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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: SCHOOL END		01984 618738
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CAW

Crowcombe

Village Magazine



AUGUST 2015 — SEPTEMBER 2015

Where has summer gone to! What started out as such a lovely summer with the wonderful sunny and hot day for the Open Gardens has over the last few days become wet, windy and much much cooler. I know that rain is needed for the gardens, meadows and farm land but I feel we now need sun and then more sun for all to enjoy throughout the rest of the summer holidays to set us up for the winter.

There are changes and departures in the village over the summer with the Rector saying goodbye and moving to Oxford—a very lovely city—and from the start of the new school year a changeover regarding journeys the with young pupils going to Stogumber and the older ones coming here. Because of these moves you will find a farewell letter from the Revd. Val and we there is a large feature from the Crowcombe and Stogumber school and pupils.

A new feature this issue is from Friends of Quantock to be a regular feature.

For those people who take advantage of the mobile library please note that there have been changes to time and dates so new details are inside.

Lastly, I would like to thank those of you who came around to Buttercross on the Open Gardens day for all the good vibes I received and I hope I encouraged those who have small spaces what you can do that is different.

Enjoy the summer there is much to do before autumn appears again. **MAI**



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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MAGAZINE DATE 16TH SEPT



CROWCOMBE CHURCH SERVICES for August and September 2015

Please be assured of a most warm welcome if you attend any of our services...

August 2015

Sun 2 nd	11.00am	Family Service
Mon 3 rd	10.30am	Weekday Communion Service
Sun 9 th	10.30am	CW Benefice Communion at Bicknoller
Sun 16 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
Sun 23 rd	6.00pm	BCP Evening Prayer
Sun 30 th	10.30am	CW Benefice Communion at Stogumber


September 2015

Sun 6 th	11.00am	Family Service
Mon 7 th	10.30am	Weekday Communion Service
Sun 13 th	10.30am	CW Benefice Communion at Crowcombe
Sun 20 th	8.00am	BCP Communion
Sun 27 th	6.00pm	BCP Evening Prayer

Should anyone require transport to any of the Benefice Communion services away from Crowcombe, please contact the Revd Jon Rose on 01984 618715 or Sue Jenkins on 01984 631995 to make an arrangement.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer – traditional worship

CW = Common Worship – more contemporary worship



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THANK YOU FROM CHURCH HOUSE

The Committee of Church House would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone in Crowcombe who gave such tremendous support to the Open Gardens event in June. A total of £2,187.00 was raised for the Exterior Refurbishment fund which far exceeded our expectations

Received review of open gardens

Who needs Chelsea when you can have all this?

Crowcombe Open Gardens was a wonderful event full of welcoming garden owners, stunning weather, delicious cakes with thirst-quenching tea, frighteningly competitive scarecrows, tempting plant sales and above all, gardens of variety and intense beauty. Thank you to everyone who made my day. *A visitor*



CROWCOMBE FLOWER SHOW

Please remember Crowcombe's "Chelsea" will take place on Sunday 30th August.

You should have received a schedule, thanks to Jackie, I not they are available at the village shop.

Last years' show was a great success - please ensure this years is even better by entering as many classes as possible.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Pat Chittenden and the Flower Show Committee

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

On Sunday August 30th there will be a second-hand bookstall to help raise money for the church. Please go through your bookshelves and have a clearance. As we shall be part of the Flower Show, we would welcome particularly books on gardening and flowers. All discarded books will be welcomed at

Cedar Cottage, Crowcombe,
4, Bakers' Orchard, Crowcombe Heathfield,
or in the church porch.

Then come along to the bookstall on August 30th and buy some more!



WI NEWS June Meeting

We were delighted to welcome Hilary Eldridge (and her sheepdog 'Flash' plus husband) to our June meeting when she gave a talk entitled 'Counting Sheep'. She told us about her life, leading up to her love of sheep and sheep dogs.

