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CROWCOMBE CARS	01984 618263
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CROWCOMBE PRESCHOOL crowcombepre-school@hotmail.co.uk	01984 656139
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FLOWER SHOW	01984 618249
MAGAZINE EDITORS	01984 618717
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: MIDDLE	01984 618380
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: SCHOOL END	01984 618738
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WOODLAND PLAY CENTRE	07775941353
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CAW Crowcombe Village Magazine



DECEMBER 2013—JANUARY 2014

With another year starting to settle into Winter, I am amazed to see so many green leaves still on the trees but I am sure like many others grateful for not having to turn on the winter heating to early until now, although we have just had our first frost of the season this morning (Sunday). At least it looked pretty for a while, but the crisp mornings when the sun is shining can give a false sense of what the weather is really like. The typhoon disaster in the Philippines, a terrible cyclone nearer to home which flooded parts Sardinia, known for sunshine not raging torrents, with loss of precious life and homes showing us the disasters that can happen. We can only hope that that the coming winter is reasonable and benign without major snow storms causing us difficulties and problems.

Included in this issue is the first report from Crowcombe Primary School and they should be regular contributors to the magazine, plus our usual items and any extra I have room to include.

With Christmas fast approaching and all the good will the New Year brings I must wish all of the readers, villagers and others a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year** with much good cheer all round and hope to be in contact with you all next year.

MAI Editor.



Please email any contributions to
www.maggie.lnglis@btinternet.com: phone 01984 618717 or
drop it in the letter box at Buttercross,
(opposite The Carew Arms)

Use this magazine for advertising your services and goods
Contact me by email or phone, reasonable rates
*I am happy to include one off adverts, but a contribution to the
printing costs would be welcome.*

FEB/MARCH 2014 MAGAZINE DATE 16TH JAN

Errors and omissions accepted by Editor

CROWCOMBE CHURCH SERVICES



December

Sunday 1st	11.00am	Family Service
Sunday 8th	10.30am	CW Benefice Communion at Bicknoller
Sunday 15th	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	5.00pm	Carol Service
Tuesday 24th	4.00pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service
Wednesday 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day CW Family Communion
Sunday 29th	10.30am	CW Benefice Communion at Monksilver



January

Sunday 5th	11.00am	Family Service
Wednesday 8th	10.30am	Communion Service
Sunday 12th	10.30am	CW Benefice Communion at Nettlecombe
Sunday 19th	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	11.00am	BCP Morning Prayer




Don't miss the ever-popular Carol Service at 5.00pm on the Sunday before Christmas, with a locally-recruited choir and followed by mince pies and liquid refreshment.

Children of all ages coming to the Christmas morning service are welcome to bring (reasonably quiet) presents.

From January to March, as an experiment, we are moving the early morning Communion service on third Sundays from 8.00am to 9.30am. The first of the three services is on 19th January. Eight o'clock services are loved by some but are difficult for others to get to. After March the PCC will see how the experiment has gone and decide what to do in future.

Please note that should anyone require transport to any of the Benefice Communion Services in December or January, please make contact with the Revd Jon Rose on 01984 618715 for arrangements

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional
CW = Common Worship - contemporary



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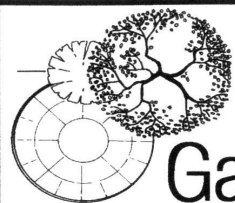
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Nancie Finney
Mob: **07854090923**
Email: nanciefinney@hotmail.co.uk

WEBSITES

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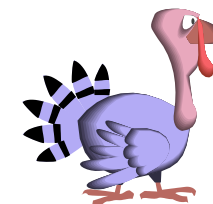
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Christmas Poultry

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Donations from Crowcombe Players

From the surplus generated by such good audiences at last years show The Players have been able to make the following contributions to village funds

CAW £100

FOCPA £350

Crowcombe Pre School £150

Crowcombe School £300

The players thank the audiences for their support and ask them to look out for the details of the Review to be produced in March 2014

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION APPEAL

The 2013 collection around the parish of Crowcombe raised £639.23 towards the ongoing work of the Royal British Legion.

