

Nine / Eleven

I'm writing this on the 11th day of September and thinking about where I was and what I was doing 2 years ago. I remember that I had only been back in the UK for a couple of weeks from a visit to my parental home in Midwestern America. Like so many others I just happened to switch on the TV and saw on the screen what I took to be one of those disaster films like "Towering Inferno" or "Earthquake" made in the late 70's and early 80's. It took a while for the penny to drop, and for me to realise that what I was viewing on the screen was REAL as well as LIVE ! I simply stood in front of the TV in disbelief and shock transfixed by what was unfolding before my eyes. I also remember re-witnessing the planes crashing into the twin towers, and the aftermath as the towers fell, re-played time and time again on our screens during the hours, and days that followed.

The world is a very different place since that tragic day 2 years ago. For many of those more closely involved than most of us are here in Somerset and Dorset, their lives will never be the same again. Many accounts of acts of bravery, sacrifice and heroism have been told, and will continue to be told, and retold for many years to come. In the midst of such horror life becomes all the more precious. In the midst of such horror, differences of race, colour or creed pale into insignificance. As some of you may recall, my friend from Sabbatical days in Bethlehem, Fr. Tom's parish was Ground Zero. From his experiences of 9/11 he penned the following, which is a sober reminder of how frequently petty our differences, and ensuing moans and groans about one another truly are!

Have a read! Have a think! Say a prayer!

Stephen

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH WINSHAM

Minister – Revd John McMinn – 01935 872105 **Hon Secretary** – Michael Hebditch – 01460 30201
Sunday services at 10.30am. 1st Sunday, tea and biscuits after the service. 3rd Sunday Holy Communion
3rd Thursday 12.15-1.30 monthly Soup & Cheese Lunch -Sports Club



THORNCOMBE CHAPEL

Normal Sunday Services: 11am and 6.30pm. Every 2nd 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.



CREWKERNE & ILMINSTER DEANERY CONFIRMATION

Will be held at St Mary's Church, Thorncombe on Thursday 5th February 2004 at 7 pm.
Anyone wishing to be confirmed please let me or the Churchwardens know as soon as possible in order that preparations can be made.



THE LATE ELSIE VICKERY

The Vickery family wish to thank everyone for their cards, letters and kind words of sympathy for the sad loss of Elsie. Also everyone who attended the funeral service, arranged the lovely flowers and making the family cross. The bellringers, which we could hear on leaving the Synderford Valley, the people who arranged the extra seating etc. Thanks to the Vicars for the memorable service and to Mr Keith Hall for playing the organ.

The wonderful amount of £1,290 was received in donations. This has been divided between Cancer Research UK and the Joseph Weld Hospice, Dorchester.

Thank you all.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Shoe Box Appeal is with us again.



Please ensure that all completed boxes are returned to the Vicarage by 31st October ready to be collected by the lorry by 5th November. Many thanks in advance for all your help.

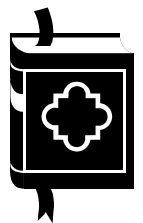
Margaret Chivers



FROM "NEW DAYLIGHT" NOTES

David Spriggs commenting on Galatians 5: 16 & 22 – 26

How everyone longs always to be treated lovingly, and patiently with kindness, gentleness and reliability! This, says Paul, is how people who have been transformed by the Holy Spirit behave. Look at the "body, mind and spirit" section in a bookshop, or watch a few T.V.



programmes and you can soon see that most people would love to be happy, peaceful and self-controlled. Yet these are the changes that happen when God's Spirit is in control of anyone's life. Paul knew this, because, as has often been pointed out, the 'fruit of the Spirit' reads like a snapshot of the character of Jesus in the gospels.

The Holy Spirit is someone who does for us now what Jesus did then." *OMM*



CAN YOU HELP THE WINSHAM WEB MUSEUM?



Peter Duffell has been carrying out a great deal of work over the last eighteen months or so on a very important aspect of Winsham's history, those sons of Winsham who lost their lives in the three major conflicts of the last century. Young men from Winsham gave up their lives in the Boer War and in both of the World Wars, and it is proper that as full a record of the circumstances leading to their sacrifice should be kept. Thankfully, many more survived, and where possible we are also recording their experiences.

This is leading to a major revision of the existing Winsham at War Gallery and we are hoping that this will be appearing on the web museum site in November of this year.

As part of this gallery we also want to record the activities of the Winsham Home Guard and the Land Army. If you can help by providing information, anecdotes or lending of pictures or memorabilia that can be scanned or photographed, just contact Peter Duffell on 30168.

More information from the school logbooks will also shortly be appearing. Paul Ketterer has been patiently deciphering 1876 handwriting, and the results will be appearing soon. The entries are particularly interesting as it gives an account of the scarletina that raged through Winsham in that year, something that was still a threat in my young days in the forties. I know, I caught it, and very ill I was too! We never seem to hear of it now.

I hope you are visiting the Parish Web Site (www.winsham.org.uk) on a regular basis. We are doing our best to keep it as up-to date as possible with news and photographs of current events in the village. The Notice Board seems to change every few days.