Following a trouble shooting job at Telecom (her highlights seemed to be riding to meetings in a chauffeur driven limo) and a spell working at an eccentric Exmoor hotel (with even more eccentric guests and staff) Hilary and her husband and family were able to afford a small holding near Dulverton, keeping sheep and cattle, having trained in their care beforehand. We were interested to hear that a milking ewe can produce up to 3 pints of milk a day and Hilary provided a well known local ice cream company with sheep's milk for their products. Peacocks and doves also joined the family firm. Finally we were introduced to 'Flash', a hard working sheep dog who demonstrated his skills to the envy of all of us who were dog owners.!

B.A.

W.I. Invited to Buckingham Palace.

Beryl Ayres, fresh from her visit to the Centenary W.I. Garden Party at the Palace came to our meeting in her Palace gear resplendent with hat! Apparently her main worry was not how to behave when in the presence of royalty, but rather, how on earth to keep her hat on her head in the very high wind that was blowing at the time! Beryl told us that in being chosen to attend on behalf of Crowcombe W.I. she had fulfilled one of her lifelong ambitions. Doesn't this just show the opportunities open to us in the W.I. ? Well done Beryl !

For our **July Meeting** we had two speakers. First Andrew Harrison gave us a most interesting illustrated talk on Mount Athos, (otherwise known as the Holy Mountain.) I for one did not even know where it was, let alone anything about it!

Mount Athos is the most easterly peninsular at the tip of Greece, and covers an area some 60 kilometers long. Andrew told us that 'today Athos includes 20 monasteries and 700 houses or hermitages which are home to over 1000 monks. Some even live in cells which cling to the cliff face rising steeply above the sea.. In no circumstances are women allowed even to visit, so don't get your hopes up girls! The monks occupy their time when not at their religious duties either farming or looking after their homesteads. They are not entirely self supporting and much of the money they produce from their work is used to buy necessities from abroad.

Our second speaker was Jenny Barham from Merridge W.I. Jenny was our delegate for the Centenary AGM. which was held at the Albert Hall and had put forward our decision regarding this year's resolution. We at Crowcombe W.I. had not previously met her. She wanted to explain to us why our chosen resolution had not been voted in. It seems there were very strong feelings expressed, both for and against at the meeting, and the matter was left to be decided at a later date. It is nice to think that our feelings are given consideration.

Jenny brought with her some wreaths she had made ahead of time for Christmas and, as we found her both charming and talented, we had no hesitation in booking her as one of our speakers for next year.

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August Meeting Wed. Aug 12, 2015

This year our outing is to Spaxton Apiary followed by tea and cake. We meet in Crowcombe car park at 1.45. Members FREE. Visitors very welcome at a small charge,

Soup Kitchen

NO SOUP KITCHEN. IN AUGUST. Please Note the next Soup Kitchen will be on SEPTEMBER 17, 12.30 at CROWCOMBE CHURCH HOUSE. If, like many of us you're inclined to forget, please write in your diary, spread the word and KEEP IT FREE

Flower Show

We have been asked to run the Tombola again this year at Crowcombe Flower Show on Sunday Aug 30 and Tombola prizes will be gratefully received. This year we have a slight change in that we are only doing JARS AND BOTTLES. This gives us lots of scope with sweets, jams, chutneys, wine, beers and spirits etc. to name but a few! Please leave in Sue Billinge's box in her courtyard or give to a member of the committee.

Thank you in anticipation.

Christmas Pudding Mix

We are again running our ever popular Pudding Mix in November this year Date to be announced in September.

P.H.W.

Painting With Barry Watkin F.R.S.A



4 Vacancies.....

*Why not **come** and join us?*

We are a friendly group of would-be painters who meet together at Crowcombe Church House on Wednesday afternoons, under the eagle-eye of Barry, who demonstrates and helps us individually. (AND you get a nice cup of tea!)

Beginners and the

more experienced.... Welcome.

Watercolour...line and wash... gouache

Autumn Term starts Wed, September 23,

2.00 – 4.30 p.m. at

Crowcombe Church House

Details: Barry or Pippa Watkin, The Paddocks, Crowcombe, TA4 4AA,

Tel: 01984 618343 email: barry@barrywatkin.co.uk

Don't be shy! Give us a try!

Leaving letter from the Reverend Valerie Plumb

Saying goodbye doesn't mean anything. It's the time we spent together that matters!

In the beginning ...

