



February / March 05

CHURCH SERVICES

February

6th 11am Communion
9th 7pm **Ash Wednesday** Communion
13th 8am BCP Communion
20th 6.30pm Evensong

27th 11am Family Service

March

6th 11am Communion
13th 8am BCP Communion
20th **Palm Sunday** 6.30pm Evensong
24th **Maundy Thursday** 7pm Agape & Communion Church House; 9 pm – midnight vigil in church
25th **Good Friday** 2.30 – 3.00pm Meditation
27th **Easter Day** 8am BCP Communion
11am Family Service

A card with details of all the special services around Easter should be delivered to each house at the beginning of March. If not, please let Geoffrey Billson or Rita Butterworth know.

Crowcombe's medieval carved bench ends are famous. If you haven't looked at them recently, then drop in and see them in their new glory. A team of volunteers, given an expert lesson, has been lovingly removing the dusty old wax which has been built up over years, brushing and polishing until the old wood glows.

We have just had the result of the 5-yearly inspection, and the church will need some expert repairs to roof and walls in the coming 5-year period. Inevitably that will involve some times when scaffolding will mask the building – and some intensive fund-raising to put alongside the grants we expect. Gifts to the building fund would be more welcome now than ever!

UPDATE ON THE POUND Crowcombe WI are pleased to report that a builder specialising in the renovation of old walls has now been booked for late spring to work on the deteriorated areas of pointing on the walls of the Pound. The specially made oak gate (kindly donated by the Friends of the Quantocks and made by a local craftsman) is now ready. The County archaeological services are taking an interest in the project, and are donating the lime mortar required for this work. All the WI have to do now is to carefully remove the ivy from the walls and clear the ground!!

Beryl Ayres Treasurer

CROWCOMBE PLAYERS PRESENT TREASURE ISLAND – THE PANTO

Thursday 10 March 7.30 pm
Friday 11 March 7.30 pm
Saturday 12 March 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm

Tickets will be available from 21 February and **MUST be purchased in advance**

Adults £5 Children £2.50 (includes light refreshments)

Contact Kim Hughes on 01984 618439

From 21 February tickets can be collected from Caroline Saunders at Beadons, Crowcombe
on SATURDAY MORNINGS ONLY

Is there anyone out there with any old fashioned pistols we could borrow?

CROWCOMBE ROCK'N'ROLL CHRISTMAS PARTY Once again I would like to say a big thank you to all "Rockers" who danced the night away at this years gig. Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise a whopping £2000 for the good causes we were supporting, these being the Children Hospice South West and Taunton Samaritans. This was a considerable increase on last year and I know from correspondence I have received from these two deserving charities that they appreciate the money donated from this enjoyable evening more than words can say. I would also like to thank everybody who helped prepare the food, 3 Jan's, Sally, Hazel, Nancy, Kay & Roger, David Harbour for the lighting, David Knell for running the raffle, Tony Allen and Richard Boddington for the staging and a special thank you to Chris Staniland for donating the profits from the bar. I know I speak for all the other band members when I say "thank you" for the enthusiastic support you gave to us, we really do hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did.

Ernie & Sue Biggs.

CROWCOMBE BOOKCLUB As several new people have moved into the village I thought I would remind everyone that there is a bookclub still going strong. We were formed in 1988 as an informal group which would meet once a month to discuss a book we had all read. The host for the evening chooses the book to be read which must be obtainable in paperback and also from the library and can be fiction or non-fiction and any age. We have read everything imaginable from every country and I have a full list of all we have read if anybody is interested to see it. We meet on the first Tuesday each month at 8.00 in various venues according to whose choice it is and we try not to get too deep or heavy, in fact after coffee & biscuits the evening usually turns into a general gossip so it is a wonderful way to meet new friends. The club is open to men or women and we would particularly like more men as we find they usually have a totally different take on the books and we are very short of them just now! If you are interested ring **Sue Billinge** on **618287** for details of the next meeting.

THE FIRST QUANTOCK FOOD FESTIVAL will take place **6 – 8 May 2005**. If you would like more details or wish to take part in this event please contact **Jane Gilbert, Exmoor and Quantocks Project Officer** on **01984 635347**



CROWCOMBE CARS is still available for any adult resident of Crowcombe to use. If you are aged over 60 you are entitled to a Concessionary Fare Pass which enables you to travel at half the normal fare. Normal fares are based roughly on 35 p a mile. Williton for example is £3.50 (single or return) and Taunton £7.50 (single or return). If two or three travel together you can divide the total fare between you making it even cheaper. Most of our journeys are to the doctor or hospital, but why not go shopping or to see a show? If you qualify for Concessionary Fare a phone call to Ian (618287) will bring him to you to take your photo and help fill in a form. We like if possible 24 hours notice to give time to find a free driver. Don't just sit at home – ring **618287**.

CHURCH HOUSE - An update on progress towards **two WCs, and new lighting and heating**.

