



April / May 05

CROWCOMBE CHURCH SERVICES

April			May		
3 rd	11.00am	Communion	1 st	11.00am	Communion
				6.30 pm	Benefice Praise (Church House)
10 th	8.00am	BCP Communion	8 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
17 th	6.30pm	Evensong	15 th	6.30pm	Evensong + commission PCC
24 th	11.00am	Family Service	22 nd	11.00am	Family Service
			29 th	10.30am	Benefice Communion

TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS – Both on Wednesday April 6th, at 7.00pm in Church House, and 8.00pm in the church.

First the Vestry Meeting - when anyone resident in the parish can vote for a churchwarden, and the Annual Parochial Church meeting - when a new PCC is elected by those on the electoral roll. Reports are given on the activities and finances of the past year.

The really vital meeting is in the church at 8.00pm. The church building belongs to the village and needs your help. Past generations have built and repaired it – now it is our responsibility. You will be able to see the architect's report and join in discussions about how we raise money to pay for necessary repairs to the roof, walls and tower over the next five years. Estimated costs are over £120,000. We shall be applying for grants, but first need to show how the village community is helping. If you have experienced good fundraising ideas, bring them along. We hope to enlist a team who will be able to talk to neighbours, over the coming months and encourage them to make regular donations, however small. Did you know that if you are a taxpayer and sign a form, every £1 you give to the church will earn 28p from the Chancellor? There are envelopes in the church for casual gifts, but you can have a supply of your own for regular use. If you can't get to the meeting at 8.00pm, but have ideas or would like to help, please ring Rita (618388) to fix another chance to see the problems for yourself.

POST OFFICE The post office report to the recent Parish Assembly described the past year as one of unprecedented change, as pension/allowance books were phased out and a range of new services became available. Now that the dust has (almost) settled, the following list is a reminder of what is available:

You can still come to the Post Office for

Cash – as you want it, including £5 notes and coins, if you have the right sort of account.

Stamps – obviously. **Please note** that postage rates (apart from 2nd class) go up on 7 April. Buy lots of 1st class stamps before then and save 2p on every stamp!

Paying bills – Income tax, council tax, national insurance, gas, electricity, phones..... You can still pay BT bills at the Post Office, even though BT have stopped mentioning it on the invoice.

Foreign Currency – also travellers' cheques, E111s etc. A wide range of currencies at highly competitive rates, available in 1 - 4 days.

National Savings Investments – also new Post Office-branded investments

Postal Orders – becoming more popular for eBay purchases etc.

Fishing and Game Licences

You can ALSO come to the Post Office for

E Top-ups and e-vouchers for mobile phones and **Phone cards** – charged per second, no minimum charge

The Post Office's new Home Phone service Napster music download vouchers

Personal Loans

Car Insurance

Home Insurance

For loans and insurance we just have leaflets with a number to ring if you want to take it further, but Crowcombe post office earns a few pounds for every loan and insurance policy taken out, and many people find they can save money by switching from their present suppliers.

MEDAU AT CROWCOMBE HALL Wednesdays 7.00pm. -8.00pm. April 20 , 27 and May 4, 18, 25. Fees £20 per term or £5 per week. For details of this natural way of exercise ring Rosemary Littlewood on 01271 890066 or turn up for a session

CHURCH HOUSE 100+ CLUB

The winners of the Church House 100+ Club draw are as follows :

January 2005 – 1st David & Rosemary Freemantle, 2nd Megan Lewis, 3rd John Ayres.

February 2005 – 1st James Bennett, 2nd Emma Pascall, 3rd Vanessa Felstead.

If you are not already a member of the 100+ Club and you would like to enter, membership forms are available either from the Crowcombe Village Shop or Sue Bennett 01984 618496. Membership costs £1 per month, payable in advance to the end of the year.



