growth to appear. Compost all and everything that is organic and not attached to any plant you wish to keep. Sweep up all the leaves. If you have a chance to cut the grass, cut it high and mix up the grass with more course material on the heap.

Fancy some colour and fragrance indoors for Christmas or early new year? Then be quick, get hold of some hyacinths for colour and a beautiful scent or "paper white" narcissi, which also emit a super aroma. Put the bulbs in good compost, keep warm, moist and in good light.

In late November you can sow "Aquadulce" broad beans, preferably in a light soil. Just ensure that any tubers to be stored are free from rot and disease and not too encased in wet soil.

Plant of the month has to be the pumpkin, mostly produced and used for the pagan activities of Halloween. But apparently it is edible; most of my children eat it raw when they are hollowing out their lanterns. Their botanical name is *Cucurbita Maxima*, (not the children the pumpkins!) but is part of the cucurbitaceae family or gourd family and is native to tropical America, where gourds have other purposes than just being eaten. Decorative? Well if you like. Pumpkins can be left out until the first frost, when they need storing in a dry frost-free place until required. As to what you do with them for culinary purposes, I'm afraid you'll need to consult a cookbook or somebody who knows what to do with them.

As to their inclusion in Halloween, I guess it's another import from America. As a child, my father and I had to make do with mangolds. The other use for pumpkins, especially the big ones is to drop them on those little horrors that partake in "trick or treat." So you could say that the pumpkin's part in Halloween is to dispel evil spirits or little beings! Mine have spread at least 20ft across the allotment so require a lot of room, but are quite good weed suppressors with their heart shaped mid-green hairy leaves. They were planted out very late this year but, despite this and the dry weather, have produced a good number of good-sized fruits. A tip for next year is to cut into the skin of the young fruits with names or other markings and watch the marks/scars stretch. I'm told this can be quite effective.

November is a time when some of us chose to have a bonfire, so here's my annual warning. Please think of hedge hogs, build your fire at a time when you're going to light it.

Sweet peas can be sown in a cool covered environment.

*Stephen Rowsell*



## MUSICAL EVENING AT ST MARY'S

St Mary's Guitars would like to thank everyone who came to the musical evening in St Mary's Church on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen songs had been requested with old favourites, new songs, and a special request for "English Country Garden" sung by Marina.

David played several folk and classical guitar pieces including the evocative "Wind on the Water" by Michael Raven, where we could almost see the wind whispering in the rushes and freshening to a breeze, whipping up the waves.

Then came members of the Gibbins family band, "The Generation Gap." Well, what can we say? Looking around, I could see that everybody was smiling as we enjoyed the band's obvious talents and pleasure in playing and singing together. We were taken back to the era of the Shadows; there was even hand jiving in the pews! Thank you Brian, Debs, Dave, Tim and Jo.

During the interval welcome refreshments were provided, with tea, coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches and cakes, showing that our guitar group have culinary skills as well as musical! A special thank you to Joyce for all her help.

Donations were invited and a total of £153.60 was raised, which goes to Church funds as part of the 'Talents' initiative. Thank you to everyone who came and gave so generously and made it such a happy and memorable evening.

*OMM*



## **WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Clerk writes: -

Mr Mark Dillon, Rural Housing Officer South Somerset District Council, gave a presentation on the results of

'Winsham Housing Needs Survey'. Winsham Parish Council has been concerned about a shortage of affordable housing for local people for a number of years. They have worked in partnership with the District Council, the Rural Housing Trust and Hastoe & Wyvern Housing Associations to try to find a solution. This survey was conducted to refine and update existing information about the need for affordable housing for **local** people. The data has been used to obtain a profile of the community, to assess extent of need, and to decide how it can be met.

There are currently 61 affordable homes in the village -19% of the total housing stock. They are allocated to tenants on the basis of greatest need. Concern was expressed that the housing allocation policy means that local people are rarely given homes in the village.

In 2002 the average price of houses in the village was £236,931. Terraced houses sold for an average of £124,000.