I've always hated saying goodbye; especially the kind that makes one's chest ache, brow furrow and eyes redden with held back tears. By the time you read this letter I would have done quite a few of them with more yet to come. But as painful as this experience is I am constantly thinking about how blessed am I to have had something so wonderful here that it makes saying goodbye so hard!

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing my introduction letter to you as your new Rector, I can still remember all the excitement and energy from not just starting a new job but also coming back to Somerset, to be with my family and friends once again.

I am reminded of the night of my installation at Crowcombe Court when surrounded by new and old parishioners all celebrating my arrival, then I suddenly felt the arms of my mother around me as she whispered in my ear, "It's good to have you home"

Mum was so thrilled to have me back, because she knew that the nature of my work meant that I could never settle anywhere for too long and that sooner or later the time would come to move on.

So where am I going?

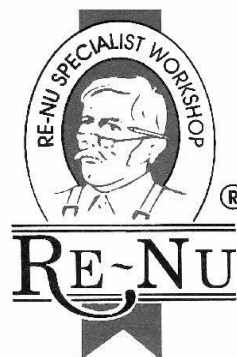
I am going to the Oxford Diocese, interestingly it is the largest diocese in the country sporting 4 Bishops! I will be working on the East side of the diocese in the Buckingham Archdeaconry. My place of residence will be a newly renovated diocesan house in a lovely little country village called Ludgershall, set in Rural Aylesbury.

What am I going to do?

My Job title is 'Area Dean for Rural Mission and Development', it means that I will do two things, firstly the work of an Area Dean which is someone who works with the Bishop and Archdeacon to act as a strategic leader for four different deaneries; Mursley, Buckingham, Claydon and Western Aylesbury, a big part of that role is looking after the buildings, clergy, linking up resources and ensuring working structures are in good order. However, and this is the interesting bit, this is also a specialised role that actually needs some creative thinking to actually rethink some of those structures, vision to re-imagine how we can do church differently and most importantly an opportunity to get churches to reflect on their current context with a focus for mission and outreach.

It's a pioneering role and the first of its kind in the Oxford diocese; it's a chance for me to help redefine rural church for the future!

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My induction will be on the evening of 22nd September, do let Rita or me know if you would like to come? My last service here will be on the 30th August 10.30am at Stogumber parish church.

Finally...

I have been really blessed with time since the announcement of my departure, which has allowed some brilliant opportunities over these past few months to hear and express some real stories about what it means to physically ‘get up’ and follow Christ. Conversations have led to some profound explorations about how we interpret what God is saying to us? And how we are often prepared for the next step without even knowing it!

As Christians its ever so easy to get caught up with doing what we think God wants us to do that we often forget to allow him the chance to properly grow us into the people he wants us to be. I have always said that the real strength of Christianity lies in faithful individuals having the courage to ‘let go and let God’ direct their lives for his purpose.

When I reflect back on my own ministry here over these last 6 years I see no straight neat lines, instead I see lots of untidy scribbles. I see life, and I am glad about it. And in that I life I see you and all the many sketches we have drawn together.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to all who have ministered alongside me, ordained and lay, and all who have given their time and energy to the support our church, our parish and our people.

It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to have served you as your Rector. And to conclude, as my mother always reminded me to say after a happy stay, “Thank you for having me.”

Let me leave you with my favourite ever prayer, pray it regularly; it will help keep you grounded!

Dear Lord,

I asked for strength and you gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom and you gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity and you gave me brawn and brains to work.

I asked for courage and you gave me dangers to overcome.

I asked for patience and you placed me in situations where I was forced to wait.

I asked for love and you gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favours and you gave me opportunities.

I asked for everything so I could enjoy life.

Instead, you gave me life so I could enjoy everything.

I received nothing I wanted, I received everything I needed.

Amen

Love and Blessings always
Rector (Signing off)

Report from West Somerset Council by Anthony Trollope-Bellew.

I have now been the leader of West Somerset Council for just over two months. It has been a very interesting experience but so far I have not encountered anything untoward. The major problem is funding from April next year. It was thought that we would have to save £300,000 but with the re-rating of Hinkley Point "B" this has risen to nearly £500,000. This is a major undertaking from a budget of just under £5 million. In fact the reduction in income is £313,000 but £119,000 had been allowed for in the predicted budget.