I would like to include a section on interesting birds, plants and animals seen in the parish, but need someone to help collate and provide the information. Any volunteers - you do not need to know anything about computers!

John Sullivan (30026)



ABX

On Saturday 1st November in the Thorncombe Community Room between 10 and 12noon, Angela and Richard Delderfield will be holding a sale of

Christmas Cards and Gifts in support of the Leukaemia Research Fund.

Also available will be the new 'Calendar Girls' calendar for 2004 (being published and distributed by Penguin Books) which includes the stars of the recently launch film and some of the previous W.I girls.

The *Calendar Girls* film stars Helen Mirren, Julie Walters, Linda Bassett, Annette Crosbie, Celia Imrie, Penelope Wilton, Geraldine James, John Alderton and Ciaran Hinds.

Coffee and cake will be served throughout the morning.

Please support this very worthy cause and get some great Christmas Gifts. If you are unable to join us for the above but would like to buy cards/calendar, please call us on 01460 30916. We look forward to seeing you!

RD



ATTENTION ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-24 YEARS

If you are currently volunteering to do a task which provides some benefit to the community you can now receive some national recognition for your efforts under a new national accreditation scheme. This could be of real benefit to you in seeking a job or further education as it is evidence of your commitment, responsibility and motivation.

The only requirement is that you keep a record of the hours of volunteer work that you do. Once you reach 100 hours and then 200 hours you will receive your certificates.

Like to know more? Phone Naomi Farrant, IVI Connexions on 01935 381800.

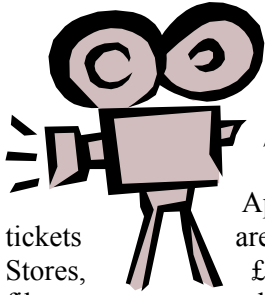
JSS



THORNCOMBE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Pudding Evening raised £250 towards the car park fund. There were over 20 varieties of desserts available to taste. Many thanks go those who so generously provided them and to those who came along to sample them.

The next fund raising event will be the Food Festival to be held on 23rd November. Plans are also under way for the Village Variety to be held at the end of January next year.



The first cinema presentation of the new season will be “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” on Thursday, 2nd October at 7.30pm.

tickets
Stores,
film on

Application forms for season are available from Thorncombe £18 single, £30 double or £4 per the night.

MUSIC HALL COMES TO THORNCOMBE. ‘The Lost Chord’ begins the Artsreach season of events, featuring Phil Humphries and Dave Townsend of the famous Mellstock Band. The Lost Chord brings all the fun and excitement of the bygone era of the English music hall. They sing hilarious and risqué ballads and play eccentric and virtuosic instrumentals.

The date is Friday, 17th October at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained from the Village Shop or The Old Bakery in Fore Street or 1, Tansee Hill. Price £4.50 for adults and £12 family tickets. Bar and refreshments available. For more information ‘phone 01460 30247.

Vivian Dalziel



BUGS, BIRDS AND OTHER CRITTERS!

A new item is currently appearing on the parish notice board at the Winsham Parish Web Site (www.winsham.org.uk) and we hope that it will become a regular feature. Its objective is to pass around the community items of interesting news about wild life and the local flora. Paul Smith has made the first contribution in his own inimitable style, together with his brilliant drawings. We do not expect this from everyone. A sentence or two on something that you find interesting is fine; if you can include a photograph then so much the better.

Please send your contributions to me, John Sullivan, Ivy Cottage, Back Street, or call me on 30026.



September seems to be a month of announcements and congratulations, with very little actually happening on the estate.

Firstly, big congratulations to Lynn Barnes on reaching half a century, and becoming a grandmother again. Tiny Carl was born prematurely but is fighting his way out of the special care unit as I write.

Secondly, to a couple who deserve a huge amount of happiness. Good luck to David and Pauline Savill,

who have finally resolved their ‘neighbourly’ problems and moved to their new home in September.

Thirdly, a warm welcome to Ester Clark, the new leisure centre manager. It’s her you have to turn to to get those wobbles under control before Christmas.

Hamilton’s restaurant have started offering a special Sunday lunch; so, if you want a child free lunch in sumptuous surroundings, that’s the place to head for.

Still on the subject of Hamilton’s, please don’t forget the charity Ritz cookery demonstration and lunch which is due to be held there in November. There will also be a charity première of Lord of the Rings in December to be seen at Taunton. For details of either of the above please call me on 01460 30775. Also in December St Margaret’s Hospice will be holding a Christmas Ball at Cricket. For tickets and details ‘phone 01935 410847.

Finally, with the nights getting shorter and an autumnal chill in the air, Cricket St Thomas held their Harvest Festival; thank you to everyone who turned up to help decorate the church. *SV*



ST. STEPHEN’S HAND RAILS—Appeal

Further to our item in the August Issue the PCC is pleased to report that at the time of writing (4th September) 75% of the installation costs have been received.