The Parish Council delivered survey forms to all 320 dwellings in the parish and these were returned to the District Council in reply paid envelopes. Further copies were made available for hidden households and people with a local connection. The survey was carried out in conjunction with an 'awareness raising display' in the village shop. Residents responded very well to the survey with 48% of forms completed and returned.

The population of the village is very stable with only 18% of households having moved within the last 4 years. A shortage of affordable housing was identified as the single biggest factor in decisions to leave the village and accounted for 39% of replies. 17.4% of households said that they would need to move within the next 5 years. A modest terraced house would not be affordable for 96% of households expecting to move without access to a substantial amount of capital to reduce borrowing.

A small scheme of 8 dwellings representing one third of the identified need would help to meet the needs of local people now and in the future. This would also ensure that its occupants do not rapidly outgrow the property. The most appropriate type of dwellings would be a mixture of 2 and 3 bedroom houses. 48% of respondents indicated that they were interested in shared or low cost home ownership; however it would only be affordable for approximately 10% of households.

Consequently a mixture of seven homes for rent and one home for shared ownership is recommended.

The Clerk holds a copy of the survey, which is available for viewing by the public, on request, and at reasonable times.

There now needs to be another meeting to discuss progress on acquiring a site; Mr Mark Dillon agreed to organise this at the appropriate time. So as not to raise people's expectations, please remember, the project can only continue, if a suitable site is found and if the landowner is willing to sell at a reasonable price.

The Police Community Contact Vehicle will have again visited the village on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October between 13.15pm and 14.15pm. Publication of this seems to be out of sync with the timetable for the publication of the parish magazine. Please check the

Parish Council notice board for updates on future visits.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> **November at 8 p.m.** in the Jubilee Hall. If you can, please come along. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk at least 8 days before the meeting.  
*FV*



### **THORNCOMBE FOOTPATH GUIDE**

Help is needed with the compilation of a footpath guide for Thorncombe. In the first instance volunteers are being sought to develop and write up the following circular walks:-

1. Thorncombe to Forde Abbey
2. Gribb (already written up)
3. Synderford River
4. Holditch
5. Chard Junction
6. Blackdown Hill
7. Sadborow
8. Thorncombe-Squirrel, Laymore
9. Thorncombe-Bottle, Mrshwd.
10. Thorncombe-Bell, Winsham
11. Thorncombe-New Inn, Hawkchurch
12. Thorncombe-Saddle Street
13. Thorncombe-School House
14. Gribb Plantation
15. Yew Tree Farm
16. Maudlin (volunteer recruited)
17. Hewood (already written up)

Any other suggestions? Contact Eve Higgs on 30994.



### **NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILEDH**

Plans are afoot for a Dorset/Scottish Ceileadh on New Year's Eve in Thorncombe Village Hall. This will be with the same "team" who provided the Summer Barn Dance. More details next month, but please keep it in mind when making your plans for New Year's Eve!

Proceeds will be for St Mary's Church and Thorncombe First Responders.

*OMM*



### **WINSHAM ON THE WEB – e-mail addresses in Quick Reference**

One of the great pleasures that I get from the Winsham Web Museum comes from reading the Museum's Guest Book. If you haven't already paid this part of the museum a visit, then let me recommend it to you. Thanks to the miracle of e-mail, people from all over the world are able to make

their comments heard. Without exception their comments about the quality of the web site, and the ease of navigation around the site are very gratifying.

However, the ones that bring me the most pleasure are the messages from people with links with Winsham. These links are many and varied. Some, in their sixties and seventies now, talk of fond memories of the village, the school and their friends; others write about their family links with the village, some a hundred or so years ago. Others enquire about people they have known. Many deserve an answer, which sadly they do not get, at least from me, because as an incomer with only ten year's of knowledge of the village, I do not have the background to reply.

So next time you are on-line, go to the museum and read the guest book, and if you can give somebody an answer, or if you just feel like exchanging fraternal greetings, simply click the underlined name of the message sender, and your e-mail program should pop-up, and you can send an e-mail to them.