Being leader entails more travel. I have been to London twice in the last couple of months to represent West Somerset. Also I have been to Harrogate for the Local Government Association conference. At Harrogate I raised with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark, the difficulties that the re-rating of Hinkley Point "B" has caused to West Somerset. Also I managed to have a word with Mark Francois, the Minister of State, about the inequity of the funding to all rural local authorities. I wait to see what effect these conversations will have. Being the leader of a Conservative controlled authority unfortunately does not give easy access to Conservative government ministers.

Now that the unification of the two officer teams from West Somerset and Taunton Deane has been completed we have embarked on the next stage which is called transition. This entails a complete look at how all services are delivered with a view to improving delivery at a lower cost. This may seem too good to be true but I am sure we will be able to deliver it to some extent.

Last month I had a meeting with EDF's senior man in England. I am now very certain that Hinkley Point "C" will proceed. I am not allowed to divulge how much but EDF have already spent a great deal of money on Hinkley. Now even though the site is in temporary care and maintenance they continue to spend a very large sum every month. In the past dates have been given for when the Final Investment Decision (FID) will be made but they have never been met. EDF have learnt from this experience and are not giving a firm date for the FID.

As usual please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a problem with which you think I can help.

Anthony Trollope-Bellew
Councillor for Crowcombe and Stogumber Ward
Hurley Farm, Crowcombe Taunton TA4 4AJ
email: atrollope-bellew@westsomerset.gov.uk
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CROWCOMBE CINEMA AT CROWCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

Here are the films chosen for the Autumn
Sunday 20th September Dark Horse (see separate notice)
Friday 9th October Force Majeure

Sunday 25th October Far from the Madding Crowd
Friday 13th November Wild Tales
Sunday 29th November Still Alice
Sunday 13th December Woman in Gold

Arrangements as usual All films start at 7.30 Tickets £6 on Sunday (except 20th September) £5 on Friday

A special performance
Sunday 20th September

Dark Horse (PG)

The true story of a group of Welsh miners who, although broke, manage to raise enough money to send a horse they have raised on an allotment to Phillip Hobbs's yard at Minehead to be trained.

Johnson White who is **assistant** trainer for Phillip Hobbs and who stars in the film has agreed to come and talk about the film.

Tickets for this film will be £7 with additional pound being given to **Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance**

There is a bar and ices are sold in the interval.

As always Doors open 7 p.m. Performance start 7.30 p.m.

Tickets from Crowcombe Post Office or pre-ordered from hartwood-house@hotmail.com

CHANGE OF TIMES AND DATES FOR MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library visits Crowcombe on Friday every 4 weeks between 10am and 1pm at Crowcombe School (30 mins) and Hagleys Green.(10 mins)

Dates for visits 2015/2016 are: 28 August: 25 September: 23 October
20 November: 18 December: 15 January
12 February: 11 March

Tea Time Treats & Trains

With views of the West Somerset Railway from the Lawn

At
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Sunday 9th August 2015
2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Tea, Scones and Cake

All welcome - No need to book
Further information is available from

Richard & Ruth Parkhouse 01984 618392
David Kenyon 01984 618752 or 07818 506151

In aid of Bridgwater & West Somerset Conservative Association
Crowcombe & Stogumber, West Quantocks Branch

Friends of Quantock

We are working with the Quantock Commons Management Group on a scheme that will alter and improve the car parking at Crowcombe Park Gate. There is general agreement on what needs to be done but approvals have to be obtained and funding found to enable the work to go ahead.

Wildlife is one of the glories of the Quantocks and a lot of work is done to monitor the health of different species. The deer are monitored by the Deer Management Group and the RSPB have an ongoing survey of bird species but other bodies monitor bats, dormice and adders and there is a current survey of butterflies and moths. All this contributes to our knowledge of Quantock species and habitats and enables management work to have regard to the impact on different species.

Friends of Quantock will have a stand at the Quantock Show on Bank Holiday Monday, so do come along and talk to us about current projects and issues.

CROWCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 2nd July 2015. Kate Kenyon was co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the remaining vacancy. The new Parish Clerk, Claire Morrison-Jones, was welcomed to her role and thanks were given to the outgoing clerk, Jill Loader.