Our thanks to all those who contributed and to the collectors for giving their time.

Kevin & Pat Chittenden;

Honary Poppy Appeal Organisers for Crowcombe, Bagborough and Stogumber.



The Carew Arms
Crowcombe
TA4 4AL
(01984) 618631
www.thecarewarmis.co.uk

This festive season, join us for our Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday 13th December – we will be delighted to welcome Phoenix Brass who are coming to play traditional carols from 7pm.

Mulled wine will be served. All welcome!
Christmas Bookings now being taken – ask for our festive menu

Opening hours

Christmas Day – open for lunchtime drinks only

Boxing Day – open all day from 10am for the Boxing Day Hunt

New Year's Eve – with music to see in the New Year

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at The Carew Arms

Emma, Iain, Jamie and the team

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Email: enquiries@westsomersetadvice.org.uk

www.westsomersetadvice.org.uk

Opening hours on: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am - 3pm

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KEEP CALM AND NEVER GIVE UP

The title of this month's letter is of course a play on the original 1939 wartime poster 'Keep calm and carry on' originally produced to raise morale during times of disaster. The British government produced the first one just after there was an air strike on some of our major cities, but in current times we see it everywhere, usually as a parody, but what I like about the original message is its as strong now as it was back then, and I think it's because at times we all need a bit of pepping up!

As I write this letter it's almost 48 hours since I received my first infusion of a brand new medication for my Rheumatoid, its not been in the country for very long and at this stage can only be administered intravenously. However, as the side effects begin to diminish, there are some tiny sparks of hope igniting in my soul that 'this could be the one that works'.

I am sure that at sometime in your lives so far or certainly in the future there will be those moments where you really have to dig deep to keep believing that somewhere in the darkness a light burns brightly. It is so easy to fall into hopelessness about a situation if we don't keep ourselves focused on the positives, I know because I've done it myself multiple times.

Often when we are down we can walk very close to the edge of complete pointlessness and when we get there we can literally find ourselves starting to lose the joy of living. It's a hard place to be but sometimes having to sit and wait is all you can do, and as one of my mentor's used to say, once there 'you can't fall off the floor'.

When waiting for the right medication in my case, or the right person, or the right thing whatever that may be to happen in your life, having hope or keeping the home fires' burning is what can keep us going enough to tide us over until our resolutions come. There is a wonderful saying '

The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall. Vince Lombardi

Often in times of hopelessness people will say to me 'Where is God in all this Val?', it's as though if it isn't bad enough that they are going through a rough patch, but there seems to be a kind of radio silence between them and the Almighty.

CROWCOMBE CINEMA

Sunday 15th December

The Eye of The Storm (15)

Charlotte Rampling and Geoffrey Rush

Elizabeth Hunter controls all in her life - society, her staff, her children; but the once great beauty will now determine her most defiant act as she chooses her time to die

Sunday 26th January

About Time (12A)

At the age of 21, Tim discovers he can travel in time and change what happens and has happened in his own life. His decision to make his world a better place by getting a girlfriend turns out not to be as easy as you might think.

Lots of films next Spring- look out for details

Sunday 23rd February

Captain Phillips

Friday 7th March

A Hard Days Night Crowcombe Station Initiative (some of the film was made here)

Sunday 23rd March

Philomena

Thursday 3rd April

Untouchable RNLI Fundraiser

Sunday 27th April

Wadjda.

David Freemantle

Doors open 7 p.m. Performance starts 7.30 p.m. Bar and Ice Cream available. Tickets £6 from Crowcombe Post Office or preferably ordered by email from David Freemantle at hartwoodhouse@hotmail.com



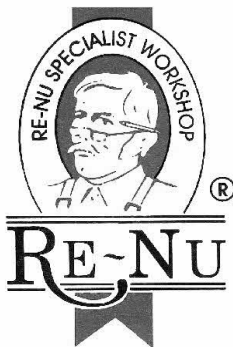


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And it is here that we really have to bring our faith into play, simply because we do not know and never will know the works of God, so when we seek answers to impossible questions we must begin by placing these things in his hands, however that means then closing our own in prayer and accepting all that life gives us, including the bad stuff.