I am now in the fourth week of my web design course at Yeovil College (it is my second week really, because I was holidaying in Greece for the first two lessons.) It is really quite mind blowing. I am certainly the oldest person on the course, and to say that I am not the sharpest knife in the drawer is an understatement. I have also learned that the course is aimed at the City & Guilds Level 2 Web Design qualification and this has struck additional terror into my heart. I have to complete an assignment; that means building a web site (with frames.) If I succeed, I shall get a certificate, and I could probably get a job. Oh goody!

*John Sullivan*



### **CRICKET CROAKINGS**

October rolled by in a perfect autumnal haze, glorious weather resulting in spectacular, awe inspiring scenery, with the colours changing throughout the woods on an almost daily basis.

The Yeovil Car Club chose one such perfect day to hold their annual Thomas Hardy Tours, in aid of Dorset Air Ambulance. Over seventy cars roared down the drive at Cricket St Thomas to stop for lunch. The cars, all pre 1965, were amazing. The yellow Rolls Royce (as in the movie) seemed most people's favourite.

A belated welcome to the new general manager of the hotel, Richard Martin, who was at Cricket during the opening, and has returned. He has bought a house in the area, and will hopefully enjoy being here as much as everyone else. The hotel arranged a wonderful hot air balloon evening, the weather was

kind once again, and the balloon was seen wafting gently into a glorious sunset and drifting over the Wild Life Park. It is hard to imagine just how great the view must have been.

Within the Wild Life Park a cockerel has been playing an interesting role in the rearing of an ostrich chick. In the past the ostriches (being silly and with a tendency to bury their heads in the sand!) have failed to rear any chicks. An egg was hatched in the new incubator and the fluffy bundle was 'mothered' by the lone cockerel! The two are apparently now inseparable, so look out for them. Whilst on the subject of birds, the new Reeves' pheasant enclosure is finally finished, and the new occupants, with their fine and infamous tails, are in place.

The World Pheasant Annual General Meeting, with members from throughout the world, has been held this month at Cricket St Thomas, with members due to discuss the plight of their many endangered species. Just in time for the beginning of the shooting season!

The Christmas Ball in aid of Yeovil Hospice will be held at Cricket St Thomas on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. For more information please contact Wendy Vipond on 01935 431880.

Lastly, I'm so glad to hear that Dave West, head gardener for the estate for so many years, is beginning to feel better. Dave had a dreadful accident a while ago, and has been greatly missed whilst recovering.

SV



### WINSHAM VILLAGE SHOP

On Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall we are holding our second local Food Open Evening. You will be able to taste samples of the wide range of local products that we sell, and have a preview of Christmas goodies that can be ordered through the shop in time for Christmas. During the evening guest speakers from among the food producers will say a few words about how their particular products are made. The event last year was a great success. Please come and help us to do even better. Entrance is free.

A number of customers have asked whether we could improve our bread, since our change of supplier. The new supply is perfectly all right but is undeniably steam baked, and the quality is not the same as in the past. I have devised a questionnaire, which is in the shop, to try and find out what our customers would like. Please take the time (it should be quick) to fill it in. We would like to hear from you even if you don't currently buy bread from us. The choice of baker that we made when our previous baker sold his

business was based on extent of range, and price. If you would prefer to pay a little more for traditionally baked loaves, we will try and meet the demand.

It looks as though we will have to change the date of our AGM, previously arranged for November 25<sup>th</sup>. At the time of writing the new date has not been fixed, but shareholders will be notified in good time.

*Robert Shearer*



### NEWS FROM THORNCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

A grant of £5000 has been awarded towards the cost of re-surfacing the car park and work on the project is now underway. Fund raising will continue to help meet the shortfall. The next event will be the Food Festival on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

The Garden Club has now been established and the first meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October when garden designer, Malcolm Shennan, gave an illustrated talk on the first ten years of his garden at Rimpton. The next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm when Mrs Spencer-Mills will give a talk entitled "A Garden for Retirement." All are welcome. The subscription is £5 per year, visitors £2.