Donations in memory of John Jeffery and Clare Barrett have reached £2977. Contributions given under Gift Aid arrangements will enable the PCC to recover an additional £356 on this most generous response to our appeal.

If you had intended to donate and somehow didn’t quite get round to it, you may of course still contribute! Please contact the Treasurer who will be delighted to hear from you. *RCB*



ACTION FOR CHARD AND THE OUTLYING PARISHES

We all need to have a vision. Everything we use today may have been someone’s “vision” once. The telephone, keyboard, the biro in the desk-tidy, someone had a vision and looked at a way of making it happen. Sometimes it can be difficult to feel that as an individual you can make a difference, and it was the idea of being able to make a difference to people’s lives in and around the Chard area that attracted me to get involved with the regeneration group known now as Action for Chard Town or ACT.

To say that it is action only for Chard is a misnomer because actually Chard comprises not only the town but the parishes around it, its villages, hamlets and isolated rural dwellings. None of us can happily live in isolation, so too, Chard has an important relationship with the surrounding parishes. We all rely on each other. Facilities available within the larger parishes are not there for the exclusive use of the local residents; everyone in the area uses them. Therefore, now that ACT is putting together an Action Plan for Chard, the needs of the outlying parishes are not only important, but are actively sought.

What we need to ask is: What facilities would make life better for everyone? What do we need to be able to access those facilities, when they are there? Who are the groups of people we need to ask about what is needed and where it should be? How do we reach the elderly, young people, children, parents with young children, the fit, the disabled, the rich and the poor?

ACT is comprised of a group of volunteers from all walks of life, with a wide range of abilities, skills, knowledge and interest. They have come together because they have basically caught the “regeneration bug”! They want to make a difference and a little work from each of them adds up to a significant difference in what is done.

At present the Steering Group is in the process of producing the brief for the consultant they will appoint to help them put the Action Plan for Chard and its hinterland together. Finance has been secured to get this done. But it is still the community’s plan because everything identified within it is what the community identified in the consultation in 2001. One of the Steering Group’s key tasks this year towards the production of the plan is to come to the parishes and consult with people there about what it is YOU want and need.

What ACT needs are more people with a vision and the desire to get involved with the projects already identified and the projects that will be identified. You need to tell ACT about your ideas and then get involved with making those ideas a reality. A lot of groundwork has been done researching public opinion and priorities. All we need are people to help see the process through. There is literally “pots” of funding available to voluntary trusts, which is now available to parish, town or district council. That funding will make our “vision” a reality. Come along to ACT’s next general meeting or steering group meeting and find out more about the things we are doing that will change things. If we “act” together, we really can make a difference to the lives of people living in or near Chard.

Contact: - Saveria Moss, Community Regeneration Officer Area West SSDC, on 01460 260423 for dates of Public General Meeting held bi-monthly and Steering Meetings held monthly. *Jean Smith*



SUMMER BARN DANCE FOR ST MARY’S ‘TALENTS’

A number of folk danced the evening away at the barn dance in Thorncombe Village Hall.

Our band, “Long Odds and Short Straws,” with some extra friends, played a variety of tunes, from lively jigs, reels and polkas to lilting waltzes. The energy and innovative moves of the dancers were a joy to behold as we danced ‘The Dashing White Sergeant,’ ‘Cumberland Square,’ and Czechoslovakian ‘Cheroneekce’!



The ‘talents’ of Sheila, June and Gwen were much in evidence during the interval as they provided a welcome ploughman’s supper and a tempting array of homemade cake; chocolate, fruit, jam and cream sponge lemon or apple. We are most grateful to them and to Barbara and Reg who ran the raffle and Steve who acted as our “doorman” and treasurer for the evening.

The band enjoyed themselves so much and had such a good supper that they decided that they didn’t want to be paid! So with the kindness of our “catering ladies” we raised a total of £150 including £33 from the raffle and £24 from the sale of cheese and cakes that we hadn’t managed to eat!

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who came and made it such a happy evening. *OMM*

P.S. I would like to add a big thank you to Olive, our caller, whose clear calls guided everyone around the dance floor with the minimum of mayhem! *SM*



CAFÉ INDIGO LYME REGIS

Café Indigo is tucked away in Coombe St, Lyme Regis. I found it by mistake one lunchtime this summer. The café offers uncluttered surroundings; flagstone floors, whitewashed walls with cobalt blue, which, I imagine, would feel equally uplifting on a grey wintry day.

The menu is freshly prepared, locally sourced and very reasonably priced. The home-made salmon fishcakes served with lemon and caper mayonnaise, salad and fresh bread, the minced beef nachos served with corn

chips, a really fresh avocado salad were all delicious, and big hearted portions. The frittata – a Spanish style omelette, using free-range eggs served with salad and bread is one of the many tasty vegetarian options. The homemade soups are also always a winner. The coffee is freshly ground and brewed with an impressive espresso maker, straight from Milan. Breakfast, brunch or the traditional cream tea can all be found at the Café Indigo.