Crowcombe Chest : The Chairman signed the 'Memorandum of Undertaking' for the Crowcombe Chest Foundation between Somerset Community Foundation, who will be overseeing the management of the fund, and the community of Crowcombe. It is planned to distribute leaflets in the village on the 'go live' date of 1st August 2015.

County Councillor's Report : Christine Lawrence stated that she is now the Chair of Somerset County Council. She reported that more funding will be needed for older people, schools and children in care but SCC has to make £20million worth of cuts over the next year – no figures or areas for these have been finalised yet.

Work to clear the gullies at Bagborough Corner has not been carried out as requested, although cats eyes have been installed. There is no scheduled work as yet for the work required to the gullies on the left hand side (Taunton bound) of the A358 'Green Hills'.

The Superfast Broadband issues are continuing – BT have failed to complete phase 1 and SCC have yet to secure a provider for phase 2. Exmoor National Park have secured 'Air Band' to complete phase 2.

Play Area : Two trees were felled in the play area at the end of June. A seat, facing the swings, was made out of the sycamore stump but the lime stump contained a wasps nest so was burnt. It is planned to bring soil up to cover the hole left.

Carters Lane : The overgrown state of the hedge and bank outside the carpark in Carters Lane was brought to the attention of the Parish Council. It was agreed to approach SCC with a request to have it cut back as it is causing a hazard by forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

Finances to date : Balances as at 22nd June 2015 were : Current a/c £8726.38, Deposit a/c £3222.39, Amenities a/c £2681.74. Balance £14,630.51

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September at Church House, commencing at 7.30pm. Draft minutes will be available on the website for more detailed information.

Family Wild Night Out

An exciting opportunity for families to come together under canvas in our beautiful woodland! There are limited spaces so do book early. Starts 2.00pm on Sunday. Ends 12noon on Monday. There will be structured sessions at set times throughout the camp that families can join in with. There will be opportunities to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the woodland space with your family.

Sunday 30 August, 2pm – Monday 31 August, 12noon

Families will need to bring their own tents, cutlery and sleeping stuff. We do have a limited supply that can be hired to families. Food will be cooked communally with families getting involved.

Over 8's

Of course the over 8's are more than welcome to join in on all our family days and can also can be booked into our Woodland Adventures <http://www.woodlandplaycentre.co.uk/woodlandplayschemes.html>

There are only TWO spaces left on the **Wet & Wild Adventure Camp** so book up to avoid disappointment.

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Active ESCAPE
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AALA



This year we are very excited to announce that we are involved in all sorts of family events throughout the summer holidays.

Wise Woodlanders

The Wise Woodlanders activity sessions are specifically for under 8's accompanied by an adult. The sessions will be lead by one of our experienced team with themed activities, but allowing plenty of time to enjoy the space for spontaneous play that the woodland provides.

The Wise Woodlanders are being run from 10.00am to 12noon, with an option to bring a picnic and have a wild time until 1.00pm, on the following dates:

Thursday 6 August, 10am - 1pm

Friday 14 August, 10am - 1pm

Wednesday 26 August, 10am - 1pm

Cost for Wise Woodlanders - £5.00 per child. Under 1's Free. Under 8's must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments will be provided.

MAKE A BOOKING HERE <http://www.woodlandplaycentre.co.uk/makeabooking.html>

CROWCOMBE CHEST



Crowcombe Chest (The Fund) was launched on the 1st August.

Every household should have received a pack explaining the purpose of the Crowcombe Chest and how it will be possible to give and, in due course, receive money to and from The Fund. If you have not received a copy of the pack there are spare copies in the Village Shop.

Crowcombe is a wonderful village and there are many people who would like to say thank you to the village by donating or bequeathing money for the benefit of Crowcombe and it's residents in future years.

The Crowcombe Chest has been set up to make this possible.