Shape up for Christmas at the Keep Fit classes led by Celia. These classes are suitable for all ages and something different each week. They are held every Wednesday from 2 – 3pm and cost £3.50 per session. Bring a mat/towel for floor work. Just come along.

*Vivienne Dalziel*



### WINSHAM WALKERS

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October we drove out to Pilsden Pen. All fifteen walkers ascended the hill to admire the view from the top. We then set off in fine weather, although there was a strong NW wind, to cross the top of the Pen and slowly descended to the road at Blackdown Village Hall. Blackdown was climbed and at the top, with Thorncombe on our left, Winsham came into view in the middle distance. We made our way back to the village via Venn Chapel, Shedrick Bridge and Bere Farm, arriving back at the Bell where many of us quenched our thirst.

Thanks to Roy, Roger, John and Roy for assistance with transport.

This walk was well supported. As a result some further outings will be arranged on Saturdays. However, the next walk will be on Thursday, 6 November 2003.

Meet at the Bell Inn at 11.00 a.m. For further details contact Peter Pye, 01460 30751

## **RIDING THE 5,000 MILE SILK ROUTE**

An evening of adventure, with film, by one who did ride the silk route. This will be at St Antony's Leweston School on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30 for 7pm. Information from Liz Rutter on 01460 221368, Home Farm, Chilson, Chard, TA20 2NX.

Proceeds for Street Children of Delhi and Nepal.



## **WINSHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Our AGM this year takes place at 8.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall Committee Room on Tuesday 18th November, when we look forward to welcoming new members to the committee.

Thank you everyone who supported the show in August – especially those who took part for the first time. Entries were again greatly increased on last year.

If you have any comments or suggestions to make, we would love to hear them, so make a note of November 18th and come along.



## **THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST**

Twenty-one walkers took part in this year's TVT Annual Autumn Walk from Thorncombe to Hewood in ideal weather conditions. Their efforts were rewarded by a wonderful spread of cakes, scones and cream in the village hall, laid on by the Monday Walkers and various TVT members for which thanks, and to everyone who took part. An extra thank you to Vivienne and Sally for manning the teapot, to John for leading, Sue and Trevor for being 'tail end Charlie's'. A special mention of our youngest participant, Alexander (aged 3,) who managed to walk almost all the way, spurred on by the prospect of a red jam tart to match his wellies!

*Eve Higgs*

Did you see....?

It must have been mid September when two young ladies from the village asked if they could help with some gardening as they were at a loss for something to do. We agreed and off to work they went. They had been asked to cut some willow overhanging a path, and later as I walked past their handiwork something large buzzed past my head and into the remaining bush. Closer inspection revealed that the buzz was a hornet; what's more it was not alone. There were no less than five crawling and hovering in the bush. They were feeding from a mass of black fly covering the stems of the willow. One of the hornets had caught a wasp and was hanging on one leg while devouring it.

I watched for a short time and noticed that, when they flew off, the direction they took was not the same. It appeared that there were three distinct paths being taken, possibly three different nesting sites. One I did find, in the roof of the house opposite. Not surprisingly there are many more hornets around the garden than wasps this year.

*Susan Stemp*



## **WINSHAM PANTOMIME**

Well it looks as if we are going ahead after all. If there is anyone out there (Thorncombe? Hawkchurch? Holditch? Anywhere else? London West End?) that would like to join us, please let me know straight away.

We will probably be rehearsing (starting in January) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, or Saturdays, whatever suits most people. Costume making Tuesday mornings, props making Wednesday mornings and set painting on Thursday mornings. These are not set in stone and can easily be changed if other times suit people better.

We will have a preliminary meeting on Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall.

*Penny Pargiter-30260*



## **WAS IT THE WEATHER .....?**

To date our heaviest Bramley apple here at Hazelwood has been 1lb. 4oz., but this year we have three weighing in at 1lb 7oz, 1lb 8oz, and 1lb 9oz. However, the Roses have capped that with a beautiful specimen at a stunning 1lb. 12oz. Are there any other fruits out there that have excelled themselves?