Impressively Café Indigo also offers a children’s menu with some good, healthy options (no chips served here); tuna mayonnaise pasta, spaghetti with tomato sauce and grated locally produced cheddar. One of the most popular choices is the age-old favourite of toast and marmite. It’s still quite rare to find healthy children’s choices – not a chicken nugget in sight.

But it’s the extra touches that make Café Indigo special. The rack of daily newspapers, the box of paper and crayons for children and music selected by Rocket Science (the new record shop in Lyme Regis, jointly owned by Café Indigo which has a brilliantly eclectic choice of music) as well as the delicious food that make it distinctive. This is a café that understands how to please.

Kate Thomas



THORNCOMBE FIRST RESPONDERS



Our new vehicle was kept quite busy this month (August), with 5 Care Line calls and 5 Ambulance Emergency ones. Perhaps the very hot weather was to blame (we are really not used to it, are we?).

There will be training for new Responders on 14th and 15th October; if anyone out there would like to go along and find out if they would like to become part of the team, please contact Rosemary at Middle Cottage, Chard Street (tel: 30189). You’ll be under no obligation and can learn useful new skills.

Situated where we are, right at the edge of Dorset, it is inevitable that sometimes 999 calls are routed to 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.



WINSHAM WALKERS

On Thursday 4th September nine walkers set off past the beautifully kept cemetery towards Ammerham.

After crossing the river at Forde Abbey the group turned left and wound their way up through the pasture field and into the maize field to Wheelhouse Lane. This was followed for a short distance before striking off right towards Thorncombe. Before reaching the latter a turn was made to cross the river by the new bridge above Shedrick. The river was followed to return to Winsham by way of Bere Farm.



Note: By special request the next walk will be on SATURDAY, 4th October, when it is planned to walk back to Winsham from Pilsden Pen, (weather permitting.) For any walkers who feel daunted by the thought of climbing Pilsden Pen, a gentler route will be available reaching the top of Pilsden Pen from the side rather than a frontal assault.

Meet at the Bell Inn at 10.30 a.m. Please note the earlier time. Transport required.

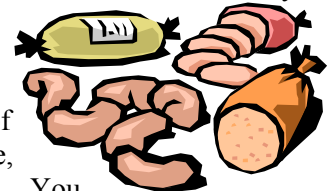
For further details contact Peter Pye, 01460 30751



CHRISTMAS FOOD FESTIVAL – THORNCOMBE

Following its fantastic success last year, Thorncombe Village Hall Committee are organising another Christmas Food Festival on Sunday, 23rd November from 11am-3pm. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has kindly agreed to open the event, if available.

There will be even more food stalls than last year, including home made buffet-size pies, Christmas cakes, chutneys and preserves, a range of cheeses, plus much more, and all locally produced. You can sample and taste the produce before you buy.



Admission is free, there will be refreshments and a raffle, so if you fancy doing some Christmas shopping with a difference, make a note in your diary now.
Rose Richards



THORNCOMBE GARDEN CLUB

The first talk to the newly formed club on 9th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall will be given by Mr Shennan titled “My garden and its First Ten Years.”

Vivienne Dalziel



STOP PRESS – ST MARY’S THORNCOMBE

The ‘Auction of Promises’ scheduled for Friday, 24th October, 2003 has had to be postponed until the spring due to insufficient ‘lots’ for auction.

Our thanks to those who came forward with offers. *RD*



COMPOST CORNER

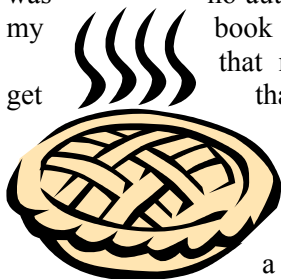
Well Compost Corner is here again; it pops up as regularly as a cheap packet of seeds these days. You don’t know what you’re going to get, if anything at all!

I hope this month’s sproutings will meet with your approval and, if they don’t, then just compost it.

Talking of odd things just popping up, I have just found a spindly sunflower poking above the tops of my sweet corn; all the sunflower seed, intentionally sown, failed. Runner beans, pumpkins and marrows have all grown from discarded seed from a year or so ago.

All in all I think it’s been a good summer; considering it will never be perfect, this year has been a good ‘un. The best dahlia flowers ever, along with lovely first and second early potatoes. The main crop is still in the ground. Wonderful sweetcorn, and a good crop of runners, their foliage was most remarkable, very rich and dense. Onions were good, and we’ve had the weather to dry them as well.

My plant of the month for October is the blackberry, the wild variety of course. I haven’t tasted a cultivated variety that quite matches the taste of the *rubus fruticosus rosaceae*. Most cultivated forms are very heavy producers and some are even thornless. It’s fighting through the nettles and then avoiding the thorns that make wild blackberries taste so much better. The blackberry is self-fertile, so presumably it also has a deep inner peace; none of this mating and fertilising business to contend with! Relying on birds eating a few berries and discarding the seed, complete with fertilizer, if not on your car then somewhere suitable for it to sprout and grow, will see it spread wide and far. It will also ramble above and below ground given a chance, a real survivor and a blessed nuisance if there was no autumnal peace offering. It says in my book that they like well-drained soil that retains moisture. I don’t quite get that one; sort of dry but wet I guess. As for a variety regarding a cultivated plant, I’ll not give out any names but buy one recommended by a friend. It’s best to try the fruit first to be sure. If you have a recommendation, please



let me know, and a blackberry and apple pie would go down a treat as well.