It may take some years for the Fund to build to a sum from which it is possible to make donations and grants but when The Fund is of sufficient size, perhaps about £25,000 it is intended that about ten percent of it will be available each year for a wide range of purposes such as:

- Local charities and voluntary organisations working in our community
- Further education and personal development of children and young people
- Hardship support for individuals or families where state funding is not available
- Funding for village events such as street parties or new village amenities like the bus shelters

The Fund will be managed and invested by The Somerset Community Foundation and will be overseen by five Crowcombe Residents known as The Custodians. Initially The Custodians will be Chris Lewis, Jonathan Denton, Dan Davis, Bob Druitt representing The Parish Council and Ben Fawden representing The Parochial Church Council.

There will an annual meeting in November each year to report on progress of The Fund and to select The Custodians for the following year. The date of this meeting will be published in CAW

This is a Fund which will benefit the village for years to come , do support it if you are able.

David Freemantle

Crowcombe and Stogumber Federated Primary Schools

A note from Mr. Wedderkopp

It's the end of another jam-packed term, at the end of another amazing year! We've followed migrating swallows, rewritten fairy tales, explored Victorian steamships, visited zoos, camped out under the stars, fired rockets, created Storywalks, visited the sites of London on public transport, hiked the Quantocks, competed in cyclocross, athletics, orienteering country dancing and cricket contests, mapped rivers and fields, raced horses (hobby horses that is!), taken part in Halsway Manor's Golden Anniversary, and made our own Greenscreen movies! And that's the tip of the iceberg!

Here at Crowcombe and Stogumber Primary Schools, we aim to immerse our pupils within a rich and varied environment, linking stimulating activities to challenging tasks and always striving to engage and inspire the children into pushing their own learning on.

Prime examples of this are our end of year overnight camps, which at first glance are simply a walk over the Quantocks, followed by a night out under canvas. The children, however, have to use ordnance survey maps to plan their route to the campsite, the more advanced of whom calculate navigational data such as bearings, distances, altitude changes and journey times. The children learn to risk assess routes, chose way-points according to their desires and needs (water, views, shelter etc.) and prepare 'plan Bs' in case of weather shifts or accidents. On the hikes they need to navigate by compass, natural signs and by map, consider the needs of their peers and the welfare of the environment, be aware of the weather and the time, and have a great time with their friends, passing through nature. At camp they set up their own tents and bivies, cook their own food and do their own washing up. They go on torchless night walks and often sleep outside their tents, under the stars. They pack up responsibly and always aim to leave the site better than they found it. Back in school we create a 'display in a day' with each child responsible for recounting a certain aspect of our joint adventure. What a wonderful, character building, skill developing, social bonding experience, backed up by powerful English, Maths, Science and Geography learning that the children are motivated and proud to achieve.

This is the ethos of the schooling that we aim to provide here - whether within the classroom or out. We strive to make it relevant and purposeful and we are so lucky to have marvellous, receptive and pro-active children who thrive on it! Teaching is a two way interaction, as much reliant on the pupils' engagement as the teacher's.

So, to end another rich and rewarding year, here are some excerpts of our class recount of Leavers' Camp 2015, the rest of which can be found on the school website, crowcombeandstogumberprimaryschools.co.uk:

After climbing up from Rams Combe we emerged onto the heath and the heavens really opened...



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Thanks for all your support at our Beer, Cider and
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Emma, Iain, Jamie and the team



Your Local Dance and Fitness Classes begin on Monday 7th September.

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Rah Cattell

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Leavers' Camp 2015: Part 6 - Crowcombe Park Gate

After we had walked through the path leading to Crowcombe Park Gate's car park, torrential rain started to bash down on us! I felt very excited, though I was cold, wet and hoping the rain would stop pouring down!

Mr. Wedderkopp phoned the school office, telling them that we were stuck in the rain and that we weren't going to stop walking. Whilst he was talking to the school's office, we were taking shelter under a big tree (I was freezing to death)! Once the school knew the situation that we were in, we battled on through the rain, even though the path we were on was flooding.

We all supported each other by shouting "Come on, you can do it!" and "Come on, you are doing really well, it's not far to go!"

The rain was like a monster erupting bits of creatures that had been devoured in its stomach. When the rain was flooding the path, it even created new rivers that flowed on in to the distance. The rivers that had been created were a black hoomous and a dark grey colour, which ran along side by side, flowing and flowing.