When I think of my own journey, of course I question what all the struggling is about, and the same results always comes out the same 'I don't know why things happen the way they do, but I am certain that I would rather endure them with God, than without.

In God with each new experience there is no such thing as an ending, just a new beginning, and in God we find faith that is strong enough to keep us trying when the world is telling us to give up! I don't know whether my new medication will work or not, in fact it's so new that no one even knows the long term side effects, but what I do know is that life is about living and sometimes that means taking risks, even if it means feeling the pain.

Next time your having a rough time, take a moment to place your hand over your heart, feel it beating and say to yourself ' I'm alive for a reason, I have a purpose'

There are always going to be dark times in our lives, but please don't ever think you are alone, God is there even if you can't hear or see him, he is there.

So I say to you keep calm and remember that faith is having the courage to hold out your hand in the dark and hope is knowing it will be held.

Blessings Val

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W.I. NEWS

During October I was on holiday so missed our meeting which, I understand, was much enjoyed by everyone. Sue Billinge, our overworked Secretary, writes: 'Our President, Trish Kennedy, gave us a most enjoyable and inspiring evening with a demonstration of a three course meal, which even catered for the non-dairy and gluten free amongst us, so that everyone was able to sample the food at the end of the evening. Needless to say, it was delicious. She was roundly thanked for going to so much trouble, and we all went home armed with the recipes to see what we could do.'

N.B. For those who were unable to be there I gather Trish produced home-made blinis with various toppings, chicken breast stuffed with mushrooms, and two sorts of roulade, one of them gluten-free, which made it suitable for everyone. Yum!!!

For our November meeting we were entertained with a talk and demonstration by Francis Watson entitled 'Collecting Mother-of-Pearl'. Mother-of Pearl comes from the shell of the oyster, hence it's name. They are very fragile and can be as big as dinner plates and very valuable. I must say Mr. Watson had the most amazing collection to show us, one which he started at the age of 14 when a little old lady sold him five engraved mother-of-pearl chips for £5.00. Even at that tender age he was obviously a business man for he knocked her price down from £60 to £5.00. As he got a little older he got to thinking why had she started at such a high price? It turned out they were made in China 200 years before. Apparently all the great houses in China made these collections of Mother-of-Pearl chips with the family crest engraved on them as a sign of their great wealth and were consequently worth a great deal today.

So, with an eye to business, he started collecting. Now he needed somewhere to keep them. He was given a black box in dreadful condition, which he painstakingly renovated to house his chips. It turned out to be a delightful black and mother-of-pearl jewellery box.

Website – this was up and running and just required a couple of amendments. If you wish to advertise your business please contact Jane Chipp – details on the website.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7th January 2014 in Church House at 7.30pm.

Jill Loader
Clerk

UPDATE TO PARISH WEB SITE

Thank you to those people who contacted me since the last CAW to add content to the new website (www.crowcombe.org.uk). We still have a few gaps on some pages (church, cricket club, Crowcombe cars, Scottish country dancing, short mat bowls, tennis) but hopefully these will be filled soon.

Our next step will be to add links to local businesses into the website. If you run a business and would like a link please contact me.

Finally, thank you to Alan Tupman for providing many of the photographs on the website.

Jane Chipp
janechipp@sfutures.co.uk
07825 641821

PLAY AREA

Just a gentle reminder to all that **no dogs** are allowed in the Play Area. The play area should be a safe and clean area for our children, but unfortunately on many occasions dog mess has been found on the grass.

Similarly, horses are also excluded from using the play area! A lot of damage was caused recently to the wet grass when it was used for horse jumping. This was a real shame when so many people in the Parish have contributed a lot of money and time to improving the play area.

CROWCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL – DIGEST

The Parish Council met on 7th November 2013.

Police Report – PCSO Peter Bolton stated PC David Masters had returned to Neighbourhood Policing. There had been 21 calls logged between 7th October and 7th November within the Beat area. Many calls had been in relation to the Badger Cull. Also reports regarding a motor vehicle in the Stogumber area where investigations are continuing. Five other crimes have been logged which were not serious with some under investigation.