Start to prepare for winter by securing climbing plants and trees. Raise the height of the lawn mower blade. Most flowers and vegetables may linger on until October but plans for seed collecting and clearing can be made. Pumpkins and marrows can be left out until the first frost; they have more growing and maturing to do. Wallflowers hate manure, the poorer the soil the better they like it; just sprinkle a few tulips among them for added colour and variety. Hardy annuals could be sown now. Spinach sown now will over winter, spring cabbage plants can be planted out about a foot and a half apart and two feet between rows.

If you have hebes or other such shrubs (I know that covers a large family) it may be worthwhile taking some cuttings and putting them under cover. A hard winter will kill many so called hardy shrubs.

Perhaps now’s the time to get the compost bins on special offer through the local council. Just look in your bin and think about how much of its contents can rot down and be useful to you. I did try a wormery once, but I think they all escaped; maybe you’d have more luck.

Happy autumnal pottering.

Stephen Rowsell



ST MARY’S THORNCOMBE CE SCHOOL

The end of term was as usual very busy for all of us. Our year 6 children enjoyed an induction day at The Woodroffe School and had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school and their new classmates. Our new reception children completed their series of visits to school by being very grown up and staying without their mummies and daddies.

Four of our children took part in the Beaminster Short Tennis tournament and played extremely well.

Mrs Pakes and Mrs Walker took their classes to Lyme Regis to follow the river Lym from source to sea via the working flourmill. The flour they purchased was used to bake biscuits for the whole school.

Our mini marathon, organised by Mrs Owen, raised more than £550. This money will be shared between the village in Nepal, which we support, and the Dorset Air Ambulance who visited us earlier this year.

The whole school walked to Forde Abbey for our school trip. Mrs Pakes planned an excellent route and the children were so well behaved that staff at the Abbey commented on their behaviour.

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk Writes: -

Looking to our success, the bus shelter is now complete, fully paid for and insured. We have a licence for land use from South Somerset Homes, and the signing of the lease is progressing. The Parish Council propose to organise an official opening ceremony but no date has yet been set. Talking of dates for your diary, I have received formal notification of when the Chard Mobile Library will visit Winsham. For regular users this is probably not news, but here goes anyway:-

On each day when the library visits it will stay at three locations:-

The Bell Inn 2.40pm - 3.10pm
Stuckey's Farm 3.15pm – 3.25pm
Davies Close 3.40pm – 4.05pm

The dates of visits are listed below:-

13th October 2003.
27th October 2003.
10th November 2003.
24th November 2003.
8th December 2003.
5th January 2004.
19th January 2004.
2nd February 2004
16th February 2004.
1st March 2004.
29th March 2004.
26th April 2004.
10th May 2004.
24th May 2004.
7th June 2004
21st June 2004.

We will also be getting regular visits from the Mobile Police Station. Please check the shop notice board for dates.

You are probably aware that officially we no longer have a Beat Manager. The Parish Council has written to Inspector Peter Saban at Somerton expressing their concerns and inviting the police to attend a future parish council meeting.

About a year ago Councillor John Sullivan and Mr Ernie Partridge carried out a risk assessment or topple test on headstones in the cemetery. During August they repeated the test. As a result the PC will need to take action soon to make 14 headstones safe (marked category A. in the list below). The intention is to straighten the headstones not just lay them flat, which is the minimum requirement to make them safe. Although the PC maintain the cemetery and are

responsible for safety, the graves and headstones belong to the families of the deceased. We have published in the cemetery and the notice board, a list of the graves needing some attention. It is felt appropriate that families should contribute to the cost of making the headstones safe. I will list the headstones that need attention and ask any family member to contact me. (01460 30310).

Dangerous Monuments in Winsham Cemetery & St. Stephen's Churchyard

Cemetery		
Category	Name	Latest Date
B	I.Harvie	1892
B	G & M.Bowden	1980
B	D.Woodroffe E.Lovelock J.B.Lovelock(Ashes)	1996
A	E.N & C.E Hollands	1979
A	M.H.& M.B.Hunt	1996
B	M.E.V. & J.Bray	1984
A	M.F.Young	1968
A	L.& M.A.Bishop	1916
A	J.W.Harvey	1915
A	G.F.Peterson	1981
B	S.North & E.Cox	1916
A	H. & H.A.Stroud	1948
A	G.& J.Spiller	1945
A	D.F.& W.E Botting	1990
A	E.C. & V.J.Pile	1959
A	J.Bagg & M.Scriven	1891
A	S. & A.Spurdle	1910
A	A.Raisen	1901
B	A. Peadon	1930
A	E. & C.Warren	1914

Key:- Category A – Immediate need of work.
Category B – Work needs to be carried out in the next six months.