I had been on the Quantocks many, many times before, but I had never seen anything like this before! We couldn't see any blue sky whilst we were walking. It was like an endless storm or the end of the world.

By Oban

Leavers' Camp 2015: Part 7 – The Ridge Walk

Hard dagger like droplets of rain pelted our faces.

As we trudged on the atrocious weather worsened, making it difficult to see anything at all. We shivered and shook as we trudged, sodden, up the bridle way. The more we walked the more soaked we became. Just at that moment the world around us started to turn dusky the sky turned darker than before and the air slowly became dense... Summer and I tried to cheer each other up by singing "If your happy and you know it". However, after a few verses the effect began to wear off. After a while I ran up to the front of the group. I spied Kyle up next to Mr Wedderkopp (our class teacher). It was then I decided we were sodden enough to jump in the puddles and splash each other.

It was one of the happiest times I have ever had in the pouring rain. We jumped high in the sky, laughing uproariously. The murky puddle water squirted EVERYWHERE! It soaked everything and everyone. We leapt all the way to the end of the path and finally we came to a wider track.

Little did we know that there was a miniature lake lying in wait for our arrival...

By Kelsie (11)

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Continued:

Leavers' Camp 2015: Part 8 – Halsway Soggs and Post

After jumping in the muddy puddles we carried on to our destination down the combe.

The weather was wet, slippery and cold. To keep us warm, Jacob and I ran down the combe and hid in the bracken. We tried to scare our friends but they saw Jacob's jacket. After the fun we had a look at the view I could just feel the wind in my face as it shot past me like a bullet. When we were walking down the track to see some animals, we thought we found some kryptonite but it was actually algae.

We carried on our animal hunting. We did not find many. After the animal hunting we had lunch at a gate. We sat at the top to look for animals.

After lunch we decided to go on individually. Mr Wedderkopp checked we knew where we were going and that we were safe then he let us push on.

Finally we reached our destination.

By Ashley (10)

Leavers' Camp 2015: Part 11 – The Tents!

After walking for most of the day, Mr. W's class put up their tents for the night. Shivering and frozen, excited and soaked, we clambered ourselves around the campsite, in the rain.

Pegging in pegs, tying things together and getting camp ready was really fun but it would have been better if we had set them up before we started walking.

Chloe was frozen (it didn't help that her hood was full of water)!

In about 15 minutes camp was made.

The wind died down as the sun shone through the thick, cotton wool like clouds that were sitting in a line in the sky. The hot, blazing yellow sun beamed down on us as we were finishing off putting the tents up.

But the sun would not last for long! Suddenly, we spotted some black clouds in the distance. Luckily all of us had finished and Mr. W took us up to Halsway Manor to get warm, and changed into fresh clothes.

We used our last bit of energy to shiver up the stairs to the entrance.

By Issy (10)

Read more at Crowcombeandstogumberprimaryschools.co.uk

TENNIS IN CROWCOMBE



The children's regular coaching programme at Crowcombe Tennis Club has now finished for the Summer Term, following a summer of Mini Tennis success! Our youngest team of 8 years and under won all three of their league matches against

Wiveliscombe, Wellington, Bridgwater and Trull and have shown huge improvements in their games this year. The under 9s also played extremely well and improved a lot.

Summer holiday coaching will be taking place from 11th August onwards both at Crowcombe and Bishops Lydeard and we resume in September on Monday 11th September at 4pm. This session is for children aged 7 years and above and new players can contact Michele to book a place. 01823 433348 or 07909 903371. Email advantage.tennis@btinternet.com.



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Classes resume in the village hall on September 22nd. If you haven't had a go before, do come along and try it. "Fitness, Friendship and Fun" are the current buzz-words, so if you feel in need of a social pick-me-up, what could be better?



We dance from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. most Tuesdays during the winter. You don't have to come with a partner, we all mix in. It's not like ballroom dancing, where it is best to stick with one partner all the time. Most dancers make a point of trying to dance with as many partners as they can during the evening! Soft shoes are essential; trainers are OK for a start, but proper dancing shoes are the best, and can be bought over the internet if you decide to come regularly. So what are you waiting for? See you on September 22nd.

Linda and John Robertson. Telephone number 01984 618654.