CROWCOMBE CARS will celebrate its third birthday at the beginning of April. In that time we will have completed over 550 journeys. An impressive record and our thanks go to all our volunteer drivers and others who have made the scheme a success. One major benefit has been the ability to use a Somerset Travelpass for journeys within Somerset or to Bristol or Exeter Hospitals – halving the cost for those eligible. At the time of writing we do not know how the Chancellor's new proposals for free travel for Over 60's will affect this but we will keep you informed. Meanwhile those with an existing pass will be receiving a renewal invitation for a new five year plastic card. This requires a new passport photo. As part of our service Ian is willing to visit you and take your photo (at no charge) saving you a visit to Minehead or Taunton. Give him a ring on 618287 to arrange an appointment. And if you live in the parish and have not yet used Crowcombe Cars – why not give it a try. Doctor, hospital, shopping or just a social outing. A phone call to Ian will give you more details.

CROWCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO PARISH ASSEMBLY MARCH 21ST 2005

During the past year the Parish Council has achieved the following:-

- Seven Parish Council Meetings
- Consultation on 25 Planning Applications
- Supported the Federation of Crowcombe and Stogumber schools
- Erected new village signs in cooperation with the Quantock Hills AONB
- Brown Tourism Signs on by-pass: Negotiations progressing
- New signposts for Crowcombe Combe and Stogumber Crossroads on A358, both with junction name plates, being arranged in cooperation with Quantock Hills AONB
- Seats refurbished at Hagleys Green and War Memorial
- Undertaken a Risk Assessment of Parish Council procedures.
- Agreed a reciprocal agreement with Stogumber Parish Council in the event of the Clerk being unavailable
- Made grants to Church House, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and C.L.O.W.N.S.
- SCC Speed Limits on A358: Various pro-active discussions aimed at improving the designs and therefore safety
- Safe Routes to School: Negotiations on-going with SCC re path in front of Car Park and alongside Broad Meadow
- Crowcombe War Memorial. No further action. Decision and reasons published in CAW
- WSDC Planning Obligations Code of Practice: Supported negotiation re Affordable Housing as one of the 8 rural villages directly affected
- Save our Buses Campaign: Supported campaign by Bridgwater MP
- **Broadband and Internet Web Site**
Westlabb scheme to provide Broadband nearing fruition. Cllr Druitt is a director of the Company and Cllr Staniland is Broadband Champion for Crowcombe
Crowcombe accepted for pilot training scheme
Parish Website operational since December 2004
- **Children's Play Area**
RoSPA Play Area Safety Report and Disability Discrimination Act Assessment undertaken
Bark purchased to improve safety surfaces
Swings replaced and dangerous tarzan ropes removed
Westward Playgrounds: Plans and costings awaited for development and refurbishment of the play area equipment and improvement to the safety surfacing
- **Kesteven Recreation Ground**
Rubbish Bin being re-sited by Cleanaway from the lay-by on A358 to the entrance to the KRG.
Bench at top of ground being refurbished and improved by the Rexworthy family in memory of William (Bill) Rexworthy.

TRESTLE TABLES FOR SALE The Crowcombe Hall has a number of trestle tables for sale. Please contact Chris Staniland for further details 618370

THE VILLAGE SHOP On 23 April the shop will celebrate its fourth year of trading. It has proved a very successful venture and has become a focal point of the village. Thanks are due to the committee, the volunteer work force and to the support of the customers. New suppliers and products are continually being sought with changes being introduced to ensure the stock is kept as varied and fresh as possible. Fruit and vegetables are delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and milk from their own herd of Holstein cattle is brought daily by Gundenham Dairy of Langford Budville. The now infamous 'OO' gauge railway wagons are on their second 'run' and are available now priced £8.50 each. The range of greetings cards is continually being added to although as with all stock our limited space restricts the variety we can offer. Prepacked fresh meat and cold cooked meats are being supplied by the Somerset Farmhouse, Williton as well as Watsons of Bishops Lydeard. In the last trading year the venture made a net profit of £6,500. During this year the committee aims to clear all the outstanding 'loan' debt (currently standing at around £4,000) then future profits will be channelled towards parish/ village activities, as was set out in the original prospectus, subject to the agreement of the shareholders. If you would like to become a shareholder please contact Joe Butterworth, who is the Treasurer and sub postmaster, or if you would like to help in the shop contact a member of the committee.