Churchyard:- Table memorial at the front of the Church is in a decaying condition but not thought to be dangerous.

As a final note the Parish Council needs to publish that they have achieved a successful Audit to year ending 31st March 2003.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 1st October at 8 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall. If you can, please come along.



If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

THORNCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on 2 September after its summer break, with a very large agenda.

WDDC Cllr. Ian Gillespie informed the Council that the District Council would be looking, over the next few months, at affordable housing in Dorset. Details will follow. If you have any ideas or comments on this, the Council will be pleased to hear them.

Janet Walker (Neighbourhood Watch) reported that some cars and their occupants, who are wanted by the police, had been seen in the village. There is poster displayed concerning this. You are always advised to ring 999 if you want to report any incidents. The crime needs to be registered to Thorncombe. This helps the argument for more police presence in the village.

The accounts for the Year 2002/03 have now been finalised and approved by the Council. There are notices on both boards giving details about your rights and how to view the accounts before they are sent to the auditors.

Shortly the Council will be looking at the precept for 2004/05. If you are an organisation that would like to apply for a grant from the Council, then please write to the clerk. The criterion is that the grant must be for a specific item of expenditure or project. You will also need to send in a statement of your accounts. Please bear in mind that the Council receives its precept in two parts, April 2004 and September 2004. Funds for grants are not normally available until late summer and some organisations may have to wait until October 2004 depending on the expenditure of the Council.

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: 7 October 2003 in Thorncombe Village Hall at 7.30pm.



WINSHAM VILLAGE SHOP



The Annual General Meeting of Winsham Shop Ltd will be held on November 25th in the Jubilee Hall. All shareholders will receive formal notice and agenda papers in due course.

If any of our customers, who are not shareholders, want to hear in detail how we are doing, and to comment, advise or instruct us how to move forward, it is not too late. Shares (£10 each) and bonds (£100 each) are still available. Anyone who buys a

share before November 4th will be eligible to attend the AGM.

The new bread supply has been introduced with, we hope, minimal disruption. We have managed to hold prices as near as possible to the previous level, but we do know that shortly flour prices are due to go up. This will sadly mean that bread prices will almost certainly have to rise within the next few months, but as I am sure everyone will appreciate, this is beyond our control. Remarkably, our prices on milk are now comparable to those in the supermarkets. The perceived wisdom is that small retailers cannot match the supermarkets for price. Perceived wisdom is not always correct.

Thanks to a kind donation we are now able to supply wine glasses on loan to customers for special functions. All we ask is that you buy your wine from us. Special orders can always be accommodated and, if big enough, will probably be offered at a (small) discount.

Robert Shearer



THE MAGDALEN PROJECT

A very successful Open Day took place on Saturday, 6th September.

The afternoon started with Oliver Letwin MP praising the centre on the installation of its new solar panel system, which was 50% funded by the Department of Trade and Industry and 50% by the SWEB Green Fund.

Approximately 200 hundred people visited over the afternoon, and enjoyed the wonderful weather, and the attractions on offer. These included a family challenge, rural craft demonstrations – cheese making, sausage making, apple juicing and working with willow, as well as face painting, badge making and various stalls.

The Friends of Magdalen provided delicious cream teas and cakes etc., and a barbecue was supplied by Julian Dorset.



We raised in the region of £350, and a big thank you to all who made the day such a great success, and to everyone who came and supported us.

Our new rural craft brochure is now available. Courses include cheese making, meat curing, willow weaving, photography, painting, hedge laying, hurdle making and many more. Book early to avoid disappointment.

For your copy and to be added to our mailing list, telephone Catherine Rands on 01460 30144 or e-mail catherine.rands@themagdalenproject.org.uk

On 8th October there will be a talk on the recent trek across the Namibian Desert. (See This'n'That.) Our Christmas Craft Fair is on Saturday, 6th December at 2pm. To book a stall (£10) ring Catherine on the above number or e-mail.



THORNCOMBE W.I.



A full house of members, friends, guests from other institutes, and, most particularly, husbands and other gentlemen, filled the village hall to hear Commander Richard Seymour speak about “Yeovilton – Past, Present and

Future.” He kept us entertained with a resume of the role of the Air Arm of the Navy in times of peace and war, and the growth of H.M.S. Heron at Yeovilton from its beginnings in 1939. All this was illustrated with slides. Members were particularly interested in the role played by women in the service. There were several ex-seamen in the audience and some very pertinent questions were asked.

Everyone enjoyed some excellent refreshment.

Our next meeting on October 14th will welcome Mr R Hall who will talk about “Life as a Meter Reader.” Hostesses will be Margaret Retter and Mary Turner. The competition is for a paper knife. Don’t forget ‘Flower of the Month.’

Our special fund raising dinner for the resurfacing of the village hall car park is on Friday, 31st October. The guest speaker will be Paul Atterbury of the Antiques Roadshow fame. Tickets are limited, so they will be on a first-come, first-served basis, so please apply early. If you wish any information, please contact Nora Arnold at Chapel Thatch, Holditch, TA20 4NL.
MT



WINSHAM W.I.