Patrols continue day and night in the area, but Crowcombe is a very low crime rate area and safe to live in. Please remember to contact the Police on 101 or 999 if you see anything suspicious, road safety issues or anti-social behaviour and so on.

County Councillor's Report: Christine Lawrence reported she had received the completed form requesting funds for the play area from the Health and Wellbeing Fund for £250. Skanska were now the contractors dealing with road repair issues taking over from Atkins. She would be following up various issues regarding blocked gullies within the village.

West Somerset Councillor's Report: Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported the proposal for WSC and TDBC to work together on a Joint Member Advisory Committee was going to Full Council to approve which would save money. Recent land sales in Minehead where the swimming pool had been, had been completed which would help revenue funds in WSC. Please remember to recycle as much as possible in your recycling bins rather than taking down to the centres. Funding goes to WSC when using these boxes.

Play Area Update – Unfortunately the new play equipment recently ordered won't be installed until the Spring, due to the tree report received, requiring the Ash Tree to be felled. It was understood funds were being received from the village following a request from FOCPA – these funds would hopefully be able to purchase a tunnel for the children.

Mile Stone – The stone had been collected and engraved and just required placing which was imminent.

Finances to date - Current a/c £9,681.56, Deposit a/c £3,219.71, Amenities a/c £2,679.97. The precept for next financial year was discussed. It was agreed to finalise this at the January meeting once the RPI % for November was known.

Gradually, as he bought more engraved chips he came upon more mother-of-pearl jewellery boxes which he was either given or bought at antique fairs. He had with him 25 boxes all of which were crammed full of mother-of-pearl objects. We played a sort of game called 'Open the Box'. I found my box was full of baby things, rattles and teethingers and the like, whereas another would be full of beautiful napkin rings or jewellery. So his childhood hobby had become what I imagine to be a most lucrative business. We were most grateful to him for sharing his knowledge with us, and I for one, learnt a lot about a subject about which I knew next to nothing.

Our Christmas Pudding Mix was a great success and looks like becoming an ongoing fix for the future. Well done and Congratulations to Trish and the team!

Dates for your diary.

Dec 11. W.I. Christmas meeting at Church House. 7.30. Party and Games. As usual, we are asked to bring:

A little present for the Lucky Dip.

A gift for Womens' Refuge. (For those not as fortunate as we are)

A plate of something sweet or savoury.

Let's all wear something fun!

Dec 19. Christmas Soup Kitchen PLEASE ALL DO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Jan. 8. 2014 Trip to Pynes of Somerset – North Petherton – Tour and have a go at sausage making followed by a Banger and Mash supper £10.00 to include Drinks and Meal. P.H.W.



This is not just a Village Hall

This is the Crowcombe Hall

The Hall plays host to many events in any one year; wedding celebrations, pantomimes, dinner dances, concerts, adult education courses, luncheons, charity fundraisers, birthday and anniversary parties to name a few.

Then there are the regular activities; yoga, pilates, Scottish dancing, karate, judo, baby and toddler groups, short mat bowls and of course the Crowcombe Cinema, presenting up to the minute films for your enjoyment.

To explore the facilities log into our website www.thecrowcombehall.co.uk

**Or:ring Annabel Trollope Bellew on 01984
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You can register an interest in switching gas, electricity or both either online, or in person through West Somerset Council there is no obligation to switch. There is also an option for households or individuals on pre-payment meters to switch, as long as they are not more than £500 in debt to their current supplier.

If you choose to switch you will have a fixed contract for 12 months so you will know how much you are paying every month. Now is a good time to fix your costs as the energy companies are beginning to announce their price increases.

It is really simple to register using the details from your last annual or monthly gas and electricity bills.