*Janet Smart*



## **USED STAMPS**

Now that the Church can no longer collect used stamps for the RNLI, could anyone tell me where they can usefully be donated?

I have dozens!

*Stella Abbey*



## **THORNCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Clerk writes:-

The Parish Council met on 7th October.

Janet Walker reported for Neighbourhood Watch. It has been a busy month in Thorncombe. There have been several thefts from cars at local beauty spots,

attempted break-ins of vans, a young person door knocking and problems with anti-social behaviour. A meeting with the local policeman PC Winward, has been arranged to tackle the behavioural problems. The police did come out to Thorncombe for the break-in of the vans. They also sent out a car for the doorknocker. These incidents should show on Thorncombe's records with the police. May I remind you again, if there is an incident, please ring 999 and don't forget to say, Thorncombe, West Dorset.

Cllr. Mangles, Janet Walker and Geoff Brierley have met with our local MP, Oliver Letwin, to discuss local policing. This was a successful meeting with some good ideas put forward. The parish council is going to look further into this, and will report later on its findings.

The parish council has received notification from Dorset County Council that a section of the road will be closed in this area for a period of 6 weeks from 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003 to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2003. The map reference is C18, Park Lane/Whatley Bridge. Details of this will be put on the notice board in Thorncombe. The notice board in Holditch is currently in need of repair at the moment. Agendas and official notices will still be posted there, but in plastic wallets, as the door has come off its hinges! Any other notices will go on the board in Thorncombe.

If anyone wishes to have an item placed on the agenda, 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: 4 November 2003 in Thorncombe Village Hall at 7.30pm.



### **HOLDITCH 'TALENTS' WHIST DRIVE**

This whist drive was held on 29<sup>th</sup> September and the proceeds went to the St Mary's 'Talents' initiative.

Many thanks to the hall committee, people who gave prizes, donations and to all the whist players who helped me to raise £116.

*Mary Turner*



### **WINSHAM BROWNIES**

Hello,

I go to 1<sup>st</sup> Winsham Brownies; we meet on a Friday from 5.30 to 7pm.

At Brownies we have packs. I am a seconder in my pack, which are the Gnomes. We do lots of activities at Brownies including games, cooking, planting and outings. Soon we are going to a museum at Bristol. We all work towards gaining badges.

I really like Brownies because it is fun and I meet lots of friends.

*Kirsty*



### **ST STEPHEN'S FLOWER BEDS**

At a recent PCC meeting it was decided to appeal to individual members of the community and organisations to ask if anyone would like to care for a flowerbed on the path leading to the church. Some of these beds are now very poorly stocked, and it is not known who should be caring for some of them, after all these years.

The Parish Council already tends one bed, the Over 60's Club, although not now in existence, have arranged for their bed to be looked after, and the school has offered to tend another. There are still 5 beds, of varying sizes (none of them very big) left to be cultivated.

Can you help us to make the entry to our churchyard and church more appealing? If so, please contact either the churchwardens or the PCC secretary – 'phone numbers on the back page of this magazine.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

*JMS*



### **THE LATE ELSIE MAY VICKERY (continuing her childhood memories)**

After we left Axnoller Farm (I was 9 when we left) I went to Mosterton C of E School where I took and passed the grammar school entrance exam, and so went on to Beaminster Grammar School. For the first year or so my father took me to Mosterton by horse and cart, when he took his milk down to be collected, and then I caught the paper car to Beaminster. After school I returned by bus. After my first year at Beaminster I joined all the others and we cycled. I stayed at school until I was 16.

We received no pocket money; it just wasn't thought of. Neither was I paid for any jobs when I was at school. I was told if you cannot help someone for nothing it was not worth doing! All our parents ever said was "it's up to you to do your utmost at all you do." The only one of us they persuaded to do differently was my brother Bob. He wanted to be a vicar, but dad needed him on the farm as he was the oldest. Bob bowed to his parent's wishes but never prospered as a successful farmer.