Kevin Chittenden – Chairman

MEAT – FRESH OR FROZEN. Somerset Farmhouse – the butcher in Williton, who uses only locally produced meat is now delivering to Crowcombe Shop on a daily basis. The shop will be carrying a range of frozen meats of all sorts, but if you would prefer your meat fresh, then with at least one days notice it can be at the shop waiting your collection. Do come in and have a look – and at the same time admire our large new freezer and its contents. By using the shop you will be paying the same price as in Williton but saving yourself the cost of getting there and helping to keep the shop as the thriving village facility we have at present.

THE CROWCOMBE FLOWER SHOW will be held on **Sunday September 4th 2005**. Now that spring is here it seems a good time to ask everyone to give a thought to this years show. The schedules will be out shortly with the usual mix of classes, vegetables, flowers, cookery, arts and crafts, pictorial and verse, and a children's section. Other attractions on the day will be various stalls, demonstrations, raffle and delicious teas. We hope people are encouraged to enter and make another excellent village event. Nearer the time contributions to the tombola, cake and book stalls will be very welcome.

CROWCOMBE CRICKET CLUB The new season is nearly upon us and hopes are high for a happy and successful year. The first game is a friendly against Stogumber (home) on **Saturday April 23rd**. The League programme starts on **Saturday May 7th**, when the 1st XI, captained by Stuart Bailey, will be playing Knapp (away) and the 2nd XI, under Mike Mason, will be at home against Bishops Hull. Kevin Gulliford will captain the Sunday side, which has a full list of attractive features.

Junior Coaching, with Chris Smith and Chris Lock, will be starting on **Sunday April 10th**. Sessions last from 10am to noon.

Other dates for your diary :

Indoor nets at **Kingsmead School Wiveliscombe: Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 April, 7 – 8pm**

Pre-season supper: Saturday 16 April in Church House, 7pm for 7.30pm. Price £10. Tickets will not be issued but please tell Jo Lewis (667454) your requirements well in advance, so that Marion will know the numbers to cater for. We are hoping for a good turn-out to get the season off to a flying start.

GARDEN OPEN Vellacott, Lawford will be open on **Thursday 19 May and Saturday 21 May from 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.** in aid of the National Garden Scheme. As usual tea and cakes will be available together with a range of plants for sale. In **June openings on 16,17,18,19** will coincide with the Flower Festival to be held in Crowcombe Church and with the quilt and needlework exhibition in Church House. Further details of all these events will be printed in the June issue of CAW and elsewhere.

GARDEN OPEN Flaxpool House, Sunday 15 May, 2.30 – 6.00 pm, in aid of the National Garden Scheme.

W.I. April 13 Working for the Wireless talk by John Burgess. **May 11** Resolutions - help make a change. Meetings are held in Church House starting at 7.30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

FIREWORKS: PET AND PONY OWNERS PLEASE NOTE Fireworks are scheduled at Crowcombe Court on **Saturday 14th May and Saturday 18th June**. We expect them to take place at about 10.00 p.m. in both cases. They will be of the "quiet" type approved by the RSPCA but could still startle animals.

Patsy and Richard Anderson

EXMOOR MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL Wheddon Cross Recreation Field **Saturday 11th June 2005 from 2.00 pm onwards.** **FREE** admission to: sports, family craft activities, music and dancing workshops. Craft and Food Marquees. Camp overnight and enjoy an early Sunday morning walk. For more information and a booking form contact: Enid Mantin on 01643 841470.

WEATHER REPORT – CROWCOMBE HEATHFIELD – 2004

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall	148	60.5	82.5	116	40	58.5	62.5	105.5	52	170.5	46.5	100
Sunshine Hours	67	71	97.5	114	206	199.5	120.5	138.5	112	71.5	60	52.5
Frosts	7	12	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Highest Temp Fahrenheit	50	55	61	68	71	79	71	79	73	59	55	53
Lowest Temp Fahrenheit	27	25	22	31	31	41	44	46	42	35	32	26

Total Rainfall 104.5 mm (42" approx)

Total Sunshine hours 1310

Highest temp 79° (29 June and 1 August)

Lowest Temp 22° (1 and 2 March)

With grateful thanks to John Moore

PLEASE CAN I HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE BY 25/05/05

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