Dave Westcott, cabinet member for Communities, said: "High fuel costs are a real concern in a rural area like ours, anything we can do to help local people save money is important to us. I have yet to switch, but I will be trying this." Visit www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/energyswitch for more details.
<http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/energyswitch>

Recycling : Somerset County Council rewards WSC with recycling credits for the amount of waste that is recycled through the curbside recycling boxes. Unfortunately this has fallen since the initial enthusiasm following the introduction of Sort it plus. So WSC will be paying more for waste collection in future. So please put as much of your waste in the boxes and as little as you can in the black bags. Waste taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Williton does not attract recycling credits.

As usual if you have any problem with which you think I could possibly help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anthony Trollope-Bellew
Hurley Farm, Crowcombe, Taunton TA4 4AJ
Email : atrollope-bellew@westsomerset.gov.uk
Telephone : 07977 591940

ADVANCE NOTICE

Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday 11 February in the Crowcombe Hall at 2.15 pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend and listen.
The public have a slot on the agenda to ask questions.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Working with Taunton Deane Borough Council: on Tuesday 12th November the business plan to set up a joint officer team was accepted by WSC by 26 - 1 (with one abstention) and TDBC by 30 - 22 (with 2 abstentions). This will save WSC at least £300,000 a year when fully implemented. There will be initial costs but the majority of these will be met from reserves. Both councils will remain sovereign authorities with separate councillors as now. There will be no cross subsidy, which would be illegal. Hopefully this officer amalgamation will not only deliver savings but improved and more resilient services to the people of West Somerset.

Energy Switching : below is extracted from WSC Community Matters. You can also register by telephoning 01643 703704 or visiting the council offices in person, where the staff can help you register. In both cases you need your latest energy bills to hand. The applications for the first auction have been disappointing which could mean lower savings. The next auction is in February so please register before then if you wish to make savings. I have heard that there has been a case that a householder saved £700 per annum by going through a similar process in another part of the country. But that is extremely exceptional. £125 is more normal but still worth achieving especially when you consider that WSC's portion of your council tax is around £134.

Save Money On Your Gas & Electricity Bills

West Somerset Council is promoting a scheme new to this area that aims to help residents switch fuel providers and reduce household fuel bills. Switching energy suppliers particularly if you haven't done this for a few years can save money, on average £125 per household over the year.

Switching can be complex with multiple suppliers and tariffs to choose from so most people stick to their supplier. Complicated deals, fears over contract cancellation charges, and a simple lack of time mean many people are still reluctant to switch.

Acting as negotiators on behalf of our West Somerset community the Council will work in partnership with iChoosr – a collective energy switching provider to make it quicker and easier to change your home fuel providers.

The idea is that groups of residents come together to buy bulk energy at a lower cost. An auction is then held where the Energy Companies must bid their best tariff based on the number of people who have registered an interest in switching provider.

There are over 150 Councils in partnership with iChoosr who run 3 auctions a year, so the collective buying power of local people is something the energy companies have had to take seriously.

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Thank you for
your support!

**Crowcombe Pre-School Committee
would like to thank everyone who
supported the Bingo evening in
Church House on 18th October.**

**With your help we managed to
raise an amazing £540!**

**With these funds we will be able to
replace toys and equipment, there-
fore improving our children's pre-
school experience.**



Crowcombe Pre-school
Crowcombe
Taunton
Somerset
TA4 4AA
Tel: 01984 618273

Registered Charity No: 1031928

Crowcombe Primary School ~ News

History of the Village – A BIG THANK YOU

The children in Class Two thoroughly enjoyed learning about the history of the village earlier this term. We could not have done it without the wonderful support from members of our local community.

Thank you to those people who answered our questionnaire, and a huge thank you to Marion Lewis, for coming in to talk to us about her life in Crowcombe.

An exciting part of our journey was meeting Mr Dudderidge. Not only did he come into school, but he allowed us to visit his workshops. We were mesmerised by the equipment, and also with the history of the Dudderidge family within the village.

A further thank you must be given to Mr Anthony Trollope-Bellew. He spent an afternoon sharing the history of his family with the children and answering some fascinating questions asked by them.

Finally, a thank you to David Kenyon, for allowing us to explore his beautiful grounds at Crowcombe Court.

We feel blessed to have such a wonderful village.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the children and staff at Crowcombe Primary School.

Penny Phillips
Class Two Teacher