If my dad came in and found my sister or myself sitting down, while my mother was still working, we were made to get up and help. As children we would go to Sunday school at Chedington in the morning. On Sunday evenings we would walk across the fields

and go to evensong. We dared not speak or turn around in church. Coming home my dad used to call at a pub called Wynyard's Gap for a drink.

We lived in the fields. There really were no made-up roads, just tracks. The milk-lorry driver usually brought our post. We didn't go to the shops. If we did happen to have a penny, we were sometimes allowed to have a penny's worth of broken biscuits. That was a real treat.

The war very much affected my life. I worked on the farm and most of the work was done by horse power. We had a pony called Tim, who was supposed to be 'the children's pet' dad said, but poor Tim was a real worker. We kept a lot of sheep and, if they needed cake, dad would bag it up and load the pony with the sacks. I would then ride on him as well, no saddle just a bridle, out to the field, unload the sacks into the sheep troughs and ride back. Tim was used to do all the hoeing of the crops, to drive the elevator to send the hay up onto the rick, to fetch the cows. He had a vicious kick, if the cows or the bull got too near him, so dad knew we would be safe when doing this job.



### **STREET WISE**

An article I read yesterday gave me some small amount of inspiration for the magazine. You probably say to your selves "he needs a lot more than a small amount", but here goes.

It was about a new initiative in Devon called "The Farm Experience", where townspeople can spend a day on a farm to learn a little about farming and the countryside. It would have surprised me, not many years ago, to read that the man writing the article didn't know the difference between silage and slurry. Not any more though, because the general ignorance on the basics of farming is so widespread. Readers of the parish magazine are obviously not included in this general statement! He also didn't know that the gestation period is the same for humans as cattle.

When my eldest grandson rang me one evening about eight years ago, it was to ask me when his wife would be due to give birth to our first great-grandchild. Go and look it up grand-dad, in your calving chart. After one question I could give him a fairly accurate date. At least he had learnt something while visiting us on the farm!

One of my grand-daughters-in-law brought her uncle to lunch not long ago and he had never set foot on a farm in all of his seventy plus years. He was fascinated and so pleased to have had the opportunity to stroke calves, help get the herd of cows in etc.. He came again this week and was so looking forward to going up to the farm again. I felt so sorry for this kindly gentleman that he had not been able, or have

had the chance, to see and appreciate something I just take for granted.

One thing I hope you are able to do is to listen to the sounds of the countryside. From the rustling of the leaves as they move to and fro in the wind, to that particular call of a cock-pheasant, to the grunting of the badgers and the bark of the fox, the list goes on and on. What made me think of that all of a sudden? Because I have mentioned Uncle Ron previously. Why about the sounds of the countryside? Because he, and not Susie's father, proposed the toast to his niece's wedding. Susie's mum and dad are deaf and dumb and we had a lady to sign at Merriott church for the wedding ceremony. It was very moving for those of us who can hear to suddenly realise what we could be missing, and also to be so thankful for all the sounds we hear day by day.

How does the hymn go, "Count your blessings...".

*MSH*



### **ST STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

It's that time again!

The Christmas Bazaar in aid of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance will be on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in the Jubilee Hall.

We make our usual request to you all to make, bake and bring please. There will be stalls for Christmas decorations, cakes and gifts, also a raffle for a Christmas hamper and other prizes.

Please support this worthy cause.



### **ST STEPHEN'S FAMILY SERVICE – 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

At our family service this month we will be celebrating Stir Up Sunday. Do come along and bring your children. Help us make and bake a cake during the service. At the end of the service we will, *hopefully*, enjoy a cup of coffee/tea/juice and a piece of the hot cake.



### **TAKE A LITTLE TIME**

Take a little time for seeing grass and blooms with dew impearled.

Take a little time for being quiet in your own small world.

Take a little time for sowing  
flowers amongst life's many weeds.

Some day you will see them glowing,  
growing from the hidden seeds.

Take a little time to ponder what is  
in your secret heart.

Take a little time for living, busy  
though your day may be.

Take a little time for giving  
happiness to somebody.

*Patience Strong*