In response to Somerset W.I.’s appeal for 2003 to be the “Year of One Thousand Cakes,” Winsham W.I. is to hold a sale of cakes at Paccombe Cottage, Church Street.

We will try to find recipes for healthy (or healthier cakes). Why don’t you come and see how we got on? You will find the date in the diary. *AR*

A different venue for the month’s meeting.

We all went off in a mini bus to County Headquarters, Wilton Lodge in Taunton, where the catering manager welcomed us. She started her “Summer Puddings” demonstration by telling us that the B.B.C. had just been filming her for one of their “Escape to the Country” stories. She was due to do another T.V. appearance for I.T.V., so perhaps we were being entertained by the new JANEY Oliver. The six puddings she produced were all delicious and between us we licked the platters clean before we moved into another room for our meeting.

Birthday flowers for Mrs. Mona Tierney and Mrs Jean Thompson appeared out of a plastic bag containing the flowers in a vase of water to keep them fresh on the journey; quite a clever trick performed by our chairman Mrs Anne Rose. Mrs Rona Loaring missed out on her birthday flowers in August, but she bore her loss with great fortitude.

More outings were arranged and business discussed before we climbed back into the bus for our journey home. Certainly a different meeting this time and good fun. *PP*



ST STEPHEN’S CLEANING ROTA 2004

Last year’s appeal found one more name for the list – Sandy Wells. This year we still need more as, reluctantly, Barbara Loveluck has retired from the job she has done so willingly and thoroughly for many years. Thank you Barbara and welcome Sandy.

If your name could be added to our list please ring Anne Rose – 30366. The new rota will be drawn up in November.



ST STEPHEN’S CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

If anyone has flowers, fruit, gifts of vegetables or greenery, please bring it to the Church by 2pm on Friday, 3rd October.

Help with decorating the church would also be appreciated. *Margaret Long – 30457*



WINSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time, especially for those 4 year olds just starting their school career. This year we welcome six new children to the reception year and hope that their time with us will be happy and successful.



Talking of success, it seems a long, hot time ago that we were celebrating the achievements of the children in the end of year assembly back in July. A well attended event included musical performances by instrumentalists and singers.

Congratulation to Crispin Whittle and Scott Rodway for being awarded the Endeavour cups for working hard throughout the year. Well done to Ashley Rodway, Sara Douglass, Louise Johnson and Keely Rodway for winning the Sports Day cups. Crispin Whittle and Ashley Rodway were joint winners of the Fun Run. Bethany Fowler was awarded the Attendance cup for 100% attendance. All the children gained swimming awards and the standard of achievement in this area was impressive.

Congratulations must also go to all the staff, but in particular to Lynda Slattery, the headteacher, for the Award of Investors in People.

So, by looking back at last year's achievements we set our sights on greater things this year, and we will keep you posted on all developments. If you wish to get involved with the school and are able to help out in any way, you will find a warm welcome.

Topics under study this term are "Life in Victorian Times," and "How toys today are different from those of the past." If you have any artefacts, stories or experiences that you would like to share with the children, please contact the school.



THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST



How good it is to see a 'young' old friend!

Brian Edwards of Dorset County Council made a most welcome return visit to talk on yet another of his specialist subjects, at our

meeting held on Thursday 11th September.

Twenty-four members and guests were rewarded by an outstanding slide presentation and talk on 'Dorset Insects' and only one spider in sight! Brian's photography is a great credit to him as is his subject understanding. A vote of thanks was proposed by Les Holloway who reminded us all of the need to keep a little natural habitat in our gardens.

The new arrangement of locally produced juices and biscuits received considerable interest, out-selling teas and coffees. This will be continued at future meetings.

Our next big FREE event is the: ANNUAL TVT WALK on Sunday 12th October.

Do you know about the hidden pond? Or how to get to Forde Abbey across the fields? Join the neighbours on the popular TVT Annual Walk and find out! Bring your friends for a fun afternoon out. Our four-mile circular walk will take us through the woods to Hewood and back. Tea and cakes will be served at the Village Hall afterwards! Members and non-members, children and well-behaved dogs on leads, are all welcome. Stout footwear or wellies advised as it may be sloshy in places.

Meet at the entrance to Gribb Plantation at the top of Chard Street at 2pm. For further information contact Eve Higgs on 30994.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th November when John MacDonald of the Axe Valley Archaeology Society will talk on "Archaeology of the Axe Valley." RD

Did you see.....?

The large parties of swallows and martins gathering on local power and 'phone lines to coincide with their preparation for their long journeys to Africa for which they need to build their strength. Other birds, too, are on the move, and it is always worthwhile at this time to watch for unusual visitors as they pass on their way; so far a hobby and a smart whitethroat (the first this year) have been seen here.