Last October Trish Kennedy and I, on behalf of the Church House Committee, issued a brief to two candidate architects. As amateurs, we need professional guidance to obtain the necessary planning consents. Church House is a Grade 2* listed building, and English Heritage approval will be required too. Trish and I took both architects round Church House and received written proposals and cost estimates from them later that month. The outcome was the appointment in December of the local Withycombe firm of Louise Crossman Architects, who specialise in historic buildings. Louise and her colleague, Robert Humphries, have already completed their measurement survey of the building, and are due to submit their detailed design plans for the two WCs (one for the disabled) towards the end of February. At the same time Louise will suggest a number of broad options for the lighting and heating. These plans will be put on display in the village for comment (and criticism!) as soon as your Committee has a version that we are reasonably happy with. Of course we do not know yet what the likely cost will be. But first estimates suggest something in the range £20,000 - £25,000, inclusive of the architects' fees. We have the funds to get going, but to carry out these major improvements to the Church House facilities, active fund raising will be required – including going for Grants – for which prior competitive tender builder prices and planning permission will be needed. So realistically it will be 2006 before anything physical starts.

In the meantime, thanks to Sue Bennett, the (Church House) **100+ Club** is launched, and at the last count we have 107 Members. Sue will have made her first monthly Draw, under the eagle eye of witnesses, in the Village Shop on Monday January 31st. The names of the winners will be posted there – and in due course in CAW.

AND we have a new Church House **cooker** for the kitchen – well, not new, but new to Church House. Much appreciated by our customers.

Peter Menneer

PLEASE CAN I HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE BY 24/03/05

Philippa Staniland
618268

staniland@quantockabbey.co.uk

We would like to thank all those who have taken part in this survey. We have received around 50 completed forms so far. For those who have not yet done so, please fill out the form below or log on to the village website www.crowcombe.org where you can also complete the form. The more information we gather the more details we can offer the new supplier of broadband.

There will a broadband update in the next issue of CAW

BROADBAND REQUIREMENTS SURVEY

NAME..... TELEPHONE..... email
 ADDRESS.....

Please tick all of those boxes that are relevant to your use of your computer

1. Use of computer Home Business Organisation e.g.Charity

2. Time on Internet Less than Less than Greater than
 (on average) ½ hour/day 2 hours /day 2 hours /day

Daytime only Evenings only At any time

3. Use of Internet Referencing information on websites Online Shopping Online Banking

Downloading music, video or large files Designing or hosting websites Other

Please specify.....

4. Time spent on E-mails Less than Less than Greater than
 (on average) ½ hour/day 2 hours/day 2 hours/day

5. Use of E-mails E-mailing friends, family or business associates E-mailing special interest groups Sending and receiving large attachments

6. Required speed of your broadband connection

a) With some of the technologies on offer, the faster the speed of the connection then the higher is its cost. In order to help us gauge your minimum required speed of connection (i.e. the minimum speed at which data is to be transferred from the internet to your computer), please provide us with your best judgement as follows. Think about the time that it currently takes you to download web-pages, or your e-mails, from the internet to your computer. Now imagine that it takes 5, 10, 20 or even 40 times faster. Given that there is a likely to be trade-off with its cost, what is the minimum speed that you feel you would be acceptable to you.

5 x faster than dial up 10 x faster 20 x faster 40 x faster
 (256 Kb/s) (512 Kb/s) (1 Mb/s) (2 Mb/s)

b) The term used to describe the transfer of data from your computer to the Internet is 'uploading' (i.e. data travels in the reverse direction compared to downloading). Which speed do you require for uploading?

(256 Kb/s) (512 Kb/s) (1 Mb/s) (2 Mb/s) Don't know

7. What are you prepared to pay for your broadband connection?

The different options available to us have different costs and the cheapest may not be the most suitable. However, it is an important consideration and to enable us to judge what is affordable, please tick the box of the maximum amount, beyond which you would not pay, for a broadband connection whatever its speed.

£20/month £25/month £30/month £40/month £60/month

8. Your Priorities

There are several vendors using different technologies that are capable of providing a broadband connection to your premises. The options available vary in cost, functionality and capability. To help us decide the best option for the community at large, please prioritise the following features that you would like from your broadband connection. Please identify your order of preference by putting 1 in the box alongside your highest priority, 2 in the next highest priority and 3 in the lowest priority.

Monthly cost Reliability of connection Security of your data

9. Your Changing Requirements

You have already given us an idea of your current use of the Internet (question 3), and we would like you now to give us an idea of your likely future use

How do you see your use changing with a fast broadband connection? More of the same Download music/videos Online shopping
Online banking Online games Voice on internet
Video conferencing Website hosting Other
Please specify.....
.....

10 For the Technically Minded

Finally, we would like to know a little more about your computer so please complete the following questions if you are able to do so.

How old is your computer? Please specifyyears
What is the Operating System for your computer? Please specify, (for example Windows XP Pro / XP Home / Windows 98)
Do you use Windows Update to keep your software up-to-date? YES/NO/Don't know
Do you have anti-virus software installed on your computer? YES/NO/Don't know
If so, do you keep it up-to-date using, for example, automatic update? YES/NO/Don't know
Do you use a firewall on your computer? YES/NO/Don't know
If so, do you keep it up-to-date? YES/NO/Don't know

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO CHRISTOPHER STANILAND
The Piggery, Crowcombe, TA4 4AQ

I have been appointed Broadband Champion. There will be free professional training sessions at the Crowcombe Hall for all levels, beginners to advanced. Numbers are limited to 15 people. Please let me know as soon as possible if you require training and at what level. Many thanks.

Christopher Staniland chris@quantockabbey.co.uk 618370