In the countryside generally, it is disturbing to see how many field hedges have already been flailed. These hedgerows, which have had to be "grubbed" on a vast scale to accommodate the use of modern farming methods, carry many kinds of food, which are of great importance to a wide range of wild life in autumn and winter. The consequent reduction of this larder of fruit, berries, hips, haws, nuts and seeds is undoubtedly a contributory factor in the great diminution in farmland wild life, which has occurred during the past 50 years. So far as birds are concerned, many have become notably more dependent for their survival on the bird table offerings of friendly human beings. PM



AN EVENING AT THE BELL

The Bell Inn held a curry night last week.

This first time venture for Tony and Terri proved to be an outstanding success, many customers asking for future repeat performances. "Will this



be a regular feature?" was heard several times.

The evening was fully booked, with 35 sitting down for a full curry meal. The fare was a large plate of chicken curry and rice, accompanied with vegetable samosa and onion bhajias AND a free drink. This was followed by dessert and coffee. Lively conversation flowed around the bar after the meal.

Tony and Terri were ably supported by Ann and Zoe.

We're looking forward to the next foreign food evening at The Bell, be it Indian again, Mexican, Spanish, or wherever. *RW*

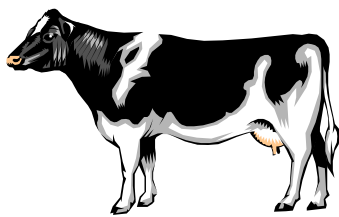


THE LATE ELSIE MAY VICKERY (Some of her childhood memories)

I was born Elsie May Fray at East Axnoller Farm, near Beaminster, West Dorset, on 10th January, 1924. For some unknown reason my family had the nick-surname of 'Frizzle.' I was the youngest of four children, two brothers, Bob and Den and one sister, Phyllis.

My father and mother were real old fashioned farming types. I did not know my mother's parents as she was born when her mother was in her fifties and her brothers were, I think, aged 22 and 24. According to my mother, the late pregnancy 'turned her mother's brain' and she was 'put away,' so my mother was brought up by Uncle Amos and Aunt Hatt, as my mother called them. I believe Aunt Hatt was my grandmother's sister.

My maternal granddad was a full time gardener, who farmed a few acres and kept a pig or two and a couple of house cows. He was a church man, and mother used to tell us that she remembered that when one of her father's cows was going to calf and he had to go to work, he would get up early and go into the church and pray to God to keep the cow safe and let her have an easy calving. If all went well, he would go to church the next morning to give the Almighty thanks.



My paternal grandparents were not true farmers. My grandmother came from farming stock but she married a carpenter and wheelwright. They had eight children. I was told she always vowed they would take up farming, so she took in washing and ironing, and did cleaning to make money to buy a farm for her sons when they were old enough. Her oldest son joined the army, my grandfather passed away, and one of the

younger boys married and took over the wheelwright and carpentry business. My grandmother was able to buy Axnoller Farm (now a donkey sanctuary) and moved in with a daughter, who had lost her husband during the 1914-18 war, and three sons. My dad had married my mother by this time and was a dairyman at Litton Cheney.

Ours was a happy home. We were well fed on good homemade food, plain, substantial and wholesome. My dad always had a good vegetable garden, and mum made the best use of everything. The water supply was from a well; we all bathed in the same water in front of an open fire. Our toilet was a dirt closet with two seats for adults and one for children. I remember that once a pet 'suck' lamb rubbed the door open, and fell through one of the seat holes into the muck. Dad had to take the whole seat off to get the lamb out!

My mother taught my sister and I how to knit, sew, patch and mend at a very early age, but we did enjoy it. She made our clothes, mostly from remnants; jumpers were made from her own old ones. We were taught to unravel them, pick out any worn woollen bits and discard it. We would then skein up the better bits to wash and re-knit.

I was born deep in the country and had to walk everywhere. My parents pointed out birds, flowers, butterflies etc., wherever we went, so from birth I was taught to appreciate the wonders of nature. Flowers were much more abundant then and there was a wider variety.

When I was five I started school at Cheddington Church of England School. We had to walk across four fields, up a lane to the road and then down over a hill to get to school. To begin with I wore lace-up boots, as it was before the days of wellington boots. When I first had wellingtons I remember my legs becoming so sore that they bled a lot. Every night my mum would cut off a strip of old velvet material and stitch it to the top of my wellies, padding the insides of the strips with cotton wool to try and prevent them from rubbing. If it was very wet my dad would come by horse and cart to fetch us from school. Neighbouring farm children also had a ride home. We had to cross a river, which soon became very swollen.

(To be continued)



**Although God demands a whole
heart, He will accept a broken one
if He gets all the pieces.**

Mary Irving



Keep me from giving way, when the way is long and hard.
Keep me from losing hope, when dark skies spread unstarred.

Keep me from falling short of all I ought to be.
Keep me within thy sight oh Lord, wherever I may be.

Keep me from turning back, when old ways call my heart.

Keep my soul unafraid, and help me play my part.
Keep me from losing faith, when everything goes wrong.
Help me oh Lord, to sing life's plain eternal song.

Patience Strong

